



## Claim tradesmen left out of pocket

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Lucy Ardern | May 24th, 2012

BANNED Gold Coast builder Michael Kljaic has been embroiled in another troubled construction project in Queensland, where dozens of tradesmen and suppliers have been left out of pocket.

Mr Kljaic's MKM Group went into receivership in July and is now being wound up by the liquidator, Rajendra Khatri, from Worrells Solvency and Forensic Accountants.

Now an administrator has also been appointed to MKM Homes, which is controlled by Natasa Kljaic.

Despite Ms Kljaic being the sole director of MKM Homes, the Bulletin spoke to several tradesmen who worked for an MKM Homes construction job in Cloncurry who said Mr Kljaic was closely involved with the job.

Yet BSA general manager Ian Jennings said Mr Kljaic was "permanently excluded" from having a building licence from September 30 last year.

"(He) must not be a director, secretary or influential person for MKM Homes or another BSA-licensed entity," Mr Jennings said.

"This means he cannot control or substantially influence the conduct of the affairs of MKM Homes or any other BSA-licensed entity and cannot be a shareholder with a significant shareholding, financier or senior employee of MKM Homes or a BSA licensed entity."

Mr Kljaic was once celebrated as a Gold Coast's business success story, picking up a series of awards including entrepreneur of the year in 2009, before his company, the MKM Group, got into financial strife last year.

Bankruptcy proceedings were issued against Mr Kljaic in January this year after seven of his companies were placed into receivership or liquidation.

Records show the bankruptcy was dismissed in April.

MKM Homes has been involved in a number of construction projects around Queensland, including a camp for miners at Cloncurry.

Carpenter Matt Crow, who is owed \$15,000 in unpaid wages by MKM Homes, said he saw Mr Kljaic on site several times in the five weeks he worked for the company on the job. Gold Coast

plumber Noel King, who is also owed \$15,000, said he saw Mr Kljaic at the Cloncurry site too.

Mr King has directly contacted Mr Kljaic in an attempt to obtain the outstanding funds owed to him and said Mr Kljaic had told him: "I will have to do some sums and see what I can do."

Brisbane landscaper Alan English, who claims to be owed \$13,000 by MKM Homes, said he witnessed Mr Kljaic sacking an MKM Homes employee when he visited the Cloncurry job site.

The BSA is investigating claims Mr Kljaic has been involved in the running of another Gold Coast building company, Herriots Constructions, which has recently been renamed HIC International Constructions.

"The BSA urges anyone with evidence about any excluded person having influence within a building company to contact the BSA immediately," Mr Jennings said.



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