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Customers in fight for their money

Trevor Hockins | 2nd August 2012 4:11 PM

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HIGH-PROFILE second-hand motor dealer We Buy Any Car has collapsed, leaving about 1000 unpaid customers, debts of more than \$10 million and allegations of shonky practices.

Up to 11 vehicles and motorcycles are believed to have been taken from the Sunshine Coast car yard since solvency and forensic accountant Worrells was appointed administrator to the ailing company.

At least some of the vehicles have been taken by their original owners who have said they were paid nothing for them.

WORRELLS partner Raj Khatri said late yesterday that he had heard some cars had been taken from the company's Currimundi car yard over the past two days.

"The figures I have are fewer than 10," he said.

"The only other incidents we have seen is a break-in at the office of a Victorian yard."

Mr Khatri warned that as far as the administrator was concerned, the vehicles were assets of We Buy Any Car.

"While I understand how upset people are about this, we will have little option but to ask police to investigate any missing vehicles," he said.



Tow truck operators moved in today to remove cars from We Buy Any Car at Currimundi following the collapse of the national business. Photo: John McCutcheon

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Kawana police yesterday confirmed that they had received a complaint about at least one missing motorcycle.

Mr Khatri said it could be up to 10 days before the financial position of the company was clearer.

He said the company had eight car yards in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and in Perth.

Angry Coast customers picketed the car yard late on Tuesday. Worrells was appointed administrator late on Friday, and although operations were supposed to cease then, Coast employees were believed to be working until Monday.

Meanwhile, the owner of the Currimundi car yard leased to We Buy Any Car has appealed to people not to go to the car yard, which has been locked since Monday.

The woman took pains to explain that her family, who had worked in Coast businesses for 22 years, had nothing to do with We Buy Any Car.

Close to tears, the woman, who did not wish to be named, said she feared her family may be sued.

She said some cars had been damaged as owners moved them aside trying to repossess theirs.

Yesterday morning, an old Hyundai sedan with a smashed windscreen was at the front of the yard with another 19 cars behind it. Late yesterday afternoon, a tow truck company working for auctioneers appointed by the administrator started towing cars from the site.

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