

News

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Property investor John Quinn dodges bankruptcy in \$300k insolvency agreement

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John Quinn.

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LAWYER-TURNED property investor John Quinn, under water to the tune of \$93 million, has struck a \$300,000 deal with creditors to avoid bankruptcy.

The \$300,000 is to be paid by Couran Cove owner Craig Dowling via his CCH Stradbroke company.

Mr Dowling, who has employed Mr Quinn and wife Rory to oversee operations at the resort, late last year stymied a National Australia Bank move to take possession of the \$4 million Quinn home at Paradise Waters by taking over the bank's mortgage on it.

The 60-year-old Mr Quinn, who has retired from law, in December filed a Part 10 application under the Bankruptcy Act, a move which enabled him to put a personal insolvency agreement to creditors.

He told trustees Jason Bettles and Raj Khatri, of Worrells, that he had unsecured debts of \$93.8 million.

At a meeting to vote on the Quinn insolvency agreement, 11 creditors who had filed proof of debt claims for \$39.2 million all voted to accept the deal.

Receivers have moved on Quinn companies and sold off properties.

They have trying to sell the major Quinn play - a partly developed factory-outlet retail centre - on a \$5.96 million site adjoining the Beenleigh Rum Distillery at Yatala.

Work on the centre, tagged OC @ Exit 35, halted as the GFC bit and efforts by Mr Quinn's company Quinnco to joint-venture or sell the project were not successful.

Two of the major creditors have exposure to the property - Angas Securities, which is owed \$15.6 million, and Hutchinson Builders, with \$11.1 million owing.

In 2010 Bankwest went to court seeking \$11.65 million from Mr Quinn and wife Rory under guarantees given in relation to loans made to Quinn companies.

Mr Quinn, a one-time director of Peter Drake's failed LM Investment Management, resigned from several directorships days before lodging his Part 10 application on December 9.

The widespread Quinn property interests have taken in holdings in areas such as Yeppoon, Pine Rivers, Brisbane and even France.

They have included units in a Cairns hotel and part payments on three apartments in Dubai's Princess Tower, the world's tallest residential building.

Companies associated with Mr Quinn and investment partner and valuer Rob Boylan own more than 32ha north of Dreamworld at Coomera, land that receivers are believed to be poised to sell off.
