



**Troubling times:** Property developer Warren Witt walks the beach with Janet Holmes a Court in 2008 and (inset) Racebuilt's luxury beachfront apartments in Marine Parade, Mission Beach.

Picture: JULIE LIGHTFOOT

# Builder banned as debts mount

A PROPERTY developer facing a life disqualification from holding a Building Services Australia licence has left a trail of debt across the Far North.

Former Innisfail resident Warren Witt's company Racebuilt was placed in liquidation last month, leaving 130 businesses in the lurch from Cairns, Tully and Mission Beach to Brisbane.

Debts amounting to more than \$700,000 have been listed with liquidators Worrells for just 21 of the 130 businesses.

Mr Witt's individual Building Services Association licence and Racebuilt's company licence were cancelled in December, disqualifying him from holding a contractor licence for three years.

Racebuilt had accrued 30 demerit points for unpaid judgement debts.

A Building Services Authority spokesman said Mr Witt was also facing a five-year BSA licence ban as a result of the liquidation of Racebuilt on December 4 and a

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life disqualification for accumulating another 30 demerit points for Racebuilt.

An angry creditor yesterday said she doubted she would ever see the money her family's company was owed.

"We got off lightly but others didn't and it's still unpaid work for us so it still hurts," said the woman, who did not want to be named.

Seven creditors who have filed proof of debt forms are owed more than \$40,000 each and one is owed \$117,000.

Yesterday, a spokesperson for Witt Property Group said Mr Witt was not at liberty to comment on the matter.

The former Innisfail developer, who is now based in Brisbane, has built three one-floor luxury beachfront apartments on Marine Parade at Mission Beach

under the Racebuilt name.

The apartments were completed last year and are on the market for between \$2 million and \$2.5 million.

A familiar face in property development in the Innisfail region for at least five years, Mr Witt began by announcing plans for a \$1.4 billion resort town at Ella Bay near Innisfail that was given significant project status by the State Government in 2005. He is no longer involved with the project.

He also has other development plans for Mission Beach with strong marketing under the Witt Property Group of the \$150 million Ziva Residences on Mission Beach, close to the Marine Parade apartments.

Building has not begun on the 150-apartment, restaurant and day spa project, a Witt Property Group spokesman saying last year that the development was on hold until completion of the Marine Parade apartments.