
ABD Group goes into liquidation

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High-rise builder ABD Group went into liquidation on Friday after creditors appointed SV Partners' Michael Carrafa and Peter Gountzos as liquidators of the troubled company.

The appointment of liquidators meant there was no plan or hope for a turnaround of the company led by chief executive Raffaele Aiello, which records show last May formally changed its name from ABD Group Pty Ltd to Australian Company Number 109588589 Pty Ltd.



Stop work: ABD Group has halted construction work on the 330-dwelling Union Quarter project in Melbourne's Spotswood.

The outstanding debts were not clear, but two different industry sources talked of figures of more than \$50 million. Another source said ABD had up to three current projects and subsidiary Marcus Group as many as eight under way. Lender NAB did not respond to a request for comment.

Developer clients started seeking alternative builders this week. Bensons Property Group said on Thursday it had lined up Hickory Group to take over construction of its 25-level residential project,

Liberty One, in Footscray in Melbourne's inner west.

Liberty One was one of at least three projects on which ABD or Marcus Group halted work this week, along with [Suleman Group's Union Quarter build-to-rent project](#) in Spotswood. Clouds around the builder had prompted at least one other developer in the past month to terminate a contract it had with ABD Group.

Kokoda Property Group selected ABD Group last year to build its [\\$250 million Malvern Collective project](#) in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, but Kokoda managing director Mark Stevens said on Tuesday he had ended that contract before work on the project – delayed from its original start date – began.

“We had some concerns about their ability to complete the work,” Mr Stevens told *AFR Weekend*.