

SE News
HD **Resort to go up for sale**
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Money owed to contractors

BIRUBI Beach Resort will go on the market, six months after being placed in administration.

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Andrew Sallway, from Grant Thornton Australia, the Sydney-based accountant and business advisory **firm** that was appointed receiver and manager of the **property** in February, said the Anna Bay resort was weeks away from going "live" and ready for **sale**.

"Right now we are in the process of putting the resort on the market," he said.

Port Stephens Mayor Bruce MacKenzie, who previously called the dormant **site** a "blight on Anna Bay and Port Stephens", said he was "delighted" the resort was finally being **sold**.

"I think it is great news," Cr MacKenzie said.

"The council felt it was something there to be proud of when we approved it [in 2011].

"I want to see the development council approved built there, especially now with the investment in the [Birubi Point] surf club and the new [education and entertainment centre] Pulse going down on the corner."

Grant Thornton Australia was appointed the receiver by the resort's financier, **China** Security and Surveillance Technology through another **company**, Anke Smart City, in February.

The **firm** was quick to establish new fencing around the Gan Gan Road **site** and in April, Swan's Security Alarms and Guards was re-hired to discourage further vandalism.

Continued Page 2

Money owed to contractors

From Page 1

In 2011, when the concept of the resort was presented to Port Stephens Council, it was envisaged the eight-acre **site** would be home to a four-star resort with 198 strata-titled tourist apartments, tennis courts, a function centre and a pool.

Work on making those plans a reality came to a halt in 2012 when contractors stopped work due to money disputes.

It is believed more than \$1 **million** is still owing to contractors, who are unlikely to receive payment for their work.

Fast-forward two years and the **site**, which has been stripped of **copper**, vandalised extensively and had people squatting in buildings, will be **sold**. Mr Sallway remained tight-lipped on the details.

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