Red tape sends boat builder to the wall

2½-year court battle ends

By NIGEL ADLAM

THE Territory’s biggest boat builder has gone bust after a two-year court battle with an insurance company over a fire claim.

Palmerston-based GS Marine, which made and supplied boats for 12 years, went into liquidation with debts of about $2.3 million.

At least one Territorian has lost thousands after ordering a boat but not having it delivered.

Eleven workers lost their jobs.

Owner Garry Quinn, 49, said he and his wife had lost the business and would have to sell their home.

“We’ll be left with just the clothes on our backs,” he said.

The company’s headquarters in Toupein Rd was severely damaged by fire three years ago. A two-and-a-half year court battle with an insurance company followed.

Mr Quinn said he was restricted in what he was allowed to say.

But he said he had spent more than $1 million on legal fees when the insurer made an out-of-court offer.

He said it would have cost a further $600,000 to continue the legal battle.

“I was advised to accept the offer and run the business. There was no choice but to go into liquidation. So that’s it — after 12 years busting your arse.”

Liquidator Stuart Reid is hoping to sell GS Marine.

“It’s still got orders on the books,” Mr Quinn said.

“You’d be mad not to buy it. The company owns more than $200,000 in workers’ entitlements, $500,000 in secured debts and $1.6 million in unsecured debts.”

Michelle Teather and Steve Ellis paid a $15,500 deposit to GS Marine for the boat they wanted.

“I rang them constantly asking when the boat would be delivered and kept getting fobbed off,” Ms Teather said.

“We’re furious.”

GS Marine played a major part in the NT fishing and boating scene. It sponsored fishing competitions and water safety campaigns, and a major presence at Darwin Boat Show each year.

Grants open to aspirants

APPLICATIONS for grants next year worth up to $75,000 are now being called for by the Northern Territory disaster resilience fund.

The program is for building resilience in communities to withstand natural disasters.

Submissions are required by June 4.

Further information: www.emergency.nt.gov.au

Upgraded for Barkly roads

MONEY will be allocated in the 2010 NT budget to upgrade roads in the Barkly region.

Transport Minister Gerry McCarthy said $14.4 million would be spent on Barkly roads.

Some of the maintenance works include: $570,000 for Sandover Highway, $790,000 for Tanami Road and $256,000 for Pentecost Track.

Other works include: $37,000 for McMillans Rd, $17,000 for Pine Tree Rd, $131,000 for Larapinta Rd and $99,000 for Outback Rd.

Apology

Is in the Coles Catalogue on Sale Thursday 29th April 2010, we have advertised Wrigley’s 5 Chewing Gum 5 pack for $3.00.

Please note that the correct description should be Wrigley’s 5 Chewing Gum 5 pack for $3.00.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.