



# Chris Bergin

Principal

## CONTACT

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## Overview

Chris has been a Principal of Cathro & Partners since February 2025. Prior to Cathro & Partners, Chris was a Principal with William Buck in Melbourne. Chris has over 18 years of experience in the field of insolvency, corporate restructure services and legal entity rationalisation. He also has extensive experience in receiverships, retail and the not-for-profit sector..

Chris also previously worked at Rodgers Reidy as an Associate Director Chris is experienced in dealing with managing stakeholders, distressed businesses, and providing a considered outcome in the best interests of parties. acting as liquidator and preparing solvency reports.

## Key Industry Experience

- Retail
- Property and Construction not-for-profit
- Manufacturing
- Transport
- Financial Services
- Accommodation
- Government

## Qualifications, Professional Affiliations

- Registered Liquidator
- Member Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia
- Bachelor of Business, LaTrobe University, Melbourne
- Member of Australian Restructuring Insolvency & Turnaround Association
- Member of the Turnaround Management Association of Australia

## Areas of Specialisation & Expertise

- Receiver, Receiver and Manager, Liquidator and Administrator of companies experiencing financial distress.
- Resolving matters relating to Partnership disputes.
- Realisation of real property on behalf of financiers.
- Ability to assess the financial viability of businesses. This includes analysis of profitability, business liquidity and strength of forecasting.
- Capacity to successfully negotiate superior outcomes with stakeholders.
- Manage complex litigation including dealing with litigation funders.
- Insolvent trading and preference payments recoveries.
- Expert witness reports including solvency reports.

## Key Project Highlights

### D W Sullivan Windows Pty Ltd

Chris was appointed Voluntary Administrator of the Company, caused by a substantial debt owing to the ATO.

The company operated in the construction sector as a supplier of windows (import, supply and install) to first tier builders in Victoria and Queensland, with a turnover of c. \$25 Million.

Chris oversaw the successful continuation of ongoing trading and a restructure of the business via a Deed of Company Arrangement including:

- Overseeing ongoing trading and cashflow considerations.
- Liaising with unions.
- Dealing with the Company's secured creditor and maintaining the businesses debtor funding facility.
- Maintaining relationships with key suppliers and customers.
- Negotiating a successful outcome with all stakeholders.

### Global Meat Exports

Global Meats was a full service meat processing facility (Abattoir) that was a major exporter worldwide of meat products, with an annual turnover of over \$200m.

Chris was appointed as agent for the secured creditor to run a sale of business campaign, Receiver and Manager and agent for the secured creditor to run a sale campaign for the company's freehold properties.

The engagement included:

- Running an international sale of business campaign.
- Engaging with and negotiating with interested parties.
- Overseeing due diligence.
- Liaising with and reporting to stakeholders.
- Instructing and seeking advice from our Solicitors and commercially implementing same including but not limited to asset valuations, sale terms, FIRB considerations and foreign export licenses.

### Airoidi Fine Wines

Chris was appointed Voluntary Administrator of this business during the height of Covid lockdowns in 2020. The business was an Importer, Wholesaler and Retailer of fine wine.

As a joint Administrator, Chris:

- Advertised the business for sale and negotiated a Deed of Company Arrangement with the eventual purchaser that enabled additional funds to be provided through a DOCA.
- The purchaser made an offer to purchase the stock, trademarks and customer data from the company.
- This provided a superior and more timely outcome for creditors than if the Company was placed into liquidation.

### Brascal Investments

Brascal was a special purpose entity that was a vehicle to manage a family investment in a building development.

Chris's appointment arose out of a dispute between the parties when the development was ultimately not profitable, and the subsequent dispute between the parties as to the quantum and priority of each of their respective contributions to the development.

This matter involved:

- Reviewing records and considering the merits and veracity of each parties' claim including claims as secured creditors, claims for funds held on trust as a priority, rights under a building contract and unpaid wages claims.
- Reviewing and considering each parties' view and substantiating evidence to counter the claims of the other parties.
- Realising surplus real estate assets.
- Issuing proceedings and seeking directions from the Court as to the quantum, priority and status of the claims.
- Proceeding to multiple mediations between the parties.
- Overseeing and implementing settlement terms between the parties.