

# Liquidators' Fifth Report on the State of Affairs of

Cryptopia Limited (in Liquidation)

Company number: 2392901

NZBN: 9429041327791

10 June 2021



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# Introduction

David Ian Ruscoe and Malcolm Russell Moore, of Grant Thornton New Zealand Limited, were appointed jointly as liquidators of Cryptopia Limited (in Liquidation) (“the Company”) on 14 May 2019 at 1.20pm by special resolution of the shareholders pursuant to section 241(2)(a) of the Companies Act 1993 (“the Act”).

Liquidators of insolvent companies are required to be licensed insolvency practitioners. Information about the regulation of insolvency practitioners is available from the Registrar of Companies.

We set out below our fifth report on the state of the affairs of the Company as required by section 255(2)(d) of the Act.

## Restrictions

This report has been prepared by us in accordance with and for the purpose of section 255 of the Act. This report is not intended for general circulation, nor is it to be reproduced or used for any purpose without the liquidators’ written permission in each specific instance.

The Liquidators, their employees and agents do not assume any responsibility or liability for any losses occasioned to any party for any reason including as a result of the circulation, publication, reproduction or use of this report contrary to the provisions of this paragraph.

The Liquidators reserve the right (but will be under no obligation) to review this report and, if considered necessary, to revise the report in light of any information existing at the date of this report which becomes known to them after that date.

We have not independently verified the accuracy of the information provided to us and have not conducted any form of audit in respect of the Company. We express no opinion on the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us and upon which we have relied. Whilst all care and attention has been taken in compiling this report, we do not accept any liability whatsoever arising from this report.

The statements and opinions expressed in this report are based on information available and assumptions made as at the date of this report. It is possible that actual outcomes may be significantly different from those disclosed in this report.

In addition, the following should be noted:

- Certain values included in tables in this report have been rounded and therefore may not add exactly.
- All amounts are stated in New Zealand dollars unless otherwise stated.

## Background

Cryptopia was a New Zealand cryptocurrency exchange based in Christchurch. At the date of liquidation, it had over 2.2 million registered users worldwide and employed 37 staff.

The rapid growth of Cryptocurrency in early 2018 meant the Company scaled up to manage the increased level of trading. The Company entered into a number of long term, high cost contracts to provide the infrastructure necessary to trade at this level. Unfortunately trade volumes, from which the Company earned its revenue, reduced significantly through late 2018. Accordingly, the Company then took steps to reduce its expenses to minimise trading losses.

In January 2019, Cryptopia’s exchange was hacked and a significant amount of crypto-assets taken. The reputation damage from this event adversely affected trade volumes and meant the Company was unable to meet its debts as they fell due. It was then decided the appointment of liquidators was in the best interests of customers, staff and other stakeholders.

# Conduct of the Liquidation in the preceding six months

We have continued to keep stakeholders updated on the progress of the liquidation via the designated webpage <https://www.grantthornton.co.nz/cryptopia-limited/>. A summary of conduct for the preceding six months is below.

## Claims process

In December 2020 the Liquidators launched the Cryptopia claims portal, marking the beginning of step 1 in claims process:

Process Step	Details
1. Claim's registration	Allows the registration of account holders' details and to make claims for their account balances
2. Identity verification	Verifies account holders' identities to the necessary verification standard
3. Claim acceptance	Provides Account holders' opportunity to agree that Cryptopia records represents their holdings
4. Asset transfer	Instigates asset transfers to account holders

To date we have sent emails to all 960,000 account holders who had positive account balances according to Cryptopia's Records. At the date of this update, 71% of users by value that have interacted in the claims process in some way.

To support the claim's process a customer support portal was also launched. To date, the customer support team, via the this portal, has supported over 55,000 users through the registration process. We continue to build this team to assist account holders to complete the claims and asset transfer process.

If account holders are having issues with the registration, please refer to the '[Update for Cryptopia Claimants & Common Portal Errors 16 December 2020](#)'.

The Liquidators continue to promote the portal to accountholders to encourage increased participation and will continue to send further emails inviting account holders to register their details on the portal.

The next stage of the claim process 2 'Identity verification' will be piloted this month to test functionality with all 183 countries that we understand Cryptopia users are domiciled. Following this pilot this process will be rolled out to all users who have completed claim process 1 'Claim's registration'.

Following this the Claims acceptance stage will be launched, where account holders will be given the opportunity to agree or dispute the balances that were recorded by Cryptopia at the date of Liquidation.

The asset transfer stage will follow on from this. However, the transfer stage will require the input and approval of the Court particularly in relation to the following:

- Approving a distribution model that reflects the nature of stakeholders' property
- Confirming what is to be done with unclaimed Crypto-assets
- Setting a cut-off date for claims to be received and assessed

We anticipate to file applications on these matters in the next couple of months.

With the number of Cryptocurrency projects that have significant holdings frozen in Cryptopia wallets we will further engage with the various coin development teams where possible to consider the impact that the asset transfer stage could have their projects and seek their input on the most efficient process to assist in this transfer.

## Hacked assets

We continue to work with the New Zealand Police and international authorities as they work to determine the source of the January 2019 hack. Our obligation is to seek recoveries for stakeholders' benefit.

We continue our investigations to trace and or freeze stolen crypto-assets and are in discussion with exchanges that have frozen stolen cryptocurrency. We are working on providing the detailed analysis of hacked coins to these exchanges in our attempts to have these funds released to the Liquidators control. The legal decision confirms that any stolen cryptocurrency recovered is to be applied to the specific trust associated with each cryptocurrency.

## Investigations

During the period, we have progressed our investigations into the affairs of the Company and its directors, officers and other parties prior to the liquidation. We have conducted formal, under oath interviews with various parties in relation to these matters and continue to correspond with these parties, and their legal representatives where appropriate, in respect of the provision of information.

Due to the ongoing nature of our investigation, we are unable to provide details regarding our findings to date since doing so could prejudice any proceedings, which may be taken at a later date.

If any insolvent transactions or breaches of legislation have occurred, we will take the appropriate action where it has the potential to increase the recovery available to creditors. Our duties as Liquidators require a transparent and robust investigation into the insolvency of the Company and its officers.

## Next steps

Account holders registered in the claims portal will receive further requests from us to provide identity verification documents. We continue to liaise with the Department of Internal Affairs to determine the specific documentation required.

Once the identity verification process is completed Account holders will be given the opportunity to agree that Cryptopia records represents their holdings.

Repatriation will begin after this process is complete. Before this process can start as described previously, we will seek further Court directions in respect of several issues, including the distribution process. We cannot commence the repatriation of assets until we receive the Courts directions.

## Asset Realisations

During the period we had the following major asset realisation:

### Sale of Fixed Assets

We have sold by auction excess fixed assets during the 6 month period of this report.

### Conversion of Crypto-Assets

On application to the High Court of New Zealand and receipt of sealed orders we have converted 80 BTC into fiat currency to meet the reasonable costs and expenses of the protection preservation, recovery, management, and administration of any Cryptocurrency. A copy of the sealed orders can be found [here](#).

## Receipts and Payments

Please refer to Appendix A: Statement of Receipts and Payments for further details on the receipts and payments for the six-month period ending 14 May 2021.

## Creditors

### Secured Creditors

On Liquidation there were two specific security financing statements (Purchase Money Security Interests (PMSIs)) registered. The Liquidators have contacted all registered PMSI holders and do not believe there are any secured amounts due.

### Preferential Creditors

No further Preferential claim payments were paid during the period.

At the liquidation date the Inland Revenue Department were auditing the tax returns of the Company including GST, once this audit is complete, we will determine if there are any preferential taxes owing.

### Unsecured Creditors

We have received 26 unsecured creditors' claims received to date totalling \$2.991m.

During the period we admitted another unsecured claim the quantum of which we are currently adjudicating.

We confirm that only preferential creditors have been paid and that no other creditor distributions have been made.

## Remuneration Report

The Liquidators' remuneration received for the period between 15 November 2020 to 14 May 2021, charged at the hourly rates, totalled \$1,028,694 exclusive of GST. This includes time spent carrying out investigations, attempting to secure hacked assets, development of the claims portal, designing an appropriate identity verification process, managing the Cryptopia customer support team and liaising with legal authorities.

All time and expenses incurred and billed in the liquidation are reasonable and necessary.

A detailed breakdown of the Liquidators' remuneration and disbursements for the six-month period is enclosed at Appendix B, including a schedule of the qualifications and experience generally of staff at each level. A schedule of the work undertaken during the six-month reporting period is also summarised in Appendix B.

# Remaining Matters

At this stage it is not practicable to estimate a completion date for the Liquidation.

Should you have any queries in relation to any matter raised in this report then please do not hesitate to contact Tom Aspin at [Cryptopia@nz.gt.com](mailto:Cryptopia@nz.gt.com).

Dated: 10 June 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Ruscoe', with a horizontal line underneath.

David Ruscoe  
Liquidator  
Cryptopia Limited (in Liquidation)

# Appendix A – Receipts and Payments

Receipts and Payments	15 November 2020 to 14 May 2021	Total (\$)
Opening funds on Hand	3,037,584	0
<b>Receipts</b>		
Funds on hand at date of Liquidation		1,065,426
Crypto-Assets converted to Fiat	5,104,700	9,531,992
Funds Recovered	-	5,022,935
Interest Income	-	58,975
Sale of Assets	34,412	241,142
GST Refunds received	308,750	923,820
GST on Receipts	\$5,608.70	23,931
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>5,453,471</b>	<b>16,868,221</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Asset sale costs	-	86,067
Claims Portal development & Identity verification costs	843,748	1,189,717
Computer Costs	79,266	214,325
Consulting & Accounting	613	7,751
Contractor expenses	101,184	527,145
Distribution to Preferential Creditors	-	312,992
Employee Costs	-	-
General Expenses	19,791	35,653
Insurance	11,623	31,466
Legal expenses	480,044	1,922,712
Light, Power, Heating	7,349	38,727
Liquidators Fees	1,028,694	3,410,141
Relocation Costs	-	13,090
Rent	-	293,123
Security Expenses	1,180	47,008
Server Hosting Fees	3,210	655,607
Telephone & Internet	21,882	35,367
Wages & Salaries	325,564	1,334,956
PAYE Payable	162,115	637,257
GST on Expenses	310,655	980,979
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$3,396,916</b>	<b>\$11,774,083</b>
<b>Net Receipts/Payments for the period</b>	<b>\$2,056,555</b>	<b>\$5,094,139</b>
<b>Closing funds on hand</b>	<b>5,094,139</b>	<b>5,094,139</b>

# Appendix B – Remuneration Report

## Section 1: Description of Work

Summary of work performed in relation the Liquidators' remuneration for the period 15 November 2020 to 14 May 2021:

Task Area	General Description	Includes
<b>Assets</b>	Debtors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correspondence with debtors</li> <li>• Reviewing and assessing debtors ledgers</li> <li>• Liaising with debt collectors and solicitors</li> </ul>
	Sale of Plant and Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaising with valuers, auctioneers and interested parties</li> <li>• Reviewing asset listings</li> <li>• Review of Sales</li> <li>• Liaising with valuers, agents</li> <li>• Assistance with Sales process</li> </ul>
	Debtors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correspondence with debtors</li> <li>• Reviewing and assessing debtors ledgers</li> <li>• Liaising with debt collectors and solicitors</li> </ul>
	Crypto-Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of company assets</li> <li>• Reviewing stock values from Crypto markets</li> <li>• Liaising with OTC traders</li> <li>• Securing assets into cold storage</li> </ul>
	Other Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasks associated with realising other assets</li> </ul>
	Leasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing leasing documents</li> <li>• Liaising with owners/lessors</li> <li>• Tasks associated with disclaiming leases</li> </ul>
<b>Creditors</b>	Creditor Enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive and follow up creditor enquiries via telephone and email</li> <li>• Maintaining creditor enquiry register</li> <li>• Review and prepare correspondence to creditors and their representatives via facsimile, email and post</li> </ul>
	Creditor reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing statutory report, investigation, meeting and general reports to creditors</li> </ul>
	Dealing with proofs of debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receipting and filing Proofs of Debt</li> <li>• Corresponding with Proofs of Debt</li> </ul>
<b>Employees</b>	Employees enquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive and follow up employee enquiries via telephone and email</li> <li>• Maintain employee enquiry register</li> <li>• Review and prepare correspondence to creditors and their representatives via facsimile, email and post</li> </ul>
	Preferential payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correspondence with employees regarding preferential payment</li> <li>• Correspondence with IRD regarding proof of debt</li> <li>• Receipting Proofs of Debt</li> <li>• Adjudicating Proofs of Debt</li> <li>• Ensuring PAYE is remitted to IRD</li> </ul>

<b>Operations</b>	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications with government agencies around statutory obligations</li> <li>• Various other stakeholder communications</li> </ul>
	Document maintenance/file review/checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First month, then 6 monthly liquidation review</li> <li>• Filing of documents</li> <li>• File reviews</li> <li>• Updating checklists</li> </ul>
	Ongoing Trading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of currently employed staff</li> <li>• Management of premises including lease property</li> <li>• Review of Anti Money laundering obligations and statutory obligations.</li> <li>• Ongoing review and monitoring of IT security and record retention.</li> <li>• Correspondence with Law Enforcement</li> <li>• Preparation of budgets</li> <li>• Review of cashflow and its ability to operate the business and meet its commitments in the immediate future.</li> <li>• Corresponding with coin devs and completing coin swaps</li> <li>• Continuous valuation of the customer database</li> </ul>
	Claims Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project management of the claim's portal development</li> <li>• Liquidator's time for the oversight of the project</li> <li>• Option analysis of vendors</li> <li>• Identity verification analysis and integration costs</li> <li>• Specialist software development staff time</li> </ul>
	Bank account administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requesting bank statements</li> <li>• Bank account reconciliations</li> <li>• Correspondence with bank regarding specific transfers</li> </ul>
	Planning/Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions regarding status of Liquidation</li> </ul>
	Books and records/ storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dealing with records in storage</li> <li>• Sending job files to storage</li> </ul>
	<b>Administration/Statutory</b>	Company office obligations
Insurance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of potential issues requiring attention of insurance specialists</li> <li>• Correspondence with insurers regarding initial and ongoing insurance requirements</li> <li>• Reviewing insurance policies</li> <li>• Correspondence with previous brokers</li> </ul>
Report as to Affairs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directors Questionnaire</li> <li>• Completion deadlines and extensions</li> <li>• Meetings with coin developers</li> <li>• Drafting press releases for stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>Investigations</b>	Tracing exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using blockchain forensic tools to verify holdings</li> <li>• Hack analysis</li> <li>• Correspondence with law enforcement around compromised assets</li> </ul>
	Company/Directors duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing company solvency and financial reporting</li> <li>• Investigating director's duties</li> <li>• Review of IT environment and company mailboxes</li> <li>• Inspection of service agreements</li> <li>• Reviewing conduct of companies for breaches of Companies Act</li> <li>• Interviews with Directors and Shareholders</li> </ul>
<b>Legal Matters</b>	Cross-border recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 15 bankruptcy recognition in the United States of America</li> <li>• Preparation of declarations for inclusion in legal submissions</li> </ul>

	Identity verification scoping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial review of customer database, identity requirements</li> <li>• Companies' legal advice around sanctioned countries</li> <li>• Crypto specific obligations</li> </ul>
	Legal Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertakings by staff for information</li> <li>• Court order service preparation and review of communications to account holders and Creditors.</li> </ul>

## Section 2: Calculation of Remuneration

### Calculation of Remuneration – Time based charges

Charged on an hourly basis and per the hourly rates set out by time and cost charged by key category:

	Hourly Rate (\$ph)	Administration/ Statutory		Asset Realisation		Creditors		Employees		Investigations		Legal matters		Operations		Total	
		Hours	Cost (\$)	Hours	Cost (\$)	Hours	Cost (\$)	Hours	Cost (\$)	Hours	Cost (\$)	Hours	Cost (\$)	Hours	Cost (\$)	Hours	Cost (\$)
Partner	650	9.5	6,175	-	-	-	-	-	-	59.5	38,675	87.7	57,005	235.0	152,750	391.7	254,605
Claims Portal Specialist Staff	240-650	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	365.6	165,984	365.6	165,984
AML Specialist Staff	90-650	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	343.7	126,993	343.7	126,993
IT Specialist Staff	200-450	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	189.5	42,000	189.5	42,000
<b>Senior Manager</b>	325–375	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.4	1,360	26.7	10,680	15.1	6,040	45.2	18,080
Manager	275–350	82.5	28,875	14.0	4,900	-	-	26.5	9,275	8.0	2,800	67.5	23,625	593.0	207,550	791.5	277,025
<b>Analyst</b>	65–200	15.7	3,140	0.9	180	-	-	-	-	2.3	370	11.4	2,280	110.6	22,120	140.9	28,090
<b>Support Staff</b>	125-160	9.2	1,472	-	-	-	-	0.7	112	-	-	1.0	160	71.5	11,440	82.4	13,184
<b>Total</b>		<b>116.9</b>	<b>39,662</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>5,080</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>9,387</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>43,205</b>	<b>194.3</b>	<b>93,750</b>	<b>1924.0</b>	<b>734,878</b>	<b>2,350.5</b>	<b>925,962</b>

### Basis of Disbursement Claim

Disbursements	Total (\$ exc. GST)
Travel (flights, car rental, accommodation etc)	19,771
International Collection Costs	-
Professional Cyber Security costs	41,190
Extremal AML Expertise	17,741
Data Hosting	14,860
Sundry	9,169
Total Disbursements	102,732
Total Fees	925,962
<b>Total Liquidators costs</b>	<b>1,028,694</b>

## Section 3: Initial Advice to Creditors

### Explanation of Hourly Rates

The rates for our remuneration calculation are set out in the following table together with a general guide showing the qualifications and experience of staff engaged in the Liquidation and the role they take. The hourly rates charged encompass the total cost of providing professional services and should not be compared to an hourly wage.

Title	Description of title	Hourly rate (Exc. GST) (State)
Partner	Accredited Insolvency Practitioner. Partner bringing specialist skills to Liquidations and Insolvency matters. Controlling all matters relating to the assignment.	\$650
IT Specialist/Specialist Partner	Specialist IT Practitioner bringing specialist skills in Cybersecurity, Procurement, vendor selection and other IT related matters. Provide detail reporting around any security vulnerabilities.	\$200-\$450
Claims Portal Specialist Staff	Specialist Claims Portal staff brings project management and governance for the design and integration of the claims process.	\$240-\$650
AML Specialist Staff	Specialist AML practitioner bringing specialist skills in designing and implementation of a know your customer process to support the claims process.	\$90-\$650
Associate Director	Qualified accountant and may be a Registered Insolvency Practitioner. Minimum 7/8+ years' experience. Likely to be appointed as a director in due course. Highly advanced technical and commercial skills. Planning and control of all Liquidation and Insolvency tasks. Controlling substantial matters relating to the assignment and reporting to the appointee.	\$325-\$450
IT Director	IT specialist. Required to assist Liquidators with the day to day running operation of the Cryptopia and	\$450
Manager/Senior Manager	Typically Qualified. 5-8 years' experience. Well developed technical and commercial skills. Planning and control of Liquidation and Insolvency tasks with the assistance of the appointee.	\$275-\$375
Assistant Manager	Typically Qualified. 4+ years' experience. Co-ordinates planning and control of small to medium Liquidations and Insolvency tasks. Conducts certain aspects of larger Liquidations.	\$275
Analyst	Typically undertaking Qualifications. Up to 3 years' experience. Required to conduct the fieldwork on smaller Liquidations and Insolvency tasks and assist with fieldwork on medium to large Liquidations and Insolvency tasks.	\$65-\$200
Administration Staff	Conducts all aspects relating to administering the accounts function and other functions as required.	\$125-\$170

