5 THINGS THAT CAN GO WRONG

WITH YOUR SMSF LIMITED RECOURSE BORROWING PROPERTY INVESTMENT



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LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION



INTRODUCTION

By utilising a limited recourse borrowing arrangement in your SMSF you can leverage your superannuation monies with a view to magnifying your gains.

However, the strategy comes with risks and here are 5 things that could go wrong and our tips to help you avoid them.

YOU DO NOT APPROPRIATELY CONSIDER THE LIQUIDITY OF THE INVESTMENT



When you put together your investment strategy you need to consider liquidity. As property is not readily convertible to cash, it is necessary to include details of how you will deal with a situation that calls for liquid funds. You need to maintain enough cash in your SMSF to meet all required expense and have a plan for when unexpected expenses arise (which is not uncommon with property investments) or the income is less than expected due to a period of vacancy.



Work through and document the worst-case scenario and your plan to deal with it effectively.

YOU HAVE INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY OR ARE INELIGIBLE TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE UP A SHORTFALL



In addition to having the financial capacity to top up your superannuation if you need to in a crisis situation, you also need to check on whether or not you meet all the eligibility requirements to make a contribution. The loan arrangements for an LRBA property fall under special rules for your SMSF and in general you cannot loan additional monies to your SMSF. So you have to make sure that any money that you are setting aside for a crisis is money that can remain in the SMSF until you have met a condition of release.

Regularly check your worst-case scenario plan against your current personal finances, your age and other eligibility criteria and confirm the plan remains sound.

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YOU DO NOT ADEQUATELY PROTECT THE PROPERTY INVESTMENT

Even with the best of real estate agents managing your property, you could still end up with a rogue tenant who costs you money. Landlord insurance can help protect your LRBA property, in particular, it can continue to provide rent you can use to repay the LRBA loan in times when the property cannot be rented out due to damage.





Determine the appropriate level of landlord insurance required to properly protect your superannuation nest egg and make sure that the policy is held in the name of the custodian company.

THE MARKET VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY FALLS SUBSTANTIALLY IMPACTING THE SOLVENCY OF YOUR SMSF

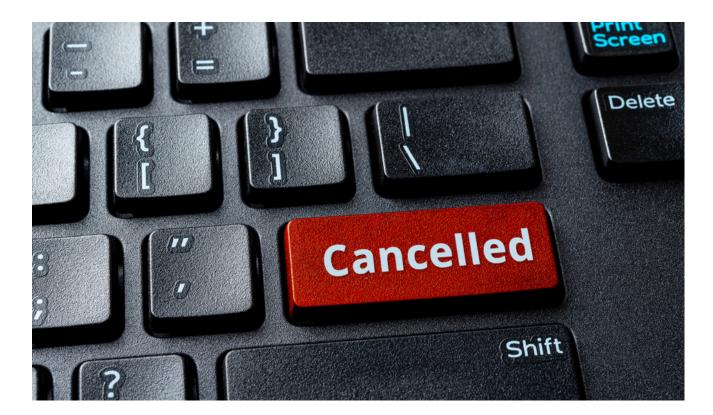


Property values do not always go up and you may find yourself in the unfortunate situation that the value of your LRBA property falls to levels closer to the loan value. You want to avoid the situation where the financier forces the sale of your LRBA property and you end up with even less than you might otherwise have been able to recover.



Keep a close eye on the market value and setting a loan to value ratio limit when you should consider your options.

YOU FORGET TO PAY THE ASIC FEE FOR YOUR CUSTODIAN COMPANY AND IT IS DEREGISTERED



Your LRBA property will be held in the name of your custodian company so maintaining the ASIC registration of this company is vital. Failure to pay the annual ASIC levy is grounds for deregistration and reinstating a company that owns real property can be a difficult and expensive exercise.



Always pay your ASIC fees on time or find an SMSF Administrator who pays it on time for you.

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