

Perth flies high in liveable city ranks

CLAIRE SADLER

Perth has jumped back up the scale of the world's most liveable cities, now ranking 12th.

The city was the third biggest climber in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2023, shooting up from a rank of 32 last year.

"Our liveable, sustainable and prosperous city has been recognised as one of the biggest movers over the last 12 months in the world's most liveable city rankings," Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas said.

Committee for Perth chief executive Paula Rogers said she welcomed the international recognition of Perth.

"This is a moment where Perth needs to appreciate where it sits on the international stage and celebrate the lifestyle we have," she said.

"Perth has the potential to be number one, with its incredible assets like a strong economy, affordable housing, rich Indigenous culture and being in the same time zone as about 60 per cent of the world's population.

"Committee for Perth is looking forward to collaborating with other stakeholders to build on the opportunity to build an even better Perth."

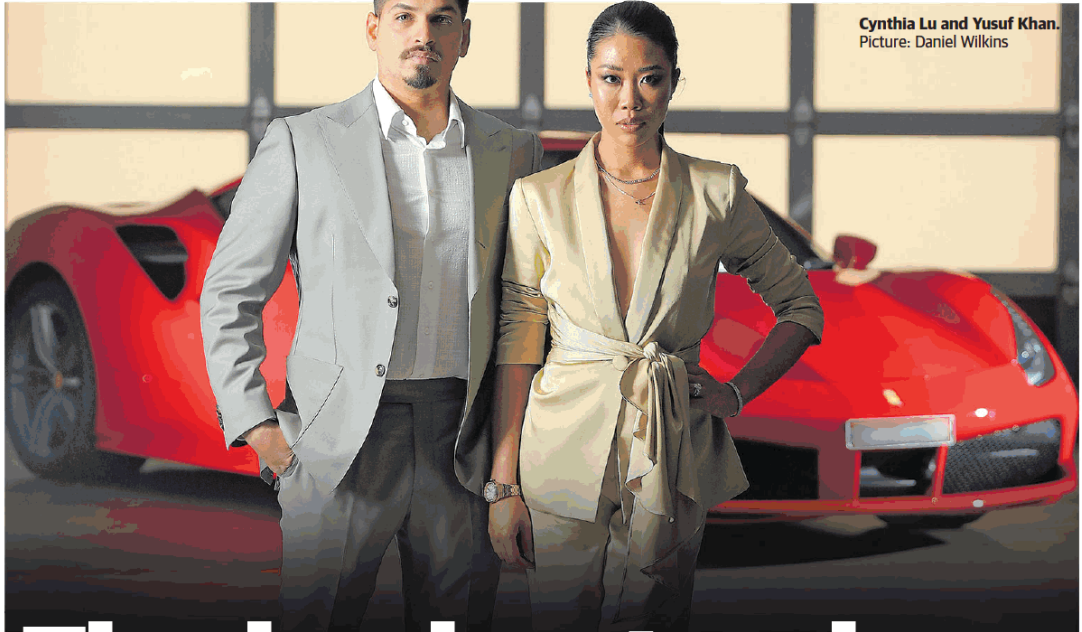
Wellington and Auckland in New Zealand were the top two biggest movers in the liveability index.

Other Australian cities made the top 10, with Melbourne rising to third position and Sydney coming in fourth. Judges noted a return to normal after the pandemic helped Australian cities climb the liveability index.

Vienna took out the coveted top spot, with Copenhagen in second place.

Damascus in Syria was the lowest-ranked city, while Ukraine's capital Kyiv also made the bottom 10.

The list ranks 173 cities worldwide across their stability, health care, education, culture and environment, and infrastructure.



Cynthia Lu and Yusuf Khan.
Picture: Daniel Wilkins

The bucks stop here

Unpaid creditor hits glam builders with wind-up action

KIM MACDONALD

Crisis-plagued builder Modco Residential is teetering on the edge after an unpaid creditor launched court action seeking to wind up the company.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission on Thursday revealed it had received notice against the company, founded by glamorous A-list couple Yusuf Khan and Cynthia Lu.

The petitioner behind the court action, recruitment firm Torquejobs, is believed to be owed money for its services in recruitment and labour hire. A spokeswoman declined to comment.

The case is set for a hearing on July 18 before a judicial registrar in the Federal Court in Queensland, where the matter was filed.

Under the Corporations Act, when a bid is launched to

wind up a company for failing to pay a debt, the court must presume, subject to evidence to the contrary, that the company is insolvent and should be wound up.

This means it is now up to Modco Residential to prove in court that it is solvent.

The West Australian can reveal two more unpaid creditors seeking money from Modco, including the landlord at the Osborne Park office where the company was evicted last month after failing to pay rent for months.

"Worst tenants I have ever come across," said landlord Drew Mountjoy.

"Unfortunately they have left me with a considerable bad debt. We will pursue them along with everyone else."

A company called Drywall WA has issued a letter of demand through its lawyers seeking \$35,000 which it claims it is owed by Modco Residential.

Modco, which rose to prominence in 2020 with an exclusive launch party and a promise to build homes in 20 weeks, has come under intense scrutiny for not paying its bills.

It has angered unpaid trades and suppliers — some claiming to be owed six-figure sums — as frustrated customers wait for their homes to be built years

after signing up. Gwilym Fawcett, pictured, of Swan Scaffolding, recently pulled \$40,000 worth of equipment from Modco's building sites after the company allegedly failed to pay \$10,000 of a \$13,500 invoice.

Mr Fawcett expressed his anger at having to work seven days a week to meet his bills while Modco was not paying him what he was owed.

His comments last month came as Mr Khan and Ms Lu holidayed in Kuala Lumpur, posting images of themselves at shopping centres, restaurants and their accommodation, with the Merdeka skyscraper in the background. Mr Khan, who also owns the Library nightclub, is Modco's registered building practitioner. Ms Lu, who was contacted for comment, is majority shareholder and Damien Clancy is the director.



Holiday PLAY

Image: Dana Weeks, courtesy of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.

Grab your 11-page flip magazine in **The West Australian** tomorrow.

WA'S HOME OF CLEARANCE APPLIANCES SALE ON NOW!

ALL STOCK PRICED TO CLEAR

Ovens. Cooktops. Upright Cookers. Rangehoods. Dishwashers. Fridges. Sinks and Taps. Washers. Dryers & Much More!

Superseded | Ex display | Bulk Buys | Scratch & Dent | CASH & CARRY only

ALL ITEMS COME WITH MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY

RICK HART OUTLET

CLEARANCE APPLIANCES

58 Guthrie Street, Osborne Park. 9244 8858