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Strange bedfellows at A2B's new headquarters

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As if investors at Thursday's A2B annual general meeting didn't have enough to keep them entertained.

As [previously reported](#), Sandon Capital and Investors Mutual have united to try to oust chairman **Paul Oneile** and deny CEO **Andrew Skelton** his performance rights. And on the day that all came out, the company formerly known as Cabcharge announced an intriguing "land swap deal". Which raises more questions than it answers.



A2B is facing a showdown with unhappy investors at its AGM. **Ryan Osland**

Some of said questions are worthy and serious: Sandon's **Gabriel Radzynski**, [for one](#), reckons the announcement is too vague to allow him to judge the transaction. And others are, well, more prurient. Like what's going to happen to Marlene's Top Hat?

Marlene's, a two-decades-old small business – which proclaims itself as “Sydney's best brothel” – is located at the site on which A2B plans to base its corporate headquarters.

Addenbrooke is building A2B a nine-storey commercial office on land it currently owns at 20-24 Bourke Street in Alexandria, just around the corner from A2B's present offices in O'Riordan Street (of which Addenbrooke is taking possession in return). And Marlene's parlour is located at No. 24, sandwiched between a cafe and a mechanic.

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A2B has no need for the nine storeys (and 9634 square metres of space) Addenbrooke is building for it, and so intends to lease the excess to third-party commercial tenants, generating about \$3 million in rent a year.

So, there is a possibility Marlene's could remain on the premises, no doubt providing some welcome diversification to A2B's operating portfolio.

Though, given Marlene's promises "discerning gentlemen" a "low pedestrian-level environment" with "discreet off-street parking and low visibility access", we're not sure a floor of a busy office block will quite fit the bill.

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