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GFR calls in administrators

Michael Ramsey 18-Mar-2014



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Mine site water infrastructure group $\underline{GFR}_{[2]}$ has become the sixth Perth-based company to call in administrators in as many weeks, citing deteriorating trading conditions and significant contract delays.

Perth-based <u>GFR</u> $_{[2]}$ has appointed <u>FTI Consulting</u> $_{[5]}$ senior managing directors <u>Michael Ryan</u> $_{[4]}$ and <u>Ian Francis</u> $_{[5]}$ as administrators, leaving an uncertain future for its 150 employees.

 $\underline{GFR}_{\,[2]}$ said the appointment reflected the difficulties faced by smaller contractors in the current economic conditions.

"Given the difficult operational outlook and near-term cash flow requirements, the directors believe the responsible course of action for all parties, including creditors and employees, is to voluntarily appoint administrators," the company said in a statement.

 $\underline{\text{GFR}}_{\,|2|}$ posted revenue of \$27.6 million in the 2013 financial year, well down from the \$65 million revenue it achieved in FY12.

The company was founded in 1986 as Goldfields Reticulation and went onto establish support sites in Perth, Tom Price and Melbourne.

 $\underline{GFR}_{[2]}$ is the sixth Perth-based company to call in administrators since the beginning of February, with contractor $\underline{Forge\ Group}_{[6]}$ the most prominent.

Forge <u>last month</u> [7] appointed <u>Ferrier Hodgson</u> [8] partners <u>Martin</u> <u>Jones</u> [9], <u>Andrew Saker</u> [10] and <u>Ben Johnson</u> [11] as voluntary administrators of the company, while financier <u>ANZ Banking Group</u> [12] appointed <u>KordaMentha</u> [13] partners <u>Mark Mentha</u> [14] and <u>Scott Langdon</u> [15] as receivers and managers.

Mirabela Nickel [16] meanwhile appointed KordaMentha [13] partners Martin Madden [17], Cliff Rocke [16] and David Winterbottom [19] as voluntary administrators as part of a complex restructuring [20] that involves placing the company into administration, raising new capital and implementing a debt-for-equity swap.

Residential builder $\underline{\text{Mi Construction Pty Ltd}}_{[2^2]}$, which traded as $\underline{\text{Mi Construct}}_{[2^2]}$ and was based in Northbridge, also slipped into administration $_{[2^3]}$ last month, with $\underline{\text{Avior Consulting}}_{[2^4]}$ appointed to liquidate the company's assets.

Other companies which have appointed administrators in recent weeks include motor accessories group MALZ Motoring & Leisure Zone, and trucking logistics company <u>Kitson Group</u> [25].

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