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AUSTRALIA'S DAILY E-MAIL TECHNOLOGY NEWS SERVICE – AVAILABLE ONLY ON SUBSCRIPTION

'Mountain of debt': NBN contractor Daly appoints receivers

SYDNEY – Infrastructure contractor **Daly International** has called in administrators after it failed to keep its head above a tide of millions in debt. The 25-year-old company, which has offices around Australia and in the UK, has had contracts with the NBN, Vodafone and Optus.

Its services have included project delivery, engineering, design, property, town planning, construction and project management.



Daly has appointed **Peter Dinoris** of **Artemis Insolvency** as administrator. He has promptly sacked all 80 of Daly's staff, and cleaned out all of its business premises, which included offices in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

While details are scant, Artemis said it has so far received proof of \$5.1 million owed to unsecured creditors, including employee entitlements at a total \$2.1 million.

The creditors also include a host of IT and telecommunication companies, including **Huawei**, which had an agreement with Daly that "involves a number of sensitive matters", reports **CRN**. Secured creditors include **ANZ Bank** and cashflow finance provider **Hermes Capital**.

Daly's portfolio included a \$27.7 million project with **NBN Co** to deliver fibre to multi-dwelling units in Brisbane, the Gold Coast and WA. Daly also designed NBN fibre networks in Sydney and Melbourne, as well as tasks for **Ericsson's** fixed wireless component of the NBN.

Officeworks IPO off the table

PERTH – **Officeworks** and **Bunnings** parent company **Wesfarmers** has taken the IPO prospect for the Officeworks subsidiary off the table.

The Perth-based retail and mining conglomerate said

in February that it would undertake a strategic review of Officeworks and suggested that it could list it.

Earlier this month it was widely reported that Wesfarmers was aiming to raise \$1.1 billion by either selling or publicly floating its Officeworks business.

The retailer was expected to list with a market value of between \$1.33 and \$1.52 billion.

However, Wesfarmers yesterday confirmed that not only has the prospect of an IPO been taken off the table, the company plans to hold onto its office products retailer for the foreseeable future.



ManageEngine preps Oz assault

SYDNEY – Major US IT services and support outfit **ManageEngine** – a subsidiary of **Zoho Corporation** of the US – is gearing to make a major splash in the Australian market. It has appointed **Paul Phillips** as its Australian regional manager. He's currently in charge of an office of one, but gearing for major expansion over the rest of 2017.

Phillips was introduced to the Aussie IT media yesterday at a luncheon at **Wolfies** restaurant at Sydney's Circular Quay, attended by some top brass from the US: Zoho president **Raj Sabhlok**, pictured, and ManageEngine corporate marketing chief **Avinash Kagava**.

ManageEngine isn't exactly new to the Down Under business. It claims that around 15,000 customers in A/NZ, including both paid and freemium users. **Qantas**, **Team Australia** and the **Uni of WA** are among them.



It claims to provide systems that allow organisations – whatever software and cloud systems they are using – to deal easily with matters including

network performance management, bandwidth monitoring, and management of servers, applications, security, management, desktop and mobile devices and passwords – and, yes, ransomware – to name a few.

"We've been surprised just how advanced this region

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is in these matters,” Sabhlok told the diners yesterday. But he added that even the biggest companies sometimes need help managing the systems they have chosen – and ManageEngine is hoping to supply a lot more of that Down Under. – **David Frith**