

## Markets

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEDT)	7087	-61	-0.9
<b>NZX 50</b>	11815	10	0.1
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	33003	59	0.2
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	4183	11	0.3
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	13093	48	0.4

## Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences today's trade with an overnight \$A depreciation, a key Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) report and three other material domestic economic indicator reports due late morning, new data out of China overnight and a further batch of influential data due from China early afternoon.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict remains forefront amid a wait for any tangible outcomes from overnight negotiations between mediators and variously allied nations.

US equities trade mostly turned negative overnight. Key commodities prices were pushed decisively lower.

**Locally today, RBA 1 March policy meeting minutes are expected 11.30am AEDT.**

At the same time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases a monthly **business indicator** report and December capital city **residential property prices**.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI) and Westpac also report the results of their survey of March quarter **business conditions and expectations** this morning.

Stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include **NWS, SFR, TPG** and **YAL**. Please see pp3-4 for a detailed ex-dividends list.

**Regionally, China** reports January-February **fixed asset investments, industrial production** and **retail trade** at 1pm AEDT.

Post-ASX trade yesterday, China reported a 37.9% year-on-year increase in February **foreign direct investment (FDI)**. A 10% rise was anticipated following an 11% increase.

Pre-trade, **South Korea** has reported February export and import prices, these rising 20.3% and 29.4% year-on-year respectively.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** dropped.

US **gold** futures continued to decline, falling beneath \$US1970/oz.

**Iron ore** (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) was also reported to have fallen further.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** reportedly turned ~2.5% lower. **Aluminium** was reported to have retreated by ~2.0%. **Nickel** is expected to recommence LME trade this week following last week's suspension, but overnight regulators revealed conditions had not yet been satisfied for doing so.

Last night's LME final price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication.

The \$A fell below US71.90c after trading at ~US72.55c early yesterday evening.

## Today's Stock Watch

### Imugene Ltd (IMU)

Clinical trial supply agreement secured with Merck & Co's MSD, for the phase two trial evaluating IMU's HER-Vaxx, in combination with Pembrolizumab for treating gastric cancer in patients for which trastuzumab has failed.

Webinar scheduled to commence **11am** AEDT.

### CANN Group (CAN)

CAN's Mildura, Victoria production facility has reached practical completion.

Further, an Office of Drug Control permit is in hand, enabling commercial cultivation activity to commence.

### PharmAust Ltd (PAA)

Tablet manufacturing underway with regulatory-grade monepantel (MPL) successfully produced and shipped to San Diego, US.

The tablets will be used in a motor neuron disease clinical trial scheduled to commence in May.

### Comms Group (CCG)

Wholesale telecommunications services supply agreement secured with Vodafone Global Enterprise.

Related initial capex estimated at \$500,000 over 12 months.

Additional details lodged this morning.

### McMillan Shakespeare Group (MMS)

MMS subsidiary Remuneration Services (QLD) (RemServ) has been reappointed as a salary packaging provider to the Queensland Government, for four years from 1 April. RemServ will be one of two Queensland Government salary packaging service providers.

## Resources

### Rio Tinto (RIO)

RIO is offering \$C34 cash per share to acquire the 49% balance share of Oyu Tolgoi project JV partner Turquoise Hill that it does not already own.

This means RIO would outlay ~\$US2.7B to achieve 100% Turquoise Hill ownership.

A successful bid would give RIO 66% ownership in the Oyu Tolgoi copper project, Mongolia, with the balance held by the Government of Mongolia.

### Terramin Australia (TZN)

South Australia Gawler Range IOCG project \$A10.5M exploration agreement secured with Japan Oil, Gas & Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC).

Under the agreement, JOGMEC can earn a 70% holding in the project by spending \$A7.5M over six years.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	32945	1	0.0
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	4173	-31	-0.7
<b>NASDAQ</b>	12581	-263	-2.0
<b>FTSE 100</b>	7193	38	0.5
<b>DAX 30</b>	13929	301	2.2
<b>Shanghai Comp</b>	3224	-86	-2.6

**Overseas Markets Commentary**

Major European, UK and US equities markets mostly demonstrated early positive sentiment overnight, but this subsequently waned in varying degrees for most indices.

China's renewed Covid management restrictions, effectively shutting down operations in key vehicle manufacturing and tech sector regions, concerned as a growing list of companies revealed how operations would be impacted.

Russia's attacks on Ukraine continued, as did the Ukrainian president's efforts to secure further assistance from large western nations.

As the president was confirmed to be scheduled to speak to the US Congress via video link overnight Wednesday, officials from Russia and Ukraine again spoke in Belarus, also by video link, without reporting any progress.

Meanwhile, security advisors from China and the US discussed the Russia-Ukraine conflict in Rome, as did Germany's chancellor with Turkey's president in Turkey.

The seven-hour meeting between the US national security advisor and China's representative was subsequently described by the US as 'intense'.

Ukraine had confirmed late-weekend that Turkey and Israel remained mediators for Ukraine, and overnight, high-profile Russian Roman Abramovich was reported at an airport in Israel before boarding a flight to Istanbul.

Among overnight **data** releases, **Germany's** February wholesale prices were reported 1.7% higher for the month following a 2.3% January increase.

Against February 2021, prices were up 16.6%.

In the **UK**, the NIESR GDP tracker estimated February growth at 1.0% against forecasts for 0.6%.

**Russia's** January trade figures included a \$US21.17B surplus following forecasts for \$US23.5B. December's trade surplus was recorded at \$US26.72B.

In the **US**, February consumer inflation expectations report indicated an anticipated 6% CPI growth against the 5.8% suggested for January.

**Tonight** in the US, February producer prices and the New York Fed's Empire State March manufacturing index are due.

Volkswagen is among companies scheduled to report earnings or provide updates tonight.

In overnight corporate news, **Volkswagen** was one company, together with **Toyota**, **Foxconn** (clients include Apple), **Unimicron Technology** (clients include Apple and Intel) and **Sunflex**

**Pre-Open Announcements****4DS Memory (\* 4DS)**

4DS has appointed former executive of US and Taiwanese semiconductor companies Kenneth Hurley as CEO and MD.

Mr Hurley takes over from Guido Amout who decided to retire these roles but to remain with 4DS as a non-executive director and a part-time advisor to Mr Hurley.

**Pushpay Holdings (PPH)**

Anticipating \$US61.5M - \$US 63.5M FY22 EBITDAFI, against previous \$US60.0M - \$US65.0M guidance.

Additional details lodged this morning.

**Meridian Energy (MEZ)**

February operational statistics reported this morning, with New Zealand's overall electricity demand estimated 2.3% lower than for February 2021.

**Midway Ltd (MWY)**

Chairman Greg McCormack plans to step down from his role 30 April and to remain an MWY director until the November AGM, when he plans to retire from the board.

MWY recouped 5.84% Friday and 3.07% yesterday, settling at 84c yesterday.

**Resources****OreCorp Ltd (\* ORR)**

Planning to demerge subsidiary Solstice Minerals and to list Solstice on the ASX.

Shareholder meeting scheduled for 7 April.

**Askari Metals (\* AS2)**

Heralding WA Burracoppin gold project sampling results.

Details lodged this morning.

**De Grey Mining (DEG)**

Significant width intersections returned from WA Pilbara Mallina gold project Hemi deposit Brolga zone resource definition drilling.

Assays lodged pre-trade.

**MinRex Resources (MRR)**

Heralding results from reconnaissance field activity across three WA Pilbara lithium projects.

**Firebird Metals (FRB)**

Updated presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

This follows the Oakover manganese project resource upgrade lodged Thursday last week.

FRB recouped 6.56% Thursday, and 18.46% Friday, but forfeited 9.09% yesterday, settling at 35c.

**Peregrine Gold (PGD)**

Non-executive PGD director Peter Woodman has resigned from the PGD board, effective immediately.

In addition, PGD has appointed Grange Consulting director Steven Wood as joint company secretary, also effective



**Technology** that announced the suspension of some operations in China due to renewed Covid containment restrictions.

### Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
<b>Gold (NY)</b> (Apr)	<b>1960.8</b>	oz	-24.2	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>Silver (NY)</b> (May)	<b>25.30</b>	oz	-0.86	<b>-3.4</b>
<b>Gold (LON)</b>	<b>1979</b>	oz	(11 Mar)	
<b>Platinum</b>	<b>1029</b>	oz	-47	<b>-4.4</b>
<b>WTI Crude</b> (NYMEX Apr)	<b>103.01</b>	bbl	-6.32	<b>-5.8</b>
<b>Brent Crude</b> (ICE EUR May)	<b>106.90</b>	bbl	-5.77	<b>-5.1</b>
<b>Iron Ore</b> (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	<b>155.36</b>	t	(11 Mar)	
<b>Copper</b> (LME 3mth Evening)	<b>10186</b>	t	(11 Mar)	
<b>Nickel</b>	<b>47986</b>	t	(8 Mar)	(susp)
<b>Aluminium</b>	<b>3483</b>	t		
<b>Lead</b>	<b>2327</b>	t		
<b>Zinc</b>	<b>3814</b>	t		
<b>Tin</b>	<b>44100</b>	t		

### Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – oil opened lower overnight, some citing concerns with the impacts of China’s broadening Covid management-related restrictions in addition to supply-demand views related to Russia’s attacks on Ukraine and increased negotiation efforts.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) again called for greater crude output.

India reportedly indicated a willingness to release more oil from national reserves.

In the meantime, the US Federal Reserve’s anticipated interest rate increase was also said to be under consideration for the expected concurrent \$US appreciation which would reduce buying power for many nations.

**OPEC’s** monthly market report is keenly anticipated tonight.

The IEA is due to publish its monthly energy market report overnight tomorrow.

**Gold** – US prices opened lower overnight, with demand for the \$US and US bonds also lower on improved early equities sentiment.

Tonight, the US Federal Reserve commences a two-day policy meeting from which a 0.25% interest rate increase announcement is expected early Thursday (AEDT).

The Bank of England convenes a policy meeting and announces outcomes, overnight Thursday.

**Base metals** – international economic growth concerns appeared the greatest influence on overnight base metals trade, China’s growing Covid management restrictions, rising Covid-related hospitalisations reported in Europe, high energy costs and additional adverse impacts related to Russia’s war on Ukraine combining to raise demand fears.

Some market watchers also cited publicised, seemingly broadened negotiations to resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict, as sufficiently positive news to ease recent supply disruption concern.

LME nickel trade remained suspended.

**China’s** January-February industrial production, fixed asset investment and retail sales updates, due for release today, will likely influence some of tonight’s trade.

immediately.

### Many Peaks Gold (\* MPG)

Gold explorer scheduled to list on the ASX 1pm AEDT **tomorrow**, following a \$5.5M IPO at 20c per share.

~32.1M quoted shares.

### Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Australian Pacific Coal	AQC	15 Mar
Macarthur Minerals	MIO	15 Mar
Vortiv Ltd	VOR	15 Mar
WT Financial Group	WTL	15 Mar
AustChina Holdings	AUH	16 Mar
Brightstar Resources	BTR	16 Mar
Grand Gulf Energy	GGE	16 Mar
Helix Resources	HLX	16 Mar
Melbana Energy	MAY	16 Mar
Renegen Ltd	RLT	16 Mar
Classic Minerals	CLZ	17 Mar

### Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Mindax Ltd	MDX	1 Mar
Roto-Gro International	RGI	1 Mar

### Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
<b>GC1</b>	Today	<b>1</b>	100	2.99
<b>GDG</b>	Today	<b>1</b>	100	1.37
<b>IGL</b>	Today	<b>8.5</b>	100	3.40
<b>MAH</b>	Today	<b>0.3</b>	0	3.42
<b>NWS</b>	Today	<b>9.83</b>	0	0.63
<b>NWSLV</b>	Today	<b>9.83</b>	0	0.67
<b>SFR</b>	Today	<b>3</b>	100	4.38
<b>TOP</b>	Today	<b>1</b>	100	3.94
<b>TPG</b>	Today	<b>8.5</b>	100	2.74
<b>YAL</b>	Today	<b>70.4</b>	0	0.00
ASB	Tomorrow	4	0	3.96
BWF	Tomorrow	2.6	100	2.78
DTL	Tomorrow	7.25	100	2.66
EPY	Tomorrow	1.4	100	4.89
ING	Tomorrow	6.5	100	5.32
MCY	Tomorrow	7.45	0	1.89
MEC	Tomorrow	1.5	100	4.58
MNY	Tomorrow	6	100	2.33
MTO	Tomorrow	12	100	6.41
PL8	Tomorrow	0.5	100	4.58

**Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.7200	-0.0059	<b>-0.81</b>
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.0948	0.0030	<b>0.28</b>

**Australian Data Today**

RBA	Policy meeting minutes	1 Mar
ACCI/Wspc	Business survey (incl conditions, expectations)	Mar Q
ABS	Business turnover indicator	Jan
ABS	Capital city residential property prices	Dec Q

**US Data Today & Tonight**

Producer prices	Feb
NY Fed Empire State manufacturing index	Mar

**Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight**

<b>China</b>	Fixed asset investment	Jan-Feb
China	Industrial production	Jan-Feb
China	Retail sales	Jan-Feb
<b>South Korea</b>	Export and import prices	Feb
<b>UK</b>	Unemployment claims	Feb
UK	Average earnings	Jan
UK	ILO unemployment	Jan
UK	NIESR GDP tracker	Feb
<b>Germany</b>	ZEW economic conditions & expectations	Mar
<b>Euro zone</b>	ZEW economic sentiment	Mar
Euro zone	Industrial production	Jan

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SHM	Tomorrow	6	100	9.26
SSG	Tomorrow	4.5	100	4.24
VG1	Tomorrow	4.5	100	3.31
VG8	Tomorrow	5	100	3.01
BOL	Thu	0.5	0	7.89
CRN	Thu	8.75	0	0.00
CUP	Thu	1.5	100	3.79
DDH	Thu	2.51	100	2.11
EMB	Thu	15	100	1.72
FBU	Thu	16.73	0	2.42
GNE	Thu	7.89	0	6.11
MEZ	Thu	5.34	0	3.24
PWH	Thu	3.5	100	0.99
CAR	Fri	25.5	100	2.30
HUB	Fri	7.5	100	0.37
VLS	Fri	3	100	2.31

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