

**Markets**

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEST)	7449	-48	-0.6
<b>NZX 50</b>	12093	-28	-0.2
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	34580	30	0.1
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	4523	3	0.1
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	14836	8	0.1

**Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market opens mid-week trade with the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) due to publish a closely followed economic update, and material data due for China, as a watch remains on geopolitical relations and implications for global trade, including in association with Russia's war on Ukraine.

Overnight, US equities markets swung to settle decisively lower.

**Locally** today, the **RBA** publishes its monthly 'chart pack' report containing **economic trends** in graphs and charts at **11.30am AEST**.

**Regionally**, Caixin is scheduled to reveal its **March services PMI** for **China** at **11.45am AEST**.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** and US **gold** futures turned lower.

**Iron ore** (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) also swung to record a modest decline.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** reportedly traded at four-year peaks intra-session before being pushed lower.

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

The **\$A** fell to ~US75.75c after trading at ~US76.30c early yesterday evening.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	34641	-281	-0.8
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	4525	-58	-1.3
<b>NASDAQ</b>	14204	-328	-2.3
<b>FTSE 100</b>	7614	55	0.7
<b>DAX 30</b>	14424	-94	-0.7
<b>Shanghai Comp</b>	3283	Public	Holiday

**Overseas Markets Commentary**

Most major European, UK and US equities markets traded higher early overnight but soon lost momentum, the FTSE 100 proving a notable exception.

Trader considerations included US economic growth prospects and inflation levels against a backdrop of the reported horrors of Russia's war in Ukraine and a watch on China's Covid management.

Yesterday, China revealed Shanghai would be subject to whole-of-

**Today's Stock Watch**
**MGC Pharmaceuticals (MXC)**

Exclusive four-year distribution agreement secured with UK headquartered Sciensus Rare, covering MXC's CannEpil and CogniCann in the UK, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain.

Minimum purchase orders apply for Sciensus Rare to remain exclusive distributor beyond the first 12 months.

CannEpil is a treatment for drug-resistant epilepsy and CogniCann for dementia, including Alzheimer's disease.

**Weebit Nano (WBT)**

Heralding successful functional testing of demonstration chips embedding WBT's ReRAM array inside a memory module.

Details lodged pre-trade.

**Ventia Services Group (VNT)**

Two-year contract extension secured with the Australian Government's Department of Finance, covering property leasing and facilities management services to 39 government entities across ~650 properties.

**MMA Offshore (MRM)**

\$US5.5M in combined proceeds realised from the completed sales of the Mermaid Vigilance and the MMA Chieftain.

MRM will used to funds to reduce debt.

**Resources**
**Vulcan Energy (VUL)**

20-year purchase agreement secured for VUL to supply German company MVV Energie with 240GWh per year of renewable heat. The supply is set to commence in 2025 to Mannheim near Frankfurt.

**European Lithium (EUR)**

Resuming from a trading halt with commitments for a \$A30M placement at 13c per share. EUR is paying the lead manager a 6% fee plus options, pending shareholder approval.

EUR traded at 13.5c – 16.5c 9c across the five sessions immediately prior to calling the halt. Funds will be used for the development of the Wolfsberg lithium project, Austria.

**Energy**
**Norwest Energy (NWE)**

Resuming from a trading halt with commitments for a \$15M placement and \$3M SPP, each at 3.3c each.

NWE traded at 3.6c – 4.9c across the five sessions immediately prior to calling the halt.

**92 Energy (92E)**

Canada Athabasca Basin Gemini (GMZ) uranium project drilling has delivered the highest levels of radioactivity to date. Statistics lodged this morning.

city Covid containment restrictions indefinitely.

Overnight, **US Federal Reserve** governor Lael Brainard maintained the central bank needed to reduce assets at a faster pace than previously and to raise interest rates ‘methodically’ in a series of moves.

Meanwhile, Deutsche Bank predicted a US recession commencing late 2023 – early 2024.

Earlier (yesterday afternoon AEST), the Reserve Bank of Australia announce status quo policy for now in a post-policy meeting statement, but indicated interest an interest rate increase ‘over coming months’ pending economic data.

In Russia-Ukraine developments, European Union (EU) finance ministers discussed a raft of further sanctions against Russia, including a potential ban on importing products such as caviar, cement, coal, liquors, seafoods, select chemicals, rubber and wood.

Denmark, Italy and Sweden joined France and then Germany in expelling Russian diplomats.

For its part, the US halted Russian bond payments from Russian reserves held in US banks.

In mixed overnight **data** releases, the **euro zone’s** March services PMI was finalised at 55.6 from a preliminary estimate of 54.8. The February services PMI had been finalised at 55.5.

In **Germany**, the 56.1 final March services PMI represented a 0.3-point increase on the February reading, but also a 1.1-point rise from the initial March estimate.

March domestic vehicle registrations were calculated 17.5% lower than for February 2021. January’s had been estimated as a 3.2% year-on-year improvement.

The **UK’s** final March services PMI came in 1.6 points higher than the preliminary estimate, at a robust 62.6. Further, the February services PMI had been finalised at 60.5.

March UK domestic vehicle sales were reported 14.3% lower than a year earlier, however. February sales had been estimated 15% greater than for February 2021.

In the **US**, the ISM’s influential non-manufacturing index for March rose to 58.3 from 56.5. Economists had anticipated 58.1.

The new orders and employment component indices rose by four and 5.5 points respectively to 60.1 and 54.

February trade statistics included a \$US89.2B deficit, in line with January and following forecasts for a new \$US88B shortfall.

The 58.0 final S&P-calculated March services PMI represented a 0.9-point decrease from the initial estimate, but also a 1.5-point climb from the February reading.

Meanwhile, US bond yields were pushed to ~2.55% on Ms Brainard’s policy comments.

Yesterday afternoon (AEST), a 10-year government bond auction hosted by **Japan** produced a 0.201% yield from 0.179%.

**Tonight** in the US, the Federal Reserve’s March policy meeting minutes are due, together with weekly mortgage applications.

Elsewhere, the euro zone reports February producer prices and Germany February factory orders.

UK-headquartered Hilton Food Group, Levi Strauss and RPM International are among companies scheduled to report earnings later today or tonight.

## Pre-Open Announcements

### Seafarms Group (SFG)

Maintaining compliance in response to an ASX ‘aware’ query. SFG dropped 42.31% to 1.5c 31 March (Thursday last week) following a briefing following a review of Project Sea Dragon.

The previous session SFG had fallen 10.34% after appreciating from 2.2c to 2.9c the four sessions prior.

### Microba Life Sciences (MAP)

Human gut microbiome-focused biotech company completed its ASX listing yesterday, following a \$30M IPO at 45c per share.

Opened at 44c, the company’s day one high, and slipped to 32.5c before settling at 35c.

4.26M shares were traded across 424 transactions.

226.31M quoted shares.

## Resources

### Sandfire Resources (SFR) / Perenti Global (PRN)

PRN’s African Mining Services has commenced open pit mining at SFR’s Botswana Motheo copper mine T3 pit.

Pictorial update lodged in presentation format post-trade yesterday.

### Protean Energy (POW)

Planning to reduce operational spending but will continue to review and consider projects and business acquisition opportunities, not necessarily in vanadium exploration.

South Korea’s Mining Registration Office (MRO) is hearing any challenges to the potential expiration of POW’s Gwesan vanadium project Gwesan 137 tenement, but POW will not challenge.

POW has determined the mineralisation identified in Gwesan 137 trends and remains open toward the adjacent Gwesan 127 tenement.

In addition, the MRO has notified POW of the pending expiration of the Daejon vanadium project tenements. POW has not completed any exploration within these tenements and will not object to the expiry.

### Black Rock Mining (BKT)

Evolution Corporate Services’ James Doyle has taken over as BKT company secretary from BKT non-executive director Gabriel Chiappini.

Mr Chiappini is continuing as a BKT board member.

### Amani Gold (ANL)

ANL has appointed Dentons senior partner and mining & resources head Burt Li as a non-executive director.

### Pearl Gull Iron (PLG)

Non-executive PLG director Catherine Moises has resigned from the PLG board, due to health considerations.

### Lord Resources (\* LRD)

Exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX 11.30am



## Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
<b>Gold (NY)</b> (Jun)	1927.5	oz	-6.5	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Silver (NY)</b> (May)	24.53	oz	-0.06	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Gold (LON)</b>	1930	oz	4 Apr	
<b>Platinum</b>	964	oz	-21	-2.1
<b>WTI Crude</b> (NYMEX May)	101.96	bbl	-1.32	<b>-1.3</b>
<b>Brent Crude</b> (ICE EUR Jun)	106.64	bbl	-0.89	<b>-0.8</b>
<b>Iron Ore</b> (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	161.25	t	-0.59	<b>-0.4</b>
<b>Copper</b> (LME 3mth Evening)	10473	t	4 Apr	
<b>Nickel</b>	33246	t		
<b>Aluminium</b>	3452	t		
<b>Lead</b>	2414	t		
<b>Zinc</b>	4365	t		
<b>Tin</b>	44110	t		

## Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – a stronger \$US and demand speculation centring on China's Shanghai lockdown ultimately pushed prices lower.

Prices rose early after Japan's industry minister confirmed the International Energy Agency (IEA) was continuing to discuss a potential co-ordinated release from members' reserves.

Also overnight, Germany's foreign minister flagged a potential domestic ban on importing Russian oil.

In the meantime, Russia's early April oil and gas condensate output was estimated ~4% lower on a daily basis than recorded for March.

A weekly US petroleum inventories report is due from government agency the EIA tonight.

Post-overnight US trade, the American Petroleum Institute (API) has published a report which includes an estimated 1.08MMbbl increase in US crude stocks last week.

**Gold** – decisive comments on cutting inflation by US Federal Reserve governor Lael Brainard and an associated move higher (~0.15% to ~2.55%) for US bond yields pushed prices lower overnight.

US Federal Reserve March policy meeting minutes will likely attract more interest than usual tonight.

**Base metals** – prices again swung overnight, *copper* initially jumping to four-year peaks on fears of a ban on Russian copper imports into European Union (EU) nations.

However, the EU did not include industrial metals in a list of proposed new import bans.

Meanwhile, *zinc* warehouse tallies continued to be reported lower.

A stronger \$US contained moves higher, in general, however.

*China's markets are scheduled to open today for the first time this week.*

## Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.7585	-0.0029	<b>-0.37</b>
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.0907	-0.0061	<b>-0.56</b>

AEST **tomorrow**, following a \$4.5M IPO at 20c per share. ~30.78M quoted shares.

## International Graphite (\* IG6)

Explorer scheduled to list on the ASX 12.30pm AEST **tomorrow**, following a \$10M IPO at 20c per share. ~81.49M quoted shares.

## Energy

## Strike Energy (\* STX)

Five-year gas sales agreement covering a total 14.6PJ secured with Perth Energy.

STX will supply the gas from its Perth Basin assets.

## Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Centrex Ltd	CXM	6 Apr
GTI Resources	GTR	6 Apr
Marquee Resources	MQR	6 Apr
Ordoca Ltd	ODA	6 Apr
PVW Resources	PVW	6 Apr
Golden Deeps	GED	7 Apr
Hartshead Resources	HHR	7 Apr
Hawthorn Resources	HAW	7 Apr
Inca Minerals	ICG	7 Apr
Legacy Iron Ore	LCY	7 Apr
Nova Minerals	NVA	7 Apr
Okapi Resources	OKR	7 Apr
Strandline Resources	STA	7 Apr
Western Areas	WSA	7 Apr
Xanadu Mines	XAM	7 Apr

## Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
LawFinance Ltd	LAW	5 Apr
Sprintex Ltd	SIX	29 Mar

## Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
<b>CLV</b>	Today	<b>0.5</b>	100	0.75
<b>TRA</b>	Today	<b>5.56</b>	85	4.67
ARB	Tomorrow	39	100	1.64
GOW	Tomorrow	4	100	2.00
OMH	Tomorrow	2	0	0.00
RBD	Tomorrow	29.7	0	0.00
RIC	Tomorrow	3.4	100	1.22
SDI	Tomorrow	1.5	100	3.71
BKW	11 Apr	22	100	2.53
LSX	11 Apr	3.5	0	0.00

**Australian Data Today**

RBA Chart pack (economic trends via graphics) Apr

**US Data Today & Tonight**

Fed Reserve policy meeting minutes	15-16 Mar
MBA mortgage applications	1 Apr

**Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight**

<b>China</b>	Caixin services PMI	Mar
<b>UK</b>	Construction PMI	Mar
<b>Germany</b>	Factory orders	Feb
Germany	Construction PMI	Mar
<b>Euro zone</b>	Producer prices	Feb
Euro zone	Construction PMI	Mar

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DUR	12 Apr	0.5	100	4.00
SVW	12 Apr	23	100	1.06

**Reports & Events**

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
<b>Tomorrow</b>	ERA	Mar Q
	SCG	AGM
<b>Fri</b>	OZL	AGM
	RIO	(Plc AGM)

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