

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6756	37	0.6
NZX 50	12313	40	0.3
DJIA Futures	32479	200	0.6
S&P 500 Futures	3937	40	1.0
NASDAQ Futures	13048	299	2.4

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences Friday trade with positive overnight US equities trade leads and gains for most key commodities, ahead of a batch of key international data releases tonight.

Locally today, no major economic indicators are due for release.

Several stocks trade **ex-dividend**. *Please see pp3-4 for a detailed list.*

Regionally today, a quarterly update for a **large manufacturing** index for **Japan** is expected 10.50am AEDT.

Anytime from later today, **China** is expected to report January-February foreign direct investment (FDI). February vehicle sales, reported more than 350% higher year-on-year earlier this week, were confirmed post-ASX trade yesterday.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** rallied further.

US **gold** futures settled slightly higher.

Qingdao **iron ore** (CFR 62% fines) turned higher, adding \$US6.03/t to reach \$US170.70/t.

LME **copper** (indicative) picked up the pace of Wednesday's rally. **Nickel** and **aluminium** swung higher.

The \$A rose to ~US77.90c after trading beyond US77.80c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets.

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	32486	189	0.6
S&P 500	3939	41	1.0
NASDAQ	13399	330	2.5
FTSE 100	6737	11	0.2
DAX 30	14569	29	0.2
Shanghai Comp	3437	79	2.4

Overseas Markets Commentary

Chops and swings continued across major European and UK equities markets overnight.

Decisive, positive sentiment was demonstrated across key US markets and indices however, the NASDAQ in particular, and the DJIA and S&P 500 reaching new closing records.

The US president signed into law the **economic relief** funding approved by the US House of Representatives overnight Wednesday.

Today's Stock Watch
Westpac Banking Corporation (WBC)

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has closed its WBC investigation regarding matters determined by AUSTRAC.

The APRA investigation did not find evidence of Banking Act breaches.

Nine Entertainment Co (NEC)

New regional TV affiliation agreement secured with WIN, under which WIN will broadcast content from four channels from 1 July, for 50% of advertising revenue.

In addition, WIN is to enable NEC assets promotion across WIN's TV and radio network.

WIN will also provide NEC sales representation for Darwin and northern NSW.

ResApp Health (RAP)

RAP is granting a cough counting SDK licence to AstraZeneca Japan under an agreement covering asthma patient support.

PPK Group (PPK)

51.9% PPK-held Li-S Energy is one of the first confirmed tenants in an expanded manufacturing hub announced by Deakin University yesterday.

Li-S is planning to build a battery testing plant at the facility.

In addition, PPK Strategic Alloys JV partner Amaero International has announced a collaboration with Rio Tinto (ASX: RIO) which is likely to benefit JV production of a super strength aluminium alloy.

Resources
New World Resources (NWC)

Arizona, US Antler copper deposit drilling has intercepted additional deep massive sulphide mineralisation.

Assays pending for 20 holes.

Two diamond core rigs operational 24/7.

Deep extensional drilling is planned, with targets to be refined by CSAMT ground geophysical surveying commencing next week.

Energy
Renegen Ltd (RLT)

Reporting a 'significant gas strike' in MDR1, located 300m from the MDR5 producing well.

Tuesday, RLT announced a significant gas strike in the P007 well, subsequently trading as high as \$1.95 on the ASX.

RLT settled at \$1.61 yesterday.



Meanwhile the **European Central Bank (ECB)** policy meeting produced no surprises, but a commitment to pick up the pace of bond purchases after these had slowed in February.

ECB president Christine Lagarde also admonished euro zone governments to use the fiscal stimulus agreed last year for use from this (northern) summer.

New ECB forecasts included 4.0% euro zone GDP growth this year (from 3.9% predicted December 2020) and 4.1% (from 4.2%) for 2022.

Ms Lagarde revealed the bank expected volatile headline inflation figures for several months, but was currently working on a mean 1.5% rise for 2021 and 1.2% for 2022.

Regional banks were pushed lower on the ECB commentary.

In the US, 10-year bond yields eased again and the \$US ICE index fell ~0.4% to its lowest in ~one week.

In overnight **data** releases, US weekly new unemployment claims tallied 712,000, following expectations of 715,000 and 754,000 reported the previous week.

A January job opportunities report revealed 6.92M opportunities, following 6.75M in December and against forecasts of 6.5M for the first month of the year.

In the meantime, a \$US24B 30-year note auction produced a 2.295% yield from 1.933%.

Tonight in the **US**, February producer prices and the University of Michigan's initial March consumer sentiment reading are due.

Elsewhere, the euro zone reports January industrial production, and the UK January GDP, trade, industrial production and construction figures.

Germany releases a final February CPI estimate.

In overnight corporate news, **Rolls-Royce** revealed an ~£4B 2020 net loss, following a £583M 2019 profit.

In addition, the group announced an electric aircraft supply contract with Scandinavian regional airline Wideroe.

Post-US trade Wednesday, cloud computing services group **Oracle** has reported better-than-anticipated \$US10.09B quarterly revenue, but cloud services division revenue undershot expectations, and the stock fell as much as 9% intra-session overnight.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1722.6	oz	0.8	0.1
Silver (NY) (May)	26.19	oz	0.06	0.2
Gold (LON) (9 Mar)	1717	oz		
Platinum	1190	oz	-7	-0.6
WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr)	66.02	bbbl	1.58	2.5
Brent Crude (ICE EUR May)	69.63	bbbl	1.73	2.6
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (10 Mar)	168.44	t	0.01	0.0
Copper (LME Ind)	9124	t	265	3.0
Nickel	16330	t	283	1.8
Aluminium	2187	t	18	0.8
Lead	1942	t	-5	-0.3
Zinc	2837	t	73	2.6
Tin	25815	t	710	2.8

Pre-Open Announcements

engage:BDR Ltd (* EN1)

Partnership secured with Acceptable Ads Exchange, part of the Eyeo group.

Details lodged this morning.

Australian Unity Office Fund (* AOF) / Charter Hall Group (* CHC) / Abacus Property Group (* ABP)

AOF is selling a Brisbane property for \$31.5M, equivalent to the 31 December book value of the property.

The buyer is the CHAB Office Trust (CHAB), owned by CHC and ABP.

In addition, CHAB is planning to outlay \$32M for the freehold interest from the Brisbane Club.

Vortiv Ltd (VOR)

In association with the company's cyber security assets sale, VOR will pay a 5.55c-per-share fully franked dividend, tallying \$7.8M.

VOR will trade ex-dividend Tuesday next week.

VOR will also return \$13.9M to shareholders in the form of an equal capital reduction at 9.89c per share, pending shareholder approval.

NeuroScientific Biopharmaceuticals (NSB)

~61.3M options with a 7 March (Sunday last weekend) expiry date were exercised at 20c each.

This represented 93.7% of the options expiring on that date.

NSB has traded at 22.5c – 26.5c this week.

Resources

Lepidico Ltd (LPD)

Lepidolite surface stockpiles and former operations tailings resources estimated lodged this morning.

Total tailings and stockpile resources are estimated at 641,000t @ 0.81% LiO₂.

Kore Potash (KP2)

CFO Andrey Maruta is resigning his KP2 position in favour of an appointment with another company.

Mr Maruta will remain with KP2 until COB 10 June.

Errawarra Resources (ERW)

ERW is issuing one free option for every two shares held by shareholders at 8pm AEDT 22 March (Monday week).

The options are expected to commence ASX trade ~30 March. The options are exercisable at 30c each on or before 30 September 2022.

ERW has traded at 26c – 30.5c this week.

Firefinch Ltd (FFX)

Morila gold project update lodged pre-trade, highlighting production from tailings reprocessing.

Neometals Ltd (NMT)

Conference presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

**Commodities Commentary**

Oil – OPEC’s monthly oil market report, published overnight included a forecast 6.5% rise (5.89MMbbl/d) in 2021 demand, to 96.3MMbbl/d, most of the increase coming in the second half of the year.

In addition, OPEC predicted 5.1% 2021 international GDP growth, after forecasting 4.8% in the February report.

OPEC February output fell 650,000bbl/d to 24.85MMbbl/d, supported by Saudi Arabia’s daily 956,000 output decline, to 8.147MMbbl/d.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig report is due tonight.

Overnight Wednesday next week, the International Energy Agency (IEA) is expected to release its monthly report.

Gold – a further \$US decline (ICE index ~0.4) and easing of US 10-year bond yields (~1.53%) supported overnight gold interest, Comex futures reaching \$US1738/oz.

European Central Bank commentary also supported gains, but equities sentiment constrained magnitude.

Base metals – LME trade reacted for the first time to the approved US economic support legislation overnight.

In addition overnight, the European Central Bank (ECB) policy meeting delivered a commitment to picking up the pace of the bank’s bond buying program.

China research group Antaika estimated the larger copper smelters in China had boosted cathode output during February, production 3% more than for January.

Meanwhile, a civil blockade was reported to have forced Glencore to suspend operations at the Antapaccay copper mine, Peru.

Lead stocks were reported notably higher in LME-registered warehouses.

Tin cost more for cash again, against three-month contracts.

Yesterday, Japan reported a 0.4% rise in February producer prices for the month, but 0.7% fall from February 2020.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7787	0.0040	0.52
EUR – USD	1.1986	0.0058	0.49

US Data Tonight

Producer prices	Feb
Uni of Michigan consumer sentiment (prelim)	Mar

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	BSI large manufacturing	Q1
UK	GDP	Jan
UK	Trade balance	Jan
UK	Industrial production	Jan
UK	Construction output	Jan
Germany	CPI (final)	Feb

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Aldoro Resources	ARN	12 Mar
Jindalee Resources	JRL	12 Mar
Accent Resources	ACS	15 Mar
Credit Intelligence	CI1	15 Mar
ECS Botanics Holdings	ECS	15 Mar
Eildon Capital Group	EDC	15 Mar
EQ Resources	EQR	15 Mar
MetalsTech Ltd	MTC	15 Mar
Sacgasco Ltd	SGC	15 Mar
Theta Gold Mines	TGM	15 Mar
Xstate Resources	XST	15 Mar

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
333D Ltd	T3D	26 Feb
Calima Energy	CE1	16 Feb
Elixinol Global	EXL	8 Mar
Matador Mining	MZZ	9 Mar
Oliver’s Real Food	OLI	26 Feb
Torian Resources	TNR	26 Feb

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
BSE	Today	3	0	10.94
CDD	Today	1.5	60	0.00
CEN	Today	12.35	0	5.37
CVL	Today	1	100	1.69
DSK	Today	15	100	0.00
GRR	Today	2	100	3.60
NTD	Today	3	100	1.41
TGR	Today	7	0	5.16
WTC	Today	2.7	100	0.06
AHY	Mon	3	100	0.00
ANG	Mon	0.2	100	1.88
CNU	Mon	9.76	0	3.12
FFI	Mon	12	100	3.93
GWA	Mon	6	100	1.16
SGF	Mon	7.19	100	3.84
TNK	Mon	12	100	2.13
AEG	Tue	2.6	100	4.77
DRR	Tue	2.45	100	0.00
DTL	Tue	5.5	100	2.88
GDG	Tue	1	0	2.80
MAH	Tue	0.3	20	2.79
NWS	Tue	9.18	0	0.31



Euro zone Industrial production Jan

Need More Information?

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NWSLV	Tue	9.18	0	0.30
PL8	Tue	0.4	100	4.10
PRN	Tue	3.5	0	3.23
SHM	Tue	4	100	3.21
SND	Tue	0.75	100	0.00
TOP	Tue	0.8	100	3.77
TPG	Tue	7.5	100	0.00
TWD	Tue	11	100	3.74
VOR	Tue	5.55	100	tbc
ASB	Wed	4	0	3.24
BWX	Wed	1	100	0.82
EPY	Wed	1	100	4.12
GNE	Wed	7.8	0	4.40
ING	Wed	7.5	100	3.95
MML	Wed	5	0	0.00
MTO	Wed	10	100	0.00
PPG	Wed	0.25	100	2.16
TRA	Wed	5.58	85	4.58