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# **Market Opener**

Monday, 15 August 2022

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#### Markets

| SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST) | 6973  | 39  | 0.6  |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----|------|
| NZX 50                        | 11802 | 72  | 0.6  |
| DJIA Futures                  | 33662 | -56 | -0.2 |
| S&P 500 Futures               | 4274  | -7  | -0.2 |
| NASDAQ Futures                | 13557 | -21 | -0.2 |

#### **Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market opens a new week's trade with a batch of influential regional data due today, and some already in hand from China overnight Friday, together with a swag of domestic corporate earnings released pre-trade, as geopolitical relations continue to churn.

US equities markets rallied in concert overnight Friday.

Since overnight Friday trade, several members of the US Congress arrived in Taiwan yesterday for an "one day visit, including a meeting with Taiwan's president, as part of an Indo-Pacific tour.

In addition, North Korean media reported Russia's president had promoted closer bilateral ties to his North Korean counterpart, citing the need for stronger Korean peninsula and broader northeast Asia security and stability.

**Locally** today, no material economic data releases are scheduled for release.

Major domestic earnings **reporting season** heats this week, however.

Stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include **SCG**. *Please see p4 for a detailed ex-dividends list*.

**Regionally** today, **China** is scheduled to provide July updates for **fixed asset investment**, **industrial production** and **retail sales** at **midday** AEST. A residential property price index is expected at 11.30am.

Overnight Friday, China reported 679B yuan worth of **new lending** for July. This surprised on the downside, as June new lending had tallied 2810 yuan and economists had anticipated 2700B yuan worth of new loans.

**Japan** is due to release an initial **June quarter GDP** estimate just prior to the ASX open.

In overnight Friday commodities trade, oil turned lower.

US gold futures turned to record a gain.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) closed slightly higher.

LME (3mth evening) copper, nickel and aluminium each swung lower.

The **\$A** approached US71.25c after trading at ~US70.95c - ~US71.20c early Friday evening.

# **Overseas Markets**

| INDEX     | CLOSE | +/- | %   |
|-----------|-------|-----|-----|
| Dow Jones | 33761 | 434 | 1.3 |

# **Today's Stock Watch**

## **Nearmap Ltd (NEA)**

Assessing an indicative \$2.10 cash-per-share takeover proposal from private equity firm Thoma Bravo.

Due diligence 'at an advanced stage'.

In addition, NEA is anticipating \$159.9M FY22 ACV portfolio and \$93.7M cash balance. NEA traded at \$1.385 - \$1.595 last week, settling at \$1.51 on Friday.

#### JB Hi-Fi (JBH)

\$1.53 fully franked final dividend, from \$1.07 a year ago.

7.7% higher, \$544.9M full year NPAT.

3.5% higher, \$9.232B revenue. \$2.00 NTA from \$2.15.

# Bendigo & Adelaide Bank (BEN)

Flat, 26.5c fully franked final dividend.

6.9% lower, \$488.1M full year NPAT.

5.3% lower, \$1.710B revenue.

9.4% higher, \$500.4M cash earnings.

#### Carsales.com.au Ltd (CAR)

24.5c fully franked final dividend from 22.5c a year ago.

23% higher, \$A161.454M full year NPAT. 19% higher, \$509.077M revenue. \$1.25 NTA from \$1.021.

#### **GPT Group (GPT)**

12.7c interim distribution from 13.3c a year ago.

30.3% lower, \$529.7M interim NPAT. 23.3% lower, \$754.0M income. \$6.26 NTA from \$6.09.

# **Argo Investments (ARG)**

17c fully franked final dividend from 14c a year ago. 79.9% higher, \$A312.928M full year NPAT. 79.6% higher, \$337.673M income. \$8.45 NTA from \$9.01. \$134.718M cash.

#### Imdex Ltd (IMD)

1.9c, 0.81c-franked final dividend, from 1.4c, 0.6c-franked final and 0.4c, 0.17c-franked special dividends a year ago.

41.2% higher, \$44.711M full year NPAT. 29.3% higher \$341.843M revenue. 50.30c NTA from 40.39c.

In addition, IMD has secured a three-year BLAST DOG contract with the Iron Bridge (FMG-Formosa Steel) JV.

#### Charter Hall Social Infrastructure REIT (CQE)

105.9% higher, \$358.5M full year NPAT.

14.8% higher, \$104.0M revenue.

#### **Resources**

## **BlueScope Steel (BSL)**

25c final dividend, from 25c final and 19c special dividends a year ago.

135% higher, \$2.81B full year NPAT.

48% higher, \$18.991B sales revenue.



| S&P 500       | 4280  | 73  | 1.7  |
|---------------|-------|-----|------|
| NASDAQ        | 13047 | 267 | 2.1  |
| FTSE 100      | 7501  | 35  | 0.5  |
| DAX 30        | 13796 | 101 | 0.7  |
| Shanghai Comp | 3277  | -5  | -0.2 |

#### **Overseas Markets Commentary**

Major European, UK and US equities markets opened higher overnight Friday and ultimately added to gains, despite some data-related chop and swing across European and UK markets.

Commentary and new data released for the US fanned hopes inflation had peaked.

Among overnight Friday **data** releases, **US** July import and export prices fell 1.4% and 3.3% respectively for the month.

Import prices had been expected to fall 1.2% but export prices to increase by 0.1%.

Against July 2021, import and export prices were up 8.8% and 13.1% respectively.

The University of Michigan's initial July national consumer sentiment reading indicated an improvement in confidence, the index calculated at 55.1 from 51.5.

In the  $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{UK}},$  the initial June GDP reading proved better than feared.

Despite dropping 0.6% for the month, forecasters had anticipated a 1.3% tumble.

UK June quarter GDP declined 0.1% for the three months, against predictions for a 0.2% pullback. During the three months of the March quarter, GDP had grown 0.8%.

The quarterly annualised rate for the June quarter came in at a sobering 2.9% growth however, against 8.7% at the end of the March quarter.

The NIESR GDP tracker for August indicated a flat monthly result.

UK June trade figures included a £11.387B deficit, following forecasts for a £9.6B shortfall after May's £9.119B deficit.

June industrial production, also reported overnight Friday, fell 0.9% for the month but was 2.4% higher than for June 2021.

**Euro zone** industrial production improved 0.7% in June, defying expectations for a 0.1% decline.

Against June 2021, output was up 2.4%.

**Russia** reported a 4% drop in June quarter GDP against the June quarter 2021, but economists had predicted a 15% slide.

Earlier overnight Friday, **China** reported July new lending had tallied a surprise 679B, against forecasts for 2700B yuan.

June new lending had been recorded at 2810B yuan.

Earlier Friday, post-Thursday trade in the US, Argentina published a 71% annualised inflation rate for July, less than two hours after the nation's central bank raised its 28-day key interest rate from 60% to 69.5%.

**Tonight** in the US, the August New York Fed Empire State (New York region) manufacturing and home builders' housing market indices are due.

Elsewhere, Germany reports July wholesale prices.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today or tonight include BHP (early AEST Tue), Li Auto, Nu Holdings and Tencent Music Entertainment.

# **Pre-Open Announcements**

## Westpac Banking Corporation (WBC)

Q3 capital, credit quality and funding summary lodged in presentation format pre-trade.

### **GWA Ltd (GWA)**

8c fully franked final dividend from 6.5c a year ago.

0.4% higher, \$35.179M full year NPAT.

3.2% higher, \$418.717M revenue.

## Ramsay Health Care (RHC)

RHC has reached an in-principle agreement with insurer Bupa regarding the key terms of a new three-year hospital purchase provider agreement (HPPA).

The new agreement is expected to be effected before current transitional arrangements, in place following the termination of the previous HPPA, expire (2 October).

# **Australian Clinical Labs (ACL)**

Crescent Capital Partners has sold 14.3% of ACL in an underwritten block trade, at \$4.50 per share, leaving Crescent with a 30.1% ACL holding.

ACL traded on the ASX at \$4.86 - \$5.39 last week.

# **News Corporation (NWS)**

Full year results as lodged in the US (Form 10-K) last week, lodged this morning.

#### **Telstra Corporation (TLS)**

TLS lodged the transcript of its 11 August (Thursday last week) post-full year results announcement analyst and media briefing post-ASX trade Friday.

#### Swoop Holdings (SWP)

Planning to commence an on-market 10% share buy-back, likely 29 August.

In addition, clarifying FY22 EBITDA guidance in relation to the late July earnings update.

## Zicom Group (ZGL)

\$S23.5M lump sum regulating and metering stations (RMS) contract secured with Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Minerals Corporation.

In addition, PetroBangla has flagged a \$S79M compressor stations and RMS contract to be awarded to ZGL.

# **AusCann Group Holdings (AC8)**

AC8 has appointed Merchant Group Pty Ltd CFO and company secretary, and AC8 director, Chris Mews as AC8 CFO.

Mr Mews is also a former CFO and company secretary of Polynovo (ASX: PNV).

Merchant Funds Management and Merchant Group Pty Ltd asset management arm hold a combined ~16.4% of AC8.

#### Resources

#### Critical Resources (CRR)

Ontario, Canada Mavis Lake lithium project step-out drilling has extended known strike length.



#### **Commodities**

| COMMODITY                       | CLOSE  | \$US/ | +/-   | %    |
|---------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| Gold (NY) (Dec)                 | 1815.5 | OZ    | 8.3   | 0.5  |
| Silver (NY) (Sep)               | 20.70  | OZ    | 0.35  | 1.7  |
| Platinum                        | 962    | OZ    | 6     | 0.6  |
| WTI Crude (NYMEX Sep)           | 92.09  | bbl   | -2.25 | -2.4 |
| Brent Crude (ICE EUR Oct)       | 98.15  | bbl   | -1.45 | -1.5 |
| Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe) | 109.71 | t     | 0.08  | 0.1  |
| Copper (LME 3mth Evening)       | 8089   | t     | -82   | -1.0 |
| Nickel                          | 23036  | t     | -625  | -2.6 |
| Aluminium                       | 2434   | t     | -86   | -3.4 |
| Lead                            | 2183   | t     | -15   | -0.7 |
| Zinc                            | 3587   | t     | -99   | -2.7 |
| Tin                             | 25162  | t     | -138  | -0.6 |

#### **Commodities Commentary**

**Oil** – recession and demand fears, based largely on UK GDP statistics and China lending figures, appeared major considerations in overnight Friday trade.

Repairs to a damaged pipeline, essential to production from seven US Gulf of Mexico oil platforms, were expected to allow output to resume and ultimately ramp overnight Friday – Saturday.

A 1MMbbl/d difference in 2022 crude demand growth forecasts, issued by the IEA (2.1MMbbl/d) and OPEC (3.1MMbbl/d) overnight Thursday, were also debated in terms of likely scenarios through year's end.

A US weekly petroleum drill rig report, published overnight Friday, included an additional three operational oil rigs, lifting the tally to 601.

Brent crude ended the week ~3.4% higher and WTI up ~3.5%.

Since overnight Friday trade, Saudi Aramco has revealed a record \$US48.4B June quarter (adjusted) profit, buoyed by higher refining margins and strong fuel prices.

**Gold** – prices appeared pushed and pulled by mixed international economic data releases overnight Friday, recession fears spurned by select data out of the UK and China bolstering safe-haven interest, but commentary both promoting and debunking a possible peak in US inflation complicating expectations.

In production news, Peru's June gold output was reported 4.1% lower than for June 2021.

South Africa's was recorded as having plunged 28.6%.

Reports and data expected to influence gold trade considerations this week include monetary policy meeting minutes from the US Federal Reserve and Reserve Bank of Australia and a CPI update for the UK.

**Base metals** – new **lending** figures out of **China** early evening AEST Friday surprised on the downside, this, coupled with **UK** recession fears, pushing overnight Friday prices lower.

**China** is scheduled to release July updates for **fixed asset investment**, **industrial production** and **retail sales** today. This will influence at least some of tonight's trade.

Intersections include 29.9m of spodumene-bearing pegmatites.

Details and commentary lodged this morning.

#### **Castle Minerals (CDT)**

Anticipating Ghana Kambale graphite project assays early-September, having completed a 5353m RC drilling program.

#### **5EA Advanced Materials (5EA)**

5EA appreciated 18.18% Friday, settling at \$2.60 after raising \$US60M in a secured convertible notes issue to Bluescape Energy Partners.

In addition, 5EA lodged full year results, as provided to the US SEC

5EA traded at \$2.14 - \$2.74 last week after closing out the previous week at \$2.13.

#### Magnis Energy Technologies (MNS)

MNS settled ~26.0% higher, at 46c, Friday after revealing commercial production was underway at the iM2NY lithiumion battery plant, New York, US.

Quality assurance will be completed for a few weeks prior to the commencement of sales.

Initial revenue is anticipated by 30 September.

MNS traded at 34.5c - 51.5c last week after closing out the previous week at 37c.

# Strategic Elements (SOR)

\$3.465M full year net loss.

45% higher, \$184,000 revenue.

# **Critical Resources (CRR)**

CRR has appointed substantial CRR shareholder and private property developer and investor John Markovic as a non-executive director.

Non-executive director Jihan Malaeb has resigned from the CRR board.

Mr Malaeb intends to remain a CRR significant shareholder. Mr Malaeb held 5.89% of CRR at 31 July.

#### **Trading Halts**

| Company                               | Code | Resuming |
|---------------------------------------|------|----------|
| 4DS Memory                            | 4DS  | 15 Aug   |
| Meeka Metals                          | MEK  | 15 Aug   |
| Opthea Ltd                            | OPT  | 15 Aug   |
| Pilot Energy                          | PGY  | 15 Aug   |
| Proteomics International Laboratories | PIQ  | 15 Aug   |
| Province Resources                    | PRL  | 15 Aug   |
| Strategic Energy Resources            | SER  | 15 Aug   |
| Sunshine Gold                         | SHN  | 15 Aug   |
| Atturra Ltd                           | ATA  | 16 Aug   |
| Elmore Ltd                            | ELE  | 16 Aug   |
| Gascoyne Resources                    | GCY  | 16 Aug   |
| Hydrix Ltd                            | HYD  | 16 Aug   |



# **Exchange Rates**

| CURRENCIES | LAST   | +/-    | %    |
|------------|--------|--------|------|
| AUD – USD  | 0.7125 | 0.0002 | 0.03 |
| EUR – USD  | 1.0262 | 0.0004 | 0.04 |

# **US Data Tonight**

| NY Fed Empire State manufacturing | Aug |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| NAHB housing market index         | Aug |

# Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

| China   | Fixed asset investment                     | Jan-Jul |
|---------|--|---------|
| China   | Industrial production                      | Jul     |
| China   | Retail sales                               | Jul     |
| China   | Home price index                           | Jul     |
| Japan   | GDP  | Jun Q   |
| Japan   | Industrial production (final, 2.30pm AEST) | Jun     |
| Germany | Wholesale prices                           | Jul     |

#### **Need More Information?**

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| Metgasco Ltd      | MEL | 16 Aug |
|-------------------|-----|--------|
| MOQ Ltd           | MOQ | 16 Aug |
| Mount Gibson Iron | MGX | 16 Aug |
| Novatti Group     | NOV | 16 Aug |
| NSX Ltd           | NSX | 16 Aug |

# Suspensions (selected)

| Company          | Code | Since  |
|------------------|------|--------|
| ColorTV Ltd      | CTV  | 8 Aug  |
| Kalium Lakes     | KLL  | 11 Aug |
| Memphasys Ltd    | MEM  | 29 Jul |
| Montem Resources | MR1  | 25 Jul |

#### **Ex-Dividends**

| Code | Ex-Div   | Div (c) | Franking (%) | Yield (%) |
|------|----------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| QVE  | Today    | 1.2     | 100          | 4.82      |
| SCG  | Today    | 7.5     | 0            | 4.98      |
| WOT  | Today    | 3       | 0            | 2.23      |
| ASW  | Tomorrow | 0.5     | 100          | 3.63      |
| CPU  | Tomorrow | 30      | 0            | 2.01      |
| DDR  | Tomorrow | 13      | 100          | 4.02      |
| GMA  | Tomorrow | 12      | 100          | 5.78      |
| GQG  | Tomorrow | 1.99    | 0            | 2.13      |
| PL8  | Tomorrow | 0.55    | 100          | 4.98      |
| CBA  | Wed      | 210     | 100          | 3.74      |
| FSA  | Wed      | 3.5     | 100          | 5.80      |
| KOV  | Thu      | 35      | 100          | 5.63      |
| QBE  | Thu      | 9       | 10           | 2.45      |

# **Reports & Events**

(selected; all times AEST)

| When     | Company | Report/Event            |
|----------|---------|-------------------------|
| Today    | ARG     | Full year               |
|          | AIA     | Jun                     |
|          | ВРТ     | Full year (w/cast 10am) |
|          | BEN     | Full year (w/cast 10am) |
|          | BSL     | Full year (w/cast 10am) |
|          | CAR     | Full year (tele 9.30am) |
|          | CQE     | Full year               |
|          | CEN     | Full year (w/cast 8am)  |
|          | GUD     | Full year (w/cast 11am) |
|          | GPT     | Interim (tele 10.30am)  |
|          | GWA     | Full year (w/cast 10am) |
|          | IMD     | Full year               |
|          | JBH     | Full year               |
|          |         |                         |
| Tomorrow | ABP     | Full year               |
|          | ВНР     | Full year               |

|     | CGF      | Full year                       |
|-----|----------|---------------------------------|
|     | GMG      | Full year                       |
|     | GOZ      | Full year                       |
|     | JHX      | Jun Q                           |
|     | SEK      | Full year                       |
|     | SCP      | Full year                       |
|     | <b>.</b> | , a , ca.                       |
| Wed | AMC      | Full year                       |
| Wed | BAP      | Full year (tele 9.30am)         |
|     | BXB      |                                 |
|     |          | Full year                       |
|     | CTD      | Full year (w/cast tele 9.15am)  |
|     | CSL      | Full year                       |
|     | DXS      | Full year                       |
|     | DHG      | Full year (w/cast 10.30am)      |
|     | DOW      | Full year                       |
|     | EHL      | Full year (w/cast tele 11am)    |
|     | FBU      | Full year (w/cast tele 9am)     |
|     | MFG      | Full year (tele 11.30am)        |
|     | NEA      | Full year (tele 11.30am)        |
|     | RBL      | Full year (w/cast 10am)         |
|     | STO      | Interim (w/cast 11am)           |
|     | SGM      | Full year (w/cast 9.15am)       |
|     | SDF      | Full year (w/cast tele 10.30am) |
|     | SUL      | Full year (tele 10.30am)        |
|     | VCX      | Full year                       |
|     | WSP      | Full year (tele 9am)            |
| Thu | AX1      | Full year (NB webinar 9am Fri)  |
|     | AIA      | Full year (w/cast 9am)          |
|     | ASX      | Full year (w/cast 10.30am)      |
|     | BLX      | Full year (tele 11am)           |
|     | BKL      | Full year (w/cast 10.30am)      |
|     | CDA      | Full year                       |
|     | DTL      | Full year (w/cast 10.30am)      |
|     | EVN      | Full year (a/stream tele 11am)  |
|     | IRI      | Full year (tele 10.30am)        |
|     | IPH      | Full year (tele 10.30am)        |
|     | IRE      | Interim                         |
|     | MGH      | Full year                       |
|     | MPL      | Full year                       |
|     |          | •                               |
|     | NWH      | Full year (tele midday)         |
|     | NXL      | Full year (w/cast 10.30am)      |
|     | ORG      | Full year (w/cast 9.30am)       |
|     | ORA      | Full year                       |
|     | PME      | Full year                       |
|     | PWR      | Full year                       |
|     | TLX      | Interim (w/cast tele 9am)       |
|     | TCL      | Full year (w/cast 9.45am)       |
|     | TWE      | Full year (w/cast tele 10am)    |
|     | XRO      | AGM                             |
|     |          |                                 |
|     |          |                                 |



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| Fri | AGL | Full year (w/cast tele 11am) |
|-----|-----|------------------------------|
|     | CWY | Full year (w/cast tele 10am) |
|     | СОН | Full year (w/cast tele 10am) |
|     | GNE | Full year                    |
|     | ING | Full year (w/cast 10am)      |
|     | NCM | Full year                    |
|     | SGP | Full year                    |
|     | TPG | Interim                      |
|     | TGA | AGM                          |
|     |     |                              |