

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	4522	39	0.9
NZX 50	8503	4	0.1
DJIA Futures	18795	314	1.7
S&P 500 Futures	2256	38	1.7
NASDAQ Futures	7086	108	1.6

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences today's trade with the Australian parliament approving two support packages worth a total \$A84B overnight, together with new US stimulus, a US equities futures rally this morning, and a World Health Organisation (WHO) warning, ahead of a batch of international PMI estimates from late morning through tonight.

In addition overnight, the Australia parliament approved allowing the social services minister to revise stimulus payment conditions, and for the finance minister to hold discretionary, but under-consultation and with public disclosure, power over an additional \$40B of potential funding. By contrast, the FY 2019-20 'advance' totalled \$1.2B.

Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve announced additional stimulus measures, but a \$US2 trillion US administrative support plan failed to secure approval in the US Senate.

Post-European trade, the UK PM has issued a stay-at-home order and non-essential retail business shutdown.

In the meantime, the WHO implored vigilant testing and containment measures due to the 'accelerating' Covid-19 pandemic.

Regionally today, March PMIs are due for **Japan 11.30am** AEDT.

Locally, a weekly **consumer sentiment** reading is due pre-trade.

Stocks trading ex-dividend include **COH** and **URW**. Please see p4 for a detailed list.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** looked to settle down again, but notably closed higher.

US **gold** futures (CME April) was propelled higher, approaching \$US1570/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) continued lower, falling below \$US88.60/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** and other key base metals were pushed decidedly lower.

The **\$A** appreciated to ~US57.90c after trading below US57.50c early yesterday evening.

The **\$A** has traded at US58.35c this morning.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	18592	-582	-3.0
S&P 500	2237	-68	-2.9

* Malt and brewing products business listing **midday** AEDT - **UMG** *

Today's Stock Watch

Woolworths Group (WOW)

WOW will further review spending due to the Covid-19 – related restrictions closure of WOW's hotels business.

In addition, WOW is deferring the Endeavour Group spin-off until 2021.

Crown Resorts (CWN)

Temporarily reducing available accommodation capacity at Crown Melbourne and Crown Perth.

Shutting down indefinitely casino gaming, and all food and beverage, banquet and conference operations, but will provide takeaway meals and meal delivery services. In addition, CWN's UK Crown Aspinal's has temporarily shut down operations.

Resuming from a trading halt. Last traded at \$6.12.

Baby Bunting Group (BBN)

Withdrawing FY20 earnings guidance, deferring \$7M of capital costs expenditure for 2H FY20, and pushing back the website relaunch until at least 2021.

Year-to-date basis sales have increased by 10.0% and comparable store sales are up 2.5%.

Sales grew 12.4% across 30 December 2019 – 22 March. Comparable store sales were up 6.2%. Online sales jumped 28.6%. \$27M of unused funds available.

Unibail Rodamco Westfield (URW)

Withdrawing 2020 guidance and paying a €5.40-per-share interim cash dividend (ex-dividend today).

Nick Scali (NCK)

Reducing spending, with \$39M cash on hand and \$34M worth of outstanding secured gross debt.

In addition, NCK is deferring the proposed 27 March 25c-per-share interim dividend payment until 2 October.

Comparable store sales written sales orders grew 3.0% during January-February, but recent orders and store traffic activity indicates a Covid-19 – related revenue impact will be realised.

Traded lower the past six sessions, yesterday settling at \$3.50.

Michael Hill International (MHJ)

Closing stores across Australia and New Zealand indefinitely. Stores in Canada were closed Friday last week.

In addition, MHJ will defer the 1.5c-per-share interim dividend payment and review this decision by 30 September.

Shaver Shop Group (SSG)

Withdrawing guidance and cancelling the 23 April 2.1c-per-share interim dividend payment due to 'material deterioration' in trading conditions this past week.



NASDAQ	6861	-19	-0.3
FTSE 100	4994	-197	-3.8
DAX 30	8741	-188	-2.1
Shanghai Comp	2660	-85	-3.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

Choppy trade featured across major European and US equities markets overnight.

Pre-US trade, the **US Federal Reserve (Fed)** announced further support initiatives, including unlimited boosting of purchases of US government bonds and mortgage-backed securities, and new credit measures for individuals and small and large businesses.

The announcement had initially pushed European equities indices from near-session lows and US equities futures higher, but the Fed also stated 'our economy will face severe disruptions'.

This prompted negative early US equities trade, a 0.5% \$US index fall, and a drop in gasoline (petrol) futures to record lows, while propelling precious metals prices higher.

Earlier, the **Bundesbank** (Germany's central bank) had espoused in its monthly report that the nation was facing a 'pronounced recession' that 'cannot be prevented' but also assured public finances were sufficient.

Meanwhile, the national Cabinet was considering the detail of an unscheduled €150B budget and preparing to vote on €356B worth of new government borrowing, announced over the weekend.

Among overnight data releases, a **euro zone** consumer sentiment reading came in at -11.6 from -6.6.

In the **US**, the Chicago Fed national activity index improved to 0.16 from -0.33.

Tonight in the **US**, the Richmond Fed manufacturing index, February new home sales, and Markit's initial estimate of March PMIs are due.

Any progress on the proposed stimulus bill will likely outweigh the new data, however.

Elsewhere, PMIs for the euro zone and UK are keenly anticipated, together with a definitive announcement regarding Germany's budget.

Stocks scheduled to report earnings or provide updates include AngloGold Ashanti, ASOS, Carnival, China Telecom, Nike (post-US trade), Porsche and Yunnan Aluminium Co.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1567.6	oz	83	5.6
Silver (NY) (May)	13.261	oz	0.876	7.1
Gold (LON) (20 Mar)	1494	oz		
Platinum	640	oz	32	5.3
WTI Crude (May)	23.36	bbl	0.73	3.2
Brent Crude (May)	27.03	bbl	0.05	0.2
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	88.55	t	-1.02	-1.2
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	4619	t	-132	-2.8
Nickel	10940	t	-420	-3.7
Aluminium	1563	t	-14	-0.9
Lead	1595	t	-48	-3.0

Pre-Open Announcements

United Malt Group (* UMG) / GrainCorp Ltd (GNC)

GNC spinoff UMG is scheduled to list **midday** AEDT.

Trade will commence on a deferred settlement basis.

Normal (T+2) trade is expected to commence 2 April (Thursday next week). 254.28M quoted shares.

Midway Ltd (* MWY)

MWY's harvesting, processing and woodfibre trading is continuing 'as normal', amid stable demand from trading partners in China and Japan.

GWA Group (GWA)

Withdrawing FY20 earnings guidance.

\$210 revolving facility maturing October 2022; \$40M revolving facility maturing October this year.

75% of imported purchases hedged for the next 13 months at \$A/\$US 0.68.

BWP Trust (BWP)

Withdrawing FY20 distribution guidance.

\$129M cash and committed undrawn bank facilities. 18.0% gearing. No debt maturing within the next 12 months.

Oliver's Real Food (OLI)

Suspending all trade (including takeaway) at Oliver's locations for at least four weeks.

Ardent Leisure Group (ALG)

ALG has temporarily closed SkyPoint on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Mayfield Childcare (MFD)

Deferring the 7.71c-per-share 2019 final dividend, due to be paid 27 March, until 25 September.

In addition, withdrawing CY 2020 earnings guidance.

MFD was pushed 20.6% lower yesterday, settling at 50c.

Prophecy International (PRO)

Financial position and general optimistic operational outlook lodged post-trade yesterday.

PRO has traded lower the past six sessions, including tumbling 23.9% yesterday to settle at 27c.

Shriro Holdings (SHM)

Mourning the passing of non-executive director and audit and risk committee chair Greg Laurie.

Nufarm Ltd (* NUF)

Scheduled to report interim results tomorrow.

Resources

AngloGold Ashanti (* AGG)

AGG is required by Argentina's Covid-19 response restrictions to suspend mining activities at the Cerro Vanguardia gold operation. Safety and environmental monitor will continue.

Actively planning to make up some lost production once full



Zinc	1807	t	-49	-2.6
Tin	13150	t	-405	-3.0

Commodities Commentary

Oil – additional central bank and government stimulus announcements appeared to ultimately spawn some optimism overnight, although sustained price gains were only achieved in late trade.

Meanwhile, US gasoline futures dropped 32% to a record low.

Gold – US futures rose the most in \$US terms in a session overnight, following the US Federal Reserve's announcement of substantial new stimulus, described as 'opening the taps'.

Prices had also been boosted early by safe-haven demand, but the Fed announcement sent the ICE \$US index 0.5% lower.

In the meantime, three gold refineries in Switzerland announced overnight the suspension of operations in response to local restrictions, two for a week and the third for two weeks.

Base metals – Codelco and other major miners were forced overnight to announce further project adjustments and potential change due to Covid-19.

For its part, Chile's Codelco concede the viability of some projects were at risk.

Nonetheless, analysts maintain international supply will likely exceed demand, CRU offering by up to 1Mt this year, against the group's earlier 53,000t deficit forecast.

Central bank and government stimulus announcements, plus associated currency swings pushed and pulled overnight trade.

PMIs for Japan, the euro zone, UK and US from this morning through tonight, could colour some of tonight's sentiment.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.5835	0.0011	0.19
EUR – USD	1.0749	0.0023	0.22

Australian Data Today

ANZ/RoyMorgan	Consumer sentiment	22 Mar
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US Data Tonight

New home sales	Feb
Richmond Fed manufacturing	Mar
Markit PMIs (prelim)	Mar

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	PMIs (prelim)	Mar
Japan	Leading economic index (4pm AEDT)	Jan
UK	PMIs (prelim)	Mar
UK	CBI industrial trends orders	Mar
Germany	PMIs (prelim)	Mar

operations resume.

Earnings update anticipated tonight.

Galaxy Resources (* GXY)

Southern WA Mt Cattlin lithium project operations are expected to continue without major disruption.

Stavely Minerals (SVY)

Field-based drilling only is continuing for now at SVY's Stavely copper-gold project, Victoria.

Three diamond rigs and one sonic rig are on site at the Gossan prospect.

Nusantara Resources (NUS)

\$US11.45M FEED contract awarded for the Awak Mas gold project, Indonesia.

Energy

New Hope Corporation (** NHC)

41.9% lower, \$69.78M interim NPAT. 0.2% higher, \$618.20M revenue.

25% lower, 6c fully franked interim dividend.

\$2.234 NTA, against \$2.244.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Adveritas Ltd	AV1	24 Mar
Cellmid Ltd	CDY	24 Mar
Jayride Group	JAY	24 Mar
Mejority Capital	MJC	24 Mar
Neuren Pharmaceuticals	NEU	24 Mar
oOh!media Ltd	OML	24 Mar
Bass Metals	BSM	25 Mar
Bellevue Gold	BGL	25 Mar
Graphex Mining	GPX	25 Mar
Imagion Biosystems	IBX	25 Mar
Infinity Lithium Corporation	INF	25 Mar
Redcape Hotel Group	RDC	25 Mar
Retail Food Group	RFG	25 Mar
Seafarms Group	SFG	25 Mar
Secos Group	SES	25 Mar
Simple Solutions	SIS	25 Mar
Southern Cross Media Group	SXL	25 Mar
(The) Star Entertainment Group	SGR	25 Mar
Tambla Ltd	TBL	25 Mar
Viva Leisure	VVA	25 Mar

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
8IP Emerging Companies	8EC	16 Mar
Advance NanoTek	ANO	18 Mar
Astivita Ltd	AIR	18 Mar



Euro zone PMIS (prelim) Mar

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Blina Minerals	BDI	18 Mar
Consolidated Tin Mines	CSD	2 Mar
Euro Manganese	EMN	23 Mar
Flight Centre Travel Group	FLT	23 Mar
Helios Energy	HE8	23 Mar
Liquefied Natural Gas	LNG	20 Mar
MGC Pharmaceuticals	MXC	23 Mar
Netlinkz Ltd	NET	5 Mar
Pacific Star Network	PNW	20 Mar
Prospect Resources	PSC	23 Mar
Real Estate Investar Group	REV	3 Mar
Respiri Ltd	RSH	19 Mar
Smiles Inclusive	SIL	2 Mar
SomnoMed Ltd	SOM	19 Mar
Stone Resources Australia	SHK	19 Mar
TBG Diagnostics	TDL	19 Mar
Webjet Ltd	WEB	23 Mar

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
BBL	Today	1	100	0.00
COH	Today	160	100	2.07
KPG	Today	1.21	100	5.87
URW	Today	32.76	0	11.97
VEA	Today	2.6	100	5.75
SEK	Tomorrow	13	100	3.85
SGF	Tomorrow	6.94	100	17.69
SVW	Tomorrow	21	100	4.43
VRT	Tomorrow	12	100	11.11
WEB	Tomorrow	9	100	3.59
BSA	Thu	0.5	100	2.00
FLT	Thu	40	100	9.89
FNP	Thu	2.25	0	1.18
HLS	Thu	2.6	100	1.51
JHC	Thu	2	50	15.77
LAU	Thu	1	100	3.67
MYE	Thu	2	100	4.55
NMT	Thu	2	7	0.00
VTG	Thu	5.3	100	14.84
A2B	Fri	4	100	12.21
MOC	Fri	3	100	11.11
NWH	Fri	2.5	100	3.57