

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7642	21	0.3
NZX 50	11672	-23	-0.2
DJIA Futures	39016	-100	-0.3
S&P 500 Futures	5090	10	0.2
NASDAQ Futures	18021	44	0.2

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens the second last trading day for leap-year February with: numerous influential domestic stocks reporting earnings and trading ex-dividend; material domestic economic data due late morning; and a regional central bank convening a monetary policy meeting and announcing outcomes by the middle of the day. This ahead of a US GDP update tonight.

US equities markets settled mixed and again just slightly – to modestly changed overnight.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases a January **CPI** inflation estimate at **11.30am** AEDT.

At the same time the ABS publishes a December quarter **construction activity** report.

Stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include **FMG, TLS** and **WOW**.
Please see p4 for a detailed ex-dividends list.

Regionally today, the **Reserve Bank of New Zealand** is holding a monetary policy meeting from which outcomes are anticipated at **midday** AEDT. The official cash rate stands at 5.5%.

In overnight **commodities** trade, **oil** prices rose by a further 1.4% - 1.7%.

US **gold** (Comex) futures turned slightly higher, reaching \$US2044/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) continued lower, but slightly, settling below \$US126/t.

US **copper** futures rose US2c/lb to \$US3.85/lb.

Last night's LME final 3-mth evening price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication. These are expected to become available via IRESS by 11.30am AEDT.

The **\$A** fell to ~US65.40c after trading at ~US65.50c - ~US65.55c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	38972	-97	-0.2
S&P 500	5078	9	0.2
NASDAQ	16035	59	0.4
FTSE 100	7683	-1	-0.0
DAX 30	17556	133	0.8
Shanghai Composite	3015	38	1.3

Today's Stock Watch
Perpetual Ltd (PPT)

65c, 35%-franked interim dividend from 55c, 40%-franked a year ago. 29% higher, \$34.5M interim NPAT. 71% higher, \$667.1M revenue (excl structured investments income). Ongoing strategic review.

Flight Centre Travel Group (FLT)

10c fully franked interim dividend from no dividend a year ago. \$86.663M interim NPAT from an ~\$20M 1H FY23 net loss. 28.5% higher, \$1.287B revenue. Early 2H FY24 indications 'in line with expectations'.

Fleetwood Ltd (FWD)

2.5c fully franked interim dividend from no dividend a year ago. \$3.86M interim NPAT from an \$814,000 1H FY23 net loss. 3% higher, \$228.92M revenue. \$34.1M net cash.

Steadfast Group (SDF)

6.75c fully franked interim dividend from 6c a year ago. 19% higher, \$100.4M interim NPAT. 20% higher, \$653.1M revenue.

Kelsian Group (KLS)

KLS has appointed independent KLS director and deputy chair Fiona Hele as KLS chair. Ms Hele will take over from Jeff Ellison who plans to retire from the KLS board 1 July. Interim results lodged this morning include an ~45% increase for both NPAT and revenue. Paying an 8c fully franked interim dividend from 7.5c a year ago.

EML Payments (EML)

\$12.4M interim net loss from a \$129.88M 1H FY23 net loss. 30% higher, \$150.7M revenue. \$77.3M cash balance.

PharmAust Ltd (PAA)

Resuming from a trading halt with monepantel having demonstrating safety and tolerability in a clinical study. Further the safety and tolerability levels were deemed superior to those for the FDA-approved Relyvrio. Additional details, including in presentation format, lodged post-trade yesterday. Webinar also hosted yesterday evening. PAA is anticipating a phase 2/3 clinical study will commence during the September quarter.

PAA last traded at 38c, having added 26.67% Friday last week, the session immediately prior to the trading halt being called.

Energy
Strike Energy (STX)

\$10.96M interim NPAT from a \$9.395M 1H FY23 net loss. \$8.125M oil and gas sales revenue. \$66.78M cash and equivalents. Describing the WA gas market as 'fragile'.



Overseas Markets Commentary

Trade diverged markedly across major European, UK and US equities markets overnight, amid varying interpretations of data releases and what the indicators might mean for international interest rates this year.

A US Federal Reserve governor offered her view that cutting interest rates too hastily would likely stall inflation easing and could propel levels higher.

The Bank of Russia published minutes from this month's monetary policy meeting, these confirming policy makers recognised inflation levels were easing, but had opted to retain the 16% key interest rate due to a view inflationary risks remained.

Earlier yesterday, **Japan** reported no change in the inflation rate in January following a 0.1% December increase. Some economists had anticipated 0.1% deflation for January.

Against January 2023, inflation was up 2.2% against December's 2.6% annualised growth.

Meanwhile, also in the US overnight, Congress continued to wrangle over funding legislation. New legislation needs to be approved by midnight Friday to ensure full government functioning.

In overnight economic data releases, **euro zone** January lending to businesses and households rose by 0.2% and 0.3% year-on-year, following 0.5% and 0.4% year-on-year increases recorded for December.

The March GfK consumer confidence reading for **Germany** came in little changed, at -29 from -29.6.

In the **US**, January durable goods orders tumbled 6.1% for the month, the largest monthly drop since April 2020. The January result was reported against consensus for a 4.5% fall following a 0.3% December decline.

Excluding the transport sector, orders were down 0.3% against consensus for a 0.1% increase following December's 0.1% fall.

The Conference Board February consumer sentiment reading also surprised, falling to 106.7 from 110.9, against consensus for an improvement to 115.

This followed three months of gains, but the short-term expectations component index for February fell to a level indicating anticipated recessionary conditions.

The Richmond Fed February manufacturing index was calculated at -5 from -15. The employment component index notably jumped to 7 from -15.

Home prices rose by 0.1% and fell by 0.3% respectively in December, according to reports from the FHFA and Case Shiller.

Against December 2022, the prices were respectively up 6.6% and 6.1%.

The UK in the meantime conducted a 15-year index-linked treasury gilt auction which resulted in a 1.076% yield from 1.265%.

Germany hosted a 10-year bond auction which delivered a 2.51% yield from 2.39%.

Tonight in the **US**, a second (of three) December quarter **GDP** reading is keenly anticipated. January wholesale inventories are also due, together with weekly mortgage applications and 30-year

Pre-Open Announcements

Embark Early Education (* EVO)

Planning to outlay \$25.2M for nine childcare centres, five in Victoria and four in Queensland.

In addition, paying a 1.5c fully franked interim dividend.

Alcidion Ltd (* ALC)

Expecting cost savings to deliver positive 2H FY24 operating cash flow.

\$4.34M interim net loss from a \$2.84M 1H FY23 net loss.

0.4% higher, \$19.06M revenue.

\$7.9M cash and equivalents. No debt.

Australian Clinical Labs (* ACL)

3c fully franked interim dividend from 7c a year ago.

80.5% lower, \$5.0M interim NPAT.

6.4% lower, \$337.3M revenue.

MotorCycle Holdings (* MTO)

3c fully franked interim dividend from 8c a year ago.

37% lower, \$6.585M interim NPAT.

6% higher, \$293.42M revenue.

\$6.6M cash at hand. \$43.4M net bank debt.

Euroz Hartleys (* EZL)

1.75c fully franked interim dividend from 2.5c a year ago.

66.2% lower, \$1.04M interim NPAT.

0.8% lower, \$39.74M revenue.

\$83.1M cash, other financial assets and investments.

NEXTDC Ltd (* NXT)

\$22.485M interim net loss following a \$2.782M 1H FY23 net loss.

31% higher, \$209.118M revenue.

\$4.25 NTA from \$3.60.

\$2.9B worth of senior debt facilities, \$1.5B undrawn.

Vonex Ltd (* VN8)

\$1.247M interim net loss from a \$21.537M 1H FY23 net loss.

17% higher, \$24.77M revenue.

Seafarms Group (* SFG)

\$6.00M interim net loss from a \$12.64M 1H FY23 net loss.

27.6% higher, \$20.32M revenue.

\$6.84M cash and equivalents.

57c NTA from 71c.

Recce Pharmaceuticals (* RCE)

\$7.46M interim net loss from a \$9.22M 1H FY23 net loss.

0.26c NTA from 0.69c.

\$4.01M cash and equivalents.

National Tyre & Wheel (NTD)

NTD independent director William (Bill) Cook has retired, as previously flagged, from the NTD board.

Mr Cook was appointed as an NTD director in 2013.



mortgage rates.

Elsewhere, G20 finance ministers and central bankers commence a two day forum later today, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Also tonight, Germany conducts a 15-year bond offer.

Companies listed to report earnings or provide updates later today and tonight include: Baidu, Dollar Tree, HP Inc, Hyundai Corp, Lukoil, Monster Beverage, NetEase, Reckitt Benckiser, Salesforce, Snowflake and TJX Companies.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Apr)	2044.1	oz	5.20	0.3
Silver (COMEX 5000 May)	22.76	oz	0.02	0.1
Platinum (Spot)	888	oz	12	1.4
WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr)	78.87	bbl	1.29	1.7
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Apr)	83.65	bbl	1.12	1.4
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	125.84	t	-0.27	-0.2
Copper (LME 3mth Evening) (26Feb)	8459	t	-108	-1.3
Nickel	17145	t	-343	-2.0
Aluminium	2174	t	-3	-0.1
Lead	2096	t	0.1	0.0
Zinc	2422	t	18	0.8
Tin	26085	t	-297	-1.1

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices were supported higher again overnight, in part due to reports quoting OPEC+ sources' expectations the current voluntary output cuts (2.2MMbbl/d) would be extended beyond the March quarter. Two of the un-named sources were quoted as suggesting curbs could remain in place through 2024. OPEC and OPEC+ ministers usually meet early each month to discuss maintaining prices at a sustainable output level.

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

Overnight post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute (API) published a weekly report which included an 8.43MMbbl build for US crude stocks last week.

Gold – overnight gold trade was again reported as relatively subdued in the wait for key international growth and inflation data, including for the US, this week.

Market watchers noted some short-covering and also some buy-the-dip trade, which supported slight gains.

Base metals – higher prices were reported for most base metals in early LME trade.

Some caution is anticipated however, ahead of material data out of China later this week and next week's annual parliamentary meetings in China, despite other international growth and inflation indicators due in the meantime.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6544	0.0004	0.06
EUR – USD	1.0846	-0.0008	-0.07

Resources

Core Lithium (* CXO)

Ongoing cost reductions as part of a continuing strategic review.

Mining services contract terminated due to Finniss project open pit mining suspension.

Zimplats Holdings (* ZIM)

US92.9c interim dividend from \$US1.1149 a year ago.

\$US8.766M interim net loss from a \$US159.595M 1H FY23 NPAT.

32% lower, \$US372.764M revenue.

\$US18.47 NTA from \$US17.97.

\$US71.92M cash and equivalents.

IGO Ltd (IGO)

Global Metals, Mining & Critical Minerals conference presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

IGO traded as high as \$7.72 yesterday and settled at \$7.60 after closing out last week at \$7.23.

Sandfire Resources (SFR)

SFR has appointed SFR chief legal and compliance officer Victoria Twiss also as joint company secretary.

Energy

Energy Resources of Australia (* ERA) / Rio Tinto (RIO)

ERA \$1.39B full year net loss from a \$160.55M FY22 net loss.

No uranium sales revenue.

\$217M cash at bank; \$509M held by the Australia Government as part of the Ranger uranium project rehabilitation trust fund.

Results were impacted by a \$2.42B rehabilitation provision.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
ClearVue Technologies	CPV	1 Mar
Dubber Corporation	DUB	29 Feb
EV Resources	EVR	28 Feb
Frontier Energy	FHE	29 Feb
Global Oil & Gas	GLV	28 Feb
Kula Gold	KGD	28 Feb
New Age Exploration	NAE	29 Feb
Pointerra Ltd	3DP	28 Feb
Way 2 Vat	W2V	28 Feb
Whitehawk Ltd	WHK	29 Feb
Xstate Resources	XST	29 Feb

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Advanced Health Intelligence	AHI	5 Feb

**Australian Data Today**

ABS	CPI indicator	Jan
ABS	Construction work done	Dec Q

US Data Tonight

GDP (2 nd of three estimates)	Dec Q
Wholesale inventories	Jan
MBA mortgage applications; 30-year rates	23 Feb

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

New Zealand	RBNZ policy meeting outcomes	28 Feb
Euro zone	Economic confidence	Feb

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Allegra Medical Technologies	AMT	23 Feb
Credit Intelligence	CI1	12 Feb
DomaCom Ltd	DCL	12 Feb
European Lithium	EUR	6 Feb
Heramed Ltd	HMD	26 Feb
Lion One Metals	LLO	14 Feb
Minbos Resources	MNB	26 Feb
Moab Minerals	MOM	5 Feb
Netlinkz Ltd	NET	26 Feb
Revasum Inc	RVS	5 Feb
Reward Minerals	RWD	7 Feb
Trinex Minerals	TX3	27 Feb

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
BFG	Today	4	100	5.45
BPT	Today	2	100	2.45
ECP	Today	2.3	100	2.29
EVT	Today	14	100	2.91
FMG	Today	108	100	6.36
GCI	Today	1.4	0	8.33
MSV	Today	2	0	5.40
MXI	Today	2.57	100	2.72
MYS	Today	11.5	100	6.61
OML	Today	3.5	100	2.57
PCI	Today	0.64	0	7.54
TCF	Today	3.5	0	8.12
TLC	Today	8	100	2.76
TLS	Today	9	100	4.43
WOW	Today	47	100	3.13
A1N	Tomorrow	3.6	100	9.67
AUB	Tomorrow	20	100	2.14
BLX	Tomorrow	4.1	100	3.00
CAA	Tomorrow	35	100	6.83
CIN	Tomorrow	41	100	3.33
CTD	Tomorrow	17	0	1.76
DBI	Tomorrow	5.38	68.18	7.30
EBO	Tomorrow	47.56	95.77	2.64
GOR	Tomorrow	1	100	1.16
IDX	Tomorrow	2.5	100	2.53
JIN	Tomorrow	27	100	2.46
MOT	Tomorrow	1.6	0	9.10
MPL	Tomorrow	7.2	100	3.99
MXT	Tomorrow	1.44	0	8.84
PIA	Tomorrow	1.35	100	4.66
PME	Tomorrow	18	100	0.30
SHA	Tomorrow	8	100	5.94
SUN	Tomorrow	34	100	1.76
VNT	Tomorrow	9.41	80	4.39
VSL	Tomorrow	11.16	100	6.37



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Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ACL	Interim
	ALC	Interim (webcast 11am)
	APM	Interim (w/cast tele 11.30am)
	EGG	Interim
	EML	Interim
	FLT	Interim (webcast 9.45am)
	GTK	AGM
	LNW	Dec Q (w/cast tele 8am; US o/night Tue)
	MEZ	Interim (w/cast tele 7.30am)
	MME	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)
	MTO	Interim
	ORR	AGM
	PPT	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)
	RPM	Interim (webinar 9.30am Thu 29 Feb)
	SDF	Interim (w/cast tele 8.30am)
SPK	Interim (tele 8am)	
STX	Interim (webinar 11.30am)	
WOR	Interim	
Tomorrow	AGI	Full year (tele 10am)
	ALX	Full year (webcast 10.30am)
	CAJ	Interim (tele 9.30am)
	CMW	Interim (webcast 10am)
	GDG	Interim (webinar 11am)
	IME	Full year (tele 11am)
	KAR	Full year; Dec Q
	MSB	Interim (webcast 9am)
	NIC	Full year (w/cast tele 11am)
	NOL	Interim (webcast 10am)
	PPM	Full year (w/cast tele 11am)
	REP	Interim (tele 11am)
	RHC	Interim
	SKO	Full year
	SXL	Interim (tele 9.30am)
XRO	Investor Day	
Fri	VUK	AGM