

# **Market Opener**

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Perth, Sydney ABN 95 092 989 083 | AFSL 247 100 Participant of ASX, Chi-X Australia, SSX & NSX

Wednesday, 2 December 2020

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#### **Markets**

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6622	37	0.6
NZX 50	12786	56	0.4
DJIA Futures	29804	175	0.6
S&P 500 Futures	3661	37	1.0
NASDAQ Futures	12452	175	1.4

## **Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market commences mid-week trade with Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) governor Philip Lowe meeting with parliamentarians, and material domestic data due by late morning, following positive overnight international equities trade.

Overnight, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) issued a new set of forecasts, these including Australia's GDP to shrink by 3.8% this year, but to grow by 3.2% during 2021.

The OECD warned business and consumer confidence could fall in Australia next year, however, with government support pulling back, but unemployment and business failures predicted to rise.

In addition, the OECD noted Australia's change in relations with China could also undermine economic recovery.

Locally today, RBA governor Philip Lowe meets with the House of Representatives economics committee 11am AEDT.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases September GDP 11.30am AEDT.

Also today, FPH, PLD and TNE trade ex-dividend. Please see p3 for a comprehensive list.

Regionally pre-trade, New Zealand has reported September quarter trade prices, these including 8.3% and 3.7% respective drops for export and import prices.

In overnight commodities trade, oil declined further.

yesterday evening.

US gold futures rebounded, trading beyond \$US1818.5/oz.

LME copper, nickel and aluminium were pushed decidedly higher. The **\$A** ultimately changed little after trading at ~US73.70c early

#### **Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	29824	185	0.6
S&P 500	3662	41	1.1
NASDAQ	12355	156	1.3
FTSE 100	6385	119	1.9
DAX 30	13382	91	0.7
Shanghai Comp	3452	60	1.8

#### **Overseas Markets Commentary**

Major European and US equities markets headed higher on

Australia - RBA governor Philip Lowe meets with the House of Representatives economics committee from 11am AEDT

Australia #2 – September quarter GDP – 11.30am AEDT

# **Today's Stock Watch**

# **Telix Pharmaceuticals (TLX)**

In-human study approval in hand for potential prostate cancer treatment TLX592.

In addition, the US FDA has approved institutional use of (prostate cancer PET scanning) Ga-PSMA-11.

Presentation for today's TLX592-focused investor briefing lodged pre-trade.

# WorleyParsons Ltd (WOR)

Today's (sustainability) investor day presentation lodged posttrade vesterday.

# Spirit Technology Solutions (ST1)

Acquiring cyber security specialist Intalock.

Consideration includes \$15M upfront, comprising 85% cash and 15% ST1 shares.

Earn-out payments could tally \$7.5M.

ST1 is using cash reserves and a debt facility for the cash consideration.

# Village Roadshow (VRL)

Planning to contest a new tax assessment and any associated penalties.

The ATO says VRL owes \$11M, including interest.

# Creso Pharma (CPH)

Three new anibidiol orders, totalling \$A414,000 in hand.

The animal health products are destined for CPH commercial partners in Europe.

# Citadel Group (CGL)

Confirming a special 20c-per-share dividend will be paid, pending the scheme of arrangement acquisition by Pacific Group 'Bidco' becoming effective.

#### Resources

#### West African Resources (WAF)

Heralding high-grade assays and 'extensive' visible gold following Burkina Faso Sanbrado gold project M1 South deposit diamond drilling.

The drilling targeted regions beneath reserves and will continue, with two rigs on site.

# Australian Vanadium (AVL)

Strategic off-take MoU secured with US Vanadium.

Details lodged this morning.



opening overnight, positive sentiment remaining throughout respective sessions.

Trader considerations included international economic growth outlooks and indications, plus US emergency and government funding, together with further potential Covid-19 vaccine developments and a \$US at  $^{\sim}2.5$ -year lows.

Pfizer announced overnight it was applying to the European Medicines Agency for conditional approval for the early use of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate, following its earlier submission to the US FDA, for emergency use. This buoyed optimism spawned by Monday's announcement by Moderna, that it was applying for early use of its vaccine candidate in both the US and Europe.

Earlier yesterday, a Caixin-calculated November manufacturing PMI for China pointed to ongoing expansion, reported at 54.9 from 53.6 and defying expectations of a pullback to 53.2.

Overnight, US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell told the US Senate banking committee the recent jump in US Covid-19 cases pointed to additional US economic challenges over the coming year.

Meanwhile, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) issued a new set of forecasts comparing GDP growth from the end of 2019 to the end of 2021.

China's GDP growth was predicted to be 10% greater by 31 December compared with 31 December 2019.

The OECD forecast US GDP to grow marginally within the two years.

For 2020, the OECD revised its worldwide GDP contraction forecast from 4.5% to 4.2%, and predicted mean 4% growth for 2020 – 2021.

In the US in the meantime, the Senate majority leader rejected a (House of Representatives – Senate bipartisan) proposal for a \$US908B stimulus package.

New government US funding legislation needs to be approved by 11 December, prompting commentary emergency relief and government funding may ultimately be covered in one bill.

The US administration confirmed talks had resumed overnight between the House of Representatives speaker and US treasury secretary, these reportedly including a Democratic proposal released to Republicans on Monday.

Overnight top-level **UK-European Union** (EU) trade negotiations produced mixed messages containing both hope and warnings.

Among overnight **data** releases, the **euro zone**'s preliminary November CPI reading represented 0.3% deflation both for the month and year-on-year.

A final November manufacturing PMI for the region came in at 53.8, from 54.8 for October, and following forecasts of 53.6.

For **Germany**, the November manufacturing PMI was finalised at 57.8 for the manufacturing sector, from 58.2 for October.

The nation's November unemployment rate was estimated at 6.1% from 6.2%.

In the **UK**, the November manufacturing PMI was finalised at 55.6, following 53.7 for October, and against expectations of 55.2. The final reading represented the fastest monthly growth in "three years.

In the US, the ISM's November manufacturing index fell to 57.5

# **Pre-Open Announcements**

# **HUB24 Ltd (HUB)**

\$12.5M three-year debt facility finalised.

In addition, HUB has completed the \$10.5M acquisition of Ord Minnett's portfolio administration and reporting service (PARS).

HUB slipped 2.8% yesterday, settling at \$20.92.

# **Decmil Group (DCG)**

\$40M working capital facility secured with the National Australia Bank (ASX: NAB).

# **Regional Express Holdings (REX)**

Sydney-Melbourne ticket sales underway, for flights scheduled to commence 1 March 2021.

# **Oncosil Medical (OSL)**

OSL has terminated CEO Daniel Kenny's contract, effective today.

OSL chair Chris Roberts will act in an executive capacity.

# **Ellerston Asia Investments (EAI)**

EAI has appointed Marian Carr as an independent non-executive director, effective yesterday.

Ms Carr is a former CSR Group chief investment officer and MIR Investment Management deputy MD.

She is a non-executive director of Russell Master Investment Trust Trustee Total Risk Management.

#### **ECS Botanics Holdings (ECS)**

In response to an ASX price query, ECS suggests a recent boost in market interest in hemp and medicinal cannabis stocks, and some positive regulatory changes, may have supported yesterday's 39.29% ECS price jump, on high-volume trade, to 3.9c.

## Agrimin Ltd (AMN)

\$1.6M R&D tax refund in hand.

# Hexmina Ltd (HXL)

Plant-derived proteins and peptides R&D company completed its ASX listing yesterday, following a \$3.28M IPO at 20c per share.

Opened at 20c and traded at 19c – 21c before settling at 19.5c.

1.12M shares changed hands across 95 transactions.

130.37M quoted shares.

## **Resources**

# **Newcrest Mining (\* NCM)**

Conference presentation lodged post-trade yesterday. NCM was due to present overnight.

NCM recouped 33% yesterday, settling at \$27.83.



from 59.3. Further, the employment component index dropped to 48.4 from 53.2.

October construction spending improved 1.3%, against expectations of a 0.7% rise and following a 0.5% September decline.

Earlier yesterday, a 10-year government bond auction in Japan produced a 0.019% yield, from 0.046%.

**Tonight** in the **US**, the Federal Reserve's district-by-district economic overview known as the beige book is due, together with a private sector employment report for November and the ISM's New York business activity index.

CRH, Hyundai Corp and Synopsis are among companies listed to report earnings later today and tonight.

#### **Commodities**

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Feb)	1818.9	OZ	38	2.1
Silver (NY) (Mar)	23.95	OZ	1.36	6.0
Gold (LON) (30 Nov)	1763	OZ		
Platinum	995	OZ	35	3.7
WTI Crude (NYMEX Jan)	44.55	bbl	-0.79	-1.7
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jan)	47.42	bbl	-0.46	-1.0
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (30 Nov)	124.25	t	5.06	4.1
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	7676	t	92	1.2
Nickel	16420	t	200	1.3
Aluminium	2060	t	14	0.7
Lead	2087	t	13	0.6
Zinc	2770	t	-24	-0.9
Tin	18900	t	289	1.6

#### **Commodities Commentary**

*Oil* – OPEC and OPEC+ meetings concluded overnight, but a decision on production curbs was pushed back to Thursday.

This impacted overnight crude sentiment.

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

Meanwhile, a weekly US petroleum industry report published post-US settlement, included an estimated 4.1MMbbl build in crude stocks.

**Gold** – further positive potential Covid-19 vaccine news, a weaker \$US, commentary surrounding the economic recovery outlooks, and a return to favour for equities pushed and pulled overnight gold sentiment.

In addition, US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell's overnight Senate banking committee testimony and views from the US treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin, while differing little from recent revelations, will remain in focus this week. The treasury secretary emphasised small business support was essential in any new legislated funding package.

RBA governor Philip Lowe is scheduled to speak on policy and discuss forecasts with the Australian House of Representatives economics committee today.

**Base metals** – overnight LME trade was supported by new data, and another turn lower for the \$US on further Covid-19 vaccine

#### **Trading Halts**

Company	Code	Resuming
Pursuit Minerals	PUR	2 Dec
Chalice Gold Mines	CHN	3 Dec
Element 25	E25	3 Dec
The Food Revolution Group	FOD	3 Dec
MyFiziq Ltd	MYQ	3 Dec
Noxopharm Ltd	NOX	3 Dec
Salt Lake Potash	SO4	3 Dec
New World Resources	NWC	4 Dec
Wiluna Mining Corporation	WMX	4 Dec

#### Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
Cirralto Ltd	CRO	30 Nov
Dotz Nano	DTZ	20 Nov

#### **Ex-Dividends**

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
FPH	Tomorrow	18.82	0	0.77
PDL	Tomorrow	22	10	5.56
TNE	Tomorrow	9.41	60	0.37
SHV	10 Dec	4	100	4.93
UMG	11 Dec	3.9	0	0.00
CLF	17 Dec	1.5	100	4.80

# **Reports & Events**

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	SFR TLX WOR	Investor briefing (11am) Investor briefing Investor day (sustainability)
Fri	DEG PMV	AGM (2pm) AGM



#### optimism.

Caixin's November manufacturing PMI for **China**, published yesterday, pleased, coming in at 54.9, a 1.3-point increase on October's reading, against expectations of a 1.7-point decline.

Also yesterday, Japan's November manufacturing PMI was finalised at 49, from 48.7, following forecasts of a 0.4-point pullback.

Among the producers, Lundin Mining forecast a 25% increase in *copper* output for 2021, to 275,000t – 2999,000t.

Caixin is due to release its China November services PMI tomorrow.

#### **Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7371	0.0001	0.02
EUR – USD	1.2073	0.0001	0.01

#### **Australian Data Today**

ABS	GDP	Sep Q
703	GD1	Jep Q

#### **US Data Tonight**

ADP employment change	Nov
Fed Reserve beige book	Dec
ISM New York business activity index	Dec

#### Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	Consumer confidence (4pm AEDT)	Nov
Germany	Retail sales	Oct
Euro zone	Unemployment	Oct
Euro zone	Producer prices	Oct

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