

**Markets**

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEDT)	6817	60	0.9
<b>NZX 50</b>	12461	159	1.3
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	31509	597	1.9
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	3899	90	2.4
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	13280	369	2.9

**Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market commences morning trade with today's Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) policy meeting outcomes due this afternoon and key data releases late morning.

Overnight international equities trade proved decidedly positive, but key commodities were mostly pushed lower.

**Locally** today, the RBA publishes its **policy meeting outcomes** statement **2.30pm** AEDT.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is scheduled to release January **building approvals** and December quarter **balance of payments** reports **11.30am** AEDT, ahead of December quarter GDP tomorrow.

In addition, several high-profile stocks, including **PTM**, **SFR** and **SDG**, trade **ex-dividend** today. *Please see pp3-4 for a detailed list.*

**Regionally** this morning, **Japan** reports quarterly capital spending and January employment statistics.

In addition, Japan conducts a 10-year bond auction **~2.45pm** AEDT.

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

US **gold** futures also continued lower, but modestly so.

Qingdao **iron ore** (CFR 62% fines) fell \$US1.23/t, to \$US174.55/t.

LME **copper** and **aluminium** extended Friday's falls. **Nickel** settled little changed.

The **\$A** reached **~US77.75c** after trading at **~US77.70c** early yesterday evening.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	31536	603	2.0
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	3902	91	2.4
<b>NASDAQ</b>	13589	396	3.0
<b>FTSE 100</b>	6589	105	1.6
<b>DAX 30</b>	14013	227	1.6
<b>Shanghai Comp</b>	3551	42	1.2

**Overseas Markets Commentary**

Major European, UK and US equities markets rallied on opening overnight, optimism surrounding economic recovery prospects remaining throughout respective trading sessions.

Traders were reacting for the first time to the late-Friday US

**Reserve Bank of Australia – policy meeting outcomes 2.30pm AEDT**

**\* Industrial additives manufacturing listing - midday AEDT – 3MF \***

**Today's Stock Watch**
**Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)**

CBA is apologising for errors in Commonwealth Securities (CommSec) and fellow CBA subsidiary Australian Investment Exchange activities, for which it has paid \$6.5M worth of remediation.

In association, CBA does not intend to defend Federal Court proceedings commenced by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) against CommSec and Australian Investment Exchange.

**Nine Entertainment Co (NEC)**

Non-executive NEC director, and Bank of Queensland (ASX: BOQ) chair Patrick Allaway is planning to step down from the NEC board early April.

**Kazia Therapeutics (KZA)**

Worldwide licence agreement secured with Oasmia Pharmaceutical AB, for Oasmia to develop and commercialise KZA's potential ovarian cancer drug Cantrixil (TRX-E-002-1), including for indications beyond ovarian cancer.

Under the agreement, Oasmia will pay KZA an initial \$US4M, milestone payments tallying a potential \$US42M, and commercial sales double-digit royalties.

**Osprey Medical (OSP)**

Three further independent sales agency agreements secured in the US. Details lodged this morning.

**Resources**
**Novonix Ltd (NVX) / Lake Resources (LKE)**

NVX has tested LKE lithium carbonate in NMC622 batteries and found it improved capacity retention and electrochemical behaviour in coin cells, in comparison with NMC622-hydroxide precursor from 'tier one' producers.

**Eclipse Metals (EPM)**

Heralding Greenland Gronnedal-Ika project historic surface sample assays (up to 34,400ppm).

**Neometals Ltd (NMT)**

NMT Barrambie project gravity concentrate pilot-scale testing in underway by NMT partner IMUMR. The trials, funded by IMUMR, are expected to be completed by 30 June.

**Argosy Minerals (AGY)**

Proposed 2000tpa lithium carbonate processing facility update lodged this morning.



House of Representatives approval of a new economic support package (including further cheques for individuals), plus weekend announcements of a new UK business grants scheme and the approval of a third Covid-19 vaccine for use in the US.

Other considerations included a batch of mostly encouraging overnight key data releases, and new data analysis out of England indicated Covid-19 vaccines in use could significantly reduce serious illness risk.

Meanwhile, 10-year US bonds were yielding ~1.44% from Friday's 1.55%, and the ICE \$US index advanced ~0.2%.

In overnight **data** releases, final February manufacturing PMI readings across major euro zone economies confirmed a pickup in activity from January.

**Germany's** initial February CPI reading represented 0.7% inflation for the month and 1.3% year-on-year, against respective 0.4% and 1.0% forecasts.

**Italy** reported an 8.9% GDP drop for 2020, largely in line with expectations, and following 0.3% 2019 growth.

In the **US**, the ISM's manufacturing sector activity index rose 2.1 points for February, to 60.8, surpassing expectations.

January construction spending increase by 1.7%, following a 1.1% December boost and against forecasts of a new 0.7% rise.

**Tonight** in the **US**, the ISM releases its February business activity index for New York.

The IBD/TIPP March economic optimism reading is also due.

In addition, concessions on the proposed minimum wage in the economic support package, together with further bipartisan negotiations tonight are expected to advance preparations for US Senate debate on the proposed legislation from as early as overnight tomorrow.

Elsewhere tonight, the euro zone releases an initial CPI reading. Germany is due to report January retail sales and February unemployment.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today and tonight include: Auto zone, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, International Game Technology, Kohl's, Nordstrom, Target and Ross Stores.

In overnight corporate news, **Zoom** reported post-US trade, headline figures including better-than-anticipated \$US882.5M January quarter revenue, plus \$US260.4M net profit against \$US15.3M a year earlier.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
<b>Gold (NY) (Apr)</b>	<b>1723</b>	oz	-5.8	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Silver (NY) (May)</b>	<b>26.68</b>	oz	0.24	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Gold (LON) (26 Feb)</b>	<b>1743</b>	oz		
<b>Platinum</b>	<b>1178</b>	oz	-3	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr)</b>	<b>60.64</b>	bbbl	-0.86	<b>-1.4</b>
<b>Brent Crude (ICE EUR May)</b>	<b>63.69</b>	bbbl	-0.73	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (26 Feb)</b>	<b>172.71</b>	t		
<b>Copper (LME Ind)</b>	<b>9034</b>	t	-46	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>Nickel</b>	<b>18585</b>	t	12	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Aluminium</b>	<b>2118</b>	t	-34	<b>-1.6</b>
<b>Lead</b>	<b>2074</b>	t	22	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Zinc</b>	<b>2787</b>	t	-5	<b>-0.2</b>

## Pre-Open Announcements

### 3D Metalforge (\* 3MF)

Additive manufacturer scheduled to list on the ASX **midday** AEDT following a \$10M IPO at 20c per share. 95.47M quoted shares/units.

### Vitalharvest Freehold Trust (VTH)

VTH has requested additional information, including regarding finance, from would-be owner Roc Private Equity.

### EZZ Life Science Holdings (\* EZZ)

Skin care products manufacturer and distributor scheduled to list on the ASX 11am AEDT **tomorrow**, following a \$6M IPO at 50c per share. 12M quoted shares.

## Resources

### Aurelia Metals (\* AMI)

Chairman Cobb Johnstone is retiring from the AMI board, immediately, for personal health reasons. AMI deputy chair Susie Corlett has been appointed interim non-executive chair from today.

### Liontown Resources (\* LTR)

WA Moora copper-gold project initial RC drilling has intersected a thick zone of bedrock gold mineralisation. Details, including some assays lodged this morning. Further assays pending.

### Caravel Minerals (\* CVV)

Heralding wide zones of copper mineralisation determined by diamond core and RC percussion drilling at the Bindi deposit Hinge zone.

### Australian Potash (\* APC)

Resuming from a trading halt with a \$140M loan from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility in support of the far eastern WA goldfields Lake Wells sulphate of potash project. APC last traded at 16.5c.

### Australian Strategic Materials (\* ASM)

Scoping study results lodged for ASM's proposed 5200tpa metals plant in Korea.

### Evolution Mining (EVN) / Mincor Resources (MCR)

Conference presentations lodged.

## Energy

### Province Resources (\* PRL)

SODAR monitoring station expected to be deployed within four weeks at the north west WA HyEnergy zero carbon hydrogen project.

### 88 Energy (88E)

Merlin-1 is newly scheduled to spud 8 March.



**Tin** 23535 t -2404 -9.3

### Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – despite broad economic optimism reflected in overnight international equities trade, oil prices fell further overnight.

This was in part due to China's (NBS and Caixin) February manufacturing PMIs, reported Sunday and yesterday, and both lower than for January.

In addition, the \$US continued higher.

Speculative commentary continued ahead of the OPEC+ meeting scheduled for Thursday, some venturing a decision could be made to allow alliance members to increase output by a combined 1.5MMbbl/d from April.

**Gold** – Comex futures swung higher in early trade, to \$US1757.40/oz, but economic recovery optimism supporting an international equities rally, ultimately drained interest.

**Base metals** – China's official February PMIs, revealed Sunday evening, plus a Caixin February manufacturing PMI reported for China yesterday, constrained overnight LME *copper* trade. All estimates fell from the January readings, the Caixin manufacturing PMI coming in at 50.9, from 51.5 for January, following forecasts of 51.2.

**Japan's** final 51.4 February manufacturing PMI reading represented a return to expansion mode, from 49.8 for January.

**Tin's** price plunge was largely attributed to technicals, some profit-taking pushing prices sufficiently low to trigger large numbers of sell orders.

Tin had recently been propelled higher on some supply shortage, exacerbated by some US port delays.

### Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.7774	0.0020	0.26
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.2047	-0.0038	-0.31

### Australian Data Today

RBA	Policy meeting outcomes	1 Mar
ABS	Building approvals	Jan
ABS	Balance of payments	Dec Q

### US Data Tonight

ISM New York	Feb
IBD/TIPP economic optimism	Mar

### Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

<b>Japan</b>	Workforce (incl wages, unemployment)	Jan
Japan	Capital spending	Q4
<b>Germany</b>	Retail sales	Jan
Germany	Unemployment	Feb

### Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
4DMedical Ltd	4DX	2 Mar
Anax Metals	ANX	2 Mar
Australian Strategic Metals	ASM	2 Mar
EMVision Medical Devices	EMV	2 Mar
Mesoblast Ltd	MSB	2 Mar
Neurotech International	NTI	2 Mar
Palla Pharma	PAL	2 Mar
Australian Rural Capital	ARC	3 Mar
Bellevue Gold	BGL	3 Mar
Hawkstone Mining	HWK	3 Mar
Indiana Resources	IDA	3 Mar
Ionic Rare Earths	IXR	3 Mar
K-TIG Ltd	KTG	3 Mar
Whispir Ltd	WSP	3 Mar
Vital Metals	VML	4 Mar

### Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
333D Ltd	T3D	26 Feb
Atrum Coal	ATU	11 Feb
Calima Energy	CE1	16 Feb
MSM Corporation International	MSM	9 Feb
Oliver's Real Food	OLI	26 Feb
Pilot Energy	PGY	12 Feb
Torian Resources	TNR	26 Feb

### Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
<b>ASH</b>	Today	1.8	100	5.57
<b>BWF</b>	Today	2.4	100	7.32
<b>CWY</b>	Today	2.25	100	1.84
<b>GAP</b>	Today	2	0	2.50
<b>HLA</b>	Today	2	100	1.07
<b>HMC</b>	Today	6	100	2.83
<b>KSL</b>	Today	5.1	0	7.48
<b>MAD</b>	Today	1.5	100	3.33
<b>OSH</b>	Today	0.63	0	1.53
<b>PTM</b>	Today	12	100	5.02
<b>SBM</b>	Today	4	100	3.94
<b>SDG</b>	Today	30	100	2.61
<b>SFR</b>	Today	8	100	2.27
AEF	Tomorrow	3	100	0.73
BFG	Tomorrow	6.5	100	4.36
BVS	Tomorrow	2.6	0	4.06
EQT	Tomorrow	44	100	3.60



Euro zone CPI (initial) Feb

**Need More Information?**

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HSN	Tomorrow	5	22	1.93
IFL	Tomorrow	11.5	100	3.44
IFM	Tomorrow	2.15	100	2.89
IVC	Tomorrow	7	100	2.56
LNK	Tomorrow	4.5	60	2.09
MNF	Tomorrow	3.3	100	1.21
MPL	Tomorrow	5.8	100	4.27
ORA	Tomorrow	6.5	0	1.83
ORG	Tomorrow	12.5	0	5.45
PAF	Tomorrow	1.5	100	1.61
PBP	Tomorrow	2	100	2.02
PCI	Tomorrow	0.27	0	3.20
PGF	Tomorrow	2.5	100	3.69
QIP	Tomorrow	4	100	3.45
TWE	Tomorrow	15	100	2.54