

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	6616	-26	-0.4
NZX 50	10760	7	0.1
DJIA Futures	27141	11	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	2978	1	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	7848	6	0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens a new week's trade on strained Middle East relations, further raising the prospect of significant targeted Iran-western alliance military activity.

Overnight Friday, reports emerged Iran had detained a UK-marked vessel in the Strait of Hormuz. Images and audio recordings subsequently confirmed this.

Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have each officially commented over the past 24 hours, as the UK confirmed it was considering 'options'.

Locally today, a weekly capital city residential property price report is due pre-trade.

In overnight Friday commodities trade, **oil** turned higher.

US **gold** futures (August) settled slightly lower.

Iron ore (China port, 62% Fe) again barely moved, this time ultimately adding US12c/t.

LME **copper** rallied. **Nickel** turned and fell.

The **\$A** was pushed below US70.45c after trading at ~US70.60c early Friday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	27154	-69	-0.3
S&P 500	2977	-19	-0.6
NASDAQ	8146	-61	-0.7
FTSE 100	7509	16	0.2
DAX 30	12260	32	0.3
Shanghai Comp	2924	23	0.8

Overseas Markets Commentary

Choppy trade ensued across US equities markets as they trended lower overnight Friday.

Volatility feature during European trade, major indices also closing well off decidedly positive openings.

Swinging sentiment was in part attributed to reports from the Middle East of further vessel seizures.

In addition, the new week was destined to begin relatively slowly in terms of data and earnings reports, ahead of a barrage of both throughout the remainder of this week.

Today's Stock Watch

Aveo Group (AOG)

Confirming negotiations are continuing with Brookfield Property Group regarding Brookfield's proposed AOG takeover.

AOG says 'significant progress' has been achieved but warns of uncertainty regarding the ultimate achievement of any definitive agreement.

Elixinol Global (EXL)

EXL has acquired microencapsulation technology IP rights from Bionova, enabling EXL to potentially develop beverage, food and nutraceutical products that will be exclusively manufactured by Bionova.

In addition, Bionova will hold exclusive rights to supply the products with the European Union (EU).

EXL will pay Bionova €25,000 each year for each non-EU country in which EXL develops the technology until patent rights are granted in that country. On the grant of patent rights, EXL will pay Bionova €50,000 each year.

FlexiGroup Ltd (FXL)

FXL's buy now-pay later service humm has added several high-profile retailers to its clientele since the company's last update in May.

List of new clients, including Temple & Webster, lodged this morning.

Quickstep Holdings (QHL)

June quarter sales grew 38% year-on-year, to \$22.9M.

Full-year sales are estimated 24% higher, at \$73.3M.

\$300,000 net debt as at 30 June.

SUDA Pharmaceuticals (SUD)

European Patent Office approval effectively in hand for SUD to hold a patent over anagrelide for treating cancer, through to December 2035.

Resources

Mineral Resources (MIN) / Brockman Mining (BCK)

MIN's proposed farm-in to BCK's WA Hamersley iron ore province Marillana iron ore project will take longer than initially anticipated, perhaps through to 31 July 2020, due to the agreed pushing back of key dates outlined in the 'obligation' agreement.

Saracen Mineral Holdings (SAR)

\$A47M - \$A50M 2H FY 2019 unaudited NPAT.

Produced 88,096oz of gold at a \$A1026/oz cost during the June quarter, including record quarterly mine output tallying 123,507oz.

Sold 90,230oz at \$A1754/oz, for \$A158.3M revenue.

FY 2019 production is estimated at 355,0077oz, at \$A1030/oz.

\$A154.5M cash and equivalents.



In overnight Friday data releases, **UK** June public sector net borrowing came in at -£6.5B after -£3.8B for May.

Germany's June producer prices fell 0.4% for the month following a 0.1% May decline. Year-on-year, June prices were 1.2% higher.

In the **US**, the University of Michigan's initial July consumer sentiment reading was reported at 98.4, from 98.2 for June.

Tonight in the US, the Chicago Fed's national activity index is due, ahead of key data, including manufacturing, throughout the week.

In addition, the Bank of Japan's governor is due to address the International Monetary Fund.

Elsewhere, **UK** Conservative party polling to elect a new leader, and hence **PM**, has officially closed, with reports of the likely successor expected to continue ahead of confirmation anytime through Tuesday evening (AEST).

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today and tonight include: Halliburton, Hyundai Motor, LG Electronics, Moelis, Philips, Posco and Sharp.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Aug)	1426.7	oz	-1.4	-0.1
Silver (NY) (Sep)	16.195	oz	-0.003	-0.0
Gold (LON)	1417	oz		
Platinum	844	oz	-7	-0.8
WTI Crude (Aug)	55.30	bbl	0.33	0.6
Brent Crude (Sep)	62.47	bbl	0.54	0.9
Iron Ore (CHN port 62%)	120.99	t	0.12	0.1
Copper (LME,3mth,PM)	6073	t	104	1.7
Nickel	14650	t	-265	-1.8
Aluminium	1848	t	-1	-0.0
Lead	2043	t	6	0.3
Zinc	2422	t	-33	-1.4
Tin	17770	t	-75	-0.4
CBT Wheat (Jul)	5.04	bshl	0.1	2.0

Commodities Commentary

Oil – reports first emerged during overnight Friday trade that Iran had seized a UK-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz.

A Liberia-marked tanker was also reportedly detained.

Further, US officials off-the-record backed down on the US shooting down of a drone from Iran the previous day, offering it had been incapacitated but not destroyed.

The increased activity, plus uncertainty of facts and potential reactions, pushed crude prices higher, despite the week's series of forecasts of dampening demand.

The forecast reports had pushed oil lower over several sessions, WTI settling 7% lower for the week and Brent down 5.5%.

Thursday, just days after releasing a regular report containing updated predictions, the International Energy Agency's (IEA) executive director announced the agency was lowering this year's international oil demand growth by a daily 100,000bbl to 1.1MMbbl/d.

Pre-Open Announcements

Splitit Payments (** SPT)

Three-year partnership agreed with GHL Systems Berhad's GHL ePayments.

Details lodged this morning.

Opthea Ltd (* OPT)

Anticipating primary data analysis from the OPT-302 wet age-related macular degeneration Phase 2b clinical trial to become available three months earlier than initially expected.

OPT now plans to release this information by 30 September.

Primary data from the Phase 2a clinical trial of OPT-302 as a diabetic macular oedema treatment is expected early 2020.

OPT will report clinical trials progress and expected timetables at an Ophthalmology Innovation Summit, Chicago, Thursday this week.

engage:BDR Ltd (EN1)

Confirming 12 new partnered EN1 integrations that are now live.

Vita Group (VTG)

VTG has appointed VTG legal counsel George Southgate as company secretary, effective today.

Mr Southgate is taking over from Mark Anning in association with a company restructure.

Roots Sustainable Agricultural Technologies (ROO)

ROO has appointed Azorim former CEO and director Dror Nagel as a non-executive director.

Clime Capital (CAM)

Full year results lodged post-trade Friday, featuring a 17% fall in NPAT and 8% lower revenue.

Bidder's statement for CBG Capital (ASX: CBC) also lodged.

Resources

Resolute Mining (* RSG)

Queensland Ravenswood gold project resources have grown 24% to 5.9Moz of gold.

Ore Reserves are calculated 58% higher, at 2.7Moz.

St Barbara (* SBM)

Confirming the completion of the \$A780M Atlantic Gold Corporation acquisition.

Evolution Mining (EVN)

Planning to lodge the company's June quarter report pre-trade Wednesday this week, and to host a live audio-streamed teleconference that day, commencing 11am AEST.

Access details lodged this morning.

Liontown Resources (LTR)

Heralding Buldania lithium project drilling which has extended know mineralisation to a 1.4km strike length.

LTR says the mineralisation remains open along strike and at depth, and that RC drilling is continuing for another ~3000m.



A weekly US petroleum rig count, published overnight Friday, included an estimated five fewer operational oil rigs, bringing the tally to 779.

In production news, Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) has declared force majeure over the weekend following an equipment-related shutdown of the 290,000bbl/d El Sharara oil field, meaning shipments from Zawiya have stopped.

NOC estimated Libyan oil production tallied just ~1Mmbl on Saturday.

August Nymex (WTI) futures expire on tonight's settlement.

Gold – Comex futures traded as high as \$US1454.40/oz overnight Friday, but an ~0.3% \$US gain pushed prices lower by settlement. While silver ended the week 6.3% higher, commentators remained mostly focused on monetary policy as a likely supporter of further gold appreciation.

This week, the European Central Bank holds a policy meeting Thursday, and again, the post-meeting commentary is expected to influence currency trade and gold sentiment.

A week bulging with large-cap US stocks earnings reports means most industry-watchers are also anticipating \$US swings.

Base metals – copper's overnight Friday LME gain was attributed to expectations of lower US interest rates, following public commentary from two US Federal Reserve officials post-LME trade Thursday.

Among other trade considerations, late-Thursday, a China-US high-level trade-related teleconference produced no official comment, including no confirmation of any likely in-person talks in the near-term.

In economic indicator news, Japan's June CPI, published Friday, was estimated at nil growth for the month, as for May, and 0.7% higher year-on-year.

A May all industry activity index rose 0.3% following a 0.8% April gain.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7043	0.0001	0.01
EUR – USD	1.1216	0.0001	0.01

Australian Data Today

CLogic	Capital city home prices	19 Jul
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US Data Tonight

Chicago Fed National Activity Index	Jun
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Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

UK	CBI business optimism	Sep Q
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New and historical assays lodged this morning.

OreCorp Ltd (ORR)

ORR says it proposed 100% acquisition of the Tanzania Nyanzaga gold project, by purchasing 75% from Acacia Mining, is not impacted by the agreement achieved late last week for Barrick Gold's planned acquisition of Acacia.

Energy

Liquefied Natural Gas (* LNG)

Board approval in hand to set up headquarters in the US and to list on the NASDAQ, pending approvals including from shareholders and regulatory authorities.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Jiajiafu Modern Agriculture	JJF	22 Jul
Northern Minerals	NTU	22 Jul
ShareRoot Ltd	SRO	22 Jul
Volt Resources	VRC	22 Jul
Althea Group Holdings	AGH	23 Jul
BBX Minerals	BBX	23 Jul
Canyon Resources	CAY	23 Jul
Dotz Nano	DTZ	23 Jul
Kleos Space	KSS	23 Jul
New Energy Minerals	NXE	23 Jul

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
CCP Technologies	CT1	17 Jul
Golden Rim Resources	GMR	1 Jul
High Grade Metals	HGM	18 Jul
Keybridge Capital	KBC	16 Jul
Mindx Ltd	MDX	26 Jun
Titan Minerals	TTM	28 Jun

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
MIR	Thu	6.5	100	3.91
DJW	5 Aug	10	100	5.49
WQG	5 Aug	2	0	0.00



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