

**Markets**

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEDT)	6794	18	0.3
<b>NZX 50</b>	12248	103	0.8
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	31811	35	0.1
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	3873	54	1.4
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	12789	492	4.0

**Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market commences mid-week trade with an overnight \$A appreciation, a key domestic data report due this morning, material data expected out of China early afternoon, and the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) governor having delivered a key speech pre-trade, ahead of a CPI estimate for the US tonight.

In addition, since yesterday's ASX close, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD) has released a revised forecast for Australia's 2021 economic growth, raising this to 4.5% from the 3.2% estimated three months ago.

Further, the OECD supported the RBA's view that rates should remain low for some time yet.

**Locally today, RBA governor Philip Lowe has been speaking at a business summit on *The Recovery, Investment & Monetary Policy*.**

Also this morning, Westpac and the Melbourne Institute are due to publish their monthly **consumer sentiment** report, 10.30am AEDT.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases additional information to supplement last week's January building approvals report, 11.30am.

Stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include: **BXB, CGC, RRL, RWC** and **RXP**. Please see pp3-4 for a detailed list.

**Regionally today, China's February producer prices and CPI reading are anticipated 12.30pm AEDT.**

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** fell for a second consecutive session.

US **gold** futures turned and rallied, settling beyond \$US1715/oz.

Qingdao **iron ore** (CFR 62% fines) fell \$US9.93/t to \$US164.41.

LME **copper** (indicative) and **nickel** dropped. **Aluminium** settled modestly lower.

The \$A has traded at ~US77.20c this morning after appreciating beyond ~US76.95c early yesterday evening.

**Overseas Markets.**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	31833	30	0.1
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	3875	54	1.4
<b>NASDAQ</b>	13074	465	3.7
<b>FTSE 100</b>	6730	11	0.2
<b>DAX 30</b>	14438	57	0.4

**RBA – governor Philip Lowe was scheduled to speak on *The Recovery, Investment & Monetary Policy* 9am AEDT**

**\* Iron ore exploration listing – 1pm AEDT – GEN \***

**Today's Stock Watch**
**Insurance Australia Group (IAG)**

Four executive appointments/promotions announced pre-trade, including IAG technology and operations head Neil Morgan as COO, former Chubb Insurance Australia & New Zealand president Jarrod Hill as head of intermediated insurance Australia, and IAG direct insurance Australia acting head Amanda Whiting as IAG's New Zealand CEO.

**Hansen Technologies (HSN)**

Teleconference scheduled to commence **11am** AEDT. HSN is upgrading FY21 revenue guidance to \$306M - \$316M (\$316M - \$326M on a constant currency basis). In addition, HSN anticipates a 37% - 39% underlying FY21 EBITDA margin.

The new guidance comes following the signing of an initial five-year agreement with Telefonica Germany.

This covers a prepaid Telefonica subscription for HSN's cloud native communications product suite, and hence associated licence, for use of the products across Telefonica operations within Germany.

HSN anticipates \$25M revenue over the five years.

Conference access details lodged post-trade yesterday.

**Eclipx Group (ECX)**

~\$26.4M (\$5766/unit) October – February end-of-lease (EOL) income, against \$15.5M (\$2468/unit) for 1H FY20.

**Resources**
**Gold Road Resources (GOR)**

Paying a maiden dividend, a fully franked 1.5c, for June-December 2020.

\$80.8M full year NPAT, from a \$4.7M 2019 net loss.

\$294.7M gold sales revenue, against \$75.4M.

\$126.4M cash and short-term deposits.

**Western Areas (WSA)**

Resuming from a trading halt having completed an \$A85M, \$2.15-per-share fully underwritten placement.

WSA is also planning a \$15M SPP, at the same price.

Funds will support Odysseus project development and broader company growth. WSA traded at \$2.225 - \$2.63 over the five trading sessions immediately prior to calling the halt.

**Vulcan Energy (VUL)**

Ortenau (upper Rhine valley) bulk brine sampling has delivered high-grade lithium (214mg/L) with low impurity levels.



Shanghai Comp 3359 -62 -1.8

## Overseas Markets Commentary

Choppy, swinging trade featured across major European and UK equities markets and the DJIA overnight, but not so for the NASDAQ and S&P 500.

The NASDAQ and S&P swung sharply higher from outset, in part attributed to bargain-hunting for large tech/communication stocks, and as US 10-year bond yields eased ~0.6% and the \$US by ~0.3%.

Yesterday, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD) predicted proposed new stimulus for the US, combined with efficient Covid-19 vaccine production and deployment activity would boost international economic growth at a faster rate than the organisation had previously expected.

The OECD consequently raised its 2021 international growth forecast to 5.6%, from the 4.2% predicted three months ago.

Global growth would come in at 4.0% for 2022, the OECD also ventured, against its previous forecast of 3.7%.

The US House of Representatives is expected to debate, and potentially conduct a final vote on, legislation for the \$US1.9 trillion economic support package for the US tonight, following changes voted by the US Senate early last weekend.

Among overnight **data** releases, the **euro zone's** final December quarter GDP reading represented a 4.9% drop for the three months and a 0.7% decline against the December quarter 2019.

**Germany's** January trade surplus was estimated at €14.3B from €15.2B at the end of December.

Seasonally adjusted, the surplus was higher however, with exports rising 1.4%, following expectations of falling 1.2%, and imports dropping 4.7%.

Across the channel, the British Retail Consortium (BRC) estimated **UK** retail sales had grown 9.5% on a like-for-like basis 31 January – 27 February, and 1.0% overall.

The BRC revealed online sales of non-food items jumped 82.2% during February, against 3.6% growth in February 2020.

In the **US**, a small business optimism index was calculated at 95.8 from 95.

A \$US58B three-year note auction in the meantime produced a 0.355% yield from 0.196%.

**Tonight** in the **US**, February CPI and the monthly budget statement are due, together with weekly mortgage applications.

In addition, a \$US38B 10-year bond auction is scheduled, ahead of a \$US24B 30-year auction tomorrow night.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today or tonight include Adidas, Campbell Soup, Oracle, Pinduoduo and Weibo.

In overnight corporate news, **Tesla** recouped ~20% following reports of the company's estimated China-manufactured car sales data for February.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1716.9	oz	38.9	2.3

## Pre-Open Announcements

### Challenger Ltd (CGF)

CGF has appointed distribution, product and marketing (DPM) chief executive Angela Murphy as chief executive of the life division, which is a new combination of the former life and DPM divisions.

### Immutep Ltd (\* IMM)

US patent in hand for IMM's proposed immunotherapy treatment protein eftilagimod alpha, in combination with a PD-1 pathway inhibitor, for 'combined preparations for the treatment of cancer or infection'.

IMM recouped 8.2% yesterday settling at 33c.

### Cann Global (CGB)

Cannabidiol formulations Australian patent in hand for JV partner Canntab Therapeutics.

### Digital Ltd (DCC)

~\$8.8M, 9c-per-share placement to US institutional investors completed, in support of funds management division growth.

DCC has traded at 8.5c – 9.1c over the past two sessions.

### Genetic Technologies (GTG)

GTG presented at a life sciences conference overnight.

In addition, GTG will host a 'Meet the CEO' video presentation featuring company strategy and the Infinity BiologiX agreement 1pm AEDT tomorrow.

Registration details lodged post-trade yesterday.

Presentation also lodged.

### DDH1 Ltd (DDH)

Resources sector contract drilling services provider completed its ASX listing yesterday, following a \$150M IPO at \$1.10 per share.

Opened at 91c and fell to 81c before settling at 87c.

9.148M shares changed hands across 2121 trades.

~342.8M quoted shares.

## Resources

### Genmin Ltd (\* GEN)

Iron ore explorer scheduled to complete its ASX listing **1pm AEDT**, following an ~\$30M IPO at 34c per share.

~279.3M quoted shares/units.

GEN holds six exploration licences in Gabon.

~342.8M quoted shares.

### OZ Minerals (\* OZL)

Today's investor day materials lodged pre-trade.

In addition, OZL trades ex-dividend (17c) tomorrow.

### Legacy Iron Ore (\* LCY)

Heralding Mt Celia project gold recovery results from testing of three composite samples.



<b>Silver (NY) (May)</b>	<b>26.18</b>	oz	0.91	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Gold (LON) (8 Mar)</b>	<b>1687</b>	oz		
<b>Platinum</b>	<b>1165</b>	oz	32	<b>2.8</b>
<b>WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr)</b>	<b>64.01</b>	bbl	-1.04	<b>-1.6</b>
<b>Brent Crude (ICE EUR May)</b>	<b>67.52</b>	bbl	-0.72	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (8 Mar)</b>	<b>173.56</b>	t	44	0.3
<b>Copper (LME Ind)</b>	<b>8786</b>	t	-210	<b>-2.3</b>
<b>Nickel</b>	<b>16160</b>	t	-178	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>Aluminium</b>	<b>2166</b>	t	-7	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Lead</b>	<b>1966</b>	t	-14	<b>-0.7</b>
<b>Zinc</b>	<b>2778</b>	t	-4	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Tin</b>	<b>24235</b>	t	0	0.0

### Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – prices fell further overnight.

US government agency the EIA estimated domestic production would fall less than previously anticipated this year.

The EIA's new prediction is for a 160,000bbl/d fall, against the 290,000bbl/d decline forecast in February.

In addition, the EIA raised its 2021 WTI forecast price to \$US57.24/bbl and the Brent prediction to \$US60.67/bbl.

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

Overnight post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute (API) published a weekly report which estimated a 12.79MMbbl build for stored crude last week.

OPEC's monthly oil market report is expected overnight tomorrow.

**Gold** – Comex futures rallied overnight.

US 10-year bond yields fell ~0.6%, pushing the \$US (ICE index) ~0.3% below recent highs.

Today's inflation figures out of China, together with a February CPI estimate for the US tonight, could influence tonight's trade.

**Base metals** – sensitivity to comments out of the National People's Congress in China were cited for a general drop in overnight LME trade sentiment.

Credit availability was expected to tighten and an administrative emphasis on reducing carbon emissions heightened views industry would at least be temporarily curtailed to some degree.

In addition, the China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association (CNMIA) warned speculators would do 'more harm than good' in pushing prices away from fundamental bases.

A CNMIA representative offered early-2021 rallying was only partly due to supply and demand-based trade.

Meanwhile China port *iron ore* prices fell yesterday, reportedly due to the strongest emissions controls in four years set for Tangshan.

Yesterday, **Japan's** final December quarter GDP reading undershot expectations, at 2.8% growth for the three months, against forecasts of 3.0%. The annualised rate of 11.7% was 1% lower than expected.

Household spending also disappointed, falling 7.3% during January and down 6.1% from January 2020.

February machine tool orders jumped 36.7% year-on-year, however.

**China's** February producer prices and CPI estimates are

### Fenix Resources (\* FEX)

FEX has achieved steady-state production at the Iron Ridge mine, mid-west WA.

FEX is hauling 1.25Mtpa to Geraldton port.

100,000t of lump and fines have already been sold.

### Eclipse Metals (EPM)

Heralding historical exploration and analytical data for the Ivittuut open pit.

Assays lodged this morning.

### Firefinch Ltd (FFX)

FFX has appointed former Exco Resources MD Michael Anderson as MD, effective 6 April.

In association Alistair Cowden will resume a non-executive chairman role, from executive.

### Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Aston Minerals	ASO	10 Mar
Peel Mining	PEX	10 Mar
Carnavale Resources	CAV	11 Mar
Cohiba Minerals	CHK	11 Mar
Golden Mile Resources	G88	11 Mar
IODM Ltd	IOD	11 Mar
New Century Resources	NCZ	11 Mar

### Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
333D Ltd	T3D	26 Feb
Calima Energy	CE1	16 Feb
Elixinol Global	EXL	8 Mar
Matador Mining	MZZ	9 Mar
Oliver's Real Food	OLI	26 Feb
Sportshero Ltd	SHO	8 Mar
Torian Resources	TNR	26 Feb

### Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
<b>AX1</b>	Today	<b>8</b>	100	1.72
<b>BXB</b>	Today	<b>13.08</b>	30	2.60
<b>CAA</b>	Today	<b>45</b>	100	2.14
<b>CGC</b>	Today	<b>5</b>	100	1.30
<b>ONT</b>	Today	<b>14.5</b>	100	3.53
<b>REG</b>	Today	<b>2</b>	50	2.03
<b>RRL</b>	Today	<b>4</b>	100	2.63
<b>RWC</b>	Today	<b>6</b>	20	1.67
<b>RXP</b>	Today	<b>5</b>	100	6.42
<b>SSG</b>	Today	<b>3.2</b>	100	2.35



anticipated today.

### Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.7711	0.0051	<b>0.66</b>
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.1896	0.0038	<b>0.32</b>

### Australian Data Today

Westac/Melbourne Inst	Consumer sentiment	Mar
ABS	Building approvals (addtl info)	Jan

### US Data Tonight

CPI	Feb
Budget statement	Feb
MBA mortgage applications	5 Mar

### Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

<b>China</b>	Producer prices	Feb
China	CPI	Feb

### Need More Information?

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AVJ	Tomorrow	0.7	100	0.00
EAI	Tomorrow	2.5	100	2.07
GLB	Tomorrow	12	100	1.04
GNG	Tomorrow	5	100	4.29
JYC	Tomorrow	7	100	5.75
MCY	Tomorrow	6.29	0	2.63
MHJ	Tomorrow	1.5	0	2.24
MMS	Tomorrow	30.2	100	0.00
OZL	Tomorrow	17	100	1.05
S32	Tomorrow	1.81	100	0.48
SHJ	Tomorrow	2	0	4.57
SLK	Tomorrow	7	100	0.52
BSE	Fri	3	0	11.11
CDD	Fri	1.5	60	0.00
CEN	Fri	12.35	0	5.50
CVL	Fri	1	100	1.67
DSK	Fri	15	100	0.00
GRR	Fri	2	100	3.48
NTD	Fri	3	100	1.41
TGR	Fri	7	0	5.31
WTC	Fri	2.7	100	0.06
AHY	Mon (15 Mar)	3	100	0.00
ANG	Mon	0.2	100	1.88
CNU	Mon	9.76	0	3.08
FFI	Mon	12	100	3.93
GWA	Mon	6	100	1.19
SGF	Mon	7.19	100	3.77
TNK	Mon	12	100	2.19

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