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Market Opener

Wednesday, 11 November 2020

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Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6390	49	0.8
NZX 50	12706	93	0.7
DJIA Futures	29319	271	0.9
S&P 500 Futures	3541	-3	-0.1
NASDAQ Futures	11618	-202	-1.7

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens midweek trade on mixed overnight international equities trade leads but following largely positive key commodities trade, ahead of a federal government holiday in the US tonight.

Regionally today, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand is due to announce the outcomes of today's policy meeting at midday AEDT, and to follow this with a governor's press conference at 1pm.

In **China**, it's officially Singles Day, a 24-hour online shopping event which began with Alibaba, but which has spread to retailers within and beyond China. This year it was pre-empted by a 1-3 November precursor.

Locally today, the Westpac/Melbourne Institute monthly **consumer sentiment** report is due **10.30am** AEDT.

In addition today, a batch of high-profile stocks, including **WBC**, trades **ex-dividend**. *Please see p3 for a comprehensive list*.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** extended Monday's robust gains, but with more modest rallies.

US gold futures (Dec) bounced.

LME **copper** and **aluminium** turned higher. **Nickel** continued to rally.

The **\$A** was pushed below US72.80c after approaching US72.90c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	29421	263	0.9
S&P 500	3546	-5	-0.1
NASDAQ	11559	-155	-1.3
FTSE 100	6297	111	1.8
DAX 30	13163	67	0.5
Shanghai Comp	3360	-14	-0.4

Overseas Markets Commentary

Choppy trade featured across major European and US equities markets overnight, amid the wait for outcomes to US election legal challenges, and a batch of generally sobering economic data releases, following further warnings should the UK not secure a trade arrangement with the European Union by year's end.

US tech stocks remained largely out of favour.

Today's Stock Watch

Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)

\$A1.9B (unaudited) September quarter NPAT.

Flat, \$5.87B operating income.

Cash NPAT down 16% year-on-year, to \$1.8B.

11.8% CET1.

Temporary loan deferral statistics, including for October, also lodged this morning.

Eclipx Group (ECX)

\$30.23M full year NPAT, following a \$13.47M net loss a year ago.

5.0% lower, \$674.25M revenue. Nil final dividend.

AusNet Services (AST)

31.4% higher, \$225.7M interim NPAT.

1.8% higher, \$1.039B ordinary activities revenue.

4.75c, 1.9c-franked interim dividend, against 5.1c, 2.55c-franked a year ago.

67c NTA, against 69c.

Flight Centre Travel Group (FLT)

Refinancing existing bank debt facilities, pending the completion of a \$A400M unsecured seven-year convertible notes offer.

Net proceeds from the offer are intended to repay \$A100M of FLT existing debt.

Additional bank debt refinancing details lodged post-trade yesterday.

DC Two (* DC2)

Data services specialist completed a stellar ASX listing yesterday, following a \$5.5M IPO at 20c per share.

Opened at 40c and slipped to 37.5c before settling at its day one high of 59.5c.

23.7M shares changed hands across 2384 trades.

30.34M guoted securities.

Resources

Auroch Minerals (AOU)

Resuming from a trading halt with an agreement to outlay \$4M for the WA goldfields Nepean nickel project.

Galaxy Resources (GXY)

Three-year, minimum 60,000tpa WA Mt Cattlin spodumene concentrate off-take agreement secured with Sichuan Chengtun Lithium Co.

Energy

Woodside Petroleum (WPL)

Today's investor day materials lodged pre-trade.



Yesterday, China reported 0.3% deflation for October and much lower-than-anticipated 0.5% CPI year-on-year growth. In addition, producer prices were reported 2.1% lower than those for October 2019.

In the US, the attorney general gave the green light to federal prosecutors to look into allegations of election fraud, rather than leave these investigations to State jurisdictions.

The Department of Justice's election crimes branch head resigned, citing the attorney general's decision and directive.

Meanwhile the US secretary of state promoted a 'second Trump administration'.

The **UK** and **European Union** (EU) continued to negotiate a potential trade arrangement designed to come into effect 1 January 2021, amid warnings from a former PM and current MPs regarding the possibility of no agreement in the face of the UK PM's comments that he preferred not to sacrifice key positions against achieving a deal he considers would compromise the UK.

Among overnight **data** releases, **UK** October unemployment claims fell by 29,800 following a 40,200 September drop and against expectations of a 36,000 increase.

The September unemployment rate rose 0.3% for the month to 4.8% following forecasts of 4.9%.

September average earnings excluding bonuses grew 1.9% following a 0.9% August increase and expectations of a new 1.4% rise.

The September quarter unemployment rate for **France** was calculated at 9% from 7.1% for the June quarter, and against expectations of 8%.

ZEW's November economic sentiment index for **Germany** dropped to 39 from 56.1, following forecasts of 42.

The current conditions component index fell to -64.3 from -59.5, but against expectations of -67.

The overall **euro zone** ZEW economic sentiment reading came in at 32.8, from 52.3 and following forecasts of 36.

In the **US**, the IBB/TIPP November economic optimism index fell to 50 from 55.2, following forecasts of 53.2.

The NFIB October small business optimism index remained static at 104, defying forecasts of a decline to 101.5.

A September job openings report estimated 6.44M opportunities after recording 6.35M for August and following expectations of 6.2M positions.

Also overnight, a US 10-year treasury notes auction produced a 0.96% yield, against 0.765% for the previous offer.

Yesterday, a 30-year government bond auction in Japan delivered a 0.643% yield, from 0.638%.

Tonight in the **US**, weekly mortgage applications are due. No data releases are due from government departments due to the observance of Veterans Day as a federal holiday.

Elsewhere, Germany hosts a 30-year bond auction.

European Central Bank (ECB) officials will again be speaking publicly, ahead of the release of an economic bulletin tomorrow night.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today and tonight include: E.ON, JD.com, JD Wetherspoon, Kogas, Korea Petro Chemical, Kumho Petro Chemical, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial, Mitsui

Pre-Open Announcements

Unibail Rodamco Westfield (URW)

Results from late-yesterday's AGM lodged.

These include scrapped rights issue plans.

URW settled 43.55% higher yesterday, at \$4.12.

Douugh Ltd (* DOU)

Beta program update lodged this morning, including compliance and regulatory approvals in hand.

Fleetwood Corporation (FWD)

FWD has decided to appoint Wellard (ASX: WLD) executive chairman and former Hancock Prospecting chief development officer John Klepec as a director immediately following the FWD AGM.

Mr Klepec's nomination was received too late to be considered at the AGM. A 16 December general meeting to consider his nomination and that of another nominee, since withdrawn, has been cancelled.

Mastermyne Group (MYE)

The underground mining area of Sojitz Blue's Gregory Crinum underground coal mine was successfully re-entered late last month, with mine operator MYE in conjunction with Queensland Mines Rescue.

MYE is continuing as mine operator of the open cut area while Sojitz finalises a remnant coal recovery strategy and investment approval.

MYE has traded lower the past four sessions, settling at 69c yesterday after closing out October at 79.5c.

Resources

Piedmont Lithium (* PLL)

Spodumene concentrator test work program partnership secured.

Battery Minerals (BAT)

Pending government approvals, planning for March quarter 2021 soil sampling, mapping and drill testing following a review of historical data for BAT's recently acquired EL6871. BAT says the review indicated targets, including within two

regions known as Kent Road and Frying Pan.

Magnis Energy Technologies (MNS)

MNS has appointed former Qantas Airways (ASX: QAN) and Caltex Australia company secretary Nawal Silfani as general counsel and company secretary, effective 30 November.

Ms Silfani is taking over form Frank Giordano, who resigned from his MNS company secretary role, effective yesterday.

MNS CFO Jurgen Behrens is taking on the company secretary role until Ms Silfani commences with MNS.

Duke Exploration (DEX)

Mineral explorer completed its ASX listing yesterday, following an \$8M IPO at 25c per share.

Opened at 29c and traded at 25c - 29c before settling at



Chemicals, Samsung Heavy Industries, Samsung SDS, Semiconductor International Manufacturing Co, Sumitomo Mitsui Financial and Toshiba.

In overnight corporate news, the European Commission charged **Amazon** with competition regulation breaches in its use of third-party seller data.

Eli Lilly rose on US FDA emergency use approval for its proposed antibody treatment for Covid-19.

Boeing benefited from speculation 737 MAX craft could be approved by US regulators to fly again as early as next week. The company confirmed further order cancellations, however.

Bond markets will be closed in the **US tonight** due to the Veterans Day government holiday.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1876.4	OZ	22	1.2
Silver (NY) (Dec)	24.462	OZ	0.76	3.2
Gold (LON) (9 Nov)	1867	OZ		
Platinum	878	OZ	18	2.1
WTI Crude (NYMEX Dec)	41.36	bbl	1.07	2.7
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Dec)	43.61	bbl	1.21	2.9
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (9 Nov)	119.84	t	2.21	1.9
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	6955	t	38	0.6
Nickel	15920	t	163	1.0
Aluminium	1911	t	15	0.8
Lead	1840	t	6	0.3
Zinc	2640	t	-2	-0.1
Tin	18283	t	0	0.0

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices remained decidedly above \$US40/bbl overnight, the US National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases head Anthony Fauci predicting Covid-19 vaccine would become available in the US for high-priority recipients next month.

US government agency the EIA in the meantime published new forecasts, including WTI averaging \$US38.24/bbl for 2020 and Brent \$US40.61/bbl, representing respective 1.3% and 1.4% cuts to the agency's October predictions.

The EIA also predicted US 2020 crude output would come in at 11.39MMbbl/d, down 860,000bbl/d from 2019.

Production is expected to fall further in 2021, to 11.1MMbbl/d.

In addition, a media report quoted data underscoring the impact of renewed Covid-19 containment restrictions and lockdowns on traffic in London, Madrid and Paris for November to date.

OPEC is expected to release its monthly oil market report **tonight**.

Tomorrow night, the International Energy Agency (IEA) is scheduled to publish its monthly oil report.

A weekly US petroleum inventories report, prepared by the EIA, and usually published Wednesday is also due tomorrow tonight, due to the government observance of Veterans' Day.

Gold – US Comex futures swung higher overnight, some data refocusing attention on economic growth challenges.

Key international data from overnight tomorrow through the end

26.5c.

3.11M shares changed hands across 290 transactions. 74.85M quoted securities.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Antisense Therapeutics	ANP	12 Nov
archTIS Ltd	AR9	12 Nov
Buderim Group	BUG	12 Nov
Crowd Media Holdings	CM8	12 Nov
eMetals Ltd	EMT	12 Nov
Galena Mining	G1A	12 Nov
Galilee Energy	GLL	12 Nov
Buddy Technologies	BUD	13 Nov
NeuroScientific Biopharmaceuticals	NSB	13 Nov
Suvo Strategic Minerals	SUV	13 Nov
Synlait Milk	SM1	13 Nov
Thomson Resources	TMZ	13 Nov
Emmerson Resources	ERM	16 Nov

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
Consolidated Financial Holdings	CWL	16 Oct
Cyclone Metals	CLE	19 Oct
Emerge Gaming	EM1	30 Oct
Firefinch Ltd	FFX	10 Nov
Fremont Petroleum Corporation	FPL	3 Nov
IXUP Ltd	IXU	6 Nov
MedAdvisor Ltd	MDR	6 Nov
Resource Generation	RES	26 Oct
Scout Security	SCT	6 Nov
Triple Energy	TNP	28 Oct

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
API	Today	2	100	3.51
RMD	Today	3.88	0	0.41
RND	Today	10	100	0.00
TBR	Today	20	100	0.00
WBC	Today	31	100	4.28
ACQ	Tomorrow	3.75	100	4.68
NAB	Tomorrow	30	100	5.32
PL8	Fri	0.4	100	4.84
MQG	Mon	135	40	3.09
OPC	Mon	10	100	0.55
QVE	Mon	1.1	100	4.94
ZIM	Mon	40.88	0	0.00



of the week is also expected to influence some sentiment, although geopolitical issues are expected to continue to remain in focus.

Base metals – overnight LME trade appeared influenced by a batch of economic data releases highlighting international economic growth concerns.

China's October **producer prices** and **CPI**, published yesterday, undershot expectations.

Producer prices were 2.1% lower than for October 2019. Inflation grew 0.5% year-on-year, but 0.3% deflation was recorded for the month.

In the meantime research agency Antaike reported a 5.4% year-on-year drop in *copper* cathode output from China's largest smelting operations, this attributed mostly to maintenance to two sizeable facilities.

Exchange Rates

	•		
CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7285	0.0008	0.11
EUR – USD	1.1818	0.0010	0.08
Australian Data Today			
Westpac/MelbInst	Consumer sentiment		Nov
US Data Tonight			

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

6 Nov

MBA mortgage applications

Japan	Machine tool orders (5pm AEDT)	Oct
	Need More Information?	

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Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	AST	Interim
	BIN	AGM
	CUV	AGM
	CBA	Sep Q
	CPU	AGM
	CEN	AGM
	ECX	Full year
	ED1	AGM
	FMG	AGM
	IFM	AGM
	MGX	AGM (3pm)
	NEA	AGM
	NCM	AGM
	РРК	AGM (3pm)
	WPL	Investor briefing
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Tomorrow	AVH	Sep Q (5.30am)
	BRG	AGM
	COE	AGM
	DTL	AGM
	EHL	AGM
	GDI	AGM
	GNC	Full year (w/cast tele 10am)
	MPL	AGM
	NEC	AGM
	SWM	AGM
	SHL	AGM
	TLS	Investor day
	VCX	AGM
	WES	AGM
	WOW	AGM
	XRO	Interim
Fri	MCR	AGM (4pm)
	NXT	AGM
	ORE	AGM
	PNV	AGM