

**Markets**

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEDT)	6724	-27	<b>-0.4</b>
<b>NZX 50</b>	11297	5	<b>0.1</b>
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	27932	8	0.0
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	3144	1	0.0
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	8408	2	0.0

**Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market commences today's trade ahead of first indications of results from the UK national election by ASX trade tomorrow, with a European Central Bank post-policy meeting press conference hosted by a new president keenly anticipated tonight, and amid an ongoing wait for any news on the 15 December deadline for US tariffs to be imposed on additional imports from China.

**Locally** today, the **Reserve Bank of Australia** (RBA) publishes its quarterly bulletin, including trends and forecasts, **11.30am** AEDT.

The RBA releases monthly card transactions at the same time.

Consumer inflation expectations, as contained in a monthly report from the Melbourne Institute are expected 11am.

Two new listings are also scheduled for today. *Please see p2 for details.*

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** was pushed lower.

US **gold** futures (February) gained.

**Iron ore** (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) continued to seesaw, returning beyond \$US92.00/t.

LME **copper** and **nickel** extended this week's gains, nickel sharply so. **Aluminium** swung higher.

The **\$A** was propelled to ~US68.80c after trading at ~US68.20c early yesterday evening.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	27911	30	<b>0.1</b>
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	3142	9	<b>0.3</b>
<b>NASDAQ</b>	8654	38	<b>0.4</b>
<b>FTSE 100</b>	7216	2	<b>0.0</b>
<b>DAX 30</b>	13147	76	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Shanghai Comp</b>	2924	7	<b>0.2</b>

**Overseas Markets Commentary**

Vacillating trade featured across major European and US equities markets overnight, but most key indices settled at or near session highs.

This, amid speculation US negotiators were seeking to push back the 15 December (Sunday) deadline for imposing new import taxes on additional goods from **China**.

In the UK, investors endured one last day of campaigning before

\* Online lending listing **11am** AEDT – **MME** \*

\* Online learning listing **12.30pm** AEDT – **OLL** \*

**Today's Stock Watch**
**Westpac Banking Corporation (WBC)**

AGM today. Could be more animated than usual.

**Macquarie Group (MQG)**

S&P Global Ratings has revised MQG and Macquarie Bank long-term issuer credit ratings to BBB+ from BBB, and to A+ from A respectively. Outlooks are stable.

**Charter Hall Group (CHC) / Charter Hall Long WALE REIT (CLW) / Charter Hall Retail REIT (CQR)**

BP Australia property portfolio included in \$1.25B worth of new CHC acquisitions. New guidance also lodged.

**Seek Ltd (SEK)**

Conducting a \$A150M floating rate notes offer. The notes will be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

**Redbubble Ltd (RBL)**

20% higher year-on-year December quarter-to-date revenue (floating basis) is below expectations.

**Bio-Gene Technology (BGT)**

Heralding laboratory trials confirming BGT's Flavocide can control the malaria-carrying Anopheles gambiae mosquito.

**Medlab Ltd (MDC)**

Expecting to commence online ORSBiotic and NanoCBD supply to the UK within three months, via an exclusive distribution with Cultech.

**Damstra Holdings (DTC)**

Planning to outlay \$4M to acquire Scenario Advantage Workforce from the Projection Group. DTC will fund the purchase from cash reserves.

**Resources**
**Lynas Corporation (LYC)**

Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) approval in hand for major LYC shareholder National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) to subscribe for its full entitlement (\$9.22M worth of shares) in LYC's entitlement offer.

**Energy**
**Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) / Rio Tinto (RIO)**

The Takeovers Panel is allowing ERA's entitlement offer to proceed, but has declared unacceptable circumstances and issued three remedial orders.

ERA does not agree with the declaration but will not dispute it.

68.39% ERA shareholder RIO is considering options, so that the ERA rehabilitation Ranger project program can continue.



booths open later today for general election voting. Last-minute polling predictions continued to impact views of likely UK-European Union separation/new referendum scenarios.

As anticipated, the **US Federal Reserve** maintained status quo at its policy meeting, chair Jerome Powell reiterating at the post-meeting press conference that the central bank retained a 'favourable' outlook view.

The Fed's quarterly projections, also published overnight, included 2.0% 2020 GDP growth and 1.9% for 2021. US unemployment rate was expected to remain steady, at ~3.5%.

Four of the current 17 policy decision-makers (on the FOMC) predicted one rate move, higher, during 2020.

Earlier, the US had announced new sanctions on an Iranian shipping company and airline, due to alleged support for Iran's nuclear development programme.

Also overnight, the UN Security Council met to consider **North Korea's** nuclear weapons activity, the US ambassador to the UN offering that the US was prepared to be 'flexible' in its negotiations with North Korea.

Overnight **US** data releases included the November CPI, which grew 0.3% for the month, following a 0.4% October increase.

Against November 2018 prices were 2.1% higher.

Weekly mortgage applications rose 3.8% following a 9.2% drop. Mean 30-year rates came in at 3.98% from 3.97%.

The Treasury's November budget statement revealed a \$US209B deficit against a \$US134B October shortfall.

**Tonight** in the **US**, weekly new unemployment claims are due, together with November producer prices.

Elsewhere, the **European Central Bank** (ECB) releases a post-policy meeting statement and hosts a press conference for the first time with Christine Lagarde as president.

Overnight, the euro rose ~0.4% against the \$US, this in part due to the US Federal Reserve policy statement.

Companies scheduled to report earnings include: Adobe, Broadcom, Costco Wholesale and Oracle Corp, all post-US trade.

Associated British Foods trades ex-dividend on the FTSE 100.

In overnight corporate news, **Saudi Aramco** (Saudi Arabian Oil Co) debuted on the Saudi (Tadawul) Stock Exchange 10% higher than its IPO, pushing its initial market cap to ~\$US1.88 trillion. A 10% rise is the most the Tadawul exchange allows in one session.

In the meantime, **Chevron** revealed that it expected December quarter write-downs to tally as much as \$US11B, mostly due to falling natural gas prices.

US specialist retailer **Home Depot** predicted 3.5% - 4% 2020 sales growth, undershooting expectations.

### Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
<b>Gold (NY) (Feb)</b>	<b>1475</b>	oz	6.9	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Silver (NY) (Mar)</b>	16.849	oz	0.147	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Gold (LON)</b>	<b>1465</b>	oz		
<b>Platinum</b>	<b>936</b>	oz	16	<b>1.7</b>
<b>WTI Crude (Jan)</b>	<b>58.76</b>	bbl	-0.48	<b>-0.8</b>
<b>Brent Crude (Feb)</b>	<b>63.72</b>	bbl	-0.62	<b>-1.0</b>

## Pre-Open Announcements

### Elders Ltd (\* ELD)

AGM today. Live webcast commencing 10.30am AEDT.

### AuMake International (\* AU8)

\$18M revenue achieved for October-November, against \$18.M for the September quarter. 20% gross margin, against 17.2%.

### MoneyMe Ltd (\* MME)

Online lending company scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEDT following a \$45M IPO at \$1.25 per share. 169.44M quoted shares.

### OpenLearning Ltd (\* OLL)

Online learning service scheduled to list on the ASX **12.30pm** AEDT following an \$8M IPO at 20c per share. 86.53M quoted shares.

### Brickworks Ltd (\* BKW)

Market overview lodged this morning in presentation format.

### Collins Foods (\* CKF)

CKF has appointed former Telstra Broadcast Services commercial director Christine Holman as an independent, non-executive director, effective today.

### 360 Capital Group (TGP)

TGP has appointed CFO Glenn Butterworth as joint company secretary.

Jennifer Vercoe remains company secretary.

### Pinnacle Investment Management (\* PNI)

Planning to outlay \$29.1M to acquire 25% of Coolabah Capital Investments from Bennett family private investment business AMB Capital Partners.

Pending performance over 18 months – 4.5 years, PNI may pay an additional \$5M.

### Investec Australia Property Fund (IAP)

Selling a Fortitude Valley, Brisbane property for \$94M. Proceeds are earmarked for debt reduction.

Additional details lodged post-trade yesterday.

### Mortgage Choice (MOC)

MOC has appointed Scott Stierli as company secretary, effective yesterday.

Mr Stierli takes over from Ian Parkes who resigned as company secretary yesterday but who remains MOC's CFO.

### Wellard Ltd (WLD)

Planning to the MV Ocean Shearer for \$US53.0M.

Intending to allocate \$US42.M worth of sale proceeds to debt reduction.

### Paradigm Biopharmaceuticals (PAR)

Update, including a timetable of 2020 plans, lodged pre-trade.

PAR has dropped the past two sessions, yesterday settling at \$3.13.



<b>Iron Ore</b> (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	<b>92.05</b>	t	0.69	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Copper</b> (LME,3mth,PM)	<b>6142</b>	t	51	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Nickel</b>	<b>13865</b>	t	440	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Aluminium</b>	<b>1761</b>	t	9	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Lead</b>	<b>1934</b>	t	20	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Zinc</b>	<b>2225</b>	t	1	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Tin</b>	<b>17145</b>	t	-245	<b>-1.4</b>

### Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – OPEC’s monthly report, published overnight, largely continued no change in demand predictions.

Weekly US petroleum inventories, also published overnight, by government agency the EIA, disappointed.

Key statistics included an 822,000bbl rise in stored crude, following a 4.9MMbbl draw the previous week.

Petrol stocks grew by 5.41MMbbl, this in part attributed to snow storms last week.

Daily net crude imports rose by 633,000bbl. Production fell 100,000bbl/d to 12.8MMbbl/d.

Meanwhile, **Saudi Aramco** debuted overnight on the Saudi Tadawul stock exchange, the company’s market cap immediately rising to ~\$US1.88 trillion. Daily gains are capped at 10% by the exchange, and Aramco reached this in early trade.

In addition, **Petrobras** revealed it had produced a record 3.1MMboe/d during November, pushing the likely 2019 tally to 2.7MMboe/d.

Tonight, the **International Energy Agency** (IEA) is due to publish its monthly oil report plus an ‘energy outlook’ report.

Sentiment will most likely be influenced tonight and tomorrow night by geopolitical factors, including any announcements out of China and/or the US regarding Sunday’s new tariffs deadline and outcomes from the UK general election.

**Gold** – prices gained overnight, settling higher prior to the US Federal Reserve post-policy meeting statement.

Trade following this proved volatile, Comex futures initially falling by ~\$US2.00/oz before being pushed more than \$US2.00 higher than settlement.

**Base metals** – overnight trade was largely pushed and pulled by geopolitical speculation, mostly in relation to the UK general election (later today - tonight) and the Sunday deadline for the US to impose import taxes on additional goods from China.

Yesterday, Japan’s November producer prices were reported 0.1% higher than for November 2018, and 0.2% higher than October 2019’s. October prices in turn had risen 1.1% for the month.

### Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.6874	-0.0004	<b>-0.06</b>
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.1134	0.0003	<b>0.03</b>

### Australian Data Today

RBA	Bulletin	DecQ
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### FBR Ltd (FBR)

\$5.5M better off following a select placement at 4.5c per share. FBR has traded at 4.4c – 4.7c for the week to date.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> Group (1<sup>ST</sup>)

Resuming from a trading halt with commitments for a \$4.5M institutional placement at 6.5c per share.

The placement was oversubscribed, resulting in a scale back. 1<sup>ST</sup> traded at 7.1c – 8.5c the five sessions prior to calling the trading halt.

### Terragen Holdings (\* TGH)

Agriculture biotech group completed its ASX listing yesterday following a \$20M IPO at 25c per share.

Opened at 26c and was pushed down to 19c before settling at 20c.

9.25M shares were traded across 484 transactions.

~177.1M quoted shares.

### Nitro Software (\* NTO)

Document productivity software specialist completed its ASX listing yesterday following a \$110.2M IPO at \$1.72 per share.

Opened at \$1.65 and traded as low as \$1.48 before settling at \$1.52.

2.2M shares changed hands across 568 trades.

Trading commenced on a deferred settlement basis.

188.93M quoted shares.

### M8 Sustainable (\* M8S)

Waste management and recycling specialist completed its ASX listing yesterday following a \$19.5M IPO at 20c per share.

Opened at 20c and traded as low as 16.5c before settling at 17c. 243,780 shares were traded across 16 transactions.

175.5 quoted shares.

### Resources

#### Anson Resources (\* ASN)

99.9% Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (battery-grade lithium carbonate) produced directly from concentrated lithium chloride brine using electrolysis. 85.7% recovery achieved.

#### Resolute Mining (RSG)

Heralding new drilling results for the Syama gold project Tabakoroni satellite prospect, Mali.

#### Spectrum Metals (SPX) / Venus Metals Corporation (VMC)

The SPX-VMC dispute has been listed for a WA Supreme Court trial, 3 – 12 March and 14 April 2020.

#### Ardea Resources (ARL)

Conference presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

ARL delivered the presentation in Perth, Western Australia yesterday.



Melbourne Institute	Inflation expectations	Dec
RBA	Card transactions	Nov

### US Data Tonight

Producer prices	Nov
Initial jobless claims	7 Dec

### Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

<b>Japan</b>	Machinery orders	Oct
<b>Germany</b>	CPI (final)	Nov
<b>Euro zone</b>	ECB post-policy meeting statement	Dec
Euro zone	Industrial production	Oct

### Need More Information?

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### Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Adveritas Ltd	AV1	12 Dec
FAR Ltd	FAR	12 Dec
Great Northern Minerals	GNM	12 Dec
Mako Gold	MKG	12 Dec
Centuria Industrial REIT	CIP	13 Dec
Evolve Education Group	EVO	13 Dec
Nusantara Resources	NUS	13 Dec
Prospect Resources	PSC	13 Dec

### Suspensions *(select)*

Company	Code	Since
Authorised Investment Fund	AIY	22 Nov
CoAssets Ltd	CA8	6 Dec
Ellex Medical Lasers	ELX	28 Nov
Murray River Organics Group	MRG	3 Dec
Peninsula Mines	PSM	11 Dec
Titan Minerals	TTM	21 Nov
TV2U International	TV2	26 Nov

### Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
<b>SHV</b>	Today	<b>20</b>	100	1.40
<b>TAP</b>	Today	<b>2.5</b>	100	0.00
BAL	Mon	60	100	0.00
PL8	Mon	0.5	100	5.10
CVF	Tue	0.46	100	7.28
MTS	Tue	6	100	5.11
BWP	30 Dec	9.02	0	4.32
CMA	30 Dec	4.45	0	5.80
GMG	30 Dec	15	0	tbc
GPT	30 Dec	13.37	0	tbc
MGR	30 Dec	6.1	0	3.44
RCT	30 Dec	10.6	0	5.38
RFF	30 Dec	2.71	0	5.89
TCL	30 Dec	31	6.45	3.84
VCX	30 Dec	7.7	0	6.09

### Reports & Events

*(select)*

When	Company	Report/Event
<b>Today</b>	<b>ELD</b>	AGM
	<b>WBC</b>	AGM



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<b>Tomorrow</b>	PDL	AGM
<b>Mon</b>	WOW	AGM
<b>Tue</b>	ANZ ORI	AGM AGM
<b>Wed</b>	NAB SLK	AGM AGM
<b>Thu (20 Dec)</b>	IPL	AGM
<b>30 Dec</b>	BEN	Interim