

# **Market Opener**

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Perth, Sydney ABN 95 092 989 083 | AFSL 247 100 Participant of ASX, Chi-X Australia, SSX & NSX

Markets				
SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6186	-13	-0.2	
NZX 50	12457	-30	-0.2	
DJIA Futures	28395	0	0.0	
S&P 500 Futures	3477	2	0.0	
NASDAQ Futures	11892	18	0.2	

#### **Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market opens Friday trade with today's national cabinet meeting cancelled, no major domestic or regional data releases, and the two US presidential candidates due to televise separate 'town hall' (Q&A) events from 11am AEDT.

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

US gold futures (August) settled slightly higher.

**Iron ore** (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) continued this week's decline.

LME **copper** picked up the pace of Wednesday's gain. Nickel turned lower. Aluminium swung higher.

The **\$A** fell to ~US70.80c early yesterday evening.

Earlier this morning, the \$A approached US71.00c.

#### **Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	28494	-20	-0.1
S&P 500	3483	-5	-0.2
NASDAQ	11714	-54	-0.5
FTSE 100	5833	-103	-1.7
DAX 30	12704	-324	-2.5
Shanghai Comp	3332	-9	-0.3

#### **Overseas Markets Commentary**

Major European equities markets dropped on opening overnight, amid ongoing announcements of new Covid-19 containment restrictions across many regions, including London and Paris, coupled with some disappointing sales and outlook figures in highprofile corporate earnings reports.

Underscoring concerns, the European Central Bank president described the euro zone as remaining 'in the long grass for the moment', and the European Commissioner left a keenly anticipated European Council meeting due to a positive Covid-19 test for a staff member.

The **World Health Organisation** (WHO) in the meantime, revealed a clinical trial hosted by the WHO found remdesivir delivered no 'substantial' positive impact on survival prospects for patients suffering from severe Covid-19.

Across the Atlantic, key US indices also fell on opening, but trended higher in second-half trade to settle near session peaks,

Friday, 16 October 2020

Please see disclaimer at end of this document

\* Telecoms listing 11am AEDT – ABB \*

## **Today's Stock Watch**

#### **GUD Holdings (GUD)**

September quarter sales are estimated 14% higher than for the September quarter 2019.

Refraining from providing any half-year or full-year guidance, however.

#### Boral Ltd (BLD) / Seven Group Holdings (SVW)

Chair Kathryn Fagg will stand for re-election at this year's AGM but will retire in 2021 following other board renewal.

In addition, 19.98% BLD shareholder SVW is withdrawing it nomination of SVW CFO Richard Richards as a BLD director.

#### Beacon Lighting (BLX)

24.3% higher year-on-year September quarter sales. Online sales grew 156.0%.

\$8.4M September quarter underlying NPAT.

#### Kazia Therapeutics (KZA)

Agreement secured for KZA to participate in the GBM AGILE study in glioblastoma, ahead of a potential registration for KZA's paxalisib.

### Aussie Broadband (\* ABB)

Telecommunications services and products provider scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEDT following a \$40M IPO at \$1.00 per share.

190.34M quoted shares.

#### Resources

#### Rio Tinto (RIO)

WA Pilbara iron ore shipments are estimated flat for January – September, at 241.7Mt. Production increased 2% to 247.4Mt. IOC iron ore pellets and concentrate fell 4% to 7.7Mt.

Bauxite output for the same period rose 7% to 42.8Mt and aluminium production declined 1% to 2.365Mt.

Declines were mostly due to Covid-19 containment restrictions and reduced demand.

A teleconference was scheduled to commence 8.30am AEDT.

#### **Azure Minerals (AZS)**

Heralding additional WA Pilbara Andover project nickel-copper sulphide mineralisation. AZS 60%; Creasy Group 40%.

#### Energy

#### New Hope Corporation (NHC)

A restructure means up to 75% of corporate office employees will be redundant by the end of November.

NHC has offered voluntary redundancies, in association with New Acland approvals uncertainty.

after the US president said he was prepared to raise the administration's **fiscal stimulus** proposal, under negotiation with key parliamentarians, beyond \$US1.8 trillion.

The Democrats are pushing for a \$US2.2 trillion package under House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi, but the Republican Senate majority leader Mitch Connell, who has fought against the Democrat plan, also rejected the notion of an increased offer from US administrators.

US investors were also faced with some material data releases, but further, were awaiting separate town hall events (televised Q&As) to be hosted in the evening (11am AEDT today) by the two candidates vying to be US president.

In addition, Covid-19 diagnosis tallies were reported at record levels in some US States.

In other developments, the UK's chief negotiator expressed disappointment at the wording of an European Union (EU) missive seeking to extend **UK-EU** talks into next week, in an effort to achieve agreement on key terms for relations from year's end, when the UK's EU separation transition period expires.

Among **overnight data** releases, **US** weekly new unemployment claims disappointed, rising to 898,000 from 845,000 the previous week.

September import and export prices were estimated 0.3% and 0.6% higher for the month respectively, and 1.1% and 1.8% lower against September 2019.

The NY Fed (Empire State) manufacturing index dropped to 10.5 from 17.

On the flip side, the Philadelphia Fed manufacturing index jumped to 32.3 from 15, following forecasts of a decline to 13.

**Tonight** in the **US**, retail sales, industrial production, wholesale inventories and a University of Michigan consumer sentiment initial October reading are due.

Elsewhere, the UK PM's deadline for substantial progress on an agreement to govern **EU-UK** trade relations is expected to be reviewed tonight, at the conclusion of a two-day European Council meeting.

IMF and World Bank group annual meetings continue in the meantime, through Monday.

Companies scheduled to report earnings tonight include: Bank of NY Mellon, Honeywell, Reliance Industries, Sandvik and Schlumberger.

Commodities						
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%		
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1908.9	OZ	1.6	0.1		
Silver (NY) (Dec)	24.224	oz	-0.17	-0.7		
Gold (LON) (14 Oct)	1910	oz				
Platinum	858	oz	2	0.2		
WTI Crude (NYMEX Nov)	40.96	bbl	-0.08	-0.2		
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Dec)	43.16	bbl	-0.16	-0.4		
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	121.13	t	-0.35	-0.3		
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	6785	t	66	1.0		
Nickel	15445	t	-85	-0.6		
Aluminium	1855	t	8	0.4		
Lead	1782	t	-3	-0.2		

### **Pre-Open Announcements**

#### SkyCity Entertainment Group (SKC)

Operational update for various venues and projects anticipated at today's AGM, scheduled to commence 11am AEDT.

#### MyFiziq Ltd (MYQ)

Heralding funding and payments inflow for the week. Details, in addition to the capital raising, lodged this morning.

#### Investec Australia Property Fund (IAP)

Proposed internal management terms agreed, and declared by an independent expert as fair and reasonable.

Pending unit holder approval of plans next month, IAP will pay Investec Group \$40M. This payment will come from an existing debt facility.

#### Redbubble Group (RBL)

RBL has lodged the transcript of yesterday's Q1 trading update conference call.

RBL appreciated 11.46% during high-volume trade yesterday, settling at \$5.35 after trading as high as \$6.02 intra-session. RBL closed out last week at \$4.10 and for the week to date has recorded strong rallies for three of four sessions.

#### QuickFee Ltd (QFE)

QFE's \$2.5M, 50c-per-share SPP attracted applications worth a total \$3.3M from 263 shareholders.

Applications have been accordingly scaled back.

QFE has traded at 48.5c – 53.5c for the week to date.

#### United Networks (UNL)

266.55M UNL shares are due to be released from voluntary escrow post-trade 21 October (Wednesday next week).

#### Resources

#### Western Areas (WSA)

Craig Readhead is retiring from the WSA board at the conclusion of this year's AGM.

In association, WSA has appointed corporate lawyer Yasmin Broughton as an independent non-executive director, effective yesterday.

### BHP Group (\* BHP)

September quarter operational statistics anticipated Tuesday next week (20 October).

#### **Trading Halts** Company Code Resuming **Alterity Therapeutics** ATH 16 Oct PPL 16 Oct **Pureprofile Ltd** WhiteHawk Ltd WHK 16 Oct **Dubber Corporation** DUB 19 Oct

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Zinc	2442	t	19	0.8
Tin	18355	t	35	0.2

#### **Commodities Commentary**

**Oil** – tighter Covid-19 containment restrictions across Europe and the UK, plus ongoing reports of increasing daily positive diagnosis tallies, impacted economic recovery and hence near-term crude demand views overnight.

In addition, the \$US strengthened.

Also under consideration was the US government agency the EIA's weekly US petroleum inventories report, published overnight, this including a 3.82MMbbl fall in stored crude, 1.63MMbbl draw on petrol stocks and 7.24MMbbl drop in the overall distillate (including distillate and heating oil) tally.

The figures were mostly attributed to the effects of Hurricane Delta, from which  $\sim$ 24% of offshore oil production was estimated to remain shut-in.

Overall US crude production was reported 500,000bbl/d lower for the week, at 10.5MMbbl/d.

Net crude imports dropped to 78,000bbl/d.

Meanwhile, some OPEC+ members were reportedly unhappy with production cuts achieved by some who had 'over-produced' previously and who had subsequently agreed to boost their cuts as compensation.

This, with a monitoring committee meeting scheduled for Monday, and the OPEC secretary general confirming demand was not picking up as quickly as anticipated earlier this year.

An OPEC policy meeting and OPEC+ meetings are scheduled for 30 November – 1 December.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig count is due tonight.

**Gold** – prices headed lower early overnight but were ultimately pushed a little higher for the session.

This, with the \$US ICE index up 0.5%.

Most of the recovery was attributed by market watchers to dipbuying.

**Base metals** – copper prices swung intrasession overnight, trading as low as \$US6668/t amid a strengthening \$US and following key data out of China

Overall sentiment was pushed and pulled by new data and the prospects of more, supply-demand indications, and industry news, in addition to Covid-19 and US presidential election campaign developments.

The International *Nickel* Study Group predicted a 117,000t surplus for 2020 and 68,000t more supply than demand in 2021.

Copper smelter Aurubis in the meantime revealed it would pay a \$US96/t premium above LME prices during 2021, the same as for 2020.

Among new data releases, **China**'s September producer prices reported yesterday, came in 2.1% lower than for September 2019, against expectations of a 1.8% year-on-year decline.

CPI, also released yesterday, was reported as 0.2% growth for the month, in line with expectations, and 1.7% year-on-year.

Key data releases are due out of both China and Japan Monday and this could produce some caution during tonight's trade.

China's releases will include GDP, industrial production, fixed asset

Holista CollTech	HCT	19 Oct
Perpetual Resources	PEC	19 Oct
GBM Resources	GBZ	20 Oct
Respiri Ltd	RSH	20 Oct
Dotz Nano	DTZ	21 Oct
Peak Resources	PEK	21 Oct
YPB Group	YPB	21 Oct

#### Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
The Agency Group Australia	AU1	5 Oct
Australia United Mining	AYM	14 Oct
Funtastic Ltd	FUN	5 Oct
Metalicity Ltd	MCT	2 Oct
New Energy Minerals	NXE	15 Oct
Pan Asia Metals	PAM	15 Oct
Quantum Graphite	QGL	2 Oct
Vault Intelligence	VLT	9 Oct

#### **Ex-Dividends**

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
TGA	Today	7.5	100	0.00
CDM	Mon	2	100	4.97
FGX	Mon	2.6	100	2.16
KSC	Mon	3	100	1.47
WAA	Mon	3	100	2.61
WGB	Mon	4	100	1.36
WLE	Mon	3.25	100	2.57
ACF	Wed	1.05	100	2.78
SNC	Wed	2.5	100	9.40
PBP	Thu	3	100	2.32
PPC	Fri	1	100	0.45

#### **Reports & Events**

(selected; all times AEDT)

	(	/
When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ILU	AGM
	RIO	Sep Q (8.30am)
	SKC	AGM (11am)
Mon	CL1	AGM
Tue	BAP	AGM
	BLX	AGM
	BHP	Sep Q
	СОН	AGM
	LOV	AGM
	MMS	AGM

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AGM

AGM

investment and	retail sales.			
	Exchange	Rates		
CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%	
AUD – USD	0.7092	-0.0070	-0.97	
EUR – USD	1.1708	-0.0038	-0.32	
			1	Ved
	US Data 1	onight		
Retail sales			Sep	
Industrial produ	uction		Sep	
Business invent	ories		Aug	'hu
Uni of Michigan	ı (initial)		Oct	
Oth	er Overseas Data	a Today & Tonigh	t	
Euro zone	Trade balance		Aug	
Euro zone	CPI (final)		Sep	
Euro zone	New car regis	trations	Sep	
	Need More In	formation?		
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		SGP	AGM
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		QAN	AGM
		WOR	AGM

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