

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6771	44	0.7
NZX 50	12170	-113	-0.9
DJIA Futures	31916	424	1.4
S&P 500 Futures	3923	45	1.2
NASDAQ Futures	13302	110	0.8

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens the second last trading day for February with an avalanche of high-profile domestic stocks reporting earnings or trading ex-dividend, material domestic data due late morning and a continuing buoyant \$A.

Overnight international equities trade leads are positive.

Price rallies were also recorded for select key commodities.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reports December quarter private sector capital spending **11.30am** AEDT.

A relative plethora of high-profile stocks trades **ex-dividend** today, including **BAP, BBN, BPT, BRG, JBH, SUL** and **WPL**. Please see pp3-4 for a detailed ex-dividend list.

In overnight commodities trade, both Brent and WTI **crude** traded decisively higher.

US **gold** futures declined for a second consecutive session, settling beneath \$US1800/oz.

Qingdao **iron ore** (CFR 62% fines) declined US34c/t to \$US172.71/t.

LME **copper** rallied yet further. **Nickel** and **aluminium** returned to rally mode.

The **\$A** appreciated to ~US79.60c after trading at ~US79.20c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	31962	425	1.4
S&P 500	3925	44	1.1
NASDAQ	13598	133	1.0
FTSE 100	6659	33	0.5
DAX 30	13976	111	0.8
Shanghai Comp	3564	-72	-2.0

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets settled decidedly higher overnight, despite some early vacillations.

In Covid-19 developments, a US FDA review of Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine, requiring refrigerator, rather than freezer, storage concluded the vaccine could reduce serious illness.

An external experts committee has been scheduled to meet

Today's Stock Watch
Qantas Airways (QAN)

\$1.08B interim net loss, against a \$445M net profit a year ago. 75.4% lower, \$2.33B income.

Ramsay Health Care (RHC)

48.5c fully franked interim dividend, against 62.5c a year ago. 12.5% lower, \$226M interim NPAT.

4.1% higher, \$6.61B income.

TPG Telecom (TPG)

7.5c fully franked final dividend. \$741M full year NPAT, from a \$280M net loss a year ago.

24% higher, \$4.35B revenue.

Flight Centre (FLT)

\$233.25M interim net loss.

89.7% lower, \$1.53B revenue.

98c NTA, against \$4.92.

Atlas Arteria (ALX)

\$A55.81M full year net loss, against a \$9.8M loss a year ago. 39% lower, \$106.65M income. \$1.61 NTA, from \$1.07.

In addition, ALX has secured a new debt facility and capital structure for the Warnow Tunnel.

Link Administration Holdings (LNK)

4.5c, 60%-franked interim dividend, against 6.5c fully franked a year ago. 12% higher, \$30.9M interim NPAT.

4% lower, \$597.025M revenue.

Zip Co (Z1P)

\$455.93M interim net loss, against a \$30.34M loss a year ago. 130% higher, \$160.03M revenue. 12.12c NTA, against 29.06c.

Afterpay Ltd (APT)

\$76.5M interim net loss, against a \$28.9M net loss a year ago. 89% higher, \$417.2M income.

Resources
Iluka Resources (ILU)

2c fully franked final dividend, against 4.21c (adj) a year ago. \$2.41B full year NPAT, from a \$299.7M net loss a year ago. 20.6% lower, \$947M mineral sands revenue. \$50.2M net cash.

Sandfire Resources (SFR)

8c fully franked interim dividend, from 5c a year ago.

78% higher, \$60.785M interim NPAT.

14% higher, \$355.56M revenue. \$3.45 NTA, from \$3.00.

Regis Resources (RRL)

4c fully franked interim dividend, against 8c a year ago.

9% lower, \$84.81M interim NPAT.

8% higher, \$400.88M gold sales.



overnight tomorrow to decide on whether to recommend the FDA authorise the vaccine's use in the US.

In the meantime, Germany, Greece and India issued domestic virus containment warnings.

US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell reiterated to a US House of Representatives finance committee what he had told a Senate banking committee the previous day, that monetary policy needed to remain supportive for some time yet in order to achieve sustainable US economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. He again sought to allay fears associated with inflation and bond yields.

For his part, **Bank of England** (BoE) governor Andrew Bailey told UK Treasury select committee parliamentarians the BoE viewed the economy as performing better than anticipated given the current extended restrictions.

He also warned the European Union (EU) was endeavouring to wrest some financial 'power' from the UK.

Among overnight **data** releases, **Germany's** final December quarter GDP estimate exceeded expectations, representing 0.3% growth for the three months, following expectations of a 0.1% advance.

Against the December quarter 2019, the GDP was down 3.7%.

A 10-year bond auction produced a -0.32% yield, from -0.54%.

In the **US**, January new home sales were calculated 4.3% higher for the month, following a 5.5% December jump and forecasts of a new 2% rise.

Weekly mortgage applications dropped 11.4% after falling 5.1% the previous week.

The mean 30-year mortgage rate rose to 3.08% from 2.98%.

Tonight in the **US**, an updated December quarter GDP estimate (second of three), January durable goods orders, January pending home sales, weekly new unemployment claims and a regional manufacturing index are due.

Companies listed to report earnings later today and tonight include: Airbnb, Anglo American, Anheuser-Busch Inbev, Associated British Foods, Autodesk, AXA, BAE Systems, Bayer, Best Buy, Dell, HP, Keurig Dr Pepper, Kogas, Moderna, Monster Beverage, Salesforce.com, Standard Chartered and Vale.

AstraZeneca, Barclays, Diageo and Unilever trade ex-dividend on the FTSE 100.

In overnight corporate news, **Nissan** announced vehicle production in the UK was being adversely impacted by a semiconductor shortage, and it would again need to temporarily stand down staff.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1797.9	oz	-8	-0.4
Silver (NY) (Mar)	27.86	oz	0.17	0.6
Gold (LON) (22Feb)	1807	oz		
Platinum	1258	oz	27	2.2
WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr)	63.22	bbl	1.55	2.5
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Apr)	67.04	bbl	1.67	2.6
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (23 Feb)	164.16	t	0.29	0.2
Copper (LME Ind)	9476	t	266	2.9

Pre-Open Announcements

Smartgroup Corporation (* SIQ)

17.5c final and 4c special dividends, each fully franked, following a 21.5c final dividend a year ago.

32.7% lower \$41.325M full year NPAT.

13.4% lower, \$216.332M revenue.

NEXTDC Ltd (* NXT)

\$17.54M interim net loss, following a \$4.89M loss a year ago.

27% higher, \$124.46M revenue.

\$3.60 NTA from \$2.46.

Service Stream (* SSM)

2.5c fully franked interim dividend, against 4c a year ago.

40.5% lower, \$16.24M interim NPAT.

17.7% lower, \$409.90M revenue.

2.56c NTA from 2.11c.

Ambertech Ltd (* AMO)

1.5c fully franked interim dividend, from no dividend a year ago.

\$3.62M interim NPAT, from a \$1.58M net loss a year ago.

52.1% higher, \$38.94M revenue. 14c NTA, from 7.6c.

Macquarie Telecom Group (MAQ)

5% higher, \$A7.04M interim NPAT.

9% higher, \$143.57M revenue.

\$4.60 NTA from \$4.37.

Catapult Group International (CAT)

\$US4.54M interim net loss, following a \$US3.25M loss a year ago. 4% lower, \$US33.27M revenue. US5.8c NTA from US5c.

Finbar Group (FRI)

Flat, 2c fully franked interim dividend.

39.45% lower \$4.02M interim NPAT.

23.29% lower, \$40.96M revenue.

89.39c NTA against 90.75c.

\$31.50M cash and equivalents.

Fineos Corporation Holdings (FCL)

Partners Life has chosen to use FCL's claims management system for life insurance and medical claims over an initial five-year period.

FCL also reported post-trade yesterday a €5.08M interim net loss, following a €112,814 net profit a year ago.

30% higher, €52.58M revenue. €0.07 NTA against €0.13.

Resources

EcoGraf Ltd (* EGR)

Plans for a battery anode materials facility in Europe (in addition to the facility in Western Australia) lodged this morning.

Nickel Mines (* NIC)

A2c final dividend, from no dividend a year ago.



Nickel	19870	t	518	2.7
Aluminium	2203	t	57	2.7
Lead	2128	t	7	0.3
Zinc	2867	t	13	0.4
Tin	26650	t	-70	-0.3

Commodities Commentary

Oil – both Brent crude and WTI rallied overnight, Brent trading as high as \$US67.30/bbl intra-session, and WTI at \$US63.37/bbl, the most for each since 8 January 2020.

A weekly US petroleum inventories report, published overnight by government agency the EIA, included a 1.285MMbbl rise in stored crude, following a 7.258MMbbl draw the previous week.

During the adverse weather in the US south east, refinery crude use had dropped the equivalent of ~2.6Mbb/d.

Petrol stocks rose by 12,000bbl, with petrol production dropping by 1.295MMbbl/d.

Crude imports increased by 249,000bbl/d.

Overnight Tuesday, post-US settlement, industry group the API released a weekly report which included an estimated 1.026MMbbl rise in stored crude last week.

Gold – a weaker \$US failed to support Comex futures to an overnight gain, due to buoyant bond yields.

Tonight's December quarter US GDP estimate (second of three) is keenly anticipated and could swing sentiment.

Base metals – copper continued yet higher, supported not only by recent inventory figures and anticipated global demand pickup, but by reports of China broker buying and also by a weaker \$US.

In addition, Germany reported stronger-than-anticipated December quarter GDP growth, supported overnight sentiment in general.

In producer news, Norilsk Nickel revealed operations at two mines producing copper, nickel, palladium and platinum in Siberia have had to be reduced, due to underground water.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7966	-0.0002	-0.02
EUR – USD	1.2167	-0.0004	-0.03

Australian Data Today

ABS	Private sector capital spending	Dec Q
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US Data Tonight

GDP (second estimate of three)	Dec Q
Durable goods orders	Jan
Initial jobless claims	20 Feb
Pending home sales	Jan
Kansas City Fed manufacturing	Feb

95.8% higher, \$US110.6M full year NPAT.

121.8% higher, \$US523.5M sales revenue.

NIC has traded higher each of the past three sessions, settling at \$1.485 yesterday, after closing out 2019 at \$1.105.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Babylon Pump & Power	BPP	25 Feb
Broo Ltd	BEE	25 Feb
Integrated Payment Technologies	IP1	25 Feb
Netcentric Ltd	NCL	25 Feb
Orion Minerals	ORN	25 Feb
Veris Ltd	VRS	25 Feb
AustChina Holdings	AUH	26 Feb
Berkeley Energia	BKY	26 Feb
Golden State Mining	GSM	26 Feb
MPower Group	MPR	26 Feb
Torian Resources	TNR	26 Feb

Suspensions *(select)*

Company	Code	Since
Atrum Coal	ATU	11 Feb
Calima Energy	CE1	16 Feb
MSM Corporation International	MSM	9 Feb
Myanmar Metals	MYL	3 Feb
Pacific Nickel Mines	PNM	3 Feb
Pilot Energy	PGY	12 Feb

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
BAP	Today	9	100	1.33
BBN	Today	5.8	100	1.96
BPT	Today	1	100	1.22
BRG	Today	13	100	1.42
CL1	Today	2.5	100	2.79
ECP	Today	2	100	1.62
EGG	Today	10.5	100	1.90
GCI	Today	0.68	0	4.28
IBC	Today	1	100	1.92
JBH	Today	180	100	1.90
MOC	Today	4	100	5.04
PAI	Today	4	100	3.65
PGH	Today	5	65	0.92
PMC	Today	3	100	3.95
QRI	Today	0.81	0	6.11
SUL	Today	33	100	1.64
TGG	Today	1	100	3.83
VIP	Today	0.18	0	0.00

**Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight**

Japan	Leading economic index (final, 4pm AEDT)	Dec
Germany	GfK consumer sentiment	Mar
Euro zone	Economic confidence	Feb
Euro zone	Household & business lending	Jan

Need More Information?

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WPL	Today	15.48	100	4.82
ADA	Tomorrow	2.75	0	2.48
AWC	Tomorrow	3.68	100	5.60
BSL	Tomorrow	6	0	0.83
CIN	Tomorrow	26	100	4.00
COL	Tomorrow	33	100	3.60
FID	Tomorrow	12.3	100	3.86
JLG	Tomorrow	2.2	100	1.19
LLC	Tomorrow	15	37.2	2.57
MAM	Tomorrow	2	100	1.67
MCP	Tomorrow	3.5	100	9.09
MOT	Tomorrow	0.83	0	7.42
MXT	Tomorrow	0.65	0	4.81
NAC	Tomorrow	1.4	100	5.15
NSC	Tomorrow	1.25	100	5.70
PGG	Tomorrow	0.68	0	4.97
PTL	Tomorrow	1	100	5.50

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	A2M	Interim
	APT	Interim (audio w/cast 10am)
	ALX	Full year
	AIZ	Interim (w/cast tele 8am)
	BVS	Interim (w/cast & tele 9am)
	CDD	Interim
	CCV	Interim
	CMW	Interim
	FWD	Interim (tele midday)
	FLT	Interim (tele 9.30am)
	GNE	Interim
	GOZ	Interim
	ILU	Full year (tele 10am)
	LNK	Interim
	MTO	Interim (tele 10.30am)
	OBL	Interim
	PBH	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
	PRT	Interim (tele 9am)
	QAN	Interim
	QUB	Interim (tele 10.30am)
	RHC	Interim
	REH	Interim (tele 10am)
	RRL	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)
	SFR	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
	SGP	Interim
	TPG	Full year (w/cast 10am)
	VUK	AGM (9am GMT)
	WGN	Interim (tele 9.30am)
	WPP	Interim (tele 10am)



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	Z1P	Interim (tele 11am)
	ZNO	Interim (w/cast tele 1pm)
Tomorrow	AFG	Interim (tele 11am)
	ALL	AGM
	DBI	Full year (tele 11am)
	HSN	Interim (tele 11am)
	LYC	Interim (w/cast 11am)
	SHV	AGM
	SWK	Interim (tele 11am)
	TLX	Full year (tele 8am)
	TGP	Interim
	WPR	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)