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# **Market Opener**

Monday, 26 February 2024

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Please see disclaimer at end of this document

#### Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7605	4	0.1
NZX 50	11674	-46	-0.4
DJIA Futures	39189	0	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	5102	0	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	17991	0	0.0

#### **Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market opens a new week's trade with new data in hand from China, influential domestic stocks reporting earnings and trading ex-dividend, and mixed overnight Friday international commodities and equities trade leads.

US equities markets settled barely – to - slightly changed overnight Friday.

Since overnight Friday trade, **Israel** has reportedly vowed an ultimate full Rafah, **Gaza** assault, regardless of a hostages deal.

In addition, the US and UK conducted multiple strikes within Yemen, targeting Houthi facilities.

Written confirmation cited Houthi vessel attacks as 'a threat to the global economy', and listed supporters for the new US and UK strikes, these including Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

The Houthi response included a vow to launch further 'military operations against all hostile targets in the Red and Arab seas'.

**Locally** today, no major economic data releases are scheduled for release.

Further high-profile earnings reports across a variety of sectors will move select trade, however.

In addition, greater than half a dozen large-cap stocks trade **ex-dividend** today. *Please see pp3-4 for a detailed ex-dividends list.* 

**Regionally**, post-ASX trade Friday, **China** reported an 11.7% year-on-year drop in January foreign direct investment following an 8.0% overall drop for 2023.

In overnight Friday **commodities** trade, **oil** turned to drop by 2.5% – 2.7%.

US **gold** (Comex) futures swung 0.9% higher, closing above \$US2049.0/oz.

**Iron ore** (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) fell by 0.8% to settle beneath \$US127/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** turned slightly lower. **Nickel** ultimately continued higher but more moderately so. **Aluminium** extended Thursday's fall.

The **\$A** maintained US65.60c after trading at US65.50c - US65.75c early Friday evening.

#### **Overseas Markets**

INDEX CLOSE +/- %

## **Today's Stock Watch**

## Superloop Ltd (SLC) / Aussie Broadband (ABB)

19.9% SLC shareholder ABB has announced an indicative 0.21 ABB-for-one SLC share takeover proposal for SLC.

ABB says it acquired its SLC interest at 95c per share.

SLC traded at 73.5c – 86c last week and ABB at \$3.77 - \$4.62.

Meanwhile, SLC has reported an \$18.81M interim net loss following a \$24.49M 1H FY23 net loss.

Revenue grew 30.6% to \$193.135M.

Anticipating 31% - 42% FY24 EBITDA growth.

Customer numbers grew by (a net) 9000 in January.

## **Suncorp Group (SUN)**

34c fully franked interim dividend from 33c a year ago. 5.4% higher, \$582M interim NPAT. 22.9% higher, \$9.645B revenue.

## **Endeavour Group (EDV)**

Flat, 14.3c fully franked interim dividend. 3.6% lower, \$351M interim NPAT. 2.5% higher, \$6.67M revenue.

### nib holdings (NHF)

15c, fully franked interim dividend from 13c a year ago. 19% higher, \$106.4M interim NPAT. 13% higher, \$1.7B revenue.

## TPG Telecom (TPG)

Flat, 9c fully franked final dividend.

90% drop in full year NPAT to \$49M. 2% higher, \$5.53B revenue. Anticipating \$1.95B - \$2.025B FY24 EBITDA (exclone-offs), against \$1.923B for FY23.

#### Waypoint REIT (WPR)

\$79.1M full year net loss from a \$133.8M FY22 NPAT.

2.6% lower, \$164.2M revenue.

\$2.73 NTA from \$3.02. \$927.6M drawn debt.

## PointsBet Holdings (PBH)

\$32.66M continuing operations interim net loss from a \$53.57M 1H FY23 net loss. 0.36 NTA from 1.16c.

#### Kogan.Com Ltd (KGN)

7.5c fully franked interim dividend from no 1H FY23 dividend. \$8.68M interim NPAT from a \$23.82M 1H FY23 net loss. 9.9% lower, \$248.22M revenue. 74c NTA from 69c. \$83.3M cash.

#### Resources

## Alumina Ltd (AWC)

Alcoa has presented AWC with an indicative 0.02854 common Alcoa-for-one AWC share takeover proposal. 20 business day exclusivity. AWC traded at \$1.005 - \$1.11 last week.

#### Lynas Rare Earths (LYC)

74% lower, \$39.5M interim NPAT. 37% lower, \$234.8M revenue. \$2.3465 NTA from \$1.9902. \$934.2M cash.



Dow Jones	39132	62	0.2
S&P 500	5089	2	0.0
NASDAQ	15997	-45	-0.3
FTSE 100	7706	22	0.3
DAX 30	17419	49	0.3
Shanghai Composite	3005	17	0.6

#### **Overseas Markets Commentary**

Cautious trade featured across major European, UK and US equities markets overnight Friday, amid economic data releases that largely proved lacklustre at best, and no new major indicators out of the US.

Earlier Friday, **China**'s January residential property price index fell for a seventh consecutive month, this time by 0.7% year-on-year, as anticipated, following a 0.4% annualised December decline.

Later, China reported an 11.7% year-on-year January drop in direct foreign investment, following an 8.0% decline for 2023.

In overnight Friday economic data releases, a **euro zone** report placed January consumer inflation expectations for the next 12 months at 3.3% from the 3.2% nominated following December's survey.

In **Germany**, the final December quarter GDP reading confirmed a 0.3% pullback for the three months following a flat result for the September quarter 2023.

On an annualised basis December quarter GPD was down 0.2% following the September quarter's annualised 0.3% fall, the final December quarter estimate representing technical recession.

The IFO business climate index for February rose to 85.5, in line with consensus, from 85.2 recorded for January.

The current conditions component index remained flat at 86.9.

The expectations component index notably rose by 0.6 to 84.1.

In the **UK**, earlier Friday, the GfK February consumer sentiment index was reported at -21 from -19 for January.

In the **US**, no material economic data was reported.

**Tonight** in the **US**, the Dallas Fed February manufacturing index is due, together with January new home sales.

Elsewhere, European Central Bank (ECB) president Christine Lagarde is scheduled to speak publicly, ahead of next week's (7 March) monetary policy meeting.

Companies listed to report earnings or provide updates later today and tonight include Workday and Zoom Video Communications.

In overnight Friday and weekend corporate news, Warren Buffett described Berkshire Hathaway as a fortress, and acknowledged the group's conservatism, warning of elevated expectations.

#### **Commodities**

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Apr)	2049.4	OZ	18.70	0.9
Silver (COMEX 5000 Mar)	22.98	OZ	0.20	0.9
Platinum (Spot)	899	OZ	1	0.1
WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr)	76.49	bbl	-2.12	-2.7
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Apr)	81.62	bbl	-2.05	-2.5
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	126.85	t	-0.97	-0.8

## **Pre-Open Announcements**

## 4DMedical Ltd (\* 4DX)

Distribution agreement secured with radiology marketplace Blackford Analysis.

Details lodged this morning.

## Michael Hill International (\* MHJ)

1.75c interim dividend from 4c a year ago.

59% lower, \$15.39M interim NPAT.

0.2% lower, \$362.69M customer contract revenue.

35c NTA from 49c.

Sales (including for Bevilles) for the first seven weeks of 2H FY24 are up 9.5% year-on-year.

## Monadelphous Group (MND)

\$140M worth of new contracts and contract extensions secured recently.

Details lodged this morning.

## Waterco Ltd (WAT)

7c fully franked interim dividend from 5c a year ago.

40% higher, \$A6.98M interim NPAT.

68.7% higher, \$118.81M revenue.

\$21.87M cash.

\$3.49 NTA from \$3.22.

## LaserBond Ltd (LBL)

Paying \$10M in cash and shares for the WA-headquartered Gateway Parts & Equipment acquisition announced pre-trade Friday, along with LBL's interim results.

LBL was pushed 13.79% lower Friday, settling at 75c after closing out the previous week at 84.5c.

#### AJ Lucas Group (AJL)

\$A2.53M interim net loss from a \$156.025M FY23 interim loss.

6.2% lower, \$77.57M revenue.

## Seafarms Group (SFG)

Resuming from a trading halt with the intention of appealing a Federal Court decision in favour of Canstruct to set aside a deed of company arrangement with respect to Project Sea Dragon (under administration).

SFG traded at 0.4c immediately prior to the trading halt.

#### **Resources**

## Patriot Battery Metals (\* PMT)

Further drilling results lodged this morning, together with a conference presentation.

### **Energy**

## Yancoal Australia (\*\* YAL)

Webcast teleconference scheduled to commence **11am** AEDT. 32.5c fully franked final dividend following 70c a year ago. 49% lower, \$1.819B interim NPAT.

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26% lower, \$7.78B revenue.



Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	8567	t	-18	-0.2
Nickel	17488	t	101	0.6
Aluminium	2177	t	-19	-0.9
Lead	2095	t	9	0.4
Zinc	2404	t	20	8.0
Tin	26382	t	217	8.0

#### **Commodities Commentary**

*Oil* – overnight Friday prices dropped early.

Higher-for-longer US interest rates commentary continued following public appearances from numerous US Federal Reserve officials over the second half of the week.

Further, a string of underwhelming international economic indicators, including for China, and ongoing commentary of recessionary seasons in the UK and Germany, also weighed on demand views.

A US weekly petroleum drill rig report published by Baker Hughes overnight Friday, included six additional oil rigs in operation.

**Gold** – a slightly weaker \$US during gold trade and softer equities sentiment supported an overnight Friday turn higher for gold prices.

Key inflation and GDP updates this week, together with material data out of China, are expected to drive some sentiment this week.

**Base metals** – base metals sentiment proved mixed overnight Friday, reacting to new property price and FDI figures out of China, currency moves, supply updates and outlook commentary. Aluminium's further decline was attributed in part to no curbs on industrial metals from Russia in dozens of new sanctions announced Friday.

Nickel fell early, this put down to the same reason, but was later pushed higher.

## **Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6564	-0.0009	-0.14
EUR – USD	1.0820	-0.0002	-0.02

## **US Data Tonight**

Dallas Fed manufacturing	Feb
New home sales	Jan

#### Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

UK	CBI distributive trades	Feb

## **Need More Information?**

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\$1.4B cash balance; \$1.25B net cash.

\$6.29 NTA from \$5.98.

'Coal markets appear relatively balanced.'

Resources and reserves also lodged post-trade Friday.

In addition, YAL has appointed former Commonwealth Bank of Australia (ASX: CBA) natural resources division metals and mining origination head Debra Bakker as an independent director, commencing 1 March (Friday).

### **Trading Halts**

Company	Code	Resuming
Freehill Mining	FHS	27 Feb
Heramed Ltd	HMD	26 Feb
Hillgrove Resources	HGO	26 Feb
Island Pharmaceuticals	ILA	26 Feb
Minbos Resources	MNB	26 Feb
Odessa Minerals	ODE	27 Feb
PolarX Ltd	PXX	27 Feb
Siren Gold	SNG	26 Feb
Top End Energy	TEE	27 Feb
Trinex Minerals	TX3	27 Feb
Western Yilgarn	WYX	26 Feb

#### Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Advanced Health Intelligence	AHI	5 Feb
Allegra Medical Technologies	AMT	23 Feb
Credit Intelligence	CI1	12 Feb
DomaCom Ltd	DCL	12 Feb
Enova Mining	ENV	22 Feb
European Lithium	EUR	6 Feb
Lion One Metals	LLO	14 Feb
Moab Minerals	MOM	5 Feb
Pan Asia Metals	PAM	1 Feb
Revasum Inc	RVS	5 Feb
Reward Minerals	RWD	7 Feb

#### **Ex-Dividends**

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
ANN	Today	25.21	0	1.64
AZJ	Today	9.7	60	3.80
CDA	Today	10.5	100	1.80
CEN	Today	12.82	0	4.10
DMP	Today	55.5	0	2.53
HMC	Today	6	0	1.74
HSN	Today	5	46	2.04
HUM	Today	0.75	100	3.85
IFM	Today	2.2	100	2.38



MEA	Today	3.0	100	3.64
STO	Today	26.8	0	4.82
WTN	Today	0.52	0	1.53
AMC	Tomorrow	18.98	0	5.24
BFL	Tomorrow	36.41	0	8.95
BGA	Tomorrow	4	100	1.74
EVN	Tomorrow	2	100	1.36
IPH	Tomorrow	16	35	2.60
MAF	Tomorrow	14	100	4.52
MEC	Tomorrow	3.5	100	9.26
PWR	Tomorrow	8.5	100	9.02
TAH	Tomorrow	1	100	3.31

## **Reports & Events**

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ABY	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
	ADH	Interim (tele 11am)
	AHL	Interim
	AIM	Interim
	AVA	Interim (webinar 10.30am)
	DBI	Full year
	EDV	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
	IPG	Interim (webinar 11am)
	JAN	Interim (webcast 9am)
	LAU	Interim
	LYC	Interim (webcast 10am)
	MHJ	Interim (webcast 9.30am)
	NAN	Interim (tele 11am)
	NHF	Interim (w/cast tele 9am)
	NXD	Interim (webcast 10am)
	PBH	Interim
	PPE	Interim (w/cast tele 10.15am)
	PPS	Interim (webcast 10am)
	SLC	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
	SSG	Interim (tele midday)
	SUN	Interim (webcast 10am)
	TPG	Full year (webcast 10.30am)
	WPR	Full year (webcast tele 10am)
Tomorrow	ABC	Full year (webcast 10.30am)
	APX	Full year (w/cast tele 11am)
	ATG	Interim (webcast 9.30am)
	AWC	Full year
	CCX	Interim (tele 9.30am)
	COL	Interim; Dec Q (webcast 10am)
	CNU	Interim (w/cast tele 8am)
	DDR	Full year (w/cast tele 11am)
	DGL	Interim
	GEM	Full year (w/cast tele 9am)



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HLI	Full year
HLS	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)
IPD	Interim (tele 11am)
JLG	Interim (tele 10am)
NTD	Interim
PNV	Interim (webcast 2pm)
PSQ	Interim (tele 11am)
REH	Interim (webcast 9.30am)
SDR	Interim
SLH	Interim (webinar 9.30am)
STX	Interim
TRJ	Interim (webinar 9.15am)
WDS	Full year (tele 9am)
ZIP	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)