

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6413	69	1.1
NZX 50	11495	392	3.5
DJIA Futures	26468	1104	4.4
S&P 500 Futures	3065	114	3.9
NASDAQ Futures	8791	337	4.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences today's trade with the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) convening a policy meeting and announcing outcomes this afternoon, a batch of domestic data due in the meantime, and following sharp overnight rallies for US equities and some key commodities.

The **RBA's post-policy meeting statement** is due **2.30pm AEDT**.

In addition locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABA) is scheduled to report January **building approvals** and December quarter **current account** details **11.30am AEDT**.

A January **homes sales** report is also anticipated during the morning, and a weekly **consumer sentiment** reading is due pre-trade.

Companies trading ex-dividend include: **AMC** and **MPL**. *Please see pp3-5 for a detailed list.*

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** was propelled significantly higher.

US **gold** futures (CME April) also bounced.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) gained, trading beyond \$US86.05/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper**, **nickel** and **aluminium** rallied in varying degrees.

The **\$A** fell below US65.30c earlier this morning after trading at US65.50c early yesterday evening, and could swing today.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	25703	1294	5.1
S&P 500	3090	136	4.6
NASDAQ	8952	385	4.5
FTSE 100	6655	74	1.1
DAX 30	11858	-32	-0.3
Shanghai Comp	2971	91	3.2

Overseas Markets Commentary

Swinging and vacillating trade featured early across most major European and US equities markets overnight, amid additional international monetary and policy Covid-19 – related support assurances, another plethora of Covid-19 development reports, the release of an improved select clutch of PMIs, and following reports of new missile launches from North Korea.

Australia – RBA post-policy meeting statement - 2.30pm AEDT
Today's Stock Watch
Next Science (NXS)

Bactisure surgical lavage CEW mark approval in hand, enabling sales in Europe.

NXS has previously secured Zimmer Biomet as distributor.

Creso Pharma (CPH)

JV agreements between CPH and the Cohen Group, known as the Israeli JV agreements, have been terminated, with the Cohen Group indicating it intends to pursue damages for alleged CPH breaches of its JV obligations.

CPH disputes the breach allegations.

Meanwhile, CPH has agreed commercial terms for Farmagon to distribute CPH products in Scandinavia.

CPH has traded lower the past six sessions, yesterday settling at 8c.

THC Global Group (THC)

Australian Office of Drug Control permit in hand for an expansion of commercial cultivation of medicinal cannabis.

THC says the initial expansion, at the company's Bundaberg, Queensland facility, will provide product for an additional 3000 patients.

THC is resuming from a trading halt, having last traded at 31c.

SciDev Ltd (SDV)

\$A1M trial order in hand from Canada-headquartered Syncrude.

The trial will involve the use of SDV chemistry in Syncrude's tailings centrifuge plant, Canada.

Wide Open Agriculture (WOA)

Commercial production, sales and distribution of oat milk are expected to be underway mid-year.

WOA has completed a trial test, producing 5000L of the milk in Western Australia. Market testing is set to commence with multiple potential customers.

Dimerix Ltd (DXB)

The Therapeutic Goods Association's (TGA) special access scheme is enabling DMX-200 Phase 2 trial patients to continue treatment, on the recommendation of their doctors.

Resources
Image Resources (IMA)

WA Boonanning mineral sands sales have resumed to off-take partners in China, as processing operations ramp following the extended Lunar new year break.

Talga Resources (TLG)

Three-year environmental approval in hand for Stage one (trial) mining at TLG's Vittangi graphite project, northern Sweden.



Key US indices rallied notably in late trade, settling with striking gains and at session highs.

The **World Bank** and **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** had earlier pledged emergency funding support for member countries. In addition, the **G7** scheduled a finance ministers and central bankers teleconference for this evening (AEDT), revealing it would be led by US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell and US treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Investors appeared also to expect China would introduce further stimulus measures, and to accept recent assurances from several central banks, including the US Federal Reserve, the Bank of Japan and the Bank of England, that they were monitoring the impacts of Covid-19 and retained the capacity to support their respective economies.

The finance ministers of major European G7 members France and Germany also released support statements.

Meanwhile the **OECD** (Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development) reduced its 2020 global growth forecast from 2.9% to 2.4%, and warned a protracted and more intense Covid-19 outbreak could growth cut to 1.5%

Among overnight data releases, the **UK** reported a 51.7 February manufacturing PMI, following 50.0 for January.

Across the channel, the **euro zone** had earlier released a 49.2 manufacturing PMI, against 47.9, returning closer to the contraction/expansion cut-off of 50.0.

Germany's February manufacturing PMI also improved, from 45.3 to 48.0.

In the **US**, the ISM's February manufacturing index represented a 0.8-point fall to 50.1. The new orders component dropped 2.2 points to 49.8.

January construction spending improved 1.8% for the month, following a 0.2% December rise.

Tonight in the **US**, the ISM's New York region business activity index and an IBD/TIPP optimism index are due.

Democratic presidential candidate elections across multiple US States tonight will also be watched closely, as the results could reportedly influence ~34% of delegate allocations for contenders wanting to go up against president Trump.

Elsewhere, the **euro zone** releases a CPI update.

Companies scheduled to report earnings include: Aggreko, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Kohl's, Ross Stores (post-US trade) and Target.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1594.8	oz	28.1	1.8
Silver (NY) (May)	16.739	oz	-0.282	1.7
Gold (LON) (28 Feb)	1610	oz		
Platinum	860	oz	-4	-0.5
WTI Crude (Apr)	46.75	bbl	1.99	4.5
Brent Crude (May)	51.90	bbl	2.23	4.5
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	87.10	t	0.64	0.7
Copper (LME,3mth,PM)	5719	t	129	2.3
Nickel	12680	t	475	3.9
Aluminium	1716	t	22	1.3
Lead	1853	t	8	0.4

Pre-Open Announcements

engage:BDR Ltd (EN1)

February revenue reached \$1.72M, and gross profit \$704,000, against \$1.55M and \$558,000 for January.

Noxopharm Ltd (NOX)

LuPIN Phase I/II clinical trial recruiting has been completed. 56 people suffering late-stage metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer are participating in the trial. Interim data is anticipated by year's end, and final results mid-2021.

PharmAust Ltd (PAA)

PAA has secured the Brisbane Animal Referral Hospital's inclusion in the Phase II anticancer trial for dogs with naïve B cell lymphoma, plus approval for this from Queensland authorities.

The trial will now be conducted across five sites, including in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

Atlas Arteria (ALX)

ALX has completed the APRR transaction. Details lodged this morning.

Codan Ltd (CDA)

Road show presentation lodged this morning. CDA forfeited ~6.7% yesterday, settling at \$6.71.

Moelis Australia (MOE)

MOE has appointed MOE joint CEO Christopher Wyke as MD, effective immediately.

Freedom Foods Group (FNP)

FNP has appointed former Goldman Sachs Asia executive and Colinton Capital co-founding partner Genevieve Gregor as an independent non-executive director, effective yesterday. FNP recouped 8.3% yesterday, settling at \$4.44.

Resources

Vango Mining (* VAN)

Resuming from a trading halt with 'exceptional' gold assays form WA Marymia gold project PHB-1 prospect drilling. VAN says high-grade zones remain open down plunge and at depth. VAN last traded at 10c.

Energy

Beach Energy (BPT)

BPT has appointed BPT senior legal counsel Daniel Murnane as company secretary, effective yesterday, on the resignation of Peter Kupniewski.



Zinc	2022	t	-0.5	-0.0
Tin	16600	t	320	2.0

Commodities Commentary

Oil – optimism appeared to reign overnight, ahead of an anticipated OPEC output decision by week’s end and following growing support assurances from central bankers, finance ministers, international finance organisations and the G7 in general.

Percentage gains for both Brent crude and WTI were reportedly the most in a day in 5.5 months.

OPEC and OPEC+ are scheduled to meet this coming Thursday and Friday, and are expected to decide on whether the production cuts in effect until 31 March will be extended and potentially increased.

A media survey released overnight, reported a 510,000bbl/d fall in OPEC February output, to 27.84MMbbl/d.

Meanwhile a Russian spokesman reported administrative talks with domestic oil companies over the weekend, ahead of the OPEC+ talks.

Gold – US futures bounced some overnight, supported by belief in central bank, government and international organisation support promises, some bargain hunting, and a disappointing US manufacturing PMI.

Commentary surrounding US Federal Reserve statements commonly included expectations of from one to three rate reductions over coming months.

One analyst pointed also to increased demand for physical gold across Asia.

Base metals – overnight LME trade appeared influenced by stimulus expectations following further glum PMI data for China yesterday, and reassurances from international central bankers, governments and other organisations over the past several days, amid ongoing reports of the spread of, and deaths from, Covid-19 outside of China.

In China, an increasing number of cities were reported to be offering good deals to boost vehicle purchases, as officials reported ~300M workers had returned to their jobs following Lunar new year.

In addition, *nickel* benefited from Indonesia reporting its initial Covid-19 diagnosis, spawning views that industry, including nickel mining could potentially be impacted.

A manufacturing PMI for China, released by Caixin yesterday, came in at 40.3, against 51.1 for January, indicating, as with the official NBS manufacturing PMI reported by China over the weekend, a decided drop into contraction mode.

Japan’s manufacturing PMI, published yesterday, was estimated at 47.8, from 49.8.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6536	-0.0005	-0.08
EUR – USD	1.1138	0.0005	0.04

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
AVZ Minerals	AVZ	3 Mar
MGC Pharmaceuticals	MXC	3 Mar
Speciality Metals International	SEI	3 Mar
Star Combo Pharma	S66	3 Mar
Adavale Resources	ADD	4 Mar
Agricultural Land Trust	AGJ	4 Mar
Canyon Resources	CAY	4 Mar
Encounter Resources	ENR	4 Mar
European Lithium	EUR	4 Mar
Flinders Mines	FMS	4 Mar
TerraCom Ltd	TER	4 Mar
Windlab Ltd	WND	4 Mar

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
Collection House	CLH	18 Feb
Consolidated Tin Mines	CSD	2 Mar
Decmil Group	DCG	27 Feb
Gulf Manganese Corporation	GMC	10 Feb
Hampton Hill Mining	HHM	18 Feb
HHY Fund	HHY	27 Feb
Kalium Lakes	KLL	24 Feb
LionHub Group	LHB	24 Feb
Lucapa Diamond Company	LOM	2 Mar
Moreton Resources	MRV	20 Feb
ParaZero Ltd	PRZ	18 Feb

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
ALF	Today	2.5	0	4.69
AMC	Today	17.1	0	5.64
BVS	Today	5.5	0	2.26
CWY	Today	2	100	1.54
ECP	Today	1.75	100	2.27
HLO	Today	9	100	4.02
KSL	Today	5.44	0	6.14
MPL	Today	5.7	100	4.70
OSH	Today	6.81	0	3.51
PBP	Today	1.5	100	1.16
SBM	Today	4	100	3.25
SKI	Today	7.5	0	7.35
AEF	Tomorrow	2.5	100	0.85
AX1	Tomorrow	5.25	100	5.16
BIN	Tomorrow	2.2	100	0.73
BRI	Tomorrow	2.4	100	2.68
BTI	Tomorrow	2.5	100	0.00

**Australian Data Today**

RBA	Post-policy meeting statement	Mar
ANZ/RoyMorgan	Consumer sentiment	1 Mar
ABS	Building approvals	Jan
HIA	New home sales	Jan
ABS	Current account	Dec Q

US Data Tonight

ISM New York	Feb
IBD/TIPP business optimism	Mar

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	Consumer confidence (4pm AEDT)	Feb
UK	Construction PMI	Feb
Euro zone	CPI (initial)	Feb
Euro zone	Producer prices	Jan
Euro zone	Unemployment	Jan

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BWF	Tomorrow	2	100	7.53
CD1	Tomorrow	40	0	0.00
CD2	Tomorrow	12	0	0.00
EVT	Tomorrow	21	100	4.68
GMA	Tomorrow	7.5	100	2.87
HIT	Tomorrow	5.5	100	5.54
HMC	Tomorrow	4.5	100	0.00
HSN	Tomorrow	3	53	1.77
IFM	Tomorrow	2.15	70	1.04
IVC	Tomorrow	23.5	100	2.54
LNK	Tomorrow	6.5	100	2.74
MNF	Tomorrow	2.5	100	1.57
PAF	Tomorrow	1.5	100	4.38
PCG	Tomorrow	4	50	0.00
PGF	Tomorrow	2	100	3.55
PPT	Tomorrow	105	100	6.59
PRO	Tomorrow	0.5	0	0.00
SSM	Tomorrow	4	100	4.33
TWE	Tomorrow	20	100	3.47
WOW	Tomorrow	46	100	1.48
AHY	Thu	2	0	0.00
AKG	Thu	1.36	100	5.85
APL	Thu	2	50	4.84
ASX	Thu	116.4	100	3.07
AUB	Thu	14.5	100	3.32
AVJ	Thu	1.2	100	2.80
BAF	Thu	1	100	6.17
BFG	Thu	4.5	100	6.60
BHP	Thu	97.13	100	5.75
CAJ	Thu	0.5	100	3.51
CTD	Thu	18	50	2.96
DGH	Thu	2.25	0	3.75
EAI	Thu	1.5	100	2.42
ECL	Thu	2	100	4.53
EGH	Thu	0.55	0	2.78
EGI	Thu	1.5	100	2.86
EGN	Thu	0.5	100	3.09
GLB	Thu	5	0	9.15
IEL	Thu	16.5	17.03	0.92
ILU	Thu	8	100	2.91
JIN	Thu	18.5	100	3.22
LIC	Thu	3	100	0.62
MMS	Thu	34	100	6.92
MND	Thu	22	100	3.40
MNY	Thu	5	100	3.70
MVF	Thu	2.1	100	6.63
MVP	Thu	2	100	0.49
NCK	Thu	25	100	6.23
NEC	Thu	5	100	6.45
NHF	Thu	10	100	2.82
PAC	Thu	10	100	4.42



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PAI	Thu	2	100	4.04
PFP	Thu	4	100	3.48
PME	Thu	6	100	0.39
PNI	Thu	6.9	100	3.00
QBE	Thu	27	30	3.91
RHC	Thu	62.5	100	2.22
RIO	Thu	349.74	100	5.45
S32	Thu	3.27	100	4.93
SEC	Thu	3	100	4.00
SFC	Thu	45	100	4.52
VGI	Thu	9.3	100	2.23