

## Markets

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEDST)	<b>5926</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>NZX 50</b>	8623	15	0.2
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	24730	3	0.0
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	2718	0	0.0
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	6888	4	0.1

## Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens today's trade on positive key commodities leads, but again following vacillating overnight international equities trade, ahead of influential domestic data.

In commodities trade, **oil** picked up the pace of Tuesday's rally.

**Gold** futures swung higher.

LME **copper** also turned and settled with a gain.

**Iron ore** (China port, 62% Fe) rose, following another run of falls.

The **\$A** appreciated markedly after falling from ~US77.05c to ~US76.95c early yesterday evening.

Locally today, February **employment** figures, as calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), are due **11.30am** AEDST. The ABS also publishes a September quarter 2017 detailed demographics report.

**CAR** and **FLT** are among companies trading ex-dividend. Please see **pp3-4** for detailed information.

Regionally today, an initial March manufacturing PMI is due for **Japan 11.30am** AEDST, ahead of a February CPI reading tomorrow.

This morning, the Reserve Bank of **New Zealand** has retained its main interest rate at 1.75%.

## Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	24682	-45	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	2712	-5	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>NASDAQ</b>	7345	-19	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>FTSE 100</b>	7039	-22	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>DAX 30</b>	12309	2	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Shanghai Comp</b>	3281	-10	<b>-0.3</b>

## Overseas Markets Commentary

Swinging, choppy trade again featured across major European and US equities markets, US indices vacillating the most in late trade following several market-significant announcements.

The Federal Reserve acted in accordance with expectations, raising the overnight lending rate by 0.25% to 1.50% - 1.75%.

A minimum two further rises this year were also forecast, with some FOMC members reportedly still opting for a total four for the year. The Fed statement also suggested three additional increases in 2019 and two for 2020.

Meanwhile, the US administration confirmed proposed new **tariffs** on imports from China, but

**Australia – February employment statistics 11.30am AEDST**

\* Resources-focused fund listing **11am AEDST – LRT** \*

## Today's Stock Watch

### Sigma Healthcare (SIG)

Continuing to seek opportunities to diversify earnings, with Goldman Sachs accordingly appointed to provide strategic and M&A advice.

This morning reporting 3.5% higher, \$55.1M full year NPAT.

5.4% lower, \$4.1B sales revenue, impacted by Hepatitis C pharmaceutical sales.

2.5c fully-franked final dividend, following 3c a year ago.

36.8c NTA, against 40.5c.

Analyst presentation scheduled to commence 10am AEDST.

### WH Soul Pattinson & Co (SOL)

1.9% lower, \$146.2M interim NPAT. 25.5% higher, \$549.6M revenue. 23c fully-franked interim dividend, up 1c.

16.5% higher, \$5.2B total net asset value.

61.06c EPS. \$13.22 NTA.

Top holdings include TPG Telecom (ASX: TPM), Hew Hope Corporation (ASX: NHC) and Brickworks (ASX: BKW).

Live-streamed briefing scheduled to commence 12.30pm AEDST, with a BKW presentation.

### Brickworks Ltd (BKW)

6.8% lower, \$97.0M interim NPAT. 7.5% lower \$396.7M revenue. 18c fully-franked interim dividend, up 1c.

Webcast briefing scheduled to commence 12.30pm AEDST.

Briefing presentation lodged this morning.

### Cromwell Property Group (CMW)

Launching a €230M guaranteed convertible bond offer, in support of the repurchase of up to €150M worth of convertible bonds maturing February 2020.

The seven-year bonds are convertible at \$1.177 per stapled security.

The new offer could be boosted by €20M. 29 March settlement anticipated.

### BT Investment Management (BTT)

Meredith Brooks is retiring as a BTT director, effective 30 April, in favour of personal interests. Ms Brooks has been a BTT director for five years.

### Lowell Resources Fund (\* LRT)

Investment fund focused on emerging mining and energy companies scheduled to list **11am** AEDST following a \$3.5M IPO at \$8.3201 per unit. 2.797M units on issue.

## Resources

### BHP Billiton (BHP)

Iron ore and steel conference presentation lodged post-trade yesterday. BHP delivered the presentation yesterday in Perth, Western Australia.

## Energy

### Byron Energy (BYE) / Otto Energy (OEL)

SM71 oil field production expected by the end of the week. BYE operator and 50% working interest; OEL 50% (40.625% net revenue interest). BYE appreciated 10.8% yesterday and OEL 7.3%.

said plans would first be released, likely tonight, for industry consideration, rather than for near-term implementation.

In addition, reports emerged a \$US1.3 trillion US administration **funding** bill could attract sufficient support to avoid another temporary partial shutdown of government services from as early as midnight Friday this week.

Among US data releases, February existing home sales rose 3%, following expectations of a 0.5% increase on tight supply.

Weekly mortgage application volumes were reported 5% lower than a year earlier however, and 1.1% lower for the week, but 30-year rates averaged ~4.4%, close to a four-year peak.

Elsewhere, **UK** wages growth was estimated at 2.6% (excluding bonuses for the three months to January, following 2.5% for the December quarter.

Unemployment fell 0.1% to 4.3% over the January quarter. The total number employed rose, but so did the number of people without employment.

**Germany's** IFO Institute released a 2.6% 2018 GDP growth forecast, but predicted 2.1% for 2019.

Earlier, **China** announced regulatory consolidation for media (including film entertainment and publishing), and also licensing and additional data requirements on international companies offering electronic payment options within China.

**Tonight** in the US, weekly new unemployment claims, Markit March PMIs, a leading index report a house price index and a regional manufacturing index are due.

Elsewhere, the **Bank of England** holds a policy meeting.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today and tonight include Nike and PetroChina. Sky trades ex-dividend on the FTSE 100.

### Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
<b>Gold (NY) (Mar)</b>	<b>1321</b>	oz	9	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Silver (NY) (Mar)</b>	16.6	oz	0.4	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Gold (LON)</b>	1321	oz	10	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Platinum</b>	956	oz	14	<b>1.5</b>
<b>WTI Crude (Apr)</b>	<b>65.2</b>	bbl	1.6	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Brent Crude (Apr)</b>	<b>69.5</b>	bbl	2.1	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Iron Ore</b> (CHN port 62%)	<b>67.3</b>	t	0.4	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Copper</b>	<b>6793</b>	t	38	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Nickel</b>	13460	t	5	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Aluminium</b>	2081	t	5	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Lead</b>	2400	t	48	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Zinc</b>	3249	t	46	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Tin</b>	21000	t	325	<b>1.6</b>
<b>CBT Wheat (May)</b>	<b>4.54</b>	bshl	0.01	<b>0.1</b>

### Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – traded at six-week highs overnight, supported by data and a \$US decline.

A weekly government agency US petroleum inventories report surprised overnight, including a 2.6MMbbl fall in stored crude, following forecasts of a 2.5MMbbl increase.

Imports fell by a daily 500,000bbl and refineries used 400,000bbl more each day than for the previous week.

In addition, OPEC claimed February output

## Pre-Open Announcements

### Mortgage Choice (MOC)

Deborah Ralston retired from the MOC board yesterday, after almost 14 years as an MOC director.

MOC has appointed Comparator founder and financial services consultant Sarah Brennan and Chase Corporate executive director and actuary Andrew Gale as non-executive directors.

MOC has traded lower the past seven sessions, settling at \$1.875 yesterday.

### QBE Insurance (QBE)

Asian investment conference presentation lodged post-trade yesterday. QBE presented in Hong Kong yesterday.

## Resources

### Lynas Corporation (\* LYC)

Virtual investor conference presentation lodged this morning.

### Korab Resources (\* KOR)

Winchester DSO magnesite updated pre-feasibility outcomes lodged post-trade yesterday.

The expanded study included likely revenue and expected haulage, port, interest, overhead, royalty and debt repayment costs.

The new update is in addition to the one lodged early-March.

## Energy

### Aspire Mining (\* AKM)

AKM's rail subsidiary Northern Railways Llc will review a draft Erdenet – Ovoot railway project feasibility study delivered by China Gezhouba Group International (CGGC).

For now, AKM has determined that, as with a first-stage feasibility completed in January, the project is financially viable.

## Reports & Events

(selected scheduled)

When	Company	Report/Event
<b>Today</b>	<b>BKW</b>	Interim
	<b>SIG</b>	Full year
	<b>SOL</b>	Interim
<b>Tomorrow</b>	THC	AGM
<b>Tue</b>	PDN	AGM

## Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
BARD1 Life Sciences	BD1	22 Mar
Droneshield Ltd	DRO	22 Mar
EVZ Ltd	EVZ	22 Mar
Hawkstone Mining	HWK	22 Mar
Lake Resources	LKE	22 Mar
Poseidon Nickel	POS	22 Mar
Tando Resources	TNO	22 Mar
Tyranna Resources	TYX	22 Mar
A-Cap Resources	ACB	23 Mar
Aura Energy	AEE	23 Mar
Gladiator Resources	GLA	23 Mar
Metminco Ltd	MNC	23 Mar



represented record compliance with the production curb agreement.

On the flip side, US weekly production rose further, to more than 10.4MMbbl/d.

**Gold** – a \$US fall on the **US Federal Reserve's** current official expectation of at least three interest rate rises this year, rather than a definite four, supported overnight gold trade.

As expected the Fed raised the overnight lending rate by 0.25% to 1.50% - 1.75%.

Recent price falls were also encouraging bargain-buying, some industry watchers ventured. Prices continued to rise in post-settlement electronic trade.

**Base metals** – a \$US pullback supported trade sentiment, but uncertain trading regimes constrained appetite for some key metals.

### Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.7765	0.0001	0.01
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.2341	0.0001	0.01

### Australian Data Today

ABS	Employment; wages	Feb
ABS	Population	Sep Q 2017

### US Data Tonight

Initial jobless claims	17 Mar
Markit PMIs	Mar
FHFA house price index	Jan
Conf Board leading index	Feb
Kansas City Fed manufacturing	Mar

### Overseas Data Today & Tonight

<b>Japan</b>	PMI manufacturing (prelim)	Mar
Japan	All-industry activity index	Jan
<b>UK</b>	BoE policy statement	Mar
UK	Retail sales	Feb
<b>Germany</b>	PMIs (initial)	Mar
Germany	IFO business climate	Mar
<b>Euro zone</b>	ECB economic bulletin	Mar
Euro zone	PMIs (initial)	Mar

### Need More Information?

Contact your State One Stockbroking advisor on 08 9288 3388 or 1300 651 898, or by email, [advice@stateone.com.au](mailto:advice@stateone.com.au).

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Noxopharm Ltd	NOX	23 Mar
OncoSil Medical	OSL	23 Mar
VDM Group	VMG	23 Mar
MyFiziq Ltd	MYQ	26 Mar

### Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Australis Oil & Gas	ATS	21 Mar
BidEnergy Ltd	BID	9 Mar
Big Un	BIG	21 Feb
Clancy Exploration	CLY	13 Mar
Connected IO	CIO	15 Mar
Cudeco Ltd	CDU	15 Mar
Department 13 International	D13	5 Mar
Greatcell Solar	GSL	1 Mar
JV Global	JVG	21 Mar
Kula Gold	KGD	14 Mar
Micro-X Ltd	MX1	20 Mar
Orinoco Gold	OGX	21 Mar
Raven Energy	REL	7 Mar
Tianmei Beverage Group	TB8	21 Feb
Tikforce Ltd	TKF	21 Mar

### Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Fr (%)	Yield (%)
<b>AGG</b>	Today	<b>1.23</b>	0	0.50
<b>BRI</b>	Today	<b>3.5</b>	100	3.41
<b>CAR</b>	Today	<b>20.5</b>	100	2.88
<b>FLT</b>	Today	<b>60</b>	100	2.66
<b>HUO</b>	Today	<b>5</b>	50	2.22
<b>JYC</b>	Today	<b>5</b>	100	4.88
<b>MXI</b>	Today	<b>2</b>	100	4.64
<b>RYD</b>	Today	<b>1</b>	100	0.79
<b>SDI</b>	Today	<b>1.1</b>	100	4.44
AVJ	Tomorrow	2	100	6.96
BGP	Tomorrow	10.72	0	5.10
GAP	Tomorrow	1	0	4.88
IMF	Tomorrow	3	100	2.79
CWP	Mon	12	100	4.70
OTW	Mon	1	100	0.76
SEK	Mon	24	100	2.23
SVW	Mon	21	100	2.31
ILU	Tue	25	100	2.79
JHC	Tue	4	65	4.94
LNK	Tue	7	100	1.74
NST	Tue	4.5	100	1.57
PEA	Tue	1	100	4.55
SGF	Tue	8.78	100	4.66
WEB	Tue	8	100	1.49
AJD	Wed	2	0	4.89
APE	Wed	22.5	100	4.21
APW	Wed	0.8	0	tbc
ARF	Wed	3.2	0	5.63
AYF	Wed	8.75	50.22	5.83
CAB	Wed	4	100	8.14
CLW	Wed	6.6	0	6.64
CRR	Wed	5	0	4.90
EHH	Wed	0.5	0	3.13
GCM	Wed	1	0	3.77
GDF	Wed	2.25	0	7.76
HT1	Wed	4	100	3.85



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IDR	Wed	4.1	0	7.90
MAQ	Wed	25	100	2.66
MEZ	Wed	6.88	0	4.32
PNC	Wed	6.62	0	3.39
PWH	Wed	1.1	100	2.42
RFF	Wed	2.51	0	4.34
RFP	Wed	2.51	100	0.00
VRT	Wed	14	100	4.56
VTG	Wed	4.7	100	8.12
WDE	Wed	2	100	3.39
WPP	Wed	4.2	100	6.49