

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7272	11	0.2
NZX 50	12829	-28	-0.2
DJIA Futures	35381	568	1.6
S&P 500 Futures	4641	82	1.8
NASDAQ Futures	15980	359	2.3

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens today's trade with an \$A appreciation, a key domestic economic report due late morning, and an anticipated announcement regarding domestic Covid-19 omicron variant management, ahead of material data out of the US and UK tonight.

International equities sentiment bounced overnight.

Locally today, National Cabinet is scheduled to meet to discuss management of the latest Covid-19 spread.

Economic reports due for release include the Westpac-Melbourne Institute November **leading index** at 11am AEDT.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) also releases **payroll jobs and wages** for the week ending 27 November, at 11.30am AEDT.

Regionally today, the **Bank of Japan** is expected to publish the **minutes** of last week's **policy meeting** a 10.50am AEDT.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** swung sharply higher.

US **gold** futures continued to settle lower.

Iron ore (China port CFR, 62% fines) extended its run higher, trading beyond \$US126.5/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** reportedly turned to record an ~1.0% gain. **Nickel** and **aluminium** were reported to have added more than 1.0% and 3.0% respectively. *Last night's LME final price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication.*

The \$A approached US71.55c after trading beyond ~US71.25c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	35493	561	1.6
S&P 500	4649	81	1.8
NASDAQ	15341	360	2.4
FTSE 100	7297	99	1.4
DAX 30	15447	208	1.4
Shanghai Comp	3625	32	0.9

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets bounced on opening overnight, sentiment never looking seriously threatened so that key indices settled at or near session highs.

In the US, the administration reported a telephone conversation

*** Technology services listing – 10.30am AEDT – ATA ***

*** Mineral exploration listing – midday AEDT – DMM ***

*** WA-focused mineral exploration listing – 2pm AEDT – FAL ***

*** Lithium & base metals exploration listing – 3pm AEDT – IMI ***

ASX Trading 24 December – 4 January

24 December (Fri)	10am – 2.10pm AEDT
27 December (Mon)	CLOSED
28 December (Tue)	CLOSED
29 December (Wed)	10am – 4.10pm AEDT
30 December (Thu)	10am – 4.10pm AEDT
31 December (Fri)	10am – 2.10pm AEDT
3 January 2021 (Mon)	CLOSED
4 January 2021 (Tue)	10am – 4.10pm AEDT

State One's *Market Opener* will continue until tomorrow and resume Monday 10 January 2022



Trades executed **tomorrow** (23 December) will **settle** 29 December (Wednesday next week).

Friday's (24 December) trades will settle 30 December (Thursday next week).

Trades executed Thursday **next week** settle Tuesday 4 January.

Friday (31 December) trades next week will settle 5 January.

Today's Stock Watch
Praemium Ltd (PPS)

Morningstar Inc is paying £35M cash for PPS's international business, in Dubai, Hong Kong, Jersey and the UK.

Spark New Zealand (SPK)

Planning to repurchase 50% of utilities and telecommunications infrastructure provider Connect 8 from Electra Group and hence fully own Connect 8.

Charter Hall Group (CHC)

Proposing to outlay \$207M for 50% of Paradise Investment Management, 30% paid in cash and 70% in CHC securities.

Resources
Rio Tinto (RIO)

Binding agreement in hand for the \$825M acquisition of the Rincon lithium project, Argentina.

between the president and a key Democrat senator who had declared on the weekend that he would not support legislation to enable a planned \$US1.75B worth of spending under a 'build back better' program.

Traders also considered an array of Covid-19 treatment, at-home testing, and booster vaccine reports suggesting enhanced management and containment.

Among overnight **data** releases, the initial **December** consumer sentiment reading for the **euro zone** came in at -8.3 from -6.8 for November and following forecasts for -8.0.

A GfK January consumer confidence reading for **Germany** dropped to -6.8 from -1.8 for December. Forecasters had anticipated a decline, but only to -2.7.

In the **UK**, the CBI December distributive trades index plummeted from 39 to eight. A drop had been expected, but not below 15.

Meanwhile, November public sector finances included net borrowing which came in at -£17.4B from -£12.4B, following forecasts for -£15.6B.

In the **US**, no major economic indicators were scheduled for release.

A 20-year bond auction delivered a 1.942% yield from 2.065%.

Tonight in the **US**, the final September quarter GDP growth reading is anticipated, together with November existing home sales, the Chicago Fed national activity index, Conference Board consumer confidence estimate and weekly mortgage applications. Elsewhere, the UK also releases a final reading for September quarter GDP growth.

In overnight corporate news, a better-than-anticipated **Nike** earnings report, and both pleasing earnings and forecasts from **Micron Technology**, each lodged post-US trade Monday, supported these stocks to respective 6% and 10% gains.

Markets in the US and Germany trade for the last time this week overnight Thursday (tomorrow). Markets in the UK and France close early overnight Friday. UK markets remain closed Monday and Tuesday next week.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Feb)	1788.7	oz	-5.9	-0.3
Silver (NY) (Mar)	22.529	oz	-0.238	1.1
Gold (LON) (20 Dec)	1796	oz		
Platinum	935	oz	0	0.0
WTI Crude (NYMEX Feb)	71.12	bbbl	2.51	3.7
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Feb)	73.98	bbbl	2.46	3.4
Iron Ore (Qingdao) (CHN;62%Fe)	126.71	t	3.20	2.6
Copper (LME 3mth Evening) (20Dec)	9454	t		
Nickel	19350	t		
Aluminium	2672	t		
Lead	2298	t		
Zinc	3357	t		
Tin	38295	t		

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices were propelled higher overnight, in part due to various

Pre-Open Announcements

Atturra Ltd (* ATA)

Technology services company scheduled to list on the ASX **10.30am** AEDT, following an ~\$24.78M IPO at 50c per share. ~200.55M quoted shares.

MAAS Group Holdings (* MGH)

Paying an initial ~1.137M MGH shares, and up to an additional 947,368 performance-related shares over three years, for NSW Dubbo-based residential home builder Brett Harvey Construction. In addition, MGH is using existing cash and debt facilities to acquire two central Queensland quarries with a combined 2Mt approved annual tonnage.

MGH has traded at \$4.78 - \$5.28 over the past five sessions.

Austal Ltd (ASB)

ASB's Austal USA has secured a \$US2.8M preliminary design contract for the US Navy's 'Next Generation Logistics Ship' program.

Resources

DMC Mining (* DMM)

Mineral exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX **midday** AEDT, following a \$5M IPO at 20c per share. 27.2M quoted shares.

Falcon Metals (* FAL)

WA-focused mineral exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX **2pm** AEDT, following a \$30M IPO at 50c per share. 177M quoted shares.

Infinity Mining (* IMI) / Macarthur Minerals (MIO)

Lithium and base metals exploration company and MIO spin-out IMI is scheduled to list on the ASX **3pm** AEDT, following a \$10M IPO at 20c per share.

57.5M quoted shares.

MIO intends to focus on iron ore assets.

Macarthur Australia holds 20.74% of IMI.

BHP Group (* BHP)

BHP does not intend to increase or extend its offer for Noront Resources to match the \$C1.10-per-share offer from Wyloo Metals.

BHP cited consideration of long-term value for its decision.

Meanwhile, all regulatory and competition approvals are in hand for the planned restructure of BHP Group and BHP Plc under the one entity BHP Group.

Shareholder meetings are planned for 20 January.

BHP traded on the ASX as high as \$41.76 yesterday before settling at \$41.71.

Lepidico Ltd (* LPD)

Traxys has agreed to take 5000tpa (100% of phase 1 production) of LPD lithium hydroxide.

Details lodged pre-trade.



Covid-19 management assurances, but amid continuing new announcements of containment-related restrictions.

Weekly US petroleum inventories are due tonight from government agency the EIA.

Overnight, post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute published a report which included an estimated a 3.67MMbbl draw on US crude stocks last week.

Gold – improved equities risk sentiment and US 10-year bond yields at ~1.487% from ~1.418% the previous session ultimately dampened overnight gold interest.

Prices had headed higher in early trade.

Meanwhile, among the forecasters, ABN AMRO cited tighter monetary policy in predicting gold at \$US1500/oz by the end of 2022 and \$US1300/oz at the end of 2023.

US and UK GDP growth readings, due tonight, and albeit for the September quarter, prior to recent new global growth concerns, could swing some currency, and hence possibly gold trade tonight.

Base metals – overnight sentiment appeared mostly supported by a general return of risk appetite, helping propel oil prices and equities indices higher.

In addition, the \$US was pushed a little lower during early LME trade.

Fears Chile's president-elect will oppose a new iron-copper project and relatively low inventories further supported copper.

In the meantime, the International Copper Study Group reported a 57,000t September copper market deficit, against average annual demand of 24Mt.

Yesterday, South Korea reported producer price growth had slowed during November.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7152	0.0039	0.55
EUR – USD	1.1284	0.0003	0.03

Australian Data Today

Westpac-Melb Inst	Leading index	Nov
ABS	Payroll jobs & wages	27 Nov

US Data Tonight

GDP (third & final)	Sep Q
Chicago Fed national activity index	Nov
Existing home sales	Nov
Conference Board consumer confidence	Nov
MBA mortgage applications	17 Dec

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	BoJ policy meeting minutes	17 Dec
UK	GDP (final)	Sep Q

Mamba Exploration (M24)

Heralding visual indications of multiple sulphide-mineralised zones from Black Hills prospect drilling.

Sunshine Gold (SHN)

Ravenswood West Keans prospect reconnaissance drilling and rock chip sampling have delivered high-grade Cu-Au-Ag-Mo intersections.

Assays lodged pre-trade.

Boab Metals (BML)

Reporting strong domestic and international demand for Sorby Hills lead-silver concentrate, as demonstrated by the proposals received during the off-take tender.

A shortlist has been compiled ahead of the anticipated completion of the tender process by 31 March 2022.

BNL 75%; Henan Yuguang Gold & Lead Co 25%.

Rubix Resources (*RB6)

Multi-mineral exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX 2pm AEDT **tomorrow**, following a \$4.5M IPO at 20c per share.

24.9M quoted shares.

Energy

Carnarvon Petroleum (*CVN)

Offshore Timor-Leste Buffalo-10 drilling is expected to be underway within a week.

Black Mountain Energy (*BME)

Oil and gas explorer scheduled to list 1pm AEDT **tomorrow**, following an \$11M IPO at 20c per share.

55M quoted shares.

BM Canning Llc holds 78.42%.

BME executive chair is BM Llc founder and Black Mountain Metals co-founder and director Rhett Bennett.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Midas Minerals	MM1	22 Dec
Aston Minerals	ASO	23 Dec
Nova Minerals	NVA	23 Dec
Scout Security	SCT	23 Dec

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
BPH Energy	BPH	9 Dec
Emerge Gaming	EM1	3 Dec
Geopacific Resources	GPR	15 Dec
Palla Pharma (<i>in administration</i>)	PAL	15 Dec
Pantera Minerals	PFE	21 Dec

**Need More Information?**

Contact your State One Stockbroking advisor on 08 9288 3388 or 1300 651 898, or by email, advice@stateone.com.au

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Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
KPG	Today	0.36	100	1.53
CD1	29 Dec	23.5	0	0.00
CD2	29 Dec	35.5	0	0.00
CD3	29 Dec	53	0	0.00
FPP	29 Dec	3	0	4.50
ABP	30 Dec	8.75	0	4.52
APA	30 Dec	25	0	5.07
APZ	30 Dec	3.1	0	3.69
ARF	30 Dec	3.95	0	3.34
AVN	30 Dec	5	0	4.87
BWP	30 Dec	9.02	0	4.39
CDP	30 Dec	12.5	0	4.87
CHC	30 Dec	19.66	42.37	1.75
CIP	30 Dec	4.33	0	4.25
CLW	30 Dec	7.62	0	5.82
CMW	30 Dec	1.63	0	7.76
CNI	30 Dec	5.5	21.81	2.94
COF	30 Dec	4.15	0	6.98
CQE	30 Dec	4.22	0	4.24
CQR	30 Dec	11.7	0	5.44
DXC	30 Dec	5.72	0	6.20
DXI	30 Dec	4.33	0	4.96
DXS	30 Dec	28	0	4.63
ECF	30 Dec	2.35	0	8.80
ENN	30 Dec	8.8	0	4.99
ERF	30 Dec	2.8	0	7.96
GDF	30 Dec	1.8	0	4.26
GDI	30 Dec	3.88	0	6.86
GMG	30 Dec	15	0	1.15
GOZ	30 Dec	10.4	0	4.60
HCW	30 Dec	3	0	0.00
HDN	30 Dec	2.08	0	4.03
HPI	30 Dec	10.2	0	5.23
KLA	30 Dec	US18.75	0	tbc
MGR	30 Dec	5.1	0	3.39
NSR	30 Dec	4.6	0	3.21
RCT	30 Dec	16.58	0	7.21
REP	30 Dec	1.09	0	0.00
RFF	30 Dec	2.93	0	3.72
SCP	30 Dec	7.2	0	4.18
SGP	30 Dec	12	0	5.63
TCL	30 Dec	15	0	2.64
TGP	30 Dec	1.5	0	5.26
TOT	30 Dec	1.5	0	6.70
WPR	30 Dec	4.21	0	7.45
EDC	4 Jan	2	0	7.57
CAM	5 Jan	1.28	100	5.38
PMV	5 Jan	46	100	2.37