

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7068	-58	-0.8
NZX 50	12208	-4	-0.0
DJIA Futures	33738	-111	-0.3
S&P 500 Futures	4359	-22	-0.5
NASDAQ Futures	14031	-209	-1.5

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commence Friday trade with Russia's attacks in Ukraine and associated international implications remaining forefront, ahead of material economic data out of the US tonight and from China Monday.

Risk sentiment retreated across international equities markets overnight.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reports additional January retail trade information at **11.30am** AEDT.

Stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include: **ALD, LIC, MPL** and **NCK**.
Please see p3 for a detailed ex-dividends list.

Regionally today, **South Korea** reports February **CPI** as the ASX opens.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** turned to settle lower, but remained well above \$US105/bbl.

US **gold** futures swung higher, beyond \$US1930/oz.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** reportedly rose more than 1.5%.
Nickel and **aluminium** were reported ~5% higher in outcry trade.

Last night's LME final price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication.

The **\$A** remained with a narrow range after trading at ~US73.20c early yesterday evening, but has appreciated further this morning.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	33795	-97	-0.3
S&P 500	4363	-23	-0.5
NASDAQ	13538	-214	-1.6
FTSE 100	7239	-191	-2.6
DAX 30	13698	-302	-2.2
Shanghai Comp	3481	-3	-0.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

Marked chop and swings featured across major European, UK and US equities markets overnight, with monetary policy and some key data releases in focus, amid continuous reports of Russia's attacks on Ukraine and a growing list of sanctions.

Among developments, Russia and Ukraine were reported to have reached agreement on helping civilians escape the conflict via 'evacuation corridors'.

WA public holiday **Monday** (7 March)
 ASX trade and settlements as normal

Today's Stock Watch
CSL Ltd (CSL)

CSL is waiving an initial 80% acceptance rate condition with the offer period for the public tender to acquire Vifor Pharma having closed with 74% of Vifor shares tendered.

A further tender period is scheduled for 9 March (Wednesday next week) through 22 March.

Completion remains anticipated by mid-year.

NRW Holdings (NWH)

NWH subsidiary Golding Contractors is in receipt of a binding letter of intent for a 5.5-year mining services agreement, from 1 July, with Wonbindi Coal's Baralaba North mine.

NWH estimates the work to be worth \$800M.

Resources
Resolute Mining (RSG)

31 December 2021 resources and reserves update lodged.

Minerals 260 (MI6)

Moora JV project Mynt prospect RC drilling has confirmed a significant copper-gold mineralised zone. Assays lodged pre-trade.

Carawine Resources (CWX) / IGO Ltd (IGO)

IGO drilling completed within the CWX-IGO Fraser Range JV Red Bull tenement has intersected a wide zone of graphitic gneiss which includes massive graphite. Details lodged this morning.

In addition, CWX analysis of historic exploration data has identified multiple targets within the WA Tropicana North gold project.

Wiluna Mining Corporation (WMC)

Suspending Wiluna Mining Centre gold concentrate shipments to Russia. WMC 'has arrangements' to sell and ship all the concentrate to alternative destinations.

Energy
Sacgasco Ltd (SGC)

SGC's Nido Petroleum has secured a farm-in to the Philippines Cadlao oil JV, which will give Nido a 72.727% working interest.

88 Energy (88E)

Heralding light oil recovery from Pantheon Resources' Talitha-A well located 2.8 miles north of 88E's Icewine holdings.

Bowen Coking Coal (BCB)

Queensland environment approvals in hand for the Broadmeadow East project.



Also overnight, the leaders of the US, Japan, India and Australia met virtually to discuss Indo-Pacific security.

US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell in the meantime told the Senate banking committee, ‘Everything is so uncertain,’ citing Russia’s attack on Ukraine and potential ‘unintended consequences’ of associated sanctions.

The Fed would monitor the duration of commodity price hikes, and also likely broad reduced risk sentiment, and ‘move carefully’, the chair assured.

Mr Powell reiterated he favoured a 0.25% rate increase from the 15 – 16 March policy meeting and confirmed that the committee members would also plan at that meeting how to cut the central bank’s ~\$US9 trillion balance sheet.

In addition overnight, the **European Central Bank** (ECB) released 8 February policy meeting minutes which prompted president Christine Lagarde to confirm rate increases were possible before year’s end.

Also overnight, UK researchers involved in what is known as the Recovery trial, investigating the use of existing medications to help treat **Covid** sufferers, revealed they had identified another anti-inflammatory, baricitinib.

Baricitinib treatment delivered an up to 20% reduction in deaths in Covid sufferers requiring hospital care.

The discovery was a direct result of the identification of a particular gene that can cause an overactive immune response.

In overnight **data** releases, the **euro zone**’s February producer prices were reported 5.2% higher for the month and 30.6% higher than for February 2021.

Economists had anticipated a 2.1% monthly increase after a 3% rise during December.

In the meantime, the 55.5 final February services PMI for euro zone represented a 4.4-point increase for the month.

In **Germany**, the February services PMI was finalised at 55.8 from 52.2.

February domestic vehicle registrations were calculated 3.2% higher year-on-year, following expectations for a 2.1% decline.

In the **UK**, the final February services PMI was reported at a robust 60.5 from 54.1.

Meanwhile, a 10-year government bond auction in France delivered a 0.52% yield from 0.45%.

Yesterday afternoon (AEDT), Japan had conducted a 30-year bond auction which resulted in a 0.893% yield from 0.788%.

In the **US**, the ISM’s influential services PMI for February concerned, coming in at 56.5 from 59.9, against forecasts for 61.0.

The new orders, business activity and employment component indices each declined by a minimum 3.5 points. The prices component index rose to 83.1 from 82.3.

Weekly new unemployment claims tallied 215,000, against a forecast 228,000, following 233,000 for the previous week.

A February job cuts report included an estimated 15,245 layoffs, following January’s ~19,000 and following forecasts for 20,000.

January factory orders rose 1.4% for the month.

Tonight in the **US**, February employment figures are keenly anticipated.

Elsewhere, Germany reports January trade statistics.

Pre-Open Announcements

Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)

\$1.875B PERLS XIV bookbuild brought forward and completed with a 2.75%pa margin.

Infomedia Ltd (* IFM)

IFM has appointed recent WPP AUNZ (ASX: WPP) CEO and MD Jens Monsees as CEO and MD, effective 23 May.

Duxton Water (D20)

Proposing to pay a A3.2c fully franked final dividend from 3.0c a year ago.

Resources

Xantippe Resources (XTC)

Changing the price of the company’s \$15.2M placement from 1c per share to 0.8c per share, due to market volatility and in consultation with the lead manager.

XTC has traded at 0.7c – 0.9c for the week to date.

Medusa Mining (MML)

Ten Sixty Four co-founder Paul Ryan Welker (Ryan) has joined the MML board as a non-executive director, following MML’s recent acquisition of Ten Sixty Four.

Mr Ryan is cofounder and chair of the Queensland Bowen Basin Vulcan coal complex operator Vitrinite Pty Ltd.

Rafaella Resources (RFR)

Presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

RFR presented at an investor forum post-trade yesterday.

Energy

Central Petroleum (* CTP)

Reserves and resources update lodged post-trade yesterday, including 75.4PJc of 2P reserves at 31 December 2021, from 74.1PJc at 30 June 2021.

Breakdown statistics also lodged.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Ausgold Ltd	AUC	4 Mar
Celsius Resources	CLA	4 Mar
Korab Resources	KOR	4 Mar
Brookside Energy	BRK	7 Mar
DRA Global	DRA	7 Mar
Metals Australia	MLS	7 Mar
Stanmore Resources	SMR	7 Mar
Strike Energy	STX	7 Mar
Suvo Strategic Minerals	SUV	7 Mar
Tennant Minerals	TMS	7 Mar



POSCO is among companies listed to report earnings later today and tonight.

In overnight corporate news, retailer **H&M**, which has ~150 stores in Russia, revealed it was temporarily closing the stores and suspending online sales in Russia. **Nike** and **IKEA** followed with confirmation they were temporarily closing their outlets in Russia, **IKEA** also in Belarus. Vodka manufacturer **Diageo** also revealed it had suspended operations in Russia.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1935.9	oz	13.6	0.7
Silver (NY) (May)	25.21	oz	0.02	0.1
Gold (LON) (2 Mar)	1929	oz		
Platinum	1079	oz	8	0.8
WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr)	107.67	bbl	-2.93	-2.6
Brent Crude (ICE EUR May)	110.46	bbl	-2.47	-2.2
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	146.07	t	2 Mar	1.8
Copper (LME 3mth Evening) (2 Mar)	10164	t		
Nickel	25829	t		
Aluminium	3568	t		
Lead	2399	t		
Zinc	3856	t		
Tin	45623	t		

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices swung overnight, on supply concerns, reports 10 tankers carrying oil from Russia had nowhere to deliver, and speculation regarding a near-term nuclear agreement with Iran.

Negotiators have pointed out however, that a proposed agreement with Iran would be implemented in stages, and hence also the lifting of sanctions, pending compliance, and that any change to sanctions on petroleum trade were not included in the earliest stages.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig report is due tonight.

Gold – a drop in equities risk sentiment favoured safe-haven trade overnight. Wednesday's pullback also drew some price watchers.

Tonight's US February employment statistics could swing some trade, in particular in light of cautionary comments from the Fed Reserve chair this week, and some mixed key economic indicators released overnight.

Base metals – higher energy costs impacting production, low inventories and increased logistics challenges, in part due to Russia's Ukraine attacks and related sanctions, combined to push key base metals yet higher overnight.

The cash premium for *nickel* (against three-month contract prices) was reported beyond \$US600/t again, with LME-registered warehouse inventories reported at levels not seen since 2019 and 52% of the stock allocated for delivery.

Aluminium stocks were calculated at 801,100t against ~2Mt in March 2021.

Among the producers, Chile's Codelco was estimated to have produced 120,800t of *copper* during January, 15% fewer tonnes than for January 2021.

Caixin's February services PMI for **China**, reported yesterday, fell to 50.2 from 51.4, against expectations for an improvement to

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Delecta Ltd	DLC	15 Feb
Mindax Ltd	MDX	1 Mar
OAR Resources	OAR	3 Mar
Roto-Gro International	RGI	1 Mar
Tali Digital	TD1	3 Mar

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
ALD	Today	41	100	2.45
ALI	Today	3.5	100	3.42
LIC	Today	4.5	100	0.46
MLD	Today	2.5	100	6.13
MPL	Today	6.1	100	4.01
NCK	Today	35	100	5.22
PFG	Today	0.5	100	4.12
PFP	Today	6	100	2.51
SSR	Today	7.26	0	0.72
UNI	Today	11	100	2.56
VGI	Today	6	100	7.42
AFG	Mon	7	100	3.46
ALU	Mon	21	100	0.61
BEN	Mon	26.5	100	2.79
BRI	Mon	5.5	100	2.39
CSL	Mon	145.92	0	1.14
ECL	Mon	2	100	2.35
MVF	Mon	2.2	100	3.72
NAC	Mon	1.6	100	4.55
NSC	Mon	1.35	100	4.31
NST	Mon	10	100	1.91
PRU	Mon	0.81	0	0.00
QBE	Mon	19	10	1.01
REA	Mon	75	100	0.97
RHC	Mon	48.5	100	2.41
SGM	Mon	41	44	2.20
SUL	Mon	27	100	5.09
VEA	Mon	3.2	100	1.68



52.0.

China is expected to report January-February trade figures Monday. This could produce some caution tonight.

In addition, end-of-week positioning could prove more pronounced, given Russia's ongoing attacks on Ukraine.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7326	0.0026	0.35
EUR – USD	1.1067	-0.0031	-0.28

Australian Data Today

ABS	Retail trade (additional information)	Jan
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US Data Today & Tonight

Employment (jobs, wages, participation, unemployment)	Feb
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Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

South Korea	CPI	Feb
UK	Construction PMI	Feb
UK	New domestic vehicle sales	Feb
Germany	Trade balance	Jan
Germany	Construction PMI	Feb
Euro zone	Retail sales	Jan
Euro zone	Construction PMI	Feb

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