

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	7417	-7	-0.1
NZX 50	11878	-12	-0.1
DJIA Futures	34198	59	0.2
S&P 500 Futures	4401	8	0.2
NASDAQ Futures	13974	29	0.2

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens Wednesday trade, the second last ASX trading day for the week, with: another ultimate overnight decline across international equities markets; a pre-Easter escalation of national parliamentary election campaigning anticipated; a key domestic economic report due; influential data expected out of China early afternoon; and a middle-of-the-day interest rates announcement from the New Zealand's reserve bank.

Meanwhile, Ukraine is pleading for more weapons ahead of an anticipated pending all-out Russian assault on eastern Ukraine.

Locally today, the monthly Westpac-Melbourne Institute **consumer sentiment** report is due **10.30am AEST**.

Also this morning, the Australian Bureau of Statistics releases a December 2021 building activity report.

Regionally today, **China's March trade statistics** are anticipated **1pm AEST**.

At **midday AEST**, the **Reserve Bank of New Zealand** is scheduled to announce outcomes from today's policy meeting, these expected by some to include a further 0.25% interest rate increase to 1.25%.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** was propelled higher, reversing Monday's drop, such that both Brent crude and WTI traded beyond \$US100.00/bbl again.

US **gold** futures rallied above \$US1975/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) turned to decline slightly, but remained above \$US155.50/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** and **aluminium** swung variously higher. **Nickel** settled flat.

The **\$A** rose to ~US74.55c, after trading at ~US74.30c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	34220	-88	-0.3
S&P 500	4397	-15	-0.3
NASDAQ	13372	-40	-0.3
FTSE 100	7577	-42	-0.6
DAX 30	14125	-68	-0.5
Shanghai Comp	3213	46	1.5

The **ASX** will be **closed Friday** this week and **Monday** next week (18 April), due to **Easter**

Settlements

Today's trades settle **Tuesday next week** (19 April)
Tomorrow's settle **Wednesday next week** (20 April)

*** Copper-gold and lithium exploration listing – midday AEST– FTL ***

Today's Stock Watch
Oncosil Medical (OSL)

Initial commercial pancreas cancer treatment with OSL's radionuclide therapy device achieved in Madrid, Spain.

EML Payments (EML)

In response to a media article, EML is confirming takeover interest from Bain Capital, but maintains discussions commenced earlier this year have now ended.

NZME Ltd (NZM)

Agreement finalised with Meta covering digital news supply over the next year.

EROAD Ltd (ERD)

10.3% annualised growth achieved during the March quarter, 5258 contracted units added, pushing the tally to 208,697.

Resources
AVZ Minerals (AVZ)

Positive technical opinion in hand from the Department of Mines, indicating an imminent decision on a mining licence for the Democratic Republic of Congo Manono lithium and tin project.

Iluka Resources (ILU)

Proposing to demerge Sierra Rutile Holdings, pending shareholder and regulatory approvals.

ILU plans to list the company on the ASX as a West African-focused mineral sands company, headquartered in Australia, with ILU retiring chair Greg Martin appointed as Sierra Rutile chairman elect.

Additional management appointments lodged pre-trade. AGM today.

Energy
Cooper Energy (COE)

Offshore Gippsland Basin VIC/P80 exploration permit granted for an initial six years.

Additional details, including location merits, also lodged this morning.

Overseas Markets Commentary

Sentiment again proved challenged across major European, UK and US equities markets overnight, despite key US indices trading positive for at least the first half of their trading sessions.

Yesterday, **Sri Lanka** confirmed the nation would likely default on sovereign debt payments in the absence of significant rescue measures.

Also yesterday, Japan kept inflation pressures in focus, reporting March producer prices 9.5% higher than for March 2021, and up 0.8% for the month.

Overnight, **Russia's** president declared peace talks with Ukraine no longer of any avail, citing offence at Ukraine's claims of Russian war crimes.

Meanwhile, the US administration was reported to be considering a further \$US750M worth of weapons aid for Ukraine.

In overnight **data** releases, the **euro zone** April ZEW economic sentiment index was estimated at -43 from -38.7, against an anticipated improvement, albeit to -28.

Germany's finalised March CPI confirmed 2.5% inflation for the month and 7.3% year-on-year inflation growth.

Wholesale prices were reported 22.6% higher than for March 2021.

The April ZEW economic sentiment index for Germany was reported at -41 from -39.3, but a greater deterioration to -45 had been anticipated.

The current conditions component index dropped to -30.8 from -21.4.

In the **UK**, March unemployment claims fell by 46,900. The tally had fallen by 58,000 in February and a new 31,000 decline was anticipated.

The February unemployment rate was calculated at 3.8% from 3.9% for January.

February average earnings (excluding bonuses) rose by 4%, in line with expectations, following a 3.8% January increase.

Early yesterday (AEST), the (UK) BRC retail sales monitor indicated a 0.4% fall in March retail sales, defying predictions for a 0.3% increase.

In the **US**, the March CPI rose by 1.2%, against forecasts for a 1.0% rise, after increasing 0.8% during February.

Against March 2021, inflation was running at 8.5%, an ~40-year peak.

A small business optimism index fell 2.5 points to 93.2.

The IBD/TIPP economic optimism index improved to 45.5 from 41 however, defying expectations for a decline to 40.3.

The March national budget statement included a \$US193B deficit, also failing to match economists' forecasts, this time for a \$40B shortfall to follow February's \$US217B deficit.

A \$US34B 10-year note auction in the meantime delivered a 2.72% yield from 1.92%.

Tonight in the **US**, March **producer prices** are due, together with weekly mortgage applications. A 30-year bond auction is also scheduled for tonight.

In addition, March quarter reporting season commences in

Pre-Open Announcements

Chorus Ltd (* CNU)

Fibre broadband connections grew by 2% (22,000) during the March quarter.

Copper broadband and voice connections fell by 29,000.

Resources

Firetail Resources (* FTL) / Gascoyne Resources (GCY)

Mineral exploration company FTL, formed by the demerger of joint GCY and (the former) Firefly Resources copper gold and lithium exploration assets, is scheduled to list on the ASX **midday** AEST, following an \$8.125M IPO at 25c per share.

~61.78M quoted shares.

GCY acquired Firefly Resources under an agreed scheme of arrangement, initially announced June 2021 and implemented November 2021.

GCY holds 8.36% of FTL.

Corazin Mining (* CZN)

~\$7.6M better off following the recent 3c-per-share entitlement offer, in support of CZN's Lynn Lake nickel sulphide project, Canada.

CZN has traded at 3.4c – 3.6c over the past five trading sessions.

Narryer Metals (* NYM)

Mineral exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEST **tomorrow**, following a \$5M IPO at 20c per share.

~27.9M quoted shares.

Three nickel-copper-PGE exploration projects – one in WA and two in South Australia.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Aldoro Resources	ARN	13 Apr
Mithril Resources	MTH	13 Apr
Propell Holdings	PHL	13 Apr
Scorpion Minerals	SCN	13 Apr
Sunstone Metals	STM	13 Apr
Emmerson Resources	ERM	14 Apr
EVZ Ltd	EVZ	14 Apr
Latin Resources	LRS	14 Apr
Lunnon Metals	LM8	14 Apr
Megado Gold	MEG	14 Apr
Pacgold Ltd	PGO	14 Apr
Sabre Resources	SBR	14 Apr



earnest, with BlackRock, Delta Air Lines, Infosys and JPMorgan among companies listed to release earnings.

Elsewhere, the **UK** reports March **CPI** and Germany hosts a 10-year bond auction.

Also in the UK, supermarket chain Tesco is expected to release full year results and PZ Cussons to provide a trading update.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Jun)	1976.1	oz	27.90	1.4
Silver (NY) (May)	25.735	oz	0.75	3.0
Gold (LON)	1952	oz	11 Apr	
Platinum	965	oz	-12	-1.2
WTI Crude (NYMEX May)	100.60	bbbl	6.31	6.7
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jun)	104.64	bbbl	6.16	6.3
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	155.56	t	-0.38	-0.2
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	10343	t	142	1.4
Nickel	32484	t	0	0.0
Aluminium	3267	t	19	0.6
Lead	2394	t	13	0.6
Zinc	4374	t	86	2.0
Tin	42773	t	-586	-1.4

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices ultimately reversed Monday’s drop, and more, overnight, sentiment appearing buoyed by some easing of restrictions in Shanghai, estimates indicating a significant reduction in oil and gas condensate output in Russia and OPEC’s warning that it would not replace any supply loss from Russia.

OPEC’s monthly report, published overnight, included a 480,000bbbl/d reduction in its 2022 forecast international oil demand growth, to 3.67MMbbbl/d.

At the same time, OPEC cut its 2022 predicted international economic growth from 4.2% to 3.9%, and warned significant risks could mean a further cut, by perhaps 0.5%.

OPEC also reduced its estimated hydrocarbon liquids production for Russia this year by 530,000bbbl/d.

Russia’s 1 – 11 April oil and gas condensate production was, in the meantime, estimated at 10.32MMbbbl/d, from 11.01MMbbbl for March.

For its part, OPEC produced 28.56MMbbbl/d during March.

The OPEC+ alliance, which includes Russia also confirmed it would not be using International Energy Agency (IEA) data when determining forecasts.

Among traditional buyers of Russia’s crude, Indian Oil Corp was reported to have not ordered any further crude from Russia’s Urals output.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is expected to publish its monthly market report tonight.

In addition, a weekly US petroleum inventories report is due from government agency the EIA.

Overnight, post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute (API) released a weekly report estimating a 7.857MMbbbl increase in US crude stocks last week.

Gold – the US March inflation reading spawned a fall in the \$US

Suspensions *(selected)*

Company	Code	Since
Fatfish Group	FFG	12 Apr
Pathfinder Resources	PF1	8 Apr
Thomson Resources	TMZ	11 Apr

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
D2O	Today	3.2	100	3.91
FGX	Today	3	100	4.07
WLE	Today	4	100	4.32
DVR	Tomorrow	1.5	100	3.92
NHC	Tomorrow	30	100	2.96
SEC	Tomorrow	2.5	100	4.45
KPG	Tue (19 Apr)	0.36	100	0.97
SOL	20 Apr	29	100	2.21
MFF	22 Apr	3.5	100	2.56

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ERD	Mar Q (webinar 9am)
	FTL	IPO (midday)
	ILU	AGM (11.30am)
Tomorrow	BOQ	Interim (audio w/cast 10am)
	WFL	Webinar, Q&A (11.30am)
20 Apr	COE	Mar Q (audio w/cast 10.30am)
	HIL	AGM (9.30am)
	RIO	Mar Q
21 Apr	CGF	Mar Q



and US bond yields (to ~2.708%) overnight, this supporting gold interest.

Comex futures settled higher for a fourth consecutive session.

Base metals – inventories, caution ahead of further material data expected out of China, an oil price jump and a late \$US decline pushed and pulled overnight LME trade.

LME-registered warehouse *zinc* stocks were reported at the least in 22 months, at 120,825t, with 74,900t earmarked for delivery.

Yesterday, Japan's March machine tool orders were reported 30.2% higher than for March 2021.

China's March trade figures, due today, are expected to influence at least some of tonight's LME trade.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7457	0.0025	0.34
EUR – USD	1.0824	-0.0045	-0.42

Australian Data Today

Westpac/MelInst	Consumer sentiment	Apr
ABS	Building activity	Dec

US Data Today & Tonight

Producer prices	Mar
MBA mortgage applications	8 Apr

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	Trade balance	Mar
Japan	Machinery orders	Feb
Japan	Tankan manufacturing sentiment	Apr
UK	CPI	Mar
Euro zone	Industrial production	Feb

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