

# **Market Opener**

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Markets			
SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7074	-6	-0.1
NZX 50	12128	13	0.1
DJIA Futures	33525	-174	-0.5
S&P 500 Futures	4300	11	0.2
NASDAQ Futures	13863	127	0.9

#### Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens today's trade with another wave of high-profile domestic stocks reporting earnings, two key domestic economic reports due late-morning, and a regional central bank considering an interest rate increase.

US markets traded for the first time this week overnight, ultimately settling lower, this mostly attributed to Ukraine-Russia developments.

**Locally** today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases the December quarter **wage price index** at 11.30am AEDT, and at the same time, a report covering December quarter **construction work done**.

Also today, **AGL**, **DOW**, **IRE** and **JBH** are among high-profile stocks trading **ex-dividend**. *Please see pp3-4 for a detailed ex-dividends list*.

Regionally today, the **Reserve Bank of New Zealand** is convening a policy meeting from which it is scheduled to announce outcomes at **midday** AEDT.

In overnight commodities trade, oil settled higher.

US gold futures rose to settle beyond \$US1905/oz.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** reportedly closed with a slight gain. **Nickel** was reported to have ultimately added ~1.0%. **Aluminium** reportedly settled more than 0.5% higher for the session. *Last night's LME final price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication.* 

The **\$A** was pushed a little higher, to ~US72.20c, after rising to US72.15c early yesterday evening.

NB: Japan's markets will be closed tomorrow, due to a public holiday.

## **Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	33597	-483	-1.4
S&P 500	4305	-44	-1.0
NASDAQ	13382	-167	-1.2
FTSE 100	7494	10	0.1
DAX 30	14693	-38	-0.3
Shanghai Comp	3457	-33	-1.0

### **Overseas Markets Commentary**

Major European and UK equities markets dropped on opening overnight, but sentiment recovered sufficiently for relatively

Wednesday, 23 February 2022

Please see disclaimer at end of this document

## **Today's Stock Watch**

#### Woolworths Ltd (WOW)

39c fully franked interim dividend from 53c a year ago. 20.6% lower, \$676M interim NPAT. 8.0% higher, \$31.89B revenue.

#### Domino's Pizza Enterprises (DMP)

88.4c, 70%-franked from 88.4c, 50%-franked a year ago.6.9% lower, \$89.1M interim NPAT.10.2% higher, \$1.21B revenue.

10.2% higher, \$1.21B revenue.

#### APA Group (APA)

25c, 4.04c-franked interim dividend from 27c unfranked a year ago. \$155.59M interim NPAT from a \$15.485M net loss. 6.9% higher, \$1.38B revenue. \$2.39 NTA against \$2.77.

#### Worley Ltd (WOR)

Flat, 25c interim dividend. 259% higher, \$79M interim NPAT. 4% lower, \$4.66B revenue.

#### Scentre Croup (SCG)

2.89c final dividend from 7c a year ago.\$887.9M full year NPAT from a \$3.73B loss a year ago.5.5% higher, \$2.28B revenue.

### Stockland (SGP)

12c interim dividend/distribution from 13.3c. 149.1% higher, \$837M interim NPAT. 0.5% higher, \$1.19B revenue. \$4.23 NTA from \$3.98.

In addition, SGP is selling its retirement living business for \$987M. Further, Ivanhoe Cambridge is acquiring a 49% interest in the M\_Park Trust. Details lodged this morning.

### Michael Hill International (MHJ)

3.5c interim dividend from 1.5c a year ago. 1.2% lower, \$37.14M interim NPAT. 2.3% higher, \$327.11M revenue.

### Steadfast Group (SDF)

5.2c fully franked interim dividend from 4.4c a year ago. 43% higher, \$104.9M interim NPAT. 26% higher, \$461.9M revenue. 10c NTA from 3c at 30 June 2021.

In addition, Philip Purcell has retired from the SDF board, effective yesterday.

Mr Purcell was appointed as a non-executive SDF director in January 2013 and will now join an SDF subsidiary board.

### Resources

## Rio Tinto (RIO)

Full year results anticipated today.

### Pilbara Minerals (PLS)

MD and CEO Ken Brinsden is planning to step down from his PLS roles by the end of the year.

Interim results also lodged pre-trade.



modest declines, and even slight gains, to be recorded at settlement.

US markets traded for the first time this week, and despite some swings higher intra-session, key indices settled decidedly lower for the day, the S&P 500 entering technical correction territory.

International political relations remained forefront.

Yesterday, Russia had ordered troops to two separatist regions in Ukraine for peace-keeping duties, hours after Russia's president declared these regions as independent of Ukraine, and reiterated that Russia had created Ukraine and that Ukraine was essentially not a separate state.

The declaration and planned additional military activity prompted sanction announcements from several nations.

Germany blocked the Nord Stream 2 pipeline certification. The line had been designed to deliver gas directly from Russia to Germany.

The European Union's penalties included stopping trade between the two Ukraine separatist regions declared independent by Russia, curbed European capital markets access, and placing various sanctions on a 27-strong list of individuals and organisations.

The UK also sanctioned individuals and a group of financial institutions.

The US announced the banning of business with the two separatist regions as 'initial' sanctions.

This was followed by sanctions on two large financial institutions and a ban on financing Russia's government, the US administration foreshadowing further penalties pending Russia's military activity.

Meanwhile, Russia's Gazprom was reported to have stopped taking orders for **gas** supply to Ukraine.

Other retaliatory responses by Russia against western nations, including limiting the supply of key commodities including grain, oil, gas, nickel and aluminium, are feared.

Among overnight **data** releases, IFO's business climate index for **Germany** was calculated 2.9 points higher February, at 98.9, following forecasts for 96.6.

The current conditions and expectations component indices rose by 2.4 and 3.4 points respectively, to 98.6 and 99.2.

**UK** public sector January net borrowing tallied £2.9B, following forecasts for a £3.7B surplus, after coming in at a £15.4B deficit for December. Debt charges were recorded as the most for any January.

Meanwhile, the CBI industrial trends orders index for February dropped by four points to 20, against expectations for a two-point decline.

In the **US**, the Conference Board February consumer confidence reading slipped by 0.6 to 110.5, but a larger fall, to 109, had been anticipated by forecasters.

The Richmond Fed manufacturing index plunged to one from eight, defying forecasts for an improvement to 10.

The manufacturing shipments component index surprised the most, diving to -11 from 14, against expectations for a rise to 15.

Meanwhile, the Richmond Fed services index jumped from four to 11.

## **Pre-Open Announcements**

## Accent Group (AX1)

2.5c fully franked interim dividend from 8c a year ago.72.0% lower, \$14.76M interim NPAT.12.2% higher, \$536.49M revenue.\$10.79 NTA against \$14.72.

### National Tyre & Wheel (NTD)

Flat, 3c fully franked interim dividend. 43.8% lower, \$5.46M interim NPAT. 18.4% higher, \$251.49M revenue. 55.31c from 56.30c.

#### Wagners Holding Company (WGN)

341% higher, \$4.727M interim NPAT. 10% higher, \$171.098M revenue.

#### Acrow Formwork & Construction Services (ACF)

1.2c, 20%-franked interim dividend from 0.75c fully franked a year ago.

294% higher, \$7.35M interim NPAT. 38% higher, \$69.32M revenue. 30.35c NTA from 26.28c.

### SelfWealth Ltd (SWF)

SWF has received notice from two shareholders of their intention to seek the removal of two directors from the SWF board.

The two shareholders hold a combined ~8.6% of SWF.

#### Resources

### South32 Ltd (\* S32)

S32 has completed the \$US1.4B acquisition of 45% of the Sierra Gorda copper operation, Chile.

A further payment of up to \$US500M is possible for 2022 - 2025.

### AngloGold Ashanti (\* AGG)

\$US612M 2021 NPAT from \$1B for 2020.

Paying a US14c final dividend, from ~A9.49c a year ago.

July – December breakdown statistics also lodged post-trade yesterday.

In addition, AGG CFO Christine Ramon is planning to retire from her AGG role at the end of June.

Ms Ramon was also AGG's interim CEO for a year, 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021.

### Magnis Energy Technologies (MNS)

Conference presentation lodged post-trade yesterday. MNS has settled lower the past two sessions, closing at 41c yesterday.

### Energy

#### Alliance Resources (AGS)

AGS non-executive chairman Ian Gandel-controlled Gandel

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Markit's initial February PMIs were each calculated higher than expected, representing further expansion.

The Case-Shiller and FHFA December residential property price indices indicated 18.6% and 17.6% price increases from December 2020.

Prices were estimated 1.1% and 1.2% higher, respectively, for the month.

**Tonight** in the **US**, weekly mortgage applications are due.

Elsewhere, Germany conducts a 15-year bond auction.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today and tonight include Barclays, Danone, eBay, Lloyds Banking Group, Lowe's, Petrobras, Rio Tinto and TJX Companies.

In overnight corporate news, the immediate past US president's new social app Truth Social launched on the US **Apple** app store.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1907.4	oz	7.6	0.4
Silver (NY) (Mar)	24.31	oz	0.32	1.3
Gold (LON) (21 Feb)	1894	OZ	0.85	0.0
Platinum	1076	oz	-1	-0.1
WTI Crude (NYMEX Mar)	92.35	bbl	1.28	1.4
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Apr)	96.84	bbl	1.52	1.5
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	141.11	t	(18 Feb)	
Copper (LME 3mth Evening) (21 Feb)	9904	t		
Nickel	24394	t		
Aluminium	3282	t		
Lead	2336	t		
Zinc	3561	t		
Tin	44187	t		

#### **Commodities Commentary**

*Oil* – overnight trade featured swinging prices, on Ukraine-Russia news, including Russian troops active in eastern Ukraine, and sanctions announcements against Russian organisations, sovereign debt and individuals. This heightened fears of reduced commodities exports, including oil and gas, from Russia.

Brent crude traded as high as \$US99.50/bbl, not seen since September 2014, and WTI reached a seven-year peak of \$US96/bbl.

Meanwhile OPEC member Nigeria reiterated the organisation's view that a further increase in OPEC supply was not currently warranted, citing a possible deal with Iran that could restore Iran's international oil trade. Negotiators, however, have pointed out, removing oil sanctions is not one of the options for a staged removal of the past few years' penalties against Iran, should an agreement be achieved.

Gold - prices were pushed to eight-month highs overnight, supported by some safe-haven buying. Gold competed against US bonds, for which demand pushed yields back to ~1.92%.

Comex futures notably settled well above \$US1900/oz.

No economic data releases are expected to influence gold trade until at least overnight tomorrow.

Base metals - Ukraine-Russia developments again influenced overnight LME trade, fears of reduced commodities exports out of Metals is intending to launch an off-market 18c-per-share takeover bid for AGS.

In addition, Stephen Johnston has resigned from the AGS board. He was appointed an AGS director in mid-2003.

In association with the planned takeover bid, AGS has extended the company's entitlement offer closing date by one week from 25 February (Friday) until 4 March.

AGS has traded at 13.5c – 14c over the past week.

#### **Trading Halts**

Company	Code	Resuming
Chimeric Therapeutics	CHM	23 Feb
Genex Power	GNX	23 Feb
Creso Pharma	СРН	24 Feb
Lake Resources	LKE	24 Feb
Manuka Resources	MKR	24 Feb
MoneyMe Ltd	MME	24 Feb
Ora Banda Mining	OBM	24 Feb
Xantippe Resources	XTC	24 Feb

#### Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Delecta Ltd	DLC	15 Feb
WhiteHawk Ltd	WHK	21 Feb

#### **Ex-Dividends**

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
AGL	Today	16	0	8.28
AUI	Today	17	100	3.69
CDA	Today	13	100	3.47
DHG	Today	2	100	0.99
DOW	Today	12	0	4.02
DUI	Today	7	100	3.11
FSA	Today	3.5	100	2.86
IRE	Today	30	15	4.31
JBH	Today	163	100	5.42
MFG	Today	110.1	75	5.44
MYS	Today	12.5	100	5.06
NGI	Today	7.69	0	7.58
NWL	Today	10	100	1.31
SEQ	Today	0.5	100	1.41
SGF	Today	8.32	100	4.61
BBN	Tomorrow	6.6	100	2.96
BHP	Tomorrow	210.7	100	8.42
BRG	Tomorrow	15	100	0.92
CGF	Tomorrow	11.5	100	2.82
EGG	Tomorrow	6	100	4.20
HSN	Tomorrow	7	50.13	1.90
OZL	Tomorrow	18	100	1.01

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AFSL 247100 3 | Page Russia, including *aluminium* and *nickel*, propelling prices higher in early trade.

Aluminium was reportedly priced as high as \$US3380/t intrasession, and nickel at an ~11-year peak of \$US24,925/t.

The International Aluminium Institute had reported late-Monday a 4.5% drop in primary aluminium production during 2021, to 5.513Mt, this exacerbating concerns at potential supply for 2022.

**China** in the meantime announced tax and fee reductions, plus local government financial support, to help bolster the republic's economy, supporting other overnight metals trade.

Exchange Rates			
CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7220	0.0019	0.27
EUR – USD	1.1329	0.0031	0.27
	Australian Dat	ta Today	
	Australian Da		
ABS	Wage price index		Dec Q
ABS	Construction wo	rk done	Dec Q
	US Data Today	& Tonight	
MBA mortgage	applications		18 Feb
	Overseas Data Tod	ay & Tonight	
Germany	GfK consumer c	onfidence	Mar
Euro zone	CPI (final)		Jan
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PAI	Tomorrow	2.5	100	9.13
PGH	Tomorrow	3.5	65	4.23
PMC	Tomorrow	3	100	4.55
TWD	Tomorrow	11	100	6.49
WHC	Tomorrow	8	0	0.00
WPL	Tomorrow	146.75	100	1.93
BAP	Fri	10	100	2.99
BPT	Fri	1	100	1.31
BSL	Fri	25	0	1.61
FID	Fri	14.8	100	3.24
GCI	Fri	0.7	0	4.53
LLC	Fri	5	0	2.51
NCM	Fri	10.48	100	2.20
PPE	Fri	6.5	100	2.63
PTL	Fri	1.3	100	5.91
TCF	Fri	3	0	5.19

## **Reports & Events**

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	APA	Interim
	DMP	Interim
	HLS	Interim
	HT1	Interim
	LYL	Interim (tele 2pm)
	МСР	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)
	MEZ	Interim (w/stream tele 9am)
	MHJ	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
	MGX	Interim
	NZM	Interim
	PRU	Interim
	РТМ	Interim
	RIO	Full year
	SBM	Interim
	SCG	Full year
	SPK	Interim (tele 8am)
	SDF	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
	SGP	Interim
	TNE	AGM
	WGN	Interim (tele 9am)
	WTC	Interim
	WOW	Interim
	WOR	Interim
Tomorrow	AIZ	Interim (w/cast tele 8am)
	AND	Interim (webinar 11am)
	APX	Full year
	ALL	AGM
	ALX	Full year
	AIA	Interim

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APE	Full year (tele 10am)
BGA	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)
BKL	Interim (w/cast 10.30am)
CCX	Interim (w/cast 9.30am)
CVW	Interim (tele 10am)
CMP	Interim
CYG	Interim
CMW	Interim (tele 10am)
FWD	Interim
FLT	Interim
IGL	Interim (webinar 11am)
ILU	Full year
IFL	Interim
JHG	Full year (audited)
LNK	Interim
NEC	Interim
OPY	Interim (webinar 11am)
РРТ	Interim
QAN	Interim
QUB	Interim
RHC	Interim
REH	Interim
RSG	Full year (teles 1pm & 7pm)
SXL	Interim (tele 9.30am)
TLX	Full year (tele 8.45am)
ABC	Full year
ATL	Interim (w/cast 11.30am)
ALG	Interim
AFG	Interim (tele 11am)
BBT	Interim (tele 11.30am)
BKG	Interim (w/cast 11am)
BXB	Interim
BWX	Interim
GMA	Full year (tele 10am)
KGN	Interim (tele 10.30am)
MYX	Interim
MPL	Interim
QAL	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)
SHV	AGM

Fri