

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7298	63	0.9
NZX 50	11895	27	0.2
DJIA Futures	33414	0	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	4050	0	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	12311	0	0.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences a new week's trade with updated economic plans out of China, Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) outcomes and comments out of tomorrow's policy meeting keenly anticipated tomorrow afternoon, and in the meantime an inflation indicator report due, and the latest S&P/ASX indices rebalance to consider.

US equities markets rallied in concert overnight Friday.

Since overnight Friday trade, the National People's Congress annual session commenced in **China**, outgoing premier Li Keqiang announcing a 5% 2023 GDP growth target. Last year, the target had been set at 5.5%, but an ultimate 3.0% recorded.

Among other opening announcements, 3.8 trillion yuan (~US\$50B) worth of local government bonds were declared set aside for infrastructure spending. Last year the special bonds tallied 3.76 trillion yuan.

In addition, China is planning to boost this year's defence budget by 7.2% following a 7.1% increase last year.

Mr Li is retiring at this week's session, together with several other officials, as announced at last year's Communist Party Congress.

Locally today, the Melbourne Institute's February **inflation gauge** report is anticipated at **11am** AEDT.

Post-ASX trade Friday, the **S&P/ASX** March quarter **indices rebalance** was published.

Another sizeable batch of large-cap and high-profile stocks trades **ex-dividend** today, including: **ALU, BEN, CWY, ILU, NCK, QBE, REA, RHC** and **SGM**. Please see pp3-4 for a detailed ex-dividends list.

Regionally today, **South Korea** is scheduled to release the nation's February **inflation** rate as the ASX opens.

In overnight Friday **commodities** trade, **oil** picked up the pace of Thursday's gains.

US **gold** futures swung higher, closing above \$US1854.0/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) turned moderately lower, to trade below \$US126/t.

LME **copper** and **aluminium** turned to record slight gains. **Nickel** swung more decisively higher.

The **\$A** rose beyond US67.65c after trading at US67.50c Friday evening.

Normal ASX trade & settlements today; WA public holiday

S&P/ASX March Q indices rebalance in hand

Please see pp4-5

Today's Stock Watch

Cash Converters International (CCV)

Proposing to outlay £13.9M to acquire Capital Cash, CCV's largest franchise group in the UK.

Capital Cash operates 42 of 188 UK franchise stores for which CCV is the master franchisor.

CCV plans to use cash reserves to fund the purchase, which remain conditional, including on UK regulatory approval.

Sims Ltd (SGM)

Planning to sell the group's 50% holding in biogas-to-energy specialist LMS Energy.

SGM trades ex-dividend (14c) today.

Magellan Financial Group (MFG)

\$A45.4B FUM at 28 February from \$A46.2B at 31 January.

GQG Partners (GQG)

\$US90.8B FUM at 28 February from \$US92.0B at 31 January.

DroneShield Ltd (DRO)

Initial \$600,000 drone tracking sensors order in hand for an unmanned traffic management project in Europe.

Incitec Pivot (IPL)

IPL has appointed Incitec Pivot Fertilisers chair designate Michael Carroll and Janchor Partners founder and chief industrialist investor John Ho as non-executive directors.

Janchor Partners holds an indirect 10.3% interest in IPL.

Mr Carroll is a former National Australia Bank (ASX: NAB) agribusiness financial services GM.

Additional details for Mr Ho, including professional experience and other ASX directorships, lodged this morning.

Resources

Antipa Minerals (AZY)

Heralding Minyari Dome project greenfield drilling results, declaring discoveries at both Minyari North and the GEO-01 target. Minyari North is located 400m north of the Minyari deposit and GEO-01 1.3km south of the deposit.

Anticipating 'significant' initial resource estimates for each location. Assays lodged pre-trade, together with this year's Minyari plans.

Calidus Resources (CAI)

WA Pilbara region Warrawoona gold project production reached 180oz/day during February.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	33391	387	1.2
S&P 500	4046	64	1.6
NASDAQ	11689	226	2.0
FTSE 100	7947	3	0.0
DAX 30	15578	251	1.6
Shanghai Comp	3328	18	0.5

Overseas Markets Commentary

Most major European, UK and US equities markets opened higher overnight Friday on a return of risk sentiment.

The FTSE 100 proved the exception, losing gains from late first half trade, and with sentiment improving only minimally thereafter.

Earlier Friday, a February services PMI released by Caixin for China represented a better-than-anticipated sector improvement and ongoing expansion. Further, the improvement proved at the best rate since August 2022.

In addition, the People's Bank of China had indicated that bank capital reserve requirements could be eased further.

Overnight Friday, US data also appeared to assuage fears, neither pointing to an over-heating economy nor one that was likely to fail.

In addition, some positive corporate forecasts buoyed select sentiment.

Meanwhile, G20 foreign ministers meeting in New Delhi, India had continued to highlight marked differences over views on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Among overnight Friday **economic data** releases, **euro zone** January producer prices were estimated 2.8% lower for the month, surprising against forecasts for a 0.6% increase after a 1.1% rise in December.

Against January 2022, prices were up 15%. December's were recorded 24.5% on an annualised basis.

The bloc's February services PMI was finalised at 52.7 from an initial estimate of 53.0, but also a notable improvement on January's 50.7 and representing the best rate of improvement since June 2022.

Germany's January trade figures included a €10.8B trade surplus against expectations for €8.6B. This followed a €9.7B December surplus.

Seasonally adjusted, exports rose 2.1% after sliding 6.3% in December.

Imports unexpectedly dropped by 3.4%. Economists had anticipated a 2.0% increase after a 5.6% December tumble.

The final 50.9 February services PMI reading represented a 0.2-point improvement for the month, a second consecutive monthly expansion-mode reading but against an initial estimate of 51.3.

The **UK's** February services PMI was finalised at 53.3, 0.2 higher than the initial estimate and a 4.8-point increase for the month, representing a return to expansion mode.

In the **US**, the ISM's influential services sector PMI for February was calculated at 55.1, from 55.2 for January, remaining firmly in

Pre-Open Announcements**Argenica Therapeutics (AGN)**

Heralding initial safety results for the ARG-007 phase one clinical trial.

AGN is planning a phase two trial of ARG-007 with stroke patients.

Pentanet Ltd (5GG)

MoU secured with Cambium Networks covering a proposed Network-as-a-Service agreement.

Virtual Technologies (VR1)

Promoting real estate sector and virtual television and film production products at the Sydney Build expo today and tomorrow. Details lodged this morning.

Chorus Ltd (CNU)

CNU has appointed recent 2Degrees CEO and former Vodafone CFO Mark Aue as CFO, effective 11 April.

CNU's GM customer and network operations Andrew Carroll has been CNU acting CFO since 22 August 2022

Meridian Energy (MEZ)

Conducting an ~\$NZ150M 5-5-year unsecured fixed-rate green bond offer.

An existing \$NZ150M worth of bonds mature 14 March.

EROAD Ltd (ERD)

A cost-cutting program underway since August 2022 has to-date reduced costs by ~\$10M on an annualised basis.

Update promised at the 21 March ERD's investor day.

Nexion Group (NNG)

NNG is extending the term sheets deadlines for two proposed New Zealand acquisitions while the company completes a debt facility agreement and finalises an equity placement.

Details lodged post-trade Friday.

Resources**Green Technology Metals (GT1)**

Option secured over the potential acquisition of the Junior Lake lithium-prospective project, Ontario, Canada.

Junior Lake is located ~22km from GT1's Seymour project.

5E Advanced Materials (5EA)

Updated investor presentation, as lodged in the US overnight Friday, lodged with the ASX this morning.

Nickel Industries (NIC)

Updated Dawn HPA+ project plans lodged this morning.

NIC trades ex-dividend (2c) today.

Australian Strategic Materials (ASM)

ASM has appointed CEO Rowena Smith also as MD.

ASM settled at \$1.56 last week after closing out the previous week at \$1.70.

Galan Lithium (GLN)

Initial WA Greenbushes South lithium project E70/4790



expansion-mode territory.

Forecasters had anticipated a larger February decline to 54.6.

The new orders component index rose by 2.2 to 62.6 and the prices index fell by 2.2 points to 65.6.

Tonight in the US, January factory orders are anticipated.

In overnight Friday corporate news, Morgan Stanley ventured a 20% jump in **Apple's** stock price this year.

In addition, chip manufacturer **Broadcom** delivered a better-than-anticipated quarterly revenue forecast, based on demand from AI product developers.

Not so with competitor **Marvell Technology**, which, in addition to a weak revenue prediction, had reported quarterly profit that undershot expectations.

Costco Wholesale was pushed lower Friday following a post-Thursday trade quarterly release which contained revenue figures that appeared to underwhelm.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Apr)	1854.6	oz	14.1	0.8
Silver (COMEX 5000 May)	21.24	oz	0.34	1.6
Platinum	979	oz	17	1.8
WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr)	79.68	bbbl	1.52	1.9
Brent Crude (ICE EUR May)	85.83	bbbl	1.08	1.3
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	125.80	t	-0.60	-0.5
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	8986	t	26	0.3
Nickel	24668	t	209	0.8
Aluminium	2415	t	6	0.2
Lead	2122	t	-7	-0.3
Zinc	3076	t	29	0.9
Tin	24775	t	180	0.7
Wheat (CBT May; IRESS)	708.75	t	-4	-0.6

Commodities Commentary

Oil – post-overnight Friday trade, **Iran's** president was reported to have told the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that Iran is ready to enable nuclear activity monitoring equipment to be re-installed. This, together with new official economic targets and policy ambitions out of China on the weekend, are likely to influence at least some trade sentiment today and tonight.

Oil prices dropped early overnight Friday, before turning decisively higher.

The fall was in part attributed to reports the **United Arab Emirates** (UAE) had considered relinquishing its OPEC membership and boosting UAE crude output. The reports were subsequently debunked by un-named sources.

Earlier Friday, a **China's** services sector index proved encouraging for likely crude demand.

In addition, some economists speculated China could set a 6% growth target for this year. This, however, has proved optimistic, with China officially announcing a 5% target over the weekend.

A weekly **US** petroleum drill rig report published overnight Friday, included an eight-rig drop in the number of operational oil rigs to 592.

drilling underway.

Queensland Pacific Metals (QPM)

QPM has secured a boost to debt financing, with Export Development Canada doubling its indicative commitment to \$400M.

Labyrinth Resources (LRL)

WA goldfields Comet Vale gold-copper-nickel project M29/52 drilling expected to commence within ~six weeks.

Energy

HyTerra Ltd (HYT)

Nebraska, US project Geneva operations update lodged this morning.

Installing a pump to dewater Hoarty NE3.

In addition, HYT is scrapping a loyalty options offer.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Caprice Resources	CRS	7 Mar
Great Boulder Resources	GBR	7 Mar
GreenX Metals	GRX	7 Mar
PYC Therapeutics	PYC	7 Mar
Sayona Mining	SYA	7 Mar
GTI Energy	GTR	8 Mar

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
<i>Allegiance Coal (vol adminstrs)</i>	AHQ	22 Feb
Atomos Ltd	AMS	28 Feb
Bravura Solutions	BVS	28 Feb
Cyprium Metals	CYM	23 Feb
Kaddy Ltd	KDY	28 Feb
Medlab Clinical	MDC	27 Feb
Metarock Group	MYE	27 Feb
Province Resources	PRL	21 Feb
Purifloh Ltd	PO3	15 Feb
Rey Resources	REY	3 Mar
Rhythm Biosciences	RHY	3 Mar
Seafarms Group	SFG	14 Feb
Ten Sixty Four	X64	28 Feb
Wellfully Ltd	WFL	22Feb

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
AFG	Today	6.6	100	10.47
ALU	Today	25	40	1.22
BEN	Today	29	100	5.52
BRI	Today	8.6	100	5.89



Gold – swinging trade was reported overnight Friday, in part attributed to reactions to data releases, including the US ISM services index for February.

Traders continued to anticipate likely central bank moves based on the new data and the \$US (ICE index) was pushed lower.

Ultimately, settlement prices delivered gold's first weekly gain following five weeks of declines.

The US Federal Reserve chair's scheduled six-monthly meetings with parliamentarians overnight Tuesday and Wednesday this week are expected to impact gold trade.

Post-policy meetings commentary for central banks in Australia, Canada and Japan will also draw attention, but the major central bank influence on gold trade is expected to be the Federal Reserve chair's comments and interpretations of these.

US February employment statistics, due Friday, are expected to provide final sentiment push and pull for the week.

Base metals – LME base metals sentiment in general was supported in early trade by new data out of China and speculation regarding China's likely 2023 GDP growth target (announced over the weekend as 5.0%).

A February services PMI for **China**, released Friday, rose to 55.0 from 52.9 following forecasts for 53.8.

China's annual National Party Congress commenced yesterday, with reactions to newly-delivered economic and other forecasts delivered on the opening likely to swing some of tonight's trade, ahead of further key data releases anticipated for China this week.

Trade statistics are scheduled for release tomorrow.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6756	0.0013	0.19
EUR – USD	1.0625	-0.0010	-0.10

Australian Data Today

Melb Institute	Inflation gauge	Feb
----------------	-----------------	-----

US Data Tonight

Factory orders	Jan
----------------	-----

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

South Korea	Inflation rate	Feb
UK	Construction PMI	Feb
UK	New domestic vehicle sales	Feb
Germany	Construction PMI	Feb
Euro zone	Sentix investor confidence	Mar
Euro zone	Retail sales	Jan
Euro zone	Construction PMI	Feb

CWY	Today	2.45	0	0.94
HIT	Today	5	100	5.58
HLO	Today	2	100	4.26
IBC	Today	1.1	100	4.64
ILU	Today	20	100	3.39
MAD	Today	2.4	100	0.45
MEC	Today	1.5	100	6.12
NCK	Today	40	100	7.09
NIC	Today	2	0	1.94
QAL	Today	2	100	1.47
QBE	Today	30	10	1.86
REA	Today	75	100	1.37
RHC	Today	50	100	1.45
RPL	Today	4	100	1.91
SGM	Today	14	0	5.65
ECL	Tomorrow	3	100	1.89
HGH	Tomorrow	5.04	0	2.94
LBL	Tomorrow	0.8	100	1.54
LOV	Tomorrow	38	100	3.08
MEZ	Tomorrow	5.32	0	3.08
MFD	Tomorrow	4.38	100	2.43
NST	Tomorrow	11	100	1.97
PRU	Tomorrow	1.06	0	1.12
PRI	Tomorrow	5.2	60	2.45
QUB	Tomorrow	3.75	100	1.97
SHJ	Tomorrow	1.5	0	8.51
SHL	Tomorrow	42	100	3.09
TPC	Tomorrow	10	100	4.98
UNI	Tomorrow	14	100	3.88
VEA	Tomorrow	13.3	100	5.54

March quarter S&P/ASX indices re-balance

The following changes will be effective prior to the opening of trade Monday **20 March**:

S&P/ASX 20

Out: JHX

In: S32

S&P/ASX 100

Out: ARB, SGR

In: NHF, TNE

S&P/ASX 200

Out: ABC, NVX, RMS, SIQ

In: 360, NWH, PNV, SYR

S&P/ASX 300

Out: AMI, ASM, BET, BVS, CCX, CVN, EML, PGH, SXL

In: ADT, BCB, EBO, HAS, RIC, RNU, RSG, SLX, TER, TIE, TLG, WBT

S&P/ASX All Ordinaries



Need More Information?

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

Disclaimer / Disclosure / General Advice Warning / Confidentiality Notice

This market opener and its contents always remain the property of State One Stockbroking Ltd (“State One”) and as such cannot be reprinted, distributed, copied, posted on the internet, in part or whole, without written prior approval from State One.

The contents of this document constitute General Advice and have been prepared without taking account of your investment objectives, financial situation or needs. Because of that you should, before taking any action to acquire or deal in, or follow a recommendation (if any) in respect of any of the financial products or information mentioned in this document, consult your own investment advisor to consider whether that is appropriate having regard to your own objectives, financial situation and needs.

While State One believes information contained in this document is based on information which is believed to be reliable, its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed, and no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given or implied and no responsibility for any loss or damage arising in any way for any representation, act or omission is accepted by State One or any officer, agent or employee of State One. If applicable, you should obtain the Product Disclosure Statement relating to any relevant financial product mentioned in this document (which contains full details of the terms and conditions of the relevant financial product) and consider it before making any decision about whether to acquire the financial product.

The directors and associated persons of State One may have a long or short interest in the financial products discussed in this document and they may earn brokerage, commissions, fees and advantages, pecuniary or otherwise, in connection with the making of a recommendation or dealing by a client in such financial products. Additionally, State One may earn fees due to having been appointed advisors to, or may be undertaking or about to commence research relating to, any of the companies mentioned herein.

Out: 3DP, 4DX, ABY, ADN, ADO, ALC, AMS, ART, AVH, AXE, BBT, BKG, CEL, DUB, EGR, EOS, ERD, FLN, GLB, HPG, IPD, JAN, KED, LRK, MME, MMM, MVP, NCZ, ORR, POS, PPK, RBL, RTR, RWL, SRX, STP, SZL, VHT, WGN, WSP, WZR

In: A11, A1M, AIZ, ANG, APZ, ASN, ATA, AVR, BCB, C79, CKA, COB, D2O, DRE, GAL, GDG, GL1, GNX, HFR, HZN, IFT, IGL, IOD, IPG, IVZ, KPG, KSC, KSL, LAU, LIN, LPI, LRS, LYL, MAY, MRM, NTU, NXD, NZM, PEN, PGC, PLY, QRI, RDT, RHI, SM1, SMP, SRG, SRL, SVM, TBN, TER, TGP, THL, URF, VIT, WOT

S&P/ASX All Technology Index

Out: CTT, DUB, FCL, FDV, KGN, RBL, TPW