

# STORIES TO READ FROM FNArena

Friday, 5 December 2025



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## AUSTRALIA

# The Market In Numbers - 29 Nov 2025

**The Market In Numbers:** Look under the bonnet and what do you see?

For most investors, whatever goes on in financial markets is experienced through their own portfolio and personal matters of interest.

The below detailed overview in raw numbers and calculations might assist with assessing trends and currents that might not be apparent from daily volatility and movements.

All index data are ex dividends. Commodities are in USD.

## Australia & NZ

Index	29 Nov 2025	Week To Date	Month To Date (Nov)	Quarter To Date (Oct-Dec)	Year To Date (2025)	Financial Year To Date (FY26)
NZ50	13489.150	0.52%	-0.44%	1.48%	2.89%	7.03%
All Ordinaries	8918.70	2.68%	-2.83%	-2.38%	5.92%	1.66%
S&P ASX 200	8614.10	2.35%	-3.02%	-2.65%	5.58%	0.84%
S&P ASX 300	8574.50	2.49%	-2.98%	-2.59%	5.87%	1.18%
Communication Services	1797.20	1.19%	-2.29%	-3.45%	10.43%	-3.01%
Consumer Discretionary	4090.10	2.27%	-2.79%	-9.48%	4.57%	-1.28%
Consumer Staples	11943.80	1.81%	1.54%	1.70%	1.48%	-1.44%
Energy	8589.60	-0.10%	-0.57%	3.08%	-0.39%	-0.99%
Financials	8993.10	0.12%	-7.42%	-6.07%	4.40%	-5.62%
Health Care	36306.90	4.30%	1.96%	-2.97%	-19.11%	-12.73%
Industrials	8593.20	4.23%	0.13%	1.45%	12.38%	3.30%
Info Technology	2370.00	5.96%	-11.65%	-19.04%	-13.53%	-18.30%
Materials	19918.90	4.98%	1.48%	5.86%	23.53%	25.61%
Real Estate	3917.60	1.78%	-3.92%	-3.39%	4.15%	0.49%
Utilities	9856.90	1.87%	-2.06%	-1.53%	9.12%	7.83%
A-REITs	1801.90	1.80%	-3.85%	-3.29%	4.86%	0.61%
All Technology Index	3670.60	4.98%	-7.61%	-13.15%	-3.54%	-9.23%
Banks	3868.20	-0.28%	-8.05%	-5.94%	7.26%	-3.84%
Gold Index	17611.90	8.55%	9.93%	9.52%	109.08%	52.39%
Metals & Mining	6807.30	5.17%	1.54%	5.48%	29.52%	30.39%

## The World

Index	29 Nov 2025	Week To Date	Month To Date (Nov)	Quarter To Date (Oct-Dec)	Year To Date (2025)	Financial Year To Date (FY26)
FTSE100	9720.51	1.90%	0.03%	3.96%	18.93%	10.95%
DAX30	23836.79	3.23%	-0.51%	-0.18%	19.73%	-0.30%
Hang Seng	25858.89	2.53%	-0.18%	-3.71%	28.91%	7.42%
Nikkei 225	50253.91	3.35%	-4.12%	11.84%	25.97%	24.12%
DJIA	47716.42	3.18%	0.32%	2.84%	12.16%	8.21%
S&P500	6849.09	3.73%	0.13%	2.40%	16.45%	10.38%
Nasdaq Comp	23365.69	4.91%	-1.51%	3.11%	21.00%	14.71%

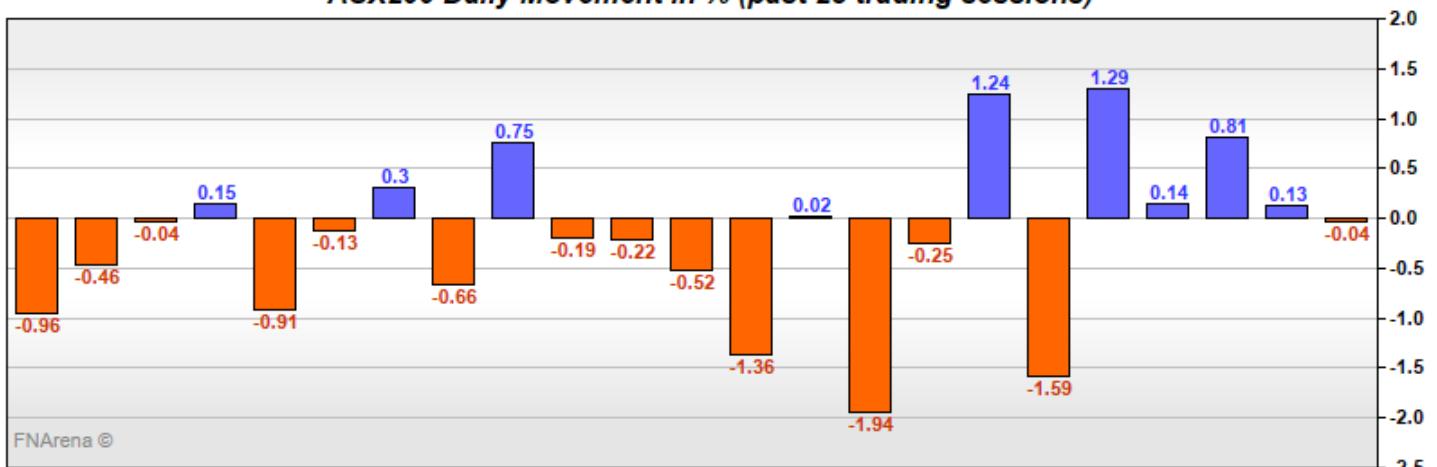
## Metals & Minerals

Index	29 Nov 2025	Week To Date	Month To Date (Nov)	Quarter To Date (Oct-Dec)	Year To Date (2025)	Financial Year To Date (FY26)
Gold (oz)	4189.60	2.81%	6.28%	8.51%	59.50%	26.87%
Silver (oz)	53.17	5.58%	12.46%	12.99%	75.91%	46.85%
Copper (lb)	5.1625	3.99%	-0.74%	5.23%	26.02%	1.31%
Aluminium (lb)	1.2855	0.73%	-1.78%	5.75%	12.46%	9.01%
Nickel (lb)	6.6277	1.03%	-3.45%	-3.04%	-7.24%	-2.81%
Zinc (lb)	1.3704	0.30%	-1.96%	2.56%	1.41%	8.55%
Uranium (lb) weekly	75.60	-1.69%	-4.18%	-8.64%	5.00%	-3.88%
Iron Ore (t)	104.63	0.37%	-0.97%	-0.68%	0.76%	10.73%

## Energy

Index	29 Nov 2025	Week To Date	Month To Date (Nov)	Quarter To Date (Oct-Dec)	Year To Date (2025)	Financial Year To Date (FY26)
West Texas Crude	59.10	0.66%	-2.14%	-6.40%	-14.94%	-9.80%
Brent Crude	62.92	-0.29%	-2.13%	-5.72%	-13.29%	-5.81%

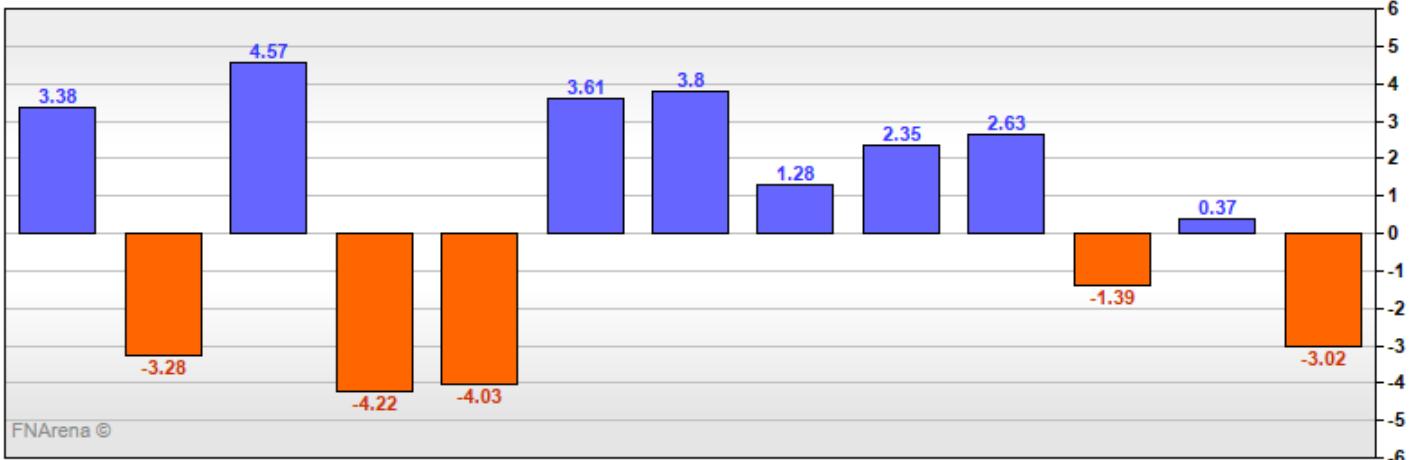
ASX200 Daily Movement in % (past 23 trading sessions)



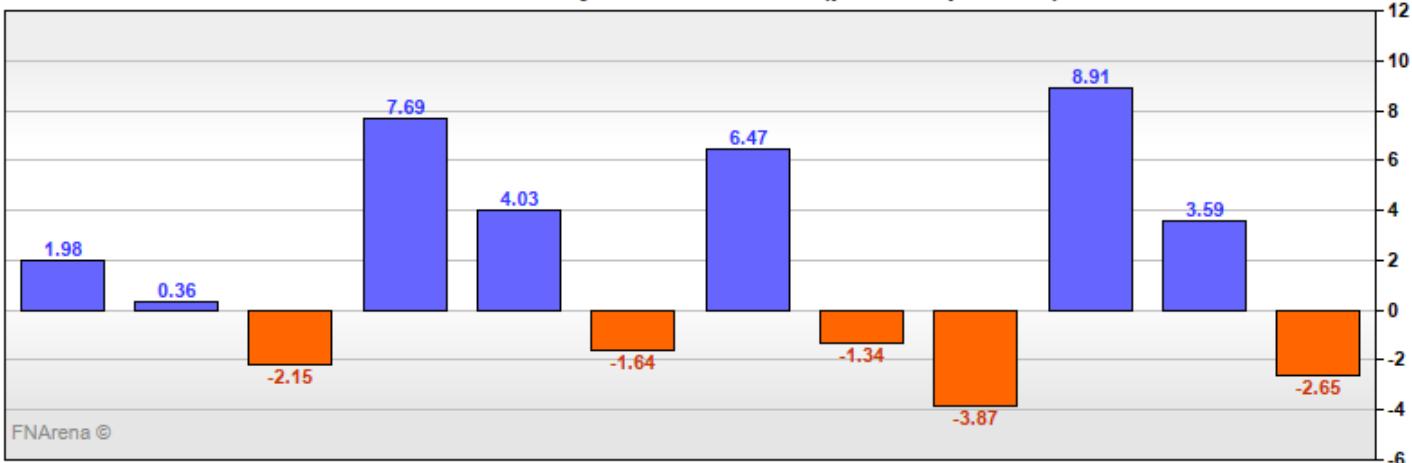
ASX200 Weekly Movement in % (past 25 weeks)



### ASX200 Monthly Movement in % (past 13 months)



### ASX200 Quarterly Movement in % (past 12 quarters)



The composition of above rankings and calculations is fully automated, based on raw data. Investors are advised to find context, interpretation and background elsewhere.

FNArena is not responsible for any glitches, omissions or data errors. This feature is not investment advice. It is offering a quick status on raw price movements for information purposes only.

FNArena welcomes comments and suggestions at [info@fnarena.com](mailto:info@fnarena.com)

**AUSTRALIA**

# Fisher & Paykel Healthcare's Superior Profile

Fisher & Paykel Healthcare's first half saw lower costs overcoming a drag from US tariffs. Declining US vaccination rates could provide a boost in the second half.

- Fisher & Paykel Healthcare's H1 beats on cost efficiencies
- Increases margin despite US tariffs
- Top-end guidance achievable on lower US vaccination rates
- Earnings growth forecasts superior in the sector

By Greg Peel



*A combination of low vaccination rates and a heavy flu season works to the benefit of Fisher & Paykel Healthcare*

New Zealand-based Fisher & Paykel Healthcare ((FPH)) is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of products and systems for use in acute and chronic respiratory care, surgery and the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea.

The company's first half FY26 (March year-end) proved significantly ahead of expectations on a slight revenue beat supported by lower selling, general & administrative (SG&A) and R&D spending compared to consensus.

Brokers are nevertheless quick to point out the first half was flattered by multiple factors.

These include the pull-forward of some CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) device sales, outperformance of hospital hardware (up 21%) that is not expected to repeat in the second half, opex patterns that mean full year spending growth will be in the high single-digits rather than the 10% previously expected, and foreign exchange movements.

Constant currency earnings rose 26% thanks to lower SG&A and R&D spending. Management suggested R&D spend will be below sales growth for the next two years. Constant currency revenue growth of 12% featured a slight Hospital 'beat' reflecting higher device sales, but Homecare missed on lower OSA (obstructive sleep apnoea) mask share, UBS notes.

Management expects lower device sales in the second half, partly reflecting Homecare benefiting from an

Asian tender win in the first. Hospital consumables sales growth rose from 11% in the prior half to 14% in the first half driven by HFT (high-flow therapy) adoption and wider global IV use post covid. Slower OSA mask growth (6%) reflects tougher full-face competition.

Full-face competition will lift again, UBS suggests, with two recent ResMed ((RMD)) releases, which offsets gains from Fisher & Paykel's Duet and Nova Micro mask releases.

The gross margin rose 110 basis points in the first half thanks to manufacturing efficiencies and a lower New Zealand dollar countering an initial US tariff impact.

## The Trump Factor

The gross margin grew to 63%, supported by continuous improvement activities leading to efficiency gains, and included a -32bps drag from the US tariff impact.

Management expects an annualised impact of around -130bps from current tariffs, with a -75bps impact in FY26. Despite this, management anticipates net 50bps of FY26 margin expansion in constant currency, and still expects to achieve its gross margin target of 65% by FY28.

Unsurprisingly for Jarden, no comment was offered on the FY27 risk of US section 232 tariff introductions. Section 232 tariffs aim to protect US "national security".

The Trump administration has already used this tool to raise levies on aluminium, buses, cars and car parts, copper, furniture, lumber, steel, timber, and trucks, and has launched Section 232 investigations into nine other types of products.

Jarden's sensitivity analysis --based on steel and aluminium sector precedents-- suggests a potential revision size at the profit line of between -9% to -22% for FY27. This sensitivity also assumes Homecare products are exempt under Nairobi protocol protection.

The Nairobi Protocol covers goods specially designed or adapted for the use or benefit of people with disabilities.

UBS incorporates the US country tariff impact of -NZ\$12m in FY26 with exemptions for Mexico (where Fisher & Paykel manufactures) and Homecare imports, but excludes any future US medical device tariffs.

The company is notable among Citi's coverage universe in that it treats tariffs as a cost of doing business, weighing up efforts to reduce with the opportunity cost of spending time on growth activities. The company has a large range of initiatives which have more than offset any damage this time around.

Goods manufactured in Mexico, where the company has substantial operations, are exempt under the USMCA. The USMCA is due for review in 2026, although Citi does not have a strong sense of the risk anything changes.

## The RFK Jr Factor

Fisher & Paykel Healthcare was a major beneficiary of covid, along with other manufacturers of respiratory devices such as hospital ventilators.

Indeed, Canaccord Genuity points out the company is "materially more valuable" compared to pre-covid times, recalling that the pandemic brought High-Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC) to new global audiences (especially in emergency care), which subsequently kept using it in preference to conventional oxygen.

As covid risk eases globally, flu risk is rising, and no more so than in the US. Fisher & Paykel Healthcare continues to message that reaching the top of its upgraded guidance range is a scenario commensurate with a severe flu season, as was the case last year (northern winter).

Often severe flu seasons are followed by weaker ones, Citi notes, but this can be attributed to several factors, including dominant flu strains similar to the prior year (some cross protection typically occurs) and vaccine uptake.

US health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr's antivax stance is leading to declining vaccination rates in the US for everything from measles to the flu. See also CSL's ((CSL)) struggles in this segment.

Brokers agree this unfortunate reality provides upside risk for Fisher & Paykel Healthcare. Morgan Stanley notes industry participants expect lower vaccination rates for the 2025-26 flu season.

# Strong Position

The company has a strong position in several markets with low penetration. Morgan Stanley sees the inclusion of the company's therapy within clinical guidelines as driving increased uptake, supporting solid revenue growth.

Combined with margin improvement, these factors underpin an attractive medium-term earnings growth outlook (brokers are forecasting a compound annual growth rate of 14-18% to FY28).

In the nearer term, Morgan Stanley is looking for trends in northern hemisphere respiratory hospitalisations, and retains Overweight.

Morgan Stanley is the only one of four brokers monitored daily by FN Arena covering Fisher & Paykel Healthcare quoting a price target in AUD as opposed to NZD. Morgan Stanley's target is \$37.00, up from \$35.30 prior.

Macquarie retains an Outperform rating, seeing the medium to longer-term outlook as favourable, supported by uptake of new apps consumables (nasal high-flow, anaesthesia), OSA patient growth and increased utilisation from changing clinical practices.

Macquarie's target rises to NZ\$42.00 from NZ\$39.30.

Citi likes Fisher & Paykel Healthcare on a quality basis, and anticipates a -60bps further US tariff impact to gross margin in FY27, more than offset by productivity initiatives, opex growth moving back to circa 10% next year, and R&D spend increasing at a lower rate than sales mid to long term.

Citi remains on Neutral, but with a "positive lean" given guidance looks very achievable to the broker. Citi's target rises to NZ\$40 from NZ\$39.

UBS believes the company should be able to maintain a significant PE premium to A&NZ large-cap healthcare peers reflecting its superior earnings growth, with share price upside from here most likely coming from an eventual roll forward onto higher earnings per share.

At this stage, UBS thinks the probability of key underpriced risks is low, being extra US medical device tariffs under Section 232 or a material drop in US OSA reimbursement through competitive bidding.

UBS lifts its target to NZ\$39.30 from NZ\$37.00, retaining Neutral.

NZ-based Jarden also maintains a Neutral rating, balancing strong growth duration, limited valuation support and near-term one-off factors such as flu season and additional US tariffs.

Key risks for Jarden include the pace of clinical practice change, US tariffs, seasonable respiratory variations and NZD volatility.

Jarden's target rises to NZ\$39.30 from NZ\$38.80.

Canaccord Genuity is another quoting a target in AUD, but against the tide has dropped its target (slightly) to \$37.50 from \$37.58.

Canaccord expects stability in the PE multiple and for the stock to "grind up" in line with the 16% earnings per share CAGR the broker is forecasting, leading to an unchanged Buy rating.

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**AUSTRALIA**

## November In Review: November's Nasty Nexus

A meaty sell off in banks, technology large cap stocks dragged down the ASX200 to its worst performance since April, while gold stocks continued to shine.

- Gold surges and banks slide as cautious sentiment hits the ASX200
- Higher inflation fears revive rate hike pricing and spark sector rotation
- Technology leads declines while Materials and Healthcare hold up
- Brokers see a tricky 2026 backdrop but December seasonality offers hope

By Danielle Ecuyer

## Quelle horreur, a month to forget, or a month to celebrate?

*"Australian shares recorded their worst November in more than a decade."*

That's how Morgan Stanley Wealth Management summarised November 2025 for the ASX.

If that rings true, then the pit in your stomach of what is normally one of the best trading months of the year was probably justified.

At one point the ASX200 was down -7.7% from its all time high of 9,115 in mid October, the steepest fall since the April Liberation Day-related drawdown.

A combination of factors blended into a toxic cocktail of profit taking and risk off sentiment, as evidenced by the ongoing outperformance of gold and gold stocks.

The Australian gold sector has doubled over the last year, including a gain of 10% in November. The precious metal itself lifted 5.7% over November, bringing the one year gain to 59.7%.

Given the currency uplift for Australian producers from a relatively weak Australian dollar, it isn't hard to appreciate why domestic gold stocks have performed so well.

Telco stocks lifted that sector to a gain of 27% over the last year, making it the second best performer locally.

## A month end rally couldn't save the local market

Although the Australian market recovered off its lows with a late month rally, the ASX200 index still retreated for a negative total return of -2.7% (-3.01% sans dividends) over November, which ranked it just behind the Nikkei225 Index which fell -4.1%, with MSCI Emerging Markets down -1.6%.

By comparison, the S&P500 scrapped over the line with a 0.2% rise, the FTSE100 lifted 0.4%, EuroStoxx50 added 0.3%.

The whiff of higher inflation and a potentially more hawkish central bank became more prevalent in November, which has leaked into the start of December.

Domestically, as highlighted by Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, the RBA held the cash rate steady at 3.6% at its November meeting, a unanimous decision.

Since then, the hotter than anticipated October CPI print has raised the spectre the next move for the RBA cash rate is up.

Macquarie views the hawkish shift from the RBA and the Federal Reserve's FOMC meeting commentary from Fed Chair Powell as in part responsible for the risk off behaviour. The extended US shutdown was also isolated as a contributory factor.

Market pricing has swung towards rate hikes in Australia with 14 basis points of RBA rate hikes currently priced by December 2026, with most commentators now expecting the RBA to remain on hold in the foreseeable future.

By comparison, the Federal Reserve has signaled an end to QT (Quantitative Tightening) and US markets are currently ascribing an 87% probability of a -25 basis point rate cut at the December 10 FOMC meeting, as more dovish commentary has emerged from Federal Reserve Governors.

## A roller coaster ride across sectors, and stocks

Under the surface, sector performances continued to diverge with quite disparate moves which means if you weren't disproportionately overweight gold stocks, the month of November was one to largely forget.

Banks finally succumbed to some hefty profit taking; finally!, sector analysts must have been thinking.

The sector fell -7%, its worst monthly performance in over a year. As noted by Morgan Stanley, banks' weakness took -176 basis points off the broader index return.

In contrast, Materials led with Healthcare, adding 33bps and 15.6bps, respectively to the index. CSL ((CSL)) contributed 14.3bps, the most to the monthly index performance.

Northern Star ((NST)) contributed 13.6bps, with Pilbara Minerals ((PLS)) adding 8.5bps, and Evolution Mining ((EVN)), 7.7bps.

In contrast, major big cap stocks like CommBank ((CBA)) detracted -119.3bps, BHP Group ((BHP)) -34.1bps, National Australia Bank ((NAB)) -30.8bps, Goodman Group ((GMG)) -25.1bps and Macquarie Group ((MQG)) -24.7bps.

By way of interest, November also marks the final stage of reporting season for out of June year end cycle companies, including Macquarie and the banks (ex CommBank) generating an earnings miss from NAB and Macquarie while ANZ Bank ((ANZ)) and Westpac ((WBC)) performed in line with expectations.

Macquarie calls time on the valuation de-rating for technology stocks and the hawkish shift in central bank messaging as the reason for why this sector was the worst performer over November, down -10%.

The sectorial de-rating included a downgrade in earnings forecasts with forward EPS estimates lowered by nearly -9%, so the generally lower price to earnings valuation accounts for just -2bps of the fall.

(For more details on the earnings reports, see FN Arena's Corporate Results Monitor which has registered 14 beats of 28.6%, 16 in line reports of 32.7% and 19 misses or 38.8%, details can be seen at this link [https://fnarena.com/index.php/reporting\\_season/](https://fnarena.com/index.php/reporting_season/))

Shares in TechnologyOne ((TNE)) fell -17.6%, with only Life360 ((360)) suffering more (-18.8%), followed by Xero ((XRO)) and NextDC ((NXT)) shares down -15.7% and -13.9%, respectively. Shares in Block ((XYZ)) and Seek ((SEK)) were also under pressure, alongside previous winners including Aristocrat Leisure ((ALL)), Hub24 ((HUB)) and REA Group ((REA)).

All are part of the worst performing stocks inside the ASX100.

Light and Wonder ((LW)) in comparison topped the best performing list over the month for the ASX100, up almost 40%, with IGO Ltd ((IGO)), Perseus Mining ((PRU)) and Ramsay Health Care ((RHC)) some of the top ten performers.

Laggards WiseTech Global ((WTC)) and CSL ((CSL)) finally found some love, along with Woolworths Group ((WOW)), moving them into the top performers for the ASX100.

## What factors impacted on earnings and valuations

Turning to the market's valuation, Morgan Stanley notes the valuation ascribed to the ASX200 moved lower on a 12-month forward multiple by -0.9 P/E points to 18.1 times. The adjustment consists of a mix of upgraded aggregate consensus earnings forecasts and a decline in the index.

The broker notes consensus earnings levels for FY26/FY27 are now up 3.9%/4% above the September trough, with EPS growth estimated 7.8% and 7.9%, respectively, for FY26/FY27.

Materials has been the most dominant contributor in earnings upgrades, with positive commodity price indications and supply side factors, including a more upbeat outlook for China moving from deflation.

Over November thermal coal, up 6.5%, was the standout commodity, after gold, but its pricing remains down -21.8% over one year. By comparison, precious and industrial metals are up 58.3% and 15.9% over the last year, respectively.

Energy is up 4.5% with iron ore up 4.4% over the same period.

Looking at the Small Ords, UBS points to PMET Resources ((PMT)) and HMC Capital ((HMC)) as stand outs, respectively up 37.5% and 24.8%, while DroneShield ((DRO)) shares fell -48.3% after the founder/CEO dumped his -\$50m stake on the market.

Shares in online retailer Temple and Webster ((TPW)) fell -34.8% after an earnings miss; slowing sales momentum also featured in market updates by bricks & mortar peers and competitors.

Surprisingly maybe, but in quant terms Quality outperformed Value, down -1.4% versus -3.5%, and Growth down -3.8%.

Macquarie observes large cap (market capitalisation) stocks underperformed Small Caps by -1.8% which followed a similar trend in the US.

The Macquarie FOMO Meter slipped back to positive 0.71, equating to a positive mood generally but not euphoric at the end of the month.

## December is usually the best month, how likely is it?

Looking ahead, the Fed is expected to continue cutting rates whereas the next move for the RBA looks likely to be a cash rate hike (not necessarily in 2026).

For Macquarie this is not necessarily a “bad” backdrop for local equities, which can still post positive returns in the lead up to rate rises. It is likely to underpin, however, ongoing sector rotation to Late Cycle Cycicals such as resources from Early Cycle Consumer sectors, as has been the trend in the last couple of months.

Morgan Stanley sees the outlook as more nuanced or “tricky” with a fresh ASX200 12 month target of 9,250, inferring some 7% upside from current levels.

From a global perspective, this broker believes there is an “unusually” wide range of possible outcomes in 2026 for growth and inflation. On balance, equities remain recommended over credit and government bonds with a strong preference for US assets.

The USD and yield on US 10 year treasury are expected to trend lower over 1H26 and the Australian dollar to move higher.

Since 1973, December has been the Australian market's strongest month, UBS exclaims, with a one month average price return of 2.1%.

If the historical trend is set to repeat, the ASX200 has scope to trend back towards 8,800 by year end.

### ASX100 Best and Worst Performers of the month (in %)

Company	Change	Company	Change
LNW - LIGHT & WONDER INC	39.76	BEN - BENDIGO & ADELAIDE BANK LIMITED	-19.05
IGO - IGO LIMITED	26.07	360 - LIFE360 INC	-18.75
PLS - PILBARA MINERALS LIMITED	22.73	TNE - TECHNOLOGY ONE LIMITED	-18.43

PRU - PERSEUS MINING LIMITED  
RHC - RAMSAY HEALTH CARE LIMITED

16.02XRO - XERO LIMITED  
14.67NXT - NEXTDC LIMITED

-15.69  
-13.90

### ASX200 Best and Worst Performers of the month (in %)

Company	Change	Company	Change
VAU - VAULT MINERALS LIMITED	584.93	DRO - DRONESHIELD LIMITED	-48.30
LNW - LIGHT & WONDER INC	39.76	TPW - TEMPLE & WEBSTER GROUP LIMITED	-34.82
IGO - IGO LIMITED	26.07	TPG - TPG TELECOM LIMITED	-32.19
HMC - HMC CAPITAL LIMITED	24.84	IPX - IPERIONX LIMITED	-24.85
PLS - PILBARA MINERALS LIMITED	22.73	CAT - CATAPULT SPORTS LIMITED	-20.09

### ASX300 Best and Worst Performers of the month (in %)

Company	Change	Company	Change
VAU - VAULT MINERALS LIMITED	584.93	DRO - DRONESHIELD LIMITED	-48.30
LNW - LIGHT & WONDER INC	39.76	TPW - TEMPLE & WEBSTER GROUP LIMITED	-34.82
PMT - PMET RESOURCES INC	37.50	TPG - TPG TELECOM LIMITED	-32.19
IGO - IGO LIMITED	26.07	WBT - WEEBIT NANO LIMITED	-27.94
HMC - HMC CAPITAL LIMITED	24.84	EOS - ELECTRO OPTIC SYSTEMS HOLDINGS LIMITED	-26.73

### ALL-TECH Best and Worst Performers of the month (in %)

Company	Change	Company	Change
GTK - GENTRACK GROUP LIMITED	20.20	WBT - WEEBIT NANO LIMITED	-27.94
EIQ - ECHOIQ LIMITED	16.28	ERD - EROAD LIMITED	-23.24
ELS - ELSIGHT LIMITED	15.17	QOR - QORIA LIMITED	-22.01
WTC - WISETECH GLOBAL LIMITED	5.64	CAT - CATAPULT SPORTS LIMITED	-20.09
FCL - FINEOS CORPORATION HOLDINGS PLC	5.17	NXL - NUIX LIMITED	-19.80

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Communication Services	1797.20	-2.29%	-3.45%	10.43%
Consumer Discretionary	4090.10	-2.79%	-9.48%	4.57%
Consumer Staples	11943.80	1.54%	1.70%	1.48%
Energy	8589.60	-0.57%	3.08%	-0.39%
Financials	8993.10	-7.42%	-6.07%	4.40%
Health Care	36306.90	1.96%	-2.97%	-19.11%
Industrials	8593.20	0.13%	1.45%	12.38%
Info Technology	2370.00	-11.65%	-19.04%	-13.53%
Materials	19918.90	1.48%	5.86%	23.53%
Real Estate	3917.60	-3.92%	-3.39%	4.15%
Utilities	9856.90	-2.06%	-1.53%	9.12%
A-REITs	1801.90	-3.85%	-3.29%	4.86%
All Technology Index	3670.60	-7.61%	-13.15%	-3.54%
Banks	3868.20	-8.05%	-5.94%	7.26%
Gold Index	17611.90	9.93%	9.52%	109.08%
Metals & Mining	6807.30	1.54%	5.48%	29.52%

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DAX30	23836.79	-0.51%	-0.18%	19.73%
Hang Seng	25858.89	-0.18%	-3.71%	28.91%
Nikkei 225	50253.91	-4.12%	11.84%	25.97%
DJIA	47716.42	0.32%	2.84%	12.16%
S&P500	6849.09	0.13%	2.40%	16.45%
Nasdaq Comp	23365.69	-1.51%	3.11%	21.00%

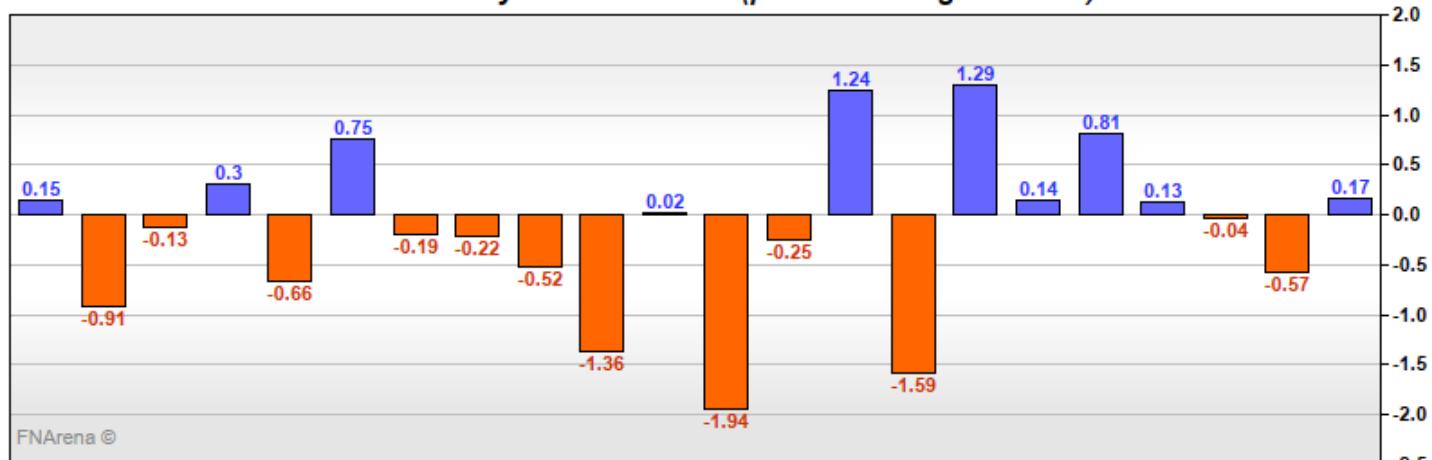
## Metals & Minerals

Index	30 Nov 2025	Month Of Nov	Quarter To Date (Oct-Dec)	Year To Date (2025)
Gold (oz)	4189.60	6.28%	8.51%	59.50%
Silver (oz)	53.17	12.46%	12.99%	75.91%
Copper (lb)	5.1625	-0.74%	5.23%	26.02%
Aluminium (lb)	1.2855	-1.78%	5.75%	12.46%
Nickel (lb)	6.6277	-3.45%	-3.04%	-7.24%
Zinc (lb)	1.3704	-1.96%	2.56%	1.41%
Uranium (lb) weekly	75.60	-4.18%	-8.64%	5.00%
Iron Ore (t)	104.63	-0.97%	-0.68%	0.76%

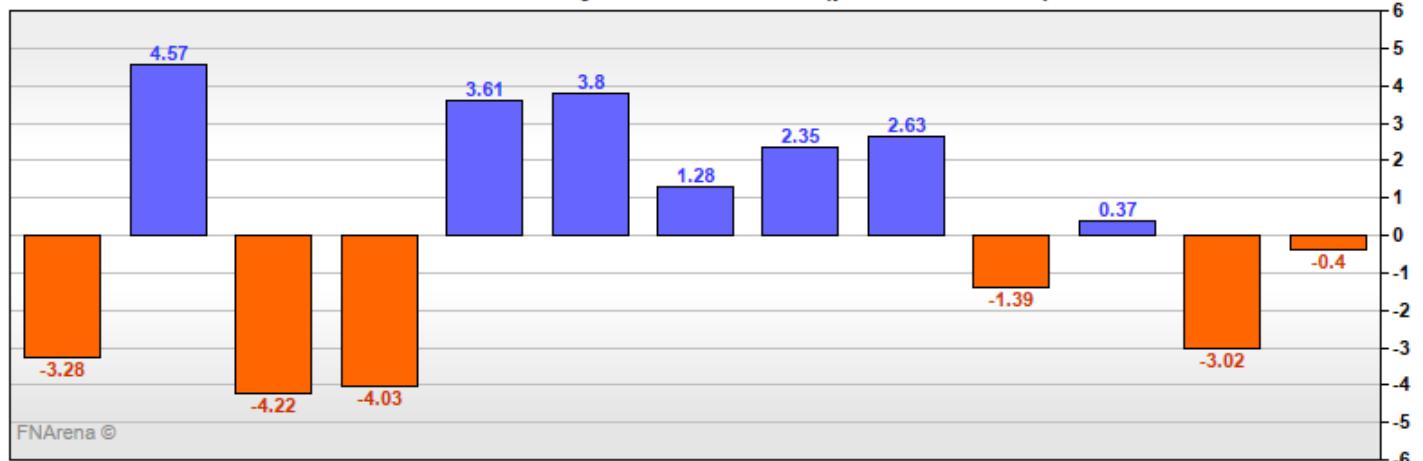
## Energy

Index	30 Nov 2025	Month Of Nov	Quarter To Date (Oct-Dec)	Year To Date (2025)
West Texas Crude	59.10	-2.14%	-6.40%	-14.94%
Brent Crude	62.92	-2.13%	-5.72%	-13.29%

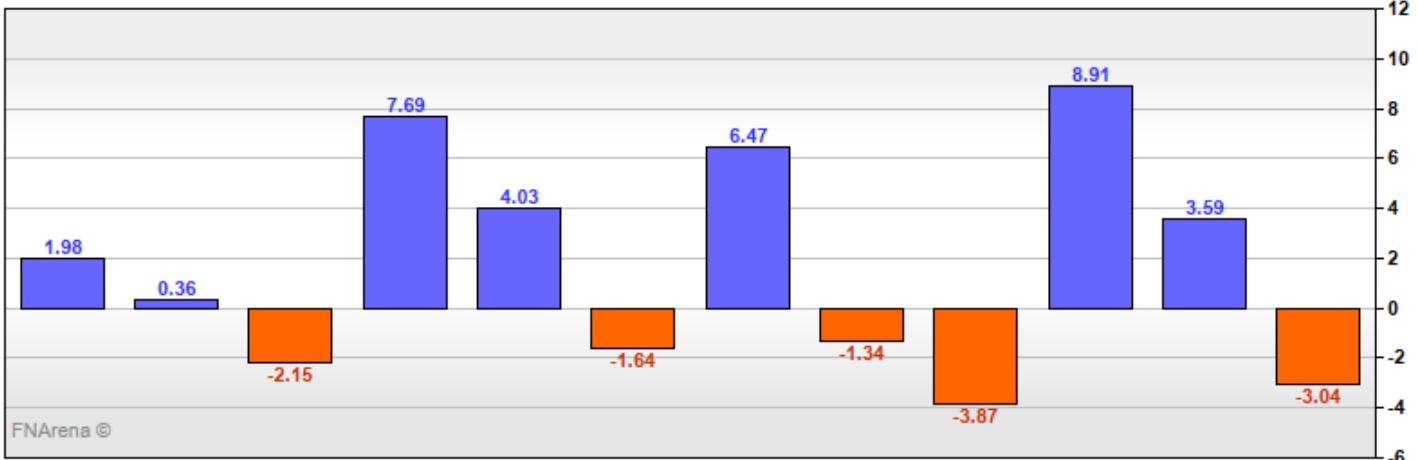
ASX200 Daily Movement in % (past 22 trading sessions)



ASX200 Monthly Movement in % (past 13 months)



ASX200 Quarterly Movement in % (past 12 quarters)



## Technical limitations

*If you are reading this story through a third party distribution channel and you cannot see charts included, we apologise, but technical limitations are to blame.*

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**AUSTRALIA**

# Downer EDI Brimming With Confidence

Management at Downer EDI's Investor Day set targets above consensus forecasts.

- Medium-term targets surprise at Downer EDI's investor day
- Shares have significantly outpaced broader market, driven by sector re-rating
- Energy transition projects driving Energy & Utilities segment
- Better risk controls integral part of management's ambitious projections

By Mark Woodruff



*No single rival is able to match Downer EDI's breadth of end-market exposure and integrated service capability*

Over the past 18 months Australian companies in the infrastructure, engineering and services space have re-rated, helping lift shares in Downer EDI ((DOW)) to \$7.87 from around \$4.50.

Shareholders have enjoyed a remarkable run since March 1, 2023, with total returns reaching 171%, far outpacing the ASX200's 30% gain.

The good times may be set to continue after management at last month's Investor Day reiterated FY26 guidance and set out medium-term ambitions to deliver sustainable revenue growth and margin expansion through to FY30.

UBS notes the implied FY30 earnings (EBITA) ambition came in **about 20% above the consensus estimate**.

The company is aiming for a four-year revenue compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4-5% and an earnings margin "towards 6%" versus the market's prior forecasts of 3% and 5%, respectively.

Downer expects revenue growth to be supported by population growth, the energy transition, increasing defence spend, and a cyclical recovery in both roads maintenance and the New Zealand economy.

Management believes margin upside will be supported by an improvement in risk controls, growth in Energy/Utilities earnings, an ongoing contract margin uplift, and cost management.

Overall, Downer anticipates the Energy & Utilities segment outlook will improve, supported by increased spending on ageing water infrastructure across A&NZ and ongoing investment in power transmission assets to enable renewable energy expansion.

Positives are expected to be partly offset by a softer investment outlook in the telecommunications sector.

## The business

Headquartered in Sydney and employing about 26,000 people across the A&NZ region, Downer EDI provides infrastructure maintenance and facilities management.

In Australia, the company maintains extensive road networks for state transport authorities, operates urban public transport services via its 49%-owned Keolis Downer joint venture, services power and telecommunications networks, and manages public facilities (such as defence bases, social housing, hospitals and schools) under government outsourcing contracts.

In New Zealand, Downer is a leading contractor for road maintenance and infrastructure projects, and its construction subsidiary Hawkins is delivering major works such as the new Auckland airport terminal.

In recent years, the company has exited mining and large construction projects to focus on lower-risk, long-term service contracts in “urban services”.

The company reports across Transport (Road Services, Projects, and Rail & Transit Systems), Energy & Utilities (Power & Gas, Water, Energy & Industrial, Telecommunications), and Facilities, which includes Defence, Health, Education, and Government. In FY25, these segments contributed respectively 51%, 28%, and 21% of revenue.

Growth in the Energy and Utilities division will be driven by projects in the energy transition area, notes Ord Minnett, with Utilities representing the single-largest contributor to management’s targets.

The analyst at Macquarie notes Downer’s strong position in the power sector, providing maintenance and engineering and construction (E&C) services for transmission lines, substations and related assets, and retaining a high level of self-perform capability.

This broker also expects water-customer budgets to roughly double over the coming years as prolonged under-investment and population growth drive a substantial uplift in capital spending.

Macquarie also highlights Rail (within Transport) as an additional growth avenue, underpinned by several upcoming programs, including NSW’s Future Fleet and new Victorian operations and franchising opportunities. Management maintains Downer is well positioned to compete for work in this space.

Regarding the Facilities segment, Ord Minnett factors into its forecasts a higher-than-expected fall in Defence-related earnings, but this broker’s forecasts from FY29 rise post the targets laid out by the company.

## Competition

Peers like Ventia Services ((VNT)) and Monadelphous Group ((MND)) compete directly with Downer for long-term service contracts and self-perform capability.

Others are complementary or adjacent. For example, Lendlease Group ((LLC)) focuses on large integrated property and construction, Worley ((WOR)) provides technical engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) services to resources and energy clients, and specialist utilities firms concentrate on water and waste.

Several large private contractors and global firms such as John Holland and Fulton Hogan are material competitors on major public infrastructure and utilities work.

While the above list of competitors appears imposing, Macquarie notes Downer vies with numerous specialist firms across its verticals, yet no single rival matches its breadth of end-market exposure and integrated service capability.

Certainly, management regards this point of difference as a competitive advantage. By transferring learnings and insights across industries and clients, the company can deliver a **stronger, more differentiated customer value proposition.**

# Investor day

UBS notes management's FY30 revenue-CAGR and margin targets for the Transport and Facilities division broadly aligned with consensus. By contrast, ambitions for the Energy and Utilities division imply the largest upside versus market expectation.

The company reaffirmed its FY26 outlook given trading in the first four and a half months of FY26 was in line with management's expectation.

Macquarie forecasts future earnings growth will be led by both the top-line and further margin improvements.

The analyst believes setting medium-term revenue and margin targets to FY30 signals management is entering the next phase of growth and demonstrates confidence in that trajectory.

Following delivery of margin targets in the last few years, including over-delivery on cost-out, Macquarie highlights Downer's credibility in setting revenue and margin targets.

## Outlook

Downer's balance sheet is robust, notes Macquarie, with gearing about 0.9x, giving the group flexibility to pursue organic investment, targeted M&A, and disciplined capital-management initiatives.

In August 2025, Downer announced an on-market share buyback of up to \$230m and increased its dividends, signalling management's confidence in the turnaround.

FNArena's consensus FY26 and FY27 dividend yield forecasts are 3.6% and 4%, respectively. Management is targeting 100% franking for FY26.

The three daily covered brokers in the database which research Downer EDI are Macquarie, UBS and Ord Minnett. Macquarie has a Buy (or equivalent) rating, UBS is on Hold, while Ord Minnett sits midway between with its Accumulate rating.

Following the company's Investor Day, the average target price of these three has lifted to \$8.32 from \$7.69, implying 5% upside (ex dividend) to yesterday's \$7.92 closing price.

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**AUSTRALIA**

# Better Start For Metcash

Following a surprisingly weak first half, Metcash's early second half metrics suggest improvement, perhaps signalling a trough, although caution remains.

- Metcash posts first half earnings miss
- Food okay, but Liquor and Hardware disappoint
- RBA policy a headwind for Hardware sales
- Competition rife in Liquor

By Greg Peel



*Illegal imports have sunk tobacco sales across supermarkets in Australia*

The share price of grocery wholesaler and hardware chain Metcash ((MTS)) plunged -9% on the release of the company's first half FY26 (April year-end) result, which showed earnings -5% short of consensus.

The 'miss' was driven partly by the earlier recognition of restructuring costs than consensus had forecast. The key food business (IGA and other chains) met forecasts, but the hardware (IHG, Total Tools) and liquor (IGA) divisions both fell short of expectations.

Analysts agree the Food business performed relatively well. The commercial food services division increased earnings before interest and tax by 1.4%. In Ord Minnett's view, this was a creditable performance given sales of tobacco dived -35% on a year ago, the same sort of slide we have seen across the other tobacco retailers Woolworths Group ((WOW)) and Coles Group ((COL)).

Excluding the decline in tobacco sales, revenue increased circa 7%. As Macquarie notes, earnings were offset by improving margins given lower tobacco sales.

While competitive intensity has increased, IGA price competitiveness has improved, Morgan Stanley notes. Improved product mix and improved contribution from food service and convenience drove margin expansion. Management suggested it still has levers in food to defend margins despite the competitive environment.

As had been highlighted by rivals Endeavour Group ((EDV)) and Coles, the liquor market continues to be a

struggle, as the industry faces headwinds from changing consumer attitudes to health and cost of living pressures. Liquor earnings fell -8.4% excluding reconstruction costs.

Analysts highlight the risk of greater promotional intensity from rivals as suppliers battle for market share.

Coles has a new strategy to boost its liquor market share, forcing Endeavour to respond. Lower price inflation and flat volumes make absorption of cost of doing business inflation more difficult. Despite these difficult trading conditions, Morgan Stanley notes Metcash is actually gaining share and sees improved strategic positioning.

Though Metcash's independents continue to take share, this doesn't appear sustainable to Citi, with the major competitors (particularly Endeavour) looking to arrest share declines.

Metcash has signaled it will not fund increased discounting, but further margin decline appears likely with sales growth unlikely to match cost growth and strategic buying gains being more limited in a less inflationary pricing environment.

## Hardware Getting Harder

Hardware earnings for the first half fell -4% -- the fifth-straight half-year fall. In Macquarie's view, the key source of earnings and valuation upside for Metcash is in Hardware.

Macquarie had previously been positive due to improving housing signals, including increases from the trough in approvals and new home sales. While the trajectory in these indicators remain on an upward trajectory, recent macro updates, including the October CPI, and implications for the cash rate suggest the potential upside is more constrained.

One would expect that perennially rising house prices and the federal and state governments desperate attempts to increase housing supply would be positive drivers for hardware sales.

Prior to Metcash's result, much of the consensus FY27 profit growth forecast of 14% hinged on a 15% earnings uplift in Hardware. Citi continues to view this as overly optimistic considering detached housing approvals were flat year on year in September and the interest rate outlook is for no more rate cuts, with the possibility of hikes next year.

Hardware suffered retail margin pressure, Morgan Stanley notes, driven by trade distribution sites where competitive pressure remains elevated. Total Tools' retail margins were nevertheless more consistent.

As volume lifts in hardware, Metcash's plan is designed to deliver earnings leverage. But the focus remains on execution. Morgan Stanley comments while excess market capacity exists, pricing power is limited.

That said, Metcash highlighted the division lifted earnings in the second quarter, (three months to October), which provides Ord Minnett with some confidence the bottom may have been reached.

This broker notes, however, any uptick in the housing market that would materially lift hardware earnings is unlikely to be as strong as previously anticipated given the broader inflation and interest rate environment.

## Green Shoots?

In the first four weeks of the second half, Metcash reported group sales growth of 2.9%, a run-rate ahead of Ord Minnett's second half forecast of 1.4%, but the composition was patchy.

Food sales excluding tobacco rose 4.3%, versus a forecast for 3.8%, but liquor, up 0.1% versus an estimate of 2.5%, and hardware, up 3.8% versus an expectation of 8.1%, missed estimates by a long way.

Looking forward, Jarden suggests there is a case for optimism with some early green-shoots in Food (ex-tobacco) and Hardware, with Total Tools like-for-like sales up 9.8% in the first four weeks. However, liquor (flat) was softer, Jarden notes, and remains at risk into the second half.

The recovery in Hardware has commenced, UBS declares, but is varied by states (stronger in Queensland, WA & SA, with Victoria and NSW remaining challenged). Independent Hardware Group's (IHG) retail network reported positive like-for-like sales growth (up 2.8% versus -6.4% a year ago), while Total Tools delivered stronger growth assisted by new stores.

Earnings margins nevertheless fell due to one-off costs and higher D&A. Looking forward, UBS remains confident in the IHG recovery, yet the path has been elongated. Total Tools growth has improved yet it is more later-cycle and competition pressures remain elevated.

Macquarie remains cautious on the potential for margin recovery with management calling out competition in Food and Hardware, in addition to evidence of heightened competition in Liquor.

One key positive was cash conversion, Macquarie notes, with the three-year cash realisation ratio at 106%, well ahead of the 80-90% guidance range, although management expects this to revert to the upper end of the range.

Citi continues to raise concerns with the extent of earnings growth expectations built into FY27 consensus.

The starting point is lower with material downgrades in Liquor and Hardware. While -\$12m of one-off strategy and implementation costs will reverse next year, the Hardware recovery looks likely to disappoint, Citi believes, with detached housing approvals now tracking flat and the interest rate outlook appearing neutral at best.

Morgan Stanley reiterates one-off strategy and integration costs in FY26 will not be repeated in FY27, providing an earnings tailwind.

## Some Caution

Five brokers monitored daily by FNArena cover Metcash. Post-result, earnings forecast downgrades have pulled the consensus target down to \$3.80 from \$4.15.

In deciding upon ratings, brokers have taken into account the stock's subsequent de-rating.

UBS retains Buy, believing the risk/reward balance remains attractive given resilience and greater diversity in Food, with customer growth a positive for Liquor, Hardware poised for a recovery, with early signs continuing in IHG, and dividend yield support.

Consensus forecasts are for a 5.5% yield in FY26.

Ord Minnett retains Buy on valuation grounds.

With competitive pressures weighing across business and a more subdued outlook for new housing creation, Macquarie sees the risks as evenly balanced at current pricing, and sticks with Neutral.

Despite the stock having significantly de-rated, Citi looks for FY27 consensus profit forecasts to come down significantly before becoming more constructive, hence a Neutral rating.

Morgan Stanley retains Equal-weight.

If Citi is the least confident, Jarden (not monitored daily) is the most upbeat. Jarden has upgraded Metcash to Overweight from Neutral following recent underperformance, with the view the business is seeing green shoots, is highly cash-generative and is positively leveraged to the cycle with a compelling valuation.

From here, the focus should be on operating leverage, specifically revenue and margin upside via an uptick in the housing, which Jarden sees as significant, with evidence of margin expansion in the second quarter for hardware (ex-integration costs).

Jarden's updated target is \$3.80, from \$4.00.

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**AUSTRALIA**

# Collins Foods Disappoints With Cautious Upgrade

Collins Foods produced record interim results in a difficult environment, prompting management to issue a 'conservative' upgrade to FY26 guidance.

- Collins Foods delivers record interim revenue
- Margin 'beats' in Australia & Europe
- Market disappointed by management's rather conservative FY26 profit upgrade
- UBS highlights outperformance of KFC Australia relative to peers

By Mark Woodruff



*Management at Collins Foods is actively assessing bolt-on opportunities, which could accelerate German growth ambitions*

Quick service restaurant operator Collins Foods ((CKF)) released interim results this week with net profit exceeding the consensus forecast by 12% on stronger Australian and European margins. Management also lifted FY26 profit guidance.

At first glance, the share price reaction appears counterintuitive, falling -3.45% on the day of the result, plus a further -4.55% the day after. After an initially weak start yesterday, the share price managed to stabilise.

The pullback may reflect mixed sentiment, with some analysts questioning the quality of the result, while others express disappointment the FY26 upgrade wasn't more substantial, attributing conservatism to management's cautious stance amid an uncertain macroeconomic backdrop.

This conservatism is highlighted by the implied 17% profit growth for FY26, suggests RBC Capital, given the consensus forecast would need to fall by -6% in the second half to meet the target.

While the business displayed positive momentum in Australia accompanied by operating leverage, sales momentum is still subdued in the Netherlands.

The company owns almost 400 KFC and Taco Bell stores in Australia and internationally, operating 292 of the 800 KFC outlets in Australia.

Collins Foods posted a record \$750.3m in H1 revenue, a rise of 6.6% year-on-year, driven by a margin beat from KFC Australia and Europe.

Sales grew by 5% for the key segment KFC Australia and 15% for Europe to respectively \$563.8m and \$162.9m.

Underlying earnings rose by 11% to \$113.9m at a margin of 15.2% (up 59bps), reflecting stronger sales and productivity gains. Percentage earnings growth nearly doubled that of revenue as management implemented productivity initiatives to improve labour utilisation and waste, Macquarie explains.

While earnings growth was solid year-on-year, Macquarie notes around half was driven by favourable currency movements, while Morgans highlights the 12.7% rise in net profit to \$27.2m was significantly supported by a lower-than-expected depreciation charge and tax rate.

The key KFC Australia segment delivered same-store sales growth of 2.3% year-on-year, supported by ongoing value investment.

UBS points out few Australian retailers have achieved like-for-like sales growth in the past four months, pointing out KFC Australia has lifted to 3.6% from 2.3% in early FY26 trading.

## Second half trading and FY26 profit guidance

Macquarie views early second-half trading for KFC Australia as encouraging, supported by value-focused initiatives such as menu innovation and limited-time offers.

While consumer sentiment remains subdued, this broker notes sales momentum is contributing to earnings margin expansion, as shown by the 80bps year-on-year increase in the first half.

While noting the second half faces a stronger prior year comparable than the first half, management stated KFC Australia same store sales (SSS) were trending well in the first seven weeks with delivery channel growth after a fee reset.

Lower delivery fees have supported a 2% uplift in delivery mix, alongside growth in basket size driven by higher platform pricing, notes Morgan Stanley, after attending a conference call with management post the interim release.

In Germany and the Netherlands, respective SSS growth was 4.8% and 0.4% in the first half, but in the first seven weeks of the second half only 2.3% and down -0.5%, respectively.

Citi attributes the softer performance in the Netherlands to weaker macroeconomic conditions, while in Germany the timing of promotional activity is seen as the key driver of recent slowing.

According to Citi, management is effectively driving same-store sales and transaction growth through limited-time offers (LTOs), ongoing menu innovation such as the Kwench trial in seven Cairns restaurants this week, and a strong focus on everyday value, despite continued challenges in the overall consumer environment.

Kwench is a line of KFC-branded, “innovative” cold drinks positioned as an add-on to the core fried chicken offering. Expanding dayparts (e.g. introducing breakfast) also remains a medium-term opportunity, suggests Citi.

This broker concedes consumers are actively seeking value and discounts in both the Netherlands and Australia, costs remain high in Australia, and the company is cycling a stronger period in the second half.

Compared to the prior 15.7% consensus figure, management upgraded FY26 profit guidance to mid-to-high teens from low-to-mid teens previously, implying circa 7% growth in second-half profit compared to around 30% in the first half.

Jarden sees signs of conservatism in the company’s guidance, noting the 3.6% SSS for KFC Australia so far in the second half, underpinned by a robust innovation pipeline.

The analysts also point to improving consumer sentiment, while in Europe easing poultry input costs and a reduced VAT rate on dine-in sales in Germany should provide margin tailwinds.

Remaining a drag on the group, points out UBS, Australian Taco Bell sales declined by -3.9% in the half as

management continues to assess the sale of the business, most likely to Yum! Brands.

Return on equity (ROE) rose by 190 basis points compared to 14.1% for the first half of FY25.

Net debt fell by -\$20m from the prior year to \$138.9m, with strong cash flows enabling network investment, debt reduction, and dividend payments.

The Board raised the fully franked interim dividend to 13 cents from 11 cents at last year's interim result.

## Varying views on the outlook for margins

The group's interim gross margin of 51.6% came in 70bps ahead of consensus, while the underlying earnings margin of 15.2% was slightly below the 15.3% expected by the market.

Morgan Stanley notes Australian margins are benefiting from lower commodity prices and operational efficiencies, while Europe is seeing gains from fixed-cost leverage despite mixed same-store sales.

The analysts also highlight ongoing store expansion, strengthening margins in Germany, and supportive trends in both chicken input costs and VAT settings across Europe.

Margins in the second half for the Netherlands are expected to improve due to the easing impact of Avian flu and ongoing labour and waste optimisation.

Jarden forecasts management will deliver margin expansion of 16bps in Europe and 40bps in Australia in FY26. If current Australian same-store sales growth can be maintained, the analysts see upside risk to second-half Australian margins and full-year guidance.

In contrast, Ord Minnett expects margins to contract half-on-half, and potentially year-on-year, despite same-store sales growth accelerating to 3.6% in the first seven weeks of the second half.

Competitive intensity in the fast-food sector escalated late in the first half and remains elevated, this broker cautions, while input costs are showing signs of renewed inflation.

Morgan Stanley expects margin pressure to emerge in Australia during the second half, driven by a renewed uptick in commodity price inflation.

Management remains cautious amid interest rate uncertainty, subdued consumer confidence, and ongoing cost-of-goods inflation.

This combination has the potential to constrain near-term margin expansion.

## Restaurant rollout

The total number of restaurants under management has increased by 10 to 396 since the previous interim result.

Eight new restaurants opened in Australia with one additional store left to open before year-end, in line with management's target for seven-to-ten new restaurants annually.

Noting quick service restaurant growth is outpacing 2025 GDP growth in Germany, management also highlights a large addressable market with over 80m consumers and presently only 215 KFC restaurants relative to McDonalds and Burger King with 1,400 and 750, respectively.

The expansion opportunity is considered "significant" with help of Yum! Brands and its marketing capabilities.

Management opened its 17th KFC restaurant in Germany during the period and several sites were approved for development. In the Netherlands, management notes portfolio optimisation resulted in the opening of two restaurants, the closure of one, with another to close soon.

As part of the Investor Day in October, management committed to accelerate KFC expansion, including plans for 40-70 new KFC restaurants in Germany over five years.

This target for Germany remains and guidance in Australia is now for between 7-10 new store openings per year.

Macquarie remains cautious on the outlook for German store growth, forecasting only 40 net additions by FY30 given other quick service restaurant operators have historically struggled to achieve organic expansion in the region, with network growth typically flat or declining over the past decade.

Management noted it is actively assessing bolt-on opportunities, which could accelerate German growth ambitions.

## Outlook

Morgans sees Collins Foods as well positioned to benefit from an improving domestic consumer and cost environment, which should support double-digit earnings growth in the near term.

The broker highlights the company's undemanding valuation, strong KFC brand equity, growth potential in Europe, solid cash flow generation, and robust balance sheet as key investment attractions.

Citi sees further upside as the company scales its presence in Germany through new store development and potential acquisitions, which could unlock expansion opportunities in additional states.

Should revenues for Collins Foods accelerate and store targets move to the upper end of the expected range, Jarden would become more positive due to material valuation upside, but, in the meantime, this broker has lowered its rating to Neutral from Overweight with an increased target of \$11.40, from \$10.10.

Ord Minnett also downgrades to Hold from Accumulate with increase in target to \$10.50 from \$9.50.

Of the six daily monitored brokers in the FNArena database there are three Buy or equivalent ratings, two Holds, while Morgans sits at Accumulate, midway between Buy and Hold.

The average target price of the six brokers has risen to \$11.99 from \$11.19 prior to interim result, implying around 16% upside to the \$10.32 share price at the time of writing.

On current (freshly updated) consensus forecasts, the shares are offering yields of respectively 2.8% (this year) and 3.3% (FY27).

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**ESG FOCUS**

## ESG Focus: Battery Boom or Bubble?

*FN Arena's dedicated ESG Focus news section zooms in on matters Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) that are increasingly guiding investors preferences and decisions globally. For more news updates, past and future:*

<https://fnarena.com/index.php/financial-news/daily-financial-news/category/esg-focus/>

Australia's Cheaper Home Batteries policy is making battery payback economics for households significantly more attractive.

- \$2.3bn Cheaper Home Batteries subsidy is already making an impact
- Material improvement of battery payback economics for households
- Over 1,000 household batteries are being installed every weekday
- Identifying 'real winners'

By Lily Brown

## Battery Boom or Bubble? Decoding Which ASX Firms Are Set to Win Australia's \$2.3bn Home-Storage Bet



*Australia's Cheaper Home Batteries policy is making battery payback economics for households significantly more attractive*

Australia's \$2.3bn Cheaper Home Batteries subsidy –launched on 1 July 2025– is more than a feel-good consumer program.

It's reshaping storage economics, rewriting who profits in the energy transition and creating new risks for

ASX-listed players.

For investors, the key question is not just how many homes will install batteries, but which companies can convert that tailwind into long-term earnings.

## The Incentive That Changed the Game

The core offer is simple but powerful: eligible households receive a -30% discount on the upfront cost of a battery system (5-100kWh). For a typical 11.5kWh battery, this translates to roughly \$4,000 in savings, materially improving payback economics for households.

The Smart Energy Council estimates this program could make tens of thousands of households better off while reducing long-term wholesale electricity costs.

And behind-the-meter systems aren't the only ones racing forward. According to AEMO's latest Connections Scorecard, 29 projects totalling 4.4GW of generation and storage reached full operation in the NEM over the 12 months to June 2025 – double the prior year.

AEMO now projects 10.1GW per year of new utility-scale capacity will commission across its 5-year horizon under a "no delay" scenario.

In other words, Australia is not just subsidising small batteries – it's building a major firming platform to support large-scale renewables.

## How the Subsidy Reshapes Home-Storage Economics

The subsidy lowers average payback for a residential battery to 7.3 years, according to AEMO analysis.

Early uptake confirms this potential: over 30,000 small-scale batteries have been installed since July 2025, equivalent to circa 500MWh of distributed energy storage.

These systems are VPP-ready --meaning: the battery system can connect to and be controlled by a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) program-- allowing households to participate in frequency control, energy arbitrage, and other grid services.

John Grimes, CEO of Smart Energy Council, highlights the scale: *"Over 1,000 household batteries, adding 20MWh in battery capacity, are being installed every weekday. That is like adding a Hornsdale big battery to the grid every two weeks."*

## Understanding ASX Exposure to the Battery Wave

Not all companies in the battery ecosystem are positioned to benefit from this subsidy equally. Investors need to distinguish between firms that are merely riding the subsidy momentum and those that have the operational scale, contract structure and technical capabilities to convert rising storage adoption into durable earnings.

Critical factors include ownership or control of supply chains for cells or key materials; integration of distributed or utility-scale storage with dispatchable assets; participation in aggregator or VPP platforms; and the ability to lock in long-term revenue streams rather than relying on volatile merchant pricing.

Evaluating these dimensions helps identify which ASX-listed players are likely to realise both top-line growth and sustainable margin expansion as the Australian battery market scales.

- Provides financing for household battery adoption and broader renewable energy projects
- Plays a central role in administering the WA Residential Battery Scheme, complementing the federal subsidy
- Exposure is primarily to consumer uptake, credit risk, and government program execution

Investor takeaway: Plenti is effectively a lever on the battery adoption curve. Its earnings will scale with subsidy-driven installations and household financing demand, but investors need to monitor repayment risk, program continuity and competition from other green finance providers.

### Genex Power ((GNX))

- Operates a 50MW/100MWh battery (Bouldercombe) using Tesla Megapacks
- Participates in dispatch markets, generating arbitrage and frequency revenues
- Develops renewable generation to pair with storage for firming value

Investor takeaway: Portfolio-level integration gives Genex a sustainable advantage over hardware-only peers.

### Novonix ((NVX))

- Supplies synthetic graphite for battery anodes
- Secured offtake deals with battery/EV players like Stellantis and PowerCo, capturing upstream materials growth

Investor takeaway: Exposure is to materials demand, not assembly, benefiting indirectly from both household and utility-scale growth.

### Pilbara Minerals ((PLS))

- Operates lithium mining assets supplying spodumene to global battery and EV markets
- Strong export relationships and scale give it leverage as global battery demand rises
- Exposed to price volatility in lithium and potential government intervention in supply chains

Investor takeaway: Pilbara is a play on upstream raw materials for battery growth. Its value depends on global lithium pricing and the company's ability to secure long-term offtake agreements.

Investors should weigh short-term commodity swings against structural growth in battery demand.

### Li-S Energy ((LIS)) and other cell/system innovators

- Develops advanced lithium-sulfur battery technology with a focus on scaling manufacturing consistency
- Builds proprietary battery management systems (BMS) to integrate hardware and software layers
- Targets both grid-scale and downstream applications, positioning itself beyond simple cell production

Investor takeaway: Li-S Energy's value lies in owning IP across the battery stack, from cells to BMS integration.

Investors should watch execution on manufacturing scale-up, product reliability, and commercialisation of system-level solutions, as these will determine whether the company can capture recurring value rather than just selling commodity cells.

## Risks That Could Derail Returns

While adoption is strong, several structural risks could impact earnings and valuations.

### a) Contract and Merchant Revenue Risk

- Genex Power earns from arbitrage and Frequency Control Ancillary Services (FCAS), which are volatile
- Spot price swings and market saturation could compress margins
- Investors should stress-test dispatch revenue assumptions

### b) Grid Connection and Integration Risk

- Connection delays or network congestion could defer commissioning
- VPP aggregation potential for home batteries depends on software integration and platform readiness

### c) Supply-Chain and Input-Cost Risk

- Novonix and Pilbara Minerals are exposed to lithium and graphite price swings, logistics delays and production bottlenecks
- Margin sensitivity is higher in a subsidy-driven surge where domestic and global demand compete for limited supply

### d) Revenue Cannibalisation/Market Saturation

- As more batteries come online, arbitrage spreads may compress
- Upstream players could see margin pressure if domestic deployment peaks rapidly

### e) Policy and Subsidy Risk

- Cheaper Home Batteries are time-bound and politically exposed
- Any adjustment could slow uptake, affecting VPP aggregation and hardware demand

Thus, only companies with integrated supply, contracted cashflows and grid- or material positioning are likely to capture sustained returns.

## What Investors Should Model

- Subsidy uptake scenarios: Base, upside and downside adoption in residential battery models
- Dispatch and services revenue: VPP participation, arbitrage and FCAS revenue
- Warranty and degradation: Battery replacement costs and cycle life
- Supply-chain stress: Sensitivity to cell costs and procurement delays
- Connection risk: Adjust timelines for commissioning and grid integration

## Bottom Line: Not All Battery Plays Are Equal

The real winners in Australia's battery storage market will be those that can control supply chains, integrate systems intelligently and capture recurring value through aggregation or firming services.

Pure hardware plays, by contrast, face the risk of margin pressure if they lack additional value-add capabilities.

For ASX investors, this means focusing on companies with integrated upstream materials exposure, such as Novonix and Pilbara Minerals, grid-scale storage assets like Genex, or those offering aggregator and VPP services.

Ultimately, for storage to transition from a subsidy-driven fad into critical infrastructure, the companies that succeed will be those capable of making it reliably economic over decades, rather than merely profiting from the next government rebate cycle.

Companies mentioned in this story: Plenti Group ((PLT)), Genex Power ((GNX)), Novonix ((NVX)), Pilbara Minerals ((PLS)), and Li-S Energy ((LIS)).

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**RUDI'S VIEWS**

# Rudi's View: This Too Shall Pass

## In this week's Weekly Insights:

- **This Too Shall Pass**
- **FN Arena Talks**

By Rudi Filapek-Vandyck, Editor

Today's will be my final Weekly Insights for 2025.

My regular Rudi's View writings on Thursdays will continue until the Christmas and year-end break.

## This Too Shall Pass

A few years ago I quoted research by Morgan Stanley suggesting a basket of the highest quality growth companies generates an average annual outperformance of 200 basis points (2% points) versus the market index over time.

Certainly, the ten year performance of the **FN Arena-Vested Equities All-Weather Model Portfolio** fits in with that observation, even though underlying methodologies are not exactly the same and the All-Weathers are being complemented with a standard allocation to gold and to some higher yielding, dividend paying exposures.

But on a rough comparison, the ASX200 has been returning circa 9% (dividends included, ex-franking) against the All-Weather's 11% (before fees) up until December 31 last year.

What was not highlighted in Morgan Stanley's research, but has been very much confirmed by my own experience, is that, on occasion, a portfolio filled with high quality and growth companies must be prepared for significant and persistent under-performance, in particular in a market such as Australia's.

Up until recently, the final four months of 2016 had been the toughest period for those not invested in banks and resources and smaller cap cyclicals, but this year the second half of 2025 is easily replicating that experience.

This time around, the end outcome for the calendar year might not be positive for the higher-valued basket of stocks, so it's actually worse overall.

Possible explanations include a persistent narrative that AI is the next market bubble waiting to burst (plenty of stories and predictions swirling around on social media), but expectations of better economic growth and thus a broadening of earnings and the equities bull market are equally playing their part, as are higher inflation and a local central bank and bond market that are no longer in sync with the Federal Reserve and US Treasuries.

Add low trading volumes, a market that is increasingly dominated by 'momentum', algorithmic trading programs targeting higher PE stocks under bear market-alike conditions (for this market segment) and investors anxious about catching falling knives, plus troubles in the world of crypto assets (taken as a sign of cracks in global liquidity) and it is not difficult to see why share prices for the likes of Goodman Group ((GMG)), REA Group ((REA)), ResMed ((RMD)), TechnologyOne ((TNE)) and Xero ((XRO)) have had a horrible time post mid-year.

Many a smaller cap peer has fared worse.



*Yogi on burning coal*

## Australia doesn't like AI & Technology

The irony remains, of course, in contrast to the many scaremongering predictions and reports, there has been no Nasdaq meltdown with plenty of US market commentators preparing for the next end-of-year rally into a positive finish for calendar year 2025.

While shareholders in offshore peers including Intuit, SAP and Apple (Atlassian too) are unlikely to look back with a warm, fuzzy feeling over the year past, one cannot help but note the general departure from former highflyers on the ASX has resulted in a much harsher 'punishment' for those who stayed the course locally.

I have yet to read anyone else's explanation, but my five cents' worth is local institutions do not need to own any of these companies as long as they own plenty of banks and large-cap resources, plus low sentiment and low trading volumes create an ideal environment for those who wish to attack and tear down specific targets.

But let's not sugarcoat it: as the calendar enters the final four weeks of the year, the local share market is merely stumbling along, exhibiting no confidence and no direction, and many will be questioning whether an early zoom-out is most apposite before festivities and the annual holiday.

## Comeback Cyclical

Not helping also is corporate updates are not signaling the anticipated broadening in local earnings growth is arriving soon-ish.

If anything, the **FNArena Corporate Monitor** clearly shows the bias in the current post-August results season remains skewed towards more disappointment and 'misses'.

Look no further than Metcash's ((MTS)) half-yearly result release on Monday, with those shares down in excess of -9% on the day.

It is true, earnings forecasts have risen post August disappointment, but look into the finer details and it's been almost exclusively a mining and metals story.

FNArena's Monitor is showing nearly 39% of the 49 results updated to date disappointed against analysts' forecasts.

This is a similar percentage from market updates between March and July, suggesting not much has improved on top of uninspiring results in February and August.

Some might say these are not the outcomes one would expect from an index at current level, and they would have a valid point.

Whereas market valuations are higher in the US --often cited as a major concern by more anxious investors locally-- it is equally important to highlight those valuations are underpinned by much more robust levels of earnings growth, albeit more so for the Megacaps and AI-beneficiaries.

To be fair: the current generally disappointing results season has added plenty of credence to the local momentum swing in favour of cycicals as market updates from the likes of ALS Ltd ((ALQ)), Amcor ((AMC)), Nufarm ((NUF)), Orica ((ORI)) and Pantoro Gold ((PNR)) have provided sufficient evidence of improving prospects to turn analysts and investors excited again.

## No appetite for Growth & Quality

Equally important: while share prices for currently out-of-favour quality growth companies --think Car Group ((CAR)), but also Pro Medicus ((PME)), Objective Corp ((OCL)) and Xero-- cannot catch a sustainable bid these days, it's good to keep in mind these companies remain poised for ongoing strong growth and history suggests they generally do deliver on that potential.

The one key caveat here is that AI will increasingly become more important and this not only includes higher margins and more efficiencies, but equally so businesses being disrupted; temporarily or otherwise.

It is well possible many of yesteryear's solid performers will have to increase their spending in order to safeguard their market share and stay relevant, but such is life during major technological transformation.

The counter-argument is maybe such risks are already reflected in today's share prices?

FNArena's consensus target for REA Group, for instance, sits currently 32.50% above the share price. For Xero shares the gap is almost 64%.

Viewed from a different angle: in the aftermath of the GFC global bear market, I started a journey into investing in high quality, dependable, robust growth stories but maybe this journey has equally provided enough evidence to suggest it's not a luxury to diversify one's portfolio?

The fact US equities are no longer leading the world in 2025, and with Growth and Technology stocks in Australia literally experiencing a lost year, it's very hard to argue against it.

## The present is not the future

It's equally important to remind ourselves: nothing ever lasts forever.

Energy companies had their moment under the sun back in 2022 (when very little assets stood their ground), but there hasn't been much joy since for those not jumping on and off during momentum turns.

2025 hasn't been too bad for Woodside Energy ((WDS)) & Co, considering the broader context. In the same vein:

today's no appetite for anything AI or trading on above-average multiples shall pass too, eventually.

In the absence of that Nasdaq sell-down finally happening (I remain a skeptic on that front), I don't know exactly how or when or why exactly investors will again embrace the growth and prospects from companies they are not preferencing today, but it won't last forever - that's as firm a forecast history can put forward.

The FN Arena-Vested Equities All-Weather Model Portfolio is using the moribund market in October and November to diversify the portfolio through the addition of Sigma Healthcare ((SIG)), Pro Medicus ((PME)) and Washington H Soul Pattinson ((SOL)).

In all three cases, weaker share prices are occurring against solid growth prospects; we believe for many years to come.

With still around 10% sitting in cash, the Portfolio remains in a position to act upon further opportunities, but we're not in a hurry.

The February reporting season will be upon us soon. If the trend from the past two seasons can be relied upon, it's going to be another wild ride.

The All-Weather Model Portfolio selects from the curated lists that are 24/7 available to paying subscribers:

<https://fnarena.com/index.php/analysis-data/all-weather-stocks/>

The FN Arena Corporate Results Monitor:

[https://fnarena.com/index.php/reporting\\_season/](https://fnarena.com/index.php/reporting_season/)

## FN Arena Talks

My contribution to the **Investment Markets** conference in November: *AI Megatrend; Blessing or Bubble?*

(I think most of you already know my answer)

<https://investmentmarkets.com.au/videos/investor-education/ai-megatrend-blessing-or-bubble-139>

or view the video on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/Eea1yk3OSCE>

## Model Portfolios, Best Buys & Conviction Calls

This section appears from now on every Thursday morning in a separate update on the website. See **Rudi's Views** for the archive going back to 2006 (not a typo).

## FN Arena Subscription

A subscription to FN Arena (6 or 12 months) comes with an archive of Special Reports (21 since 2006); examples below.



Dividend Investing, The Smart Way 250(1)



Cover Investing in GenAi - medium sized

(This story was written on Monday, 1st December 2025. It was published on the day in the form of an email to paying subscribers, and again on Wednesday as a story on the website).

(Do note that, in line with all my analyses, appearances and presentations, all of the above names and calculations are provided for educational purposes only. Investors should always consult with their licensed investment advisor first, before making any decisions. All views are mine and not by association FN Arena's see disclaimer on the website).

In addition, since FN Arena runs a Model Portfolio based upon my research on All-Weather Performers it is more than likely that stocks mentioned are included in this Model Portfolio. For all questions about this: contact us via the direct messaging system on the website).

**RUDI'S VIEWS**

# Rudi's View: Momentum Favours Resources

Mining stocks are back in investors' favour in Australia and fresh strategy updates show exactly that.

**In today's edition:**

- Mining is back on the menu
- Watch the Aussie Dollar, Says UBS
- Smaller gold exposures
- Citi looks international
- Goldmans' convictions
- Morgan Stanley's convictions
- Ord Minnett's convictions
- Morgans' convictions

By Rudi Filapek-Vandyck, Editor

Share prices are up in the morning --if you're lucky-- but in the afternoon the selling orders arrive.

As calendar year 2025 is gradually approaching its expiry date (less than four weeks are left) such has now become the dominating trend for the Australian share market.

The ASX is noticeably lagging its international peers, making the current lack of direction extra frustrating for local investors.

A perfect storm. That's more or less how I see the first lower, then sideways pattern that has gripped the local share market since mid-October.

It started with portfolio rotation into prior laggards and cyclicals as international investors started broadening their allocations on expectations of a better economic year ahead in 2026.

Soon after that a general anxiety spread quickly around the globe that AI was bubbling up and ready to implode.

And boy, has that brought out a lot of doom and gloom, including references to Dutch tulips, the internet mania, and even comparisons with late 1929.

Next bond yields started to move higher, first inspired by the UK, then by a policy pivot in Japan.

The latter has put the long-lasting JPY carry trade under pressure, no doubt impacting Australian equities as hedge funds and others need to liquidate in order to unwind vulnerable positions.

By now, Australian bond yields are on the rise too and there's a very identifiable, local reason for it: the RBA is done with cutting interest rates. Inflation is too high. The economy is holding up (even though company results are revealing headwinds and disappointments).

Now, increasingly economists are starting to focus on when the next policy pivot --rate hike-- might be on the agenda. Already, the first murmurs are the RBA meeting in February might well be a 'live' event, i.e. to hike or not might be in the balance of probabilities.

Look no further for explanations as to why most share prices are finding it incredibly difficult to rise sustainably. And for those quality and growth stocks that previously could do no wrong, the prospect of higher bond yields is weighing on valuations generally.

And so it is that price charts for most sectors on the ASX are showing a downward sloping pattern. A few seem to be moving sideways recently; staples, healthcare, and utilities.

Only one sector is consistently trending upwards: materials (i.e. mining and metals).

# Mining is back on the menu

About a year ago the first predictions about a new multi-year up-cycle for commodities started doing the rounds.

As it turned out, more patience was required but commodities are most definitely back on investors' radar as the end of 2025 is nigh.

With the exception of gold, which has had a wonderful time for quite a while, the sector had remained largely under the pump for a number of years and that, history shows, is usually an ideal breeding ground for the next upswing.

Higher inflation. Expectations for Chinese stimulus. More rate cuts from the Federal Reserve. Better economic prospects. You name it. Combined they all point in the direction of better conditions for commodities and producers.

In Australia, it is notable earnings estimates are on the rise post September and it is predominantly resources driven.

A recent **strategy report** by **Wilsons** adds a number of contemporary, less traditional sources of demand:

- Onshoring of supply chains and build-outs of strategic stockpiles by nations worried about vulnerabilities and external dependencies
- Strong growth in data centres and AI infrastructure generally
- Re-armament and renewed defence spending
- The global energy transition

On the back of all of the above combined, Wilsons points out the local mining sector now has the strongest growth prospects out of all sectors on the ASX, while trading on still relatively 'cheap' valuations.

At face value, such a beneficial set-up leaves a lot of room for further significant outperformance, but Wilsons still cautions: it's better to remain selective.

Its two favourite exposures among base metals are **copper** and **aluminium**. Its view on iron ore remains 'cautious'.

Wilsons retains a positive view towards **gold**.

For copper, the market is seen tightening further as growing demand meets supply disruptions, declining grades, rising costs, deeper mines and the lack of new large-scale projects, on top of more sovereign risks.

Most preferred exposure locally is **Sandfire Resources ((SFR))**.

Outside of the ASX100, the strategists refer to **Canaccord Genuity** (where the 'old' Wilsons analysts are now employed) where the preference resides with **Hillgrove Resources ((HGO))** and **Capstone Copper ((CSC))**.

The global aluminium market too is projected to move into deficit for multiple years on the horizon.

Wilsons' preferred exposure is **Alcoa ((AAI))**.

For gold exposure, the strategists refer to **Evolution Mining ((EVN))** and **Northern Star ((NST))** among large caps.

The preferred iron ore miner is **BHP Group ((BHP))** which also happens to be the world's largest producer of copper by volume.

# Watch the Aussie Dollar, Says UBS

UBS strategists' focus is on the Aussie dollar. Where it goes, the mining sector follows.

UBS has upgraded the mining sector to an Overweight Model Portfolio allocation. Following three long years of persistent cuts to earnings forecasts, the sector is starting to enjoy upgrades and UBS strategists believe this could potentially last a whole lot longer.

Contrary to Wilsons (see earlier) UBS' list of preferred investments has switched BHP Group for Rio Tinto ((RIO)); the reasoning is that if the sector is now staring at a multi-year upgrade cycle, the latter has more leverage to it.

Other new inclusions are Mineral Resources ((MIN)) and Lynas Rare Earths ((LYC)).

UBS stays put in its ongoing positive view towards Technology. The sector --currently out-of-favour in Australia, and that's an understatement-- remains Overweight in the broker's Model Portfolio.

Have also been freshly added to the most preferred list: AUB Group ((AUB)), Sigma Healthcare ((SIG)), and Catapult Sports ((CAT)).

UBS's international selection of best ways to play the ongoing positive outlook for gold includes one ASX-listed nomination; Newmont Corp ((NEM)).

When it comes to picking Australian exposures rather than international peers, the preference lays with midcap producers offering growth.

Key gold picks are Northern Star ((NST)), Genesis Minerals ((GMD)), Perseus Mining ((PRU)), and Vault Minerals ((VAU)).

## Smaller gold exposures

Analysts at **Moelis** expect investor interest in gold companies to persist, including the smaller end of the spectrum.

Moelis doesn't officially cover any of the smaller cap options listed on the ASX, but the below highlights some of the options available for investors not afraid to move with the more speculative money flows:

- Astral Resources ((AAR))
- Ausgold Limited ((AUC))
- Antipa Minerals ((AZY))
- Larvotto Resources ((LRV))
- Magnetic Resources ((MAU))
- Meeka Metals ((MEK))
- Rox Resources ((RXL))
- Santana Minerals ((SMI))

## Citi looks international

Sector analysts at **Citi** don't see BHP Group or Rio Tinto as the best options available to play the commodities revival theme in 2026.

On the one hand do these analysts believe current bearishness among investors towards iron ore and coal prices seems overdone, but with merely range bound pricing dynamics expected, there also seems little reason to expect both companies to surprise to the upside.

Citi is bullish base metals and constructive on precious metals. Its favourites are all international players, with Glencore taking top spot, followed by Anglo American.

# Goldmans' convictions

The selection of high conviction calls by analysts at **Goldman Sachs** remains limited to two inclusions from the ASX:

- Goodman Group ((GMG))
- ResMed ((RMD))

# Morgan Stanley's convictions

Morgan Stanley's Macro+ Focus List last changed in September, post the August results season:

- Aristocrat Leisure ((ALL))
- AMP Ltd ((AMP))
- ANZ Bank ((ANZ))
- BlueScope Steel ((BSL))
- GemLife Communities ((GLF))
- Goodman Group ((GMG))
- Iluka Resources ((ILU))
- Seek ((SEK))
- The Lottery Corp ((TLC))
- Xero ((XRO))

# Ord Minnett's convictions

Ord Minnett's conviction list has been expanded with the inclusion of:

- Energy One ((EOL))
- Lindsay Australia ((LAU))

The other nine selected:

- Aussie Broadband ((ABB))
- Beacon Lighting ((BLX))
- Brazilian Rare Earths ((BRE))
- Cuscal ((CCL))
- Qoria ((QOR))
- Ramelius Resources ((RMS))
- Regis Healthcare ((REG))
- SiteMinder ((SDR))
- Zip Co ((ZIP))

# Morgans' convictions

Morgans' key stock picks among consumer discretionary stocks are:

- Lovisa Holdings ((LOV))
- Universal Store Holdings ((UNI))
- Breville Group ((BRG))

(Do note that, in line with all my analyses, appearances and presentations, all of the above names and calculations are provided for educational purposes only. Investors should always consult with their licensed investment advisor first, before making any decisions.)

P.S. I - All paying members at FN Arena are being reminded they can set an email alert for my Rudi's View stories. Go to My Alerts (top bar of the website) and tick the box in front of 'Rudi's View'. You will receive an email alert every time a new Rudi's View story has been published on the website.

P.S. II - *If you are reading this story through a third party distribution channel and you cannot see charts included*, we apologise, but technical limitations are to blame.

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**SMALL CAPS**

# Confidence Grows In Web Travel's FY27 Targets

Web Travel's interim results provide analysts with increased confidence in management achieving FY27 goals.

- Web Travel's interim earnings 'beat' consensus
- Improving take rates, Americas outperforming
- Outperforming WebBeds grabbing market share
- Should investors worry about competitors responding through price discounting?

By Mark Woodruff



*Web Travel is growing strongly, taking market share in a competitive market place*

Analysts now have greater confidence in online travel agency Web Travel ((WEB)) meeting its FY27 targets after FY26 interim earnings beat the consensus expectation by 4.5% due to improving trends for market share, margin, and return on invested capital (ROIC).

Web Travel's main activity is the online sale of travel products, predominantly hotel rooms.

Since the September 2024 de-merger resulted in the spinoff of the Business-to-Consumer (B2C) division into the online travel agency (OTA) Webjet Group ((WJL)), the group's business comprises the much larger Business-to-Business (B2B) wholesale division called WebBeds, which also offers a wide range of ground and transfer services.

The company sources inventory from hotels and travel suppliers, connects, aggregates and merchandises this content in its technology (the WebBeds marketplace) and distributes to a global network of travel buyers, who sell to travelling customers.

Morgan Stanley believes WebBeds has a strong growth outlook, operating in a highly fragmented industry with a large addressable market, and highlights the company's consistent track record of winning market share.

Bookings for Web Travel rose by 18% compared to the first half of FY25, with the Americas outperforming due to ongoing client wins and market share gains from existing clients.

UBS considers these are “solid” interim achievements in light of material global travel headwinds, in particular in the Middle East. The business continues to materially outgrow the market, driven by expansion into new customers and markets and stronger conversion, the analysts explain.

Total transaction value (TTV) for the half rose by 22% to \$3.2bn compared to the same period last year, as the top three regions reported **growth materially above the market, particularly in the Americas**.

In euro terms, TTV in the Americas, Europe, and the APAC region grew by 27%, 12%, 12, respectively, and flatlined in the Middle East & Africa region.

Revenue increased by 20% to \$204.6m, while underlying earnings rose by 17% to \$81.7m driven by the aforementioned TTV and revenue growth.

Should management keep this momentum going, Jarden believes the Web Travel share price has scope to materially re-rate, reflecting its large total addressable market (TAM) and rising ROIC.

## Guidance and Targets

The Revenue/TTV margin of 6.5% slightly beat guidance of 6.2-6.4% and management believes at least 6.5% for FY26 is on track, with a similar margin expected in FY27.

With the revenue margin already at 6.5% and a rising share of directly contracted hotels, Ord Minnett sees upside risk to margin guidance. Jarden agrees, seeing the target as conservative, given the benefits of contracted supply.

Macquarie explains the group’s percentage of inventory which is directly contracted is above 60% in all regions, except the Americas leaving the aggregate above 50%. Management plans to add more people in contracting in the Americas.

Citi notes revenue margins have been stable for three halves, and although below peer levels, the true differential is smaller than it appears. It’s also thought the differential is more than compensated for by sustained and meaningful share gains.

WebBeds earnings rose by 21% to \$94m in line with revenue growth and the planned increase in expenses, with a 45.9% earnings margin, up 0.4% on the first half of FY25.

Operating expenses deteriorated by -22%, reflecting CPI increases and re-inclusion of bonuses, as well as planned headcount investment in the WebBeds business, according to the company.

Guidance is for FY26 underlying earnings of between \$147-155m. Revenue margin guidance of at least 6.5% for FY26 and FY27 was also provided.

Jarden views FY25 and 1H26 as a reset period in which management recalibrated margin expectations and invested to strengthen contracted volume and conversion capability. These initiatives are expected to accelerate TTV, earnings, and ROIC into FY27 and beyond.

With consistent execution, Jarden expects the market to regain confidence in the group’s ability to expand EBITDA margins and progress toward its TTV target of more than \$10bn by FY30.

Delivering on management’s TTV and margin targets will underpin strong earnings growth over the next few years, suggest analysts at Morgans. Unlike 1H26, this broker now wants to see this momentum translate into stronger profit growth, which is seen as achievable.

Profit (NPATA) for the period was \$48.6m, down -7.4% on the prior year due to materially higher corporate costs, D&A, interest and tax.

Morgans notes cash flow exceeded expectations and the balance sheet remains in a solid net cash position.

Management explains the cash and cash equivalents \$481.1m balance rose by \$117.5m from March 2025, largely due to growth in TTV and efficient cash collections and cash management.

# Improving take rate

Take rate, also called commission or platform fee, refers to the share of transactions' total value (gross merchandise volume) that the marketplace/platform retains for facilitating the booking.

For travel marketplaces/OTAs, this fee is typically charged to hotels, airlines or other suppliers, not directly to travellers.

While Morgan Stanley highlights ongoing erosion in take rates across recent periods, the 6.5% FY26 target still looks attainable given the company's history of stronger second-half outcomes and management's earlier confidence despite a 6.2-6.4% first-half range.

This broker sees potential upside to take-rate guidance, supported by early second half TTV growth of 23%.

Should industry-wide take-rate pressure resume, the analysts see Web Travel as the most earnings-sensitive among peers.

The broader trend of lower take rates across the sector has persisted in recent peer updates, a dynamic which meaningfully erodes Web Travel's earnings power, cautions Morgan Stanley.

## Competition

Shaw and Partners notes structural trends continue to consolidate the bedbank market around Web Travel, European-based Hotelbeds and Expedia, with technology increasingly distinguishing the larger players from smaller rivals.

The broker is monitoring Google's agentic AI push into travel but sees any impact as medium term.

UBS sees mostly positive read-throughs for Web Travel from competitor Hotelbeds' FY25 result.

This broker highlights Web Travel's interim TTV growth of 22% was materially stronger than Hotelbeds' 6%, indicating Webjet is gaining share at a significantly faster pace.

On the flipside, Hotelbeds appears prepared to use pricing over the next 12 months to reaccelerate TTV growth, which could create a more competitive and potentially more challenging operating backdrop for Web Travel, UBS cautions.

## Four sources of growth

Management is focused on delivering its FY30 TTV target via winning new customers, enhancing supply sources, expanding geographic reach, and improving conversions.

For the half, the strongest driver of TTV growth was improving conversion, highlights Morgans, with management explaining the network effect is underpinning above-market performance.

As Web Travel expands, the broker explains the business becomes increasingly relevant to both travel buyers and hotel partners. With the market growing around 5% and WebBeds delivering 22%, it is clearly continuing to gain share.

To source new customers, the aim is to strike new partnerships with innovative OTA's, particularly in the Americas and APAC. To that end, management increased customer diversification across wholesale customers during the period.

Following the interim result, Macquarie has increased conviction management can balance strong TTV growth in lower-margin regions with the optimisation of supply mix.

Management estimates underlying market growth of around 5%, stronger than Citi expected given the macro backdrop. This suggests to Citi analysts the group is benefiting from solid geographic diversification and exposure to short-haul international travel.

# Outlook

Following the interim results, Jarden's confidence in Web Travel's outlook and medium-term margins has strengthened, supporting its view that a significant re-rating opportunity remains.

The ability of management to grow TTV above the market growth rate underpins Ord Minnett's Buy rating. UBS argues the group could justify a substantial re-rating should it prove capable of consistently outperforming the market while preserving TTV margin.

As shares are seen trading on undemanding fundamentals, Morgans upgrades its rating to Accumulate from Hold.

Although Morgan Stanley sees the company's number three position and limited vertical integration as constraints on the outlook, the analysts nonetheless lift their rating to Equal-weight from Underweight on valuation.

There are seven daily monitored brokers in the FNArena database researching Web Travel. Five have Buy (or equivalent) ratings, while Morgan Stanley is on Hold and Morgans sits on Accumulate, midway between Buy and Hold.

Following the interim result, the average target price of the seven brokers rose by 10 cents to \$5.96, implying circa 25% upside to the \$4.77 share price at the close of trade on Friday, November 28.

Outside of daily coverage, Overweight-rated Jarden has raised its target to \$5.90 from \$5.40.

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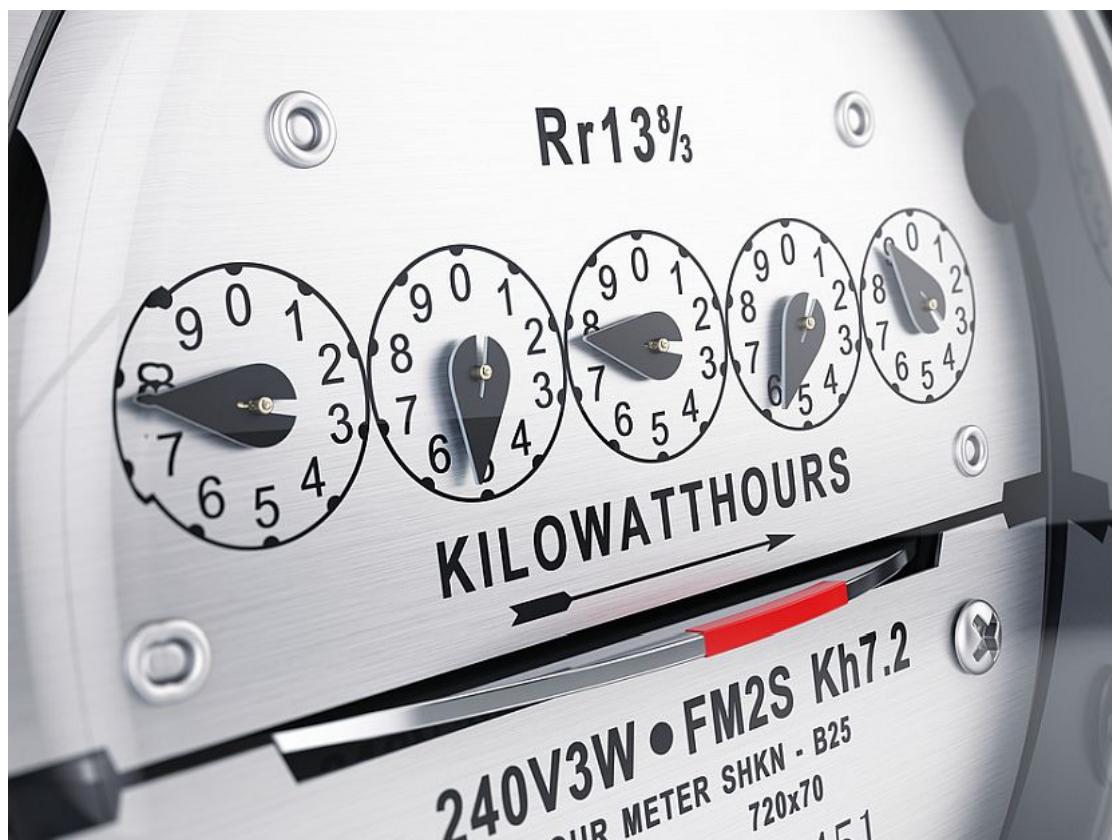
**SMALL CAPS**

# FY26 Gentrack's Show-Me-The-Money Moment

Gentrack's FY25 results calmed investor concerns with the future stock re-rating reliant on converting a robust pipeline to new contract wins, albeit delayed.

- Global software valuations slide as investors price in disruption risk
- FY25 a transition year, FY26 sets up the real proof point
- Veovo keeps delivering steady growth while utilities reposition for the next leg
- Genesis Energy's g2.0 rollout is becoming the key reference site
- Investor Day should sharpen the market's view on execution

By Danielle Ecuyer



## SaaS stocks have been under pressure over AI impact fears

Artificial intelligence is coming for enterprise software companies, apparently, or so the narrative goes. As AI large language models become increasingly intelligent, there is a pervasive school of thought (story) that global software companies will be significantly disrupted by AI.

Who needs a company or sector specific software as a service subscription when everything can be done internally on ChatGPT or Gemini 3?

Might sound a bit far fetched at this stage. At the very least, there has been a growing tide of anxiety around the more horizontal enterprise software services.

Think big companies like Salesforce or SAP. These provide generic software solutions across multiple enterprises, as well as more sector specific software, such as the likes of schools and councils, as serviced by TechnologyOne ((TNE)).

Globally, software as a service stocks have been de-rated, largely through a downgrade in valuations ascribed. Some companies have also been hit with a double whammy of a lower valuation and hiccups around financial metrics.

The iShares Expanded Tech Software Sector ETF (US listed) is down -11% over the last month and only up 2% year to date.

Stocks like Palantir and Applovin are in the top 10 holdings and have done a lot of the heavy lifting in terms of performance, versus the likes of Salesforce and ServiceNow, which are down almost -40% and -32%, respectively.

## A "transition" year added more fuel to the de-rating story

Gentrack Group ((GTK)) has not been immune from the enterprise software de-rating. This has been compounded by what analysts describe as a "transition" period over FY25 and into FY26. Moelis points to a more moderate start into FY26.

In the run up to the recent FY25 results announcement, the stock had declined to a 52-week low around \$6.30 from a high around \$12 in late June, before some clarity and future earnings visibility brought the buyers back out of the woods.

Canaccord Genuity believes the fall in the share price over the past six months, while the Small Ords gained 12%, is most likely the result of investor perception of slower revenue growth as well as limited new contract announcements. Reinvestment for growth was also noted as a potential negative for margins.

As highlighted by UBS, the stock rallied over 18% post FY25 result, but this only returned it to levels seen at the end of October. Management addressed market concerns by sharing more details.

By way of context, "*Gentrack provides a meter data services, meter data management platform that ingests, validates, stores, and processes data from smart (and legacy) meters at scale*", as depicted by the company.

The meter data are collated and feeded into the core "meter to cash" and billing, customer platform. Billing is at the centre of Gentrack's latest upgrade g2.0.

It manages the "full customer life cycle of utility customers from exploration, acquisition, and onboarding to consuming, meter data services, distribution management, billing, debt management, payment, forecasting, analytics and more".

Salesforce and Einstein AI are used, and it is cloud native on Amazon's AWS. Gentrack g2.0 is designed as the number one billing, customer relationship, customer service, and cloud provider in one single solution and is now live with Genesis Energy ((GNE)), a large NZ customer.

## Latest results confirmed ongoing growth

The FY25 results showed a rise in revenue of 8% and earnings growth (EBITDA) of 18%, with an earnings (EBITDA) margin of 12%. UBS pointed to an earnings miss of -6% on its forecast, but an in line result compared to consensus expectations.

The 'miss' was attributed to weaker recurring utility revenues, which were somewhat countered by improved non recurring revenues, although still down -5%.

Regionally, EMEA utilities was the only contributor to revenue growth, up 13%, with APAC flat.

Higher utility costs by -NZ\$4m were also a factor, arising from a rise in sales and marketing costs around g2.0 and geographic expansion.

Airports, Veovo revenue advanced 15% on a combination of growth in annual recurring revenue and net recurring revenue, or 27% growth ex hardware sales, as pointed out by Bell Potter. Veovo benefitted from further new contract wins in the UK, Middle East and APAC expansion.

Management stated the division has started FY26 with a “*very strong backlog of projects and strong pipeline*”.

Available cash on hand of NZ\$85m also permits some optionality for add-on acquisitions. As noted at the call, *acquisitions “add products and capacity for even stronger growth”*.

## It's all about the pipeline and new platform success

While some investors may have taken a deep, comforting breath FY25 metrics on balance did not disappoint, the real focus was around any further pipeline announcements.

For Shaw and Partners, management offered some clarity and reassurance on the growth outlook for FY27 of over 15%. As described by the analyst, the new pipeline disclosure provided increased transparency and confirmation around the number, scale and the maturity of opportunities.

The pipeline was articulated as the same size as Gentrack’s existing recurring utility revenue. This could reflect as much as NZ\$200m to NZ\$400m in net recurring revenue.

For Jarden, how management executes over the next year will be imperative to confirming Gentrack’s ability and success of converting the pipeline into contracted revenue and reinforcing its competitive credibility.

The pipeline was qualified as ten customer prospects worth together 30m meter points, with estimated recurring revenue of NZ\$136m. Many are seen in a good position for a 2026 decision.

Out of the ten, Jarden highlights Gentrack is the preferred provider at three of them and short listed for another three. Bell Potter notes the company is well placed at four others for 2026 decisions. Three to four wins would be sufficient to establish a strong outlook for FY27 growth.

UBS observes the pipeline is spread across geographies and market segments including business to consumer, business to business, energy, water and one Tier one customer. This analyst assumes 30% to 40% of the pipeline converts.

Such outcome underpins revenue growth of 17% in FY27, which aligns with management’s commentary.

However, there are remaining risks of churn. UK Octopus owned Kraken is becoming more competitive in both the business to consumer and business to business segment.

In an earlier report, Moelis pointed to increasing competition from Kraken Technologies in the Australian utilities software segment, alongside media reports it will demerge from parent Octopus Energy (UK), part owned by Origin Energy ((ORG)), which may have valuation implications through comparisons with both Gentrack and Hansen Technologies ((HSN)).

A further potential hurdle from industry feedback suggests to Moelis incumbent software vendors have lengthened the support period for legacy versions of their software. This takes pressure off utilities to speed up the transition to new billing platforms.

If pipeline customers are successfully converted, the company is considered as well positioned to return to over 15%-plus revenue growth in FY27.

For FY26, management expects 8%-plus revenue growth, i.e. to be higher than FY25.

Veovo is anticipated to grow at 15%-plus minimum, utilities recurring around 10% growth, and non recurring revenue should grow on new wins.

## Investor day and broker views

The upcoming Investor Day, scheduled for today, December 1st, is also cast as an important date for the company to present its technology stack and offer more details and insights into its pipeline.

Broker views on the company are quite disparate and varied across target prices. Much of this relates to confidence around management's ability to successfully deliver on its new g2.0 platform. The rollout at Genesis Energy is an important reference point for the company's ability to implement successfully, as well as for the new platform's performance.

Senior management are well incentivised according to Moelis under the long term incentive scheme (NZ\$0.22 per share).

Amongst FN Arena daily monitored brokers there are two Hold equivalent ratings and two Buy ratings, with a consensus target price of \$10. Morgan Stanley is pitched at \$7.70 and Shaw and Partners at \$11.30.

Moelis has the highest AUD target at \$11.59, alongside a Hold rating, while Canaccord Genuity with a Buy rating has the highest NZD target at NZ\$14.50.

This compares to Sell equivalent rated Jarden at NZ\$8.85 and UBS, Hold rated at NZ\$9.65.

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**WEEKLY REPORTS**

# Weekly Ratings, Targets, Forecast Changes - 28-11-25

Weekly update on stockbroker recommendation, target price, and earnings forecast changes.

By Mark Woodruff

**Guide:**

*The FN Arena database tabulates the views of eight major Australian and international stockbrokers: Citi, Bell Potter, Macquarie, Morgan Stanley, Morgans, Ord Minnett, Shaw and Partners and UBS.*

*For the purpose of broker rating correlation, Outperform and Overweight ratings are grouped as Buy, Neutral is grouped with Hold and Underperform and Underweight are grouped as Sell to provide a Buy/Hold/Sell (B/H/S) ratio.*

*Ratings, consensus target price and forecast earnings tables are published at the bottom of this report.*

**Summary**

*Period: Monday November 24 to Friday November 28, 2025*

*Total Upgrades: 12*

*Total Downgrades: 14*

*Net Ratings Breakdown: Buy 61.30%; Hold 30.77%; Sell 7.92%*

For the week ending Friday, November 28, 2025, FN Arena tracked twelve ratings upgrades and fourteen downgrades for ASX-listed companies from brokers monitored daily.

Lifestyle footwear business Accent Group received no fewer than five downgrades in ratings from separate brokers. Fellow retailers Temple & Webster, Lovisa Holdings, and Kogan.com are also listed in the week's top five for falls in average target prices.

Management at Accent Group noted lifestyle footwear sales have been soft, though sports-related categories continue to perform well. While footwear represents around 60% exposure for the group, sport, fashion and fashion accessories are also represented.

Overall, earnings guidance at the midpoint came in -23% below the prior consensus forecast for reasons best explained at <https://fnarena.com/index.php/2025/11/26/sweeping-downgrades-hit-accent-group/>

Sports science and analytics company Catapult Sports heads up the table for negative change to average earnings forecast after interim results disappointed.

FN Arena's Corporate Results Monitor provides the 'miss' assessment for Catapult at

<https://fnarena.com/index.php/2025/11/28/fnarena-corporate-results-monitor-28-11-2025/>

Temple and Webster follows Catapult and Accent Group on the earnings downgrade table following a trading update showing revenue growth slowing sharply, with year-to-date growth of 18% versus 28% in the first six weeks to August.

UBS attributed weakness to a softening in the broader macro consumer demand environment. Given the company's valuation is considered as more realistic after a -32% share price fall on the day of the trading update, the rating was upgraded to Neutral from Sell after lowering its target to \$14.80 from \$17.70.

Citi slashed its target to \$15.38 from \$34.32 and downgraded to Neutral from Buy. It's felt sustainable customer growth is now less certain, limiting confidence in the longer-term trajectory.

Global network-as-a-service provider Megaport and telecommunications company/internet service provider Superloop are next with falls in average earnings forecasts of -20% and -13%, respectively.

While the change in forecast for Megaport should be largely ignored, as the small numbers involved exaggerate the percentage move, Morgans did make some interesting points on the wider Technology sector.

Academic models suggest lower terminal growth should accompany a reduced cost of capital (lower interest rates) in a softer economic environment, leaving valuations broadly unchanged, yet the broker finds price-earnings multiples are still strongly linked to interest rate movements.

Holding all else equal, a -50bps reduction in Morgans' assumed risk-free rate lifts technology valuations by around 13% and adds roughly seven PE points to fair value.

The broker's preferred technology names under research coverage are Megaport and TechnologyOne which are rated Buy and Accumulate, respectively.

In classifieds, Seek and REA Group remain the analysts' top picks, both with Accumulate ratings.

Macquarie retained its Outperform rating for Superloop but reduced its target to \$3.30 from \$3.55 after trimming FY26 and FY27 EPS forecasts by -4% and FY28 by -3% after the broker tempered its user growth assumptions for the Consumer segment.

Returning to average targets, here fast-fashion jewellery retailer Lovisa Holdings and Serko (specialising in corporate travel management and expense solutions) last week experienced falls of -12% and -10%, respectively.

Lovisa's AGM trading update showed total like-for-like sales for the first 20 weeks of FY26 rose by 26.2% year-on-year versus 10% a year earlier, but a slowdown was noted to 25% from weeks 9-20 compared to 28% growth in the first 8 weeks.

UBS lowered its EPS forecasts by -7.7% for FY26 and -9.8% for FY27 on a lower store growth forecast, reduced gross margins and higher cost of doing business/sales.

While Morgans notes retailer optimism has eased since August, confidence has turned positive for the first time in four years, supporting expectations for a stronger Black Friday and Christmas period with sales growth of around 4% year-on-year expected.

Best opportunities are seen in retailers with clear competitive advantages, expanding store footprints, and strong, resilient margins. Lovisa is among Morgans' top picks in the sector.

Following 'in-line' interim results for Serko, Ord Minnett continues to believe patient investors will be rewarded.

Vault Minerals heads up both the positive change to target and earnings tables due to its recent 6.5-for-1 share consolidation.

In separate news, the miner has settled all gold forward sales contracts for the second half of FY26, fully funded from existing cash reserves and eliminated all gold hedging for that period for a total cost of -\$173m.

Funded entirely from existing cash reserves of \$703m on 30 September, and with no dilution, the transaction is accretive to Ord Minnett's FY26 earnings and cash flow estimates to the tune of 26% and 17%, respectively.

Macquarie suggested this move will accelerate the shift to a largely unhedged production profile within six months.

Second-placed Minerals 260 on the positive change to target price table follows a late research update by Bell Potter. NRW Holding comes next, with Monadelphous Group further down the list.

Highlighting contractors are in an upgrade cycle, Citi noted recruitment levels have "surged" for both NRW and Monadelphous in October.

The broker was not surprised by NRW's earnings guidance upgrade given its 95% FY26 revenue coverage and solid active tender balance, which is supported by an elevated bid-win rate.

Further, with the potential for wet weather to persist through the year, the broker thinks management is building appropriate conservatism into its revenue and earnings guidance.

Macquarie maintained its Outperform rating, citing an attractive growth outlook and valuation relative to peers.

For Monadelphous, UBS noted management (at its November 10 trading update) reported robust trading

conditions for the first four months of FY26.

The company's first half revenue guidance of around \$1.5bn sits 23% above the broker's previous estimate, reflecting higher construction activity from a record FY25 order book, which rose 22% to \$2.7bn.

Qube's average target price jumped by 10% after management received an all-cash takeover offer from Macquarie Asset Management at \$5.20 per share.

Directors have confirmed they intend to unanimously recommend in favour of a scheme of arrangement should the proposal progress.

Ord Minnett noted Macquarie Asset Management has been an active owner of global port and transport assets. Given the strategic nature of many of Qube's assets, incremental third-party interest is considered a possibility.

Following Vault Minerals on the forecast earnings upgrade list is Amplitude Energy, after Macquarie updated its numbers for the 11-for-1 share consolidation, which was implemented on November 20.

Next on the list are HMC Capital, Select Harvests, and Gentrack Group.

The outlook for HMC Capital, an asset manager which manages REITs, is improving, according to Macquarie. As noted in last week's article, the company's shares are viewed as undervalued, even under the broker's conservative growth assumptions.

As further explained in the Monitor, FY25 results for Select Harvests and Gentrack Group were in line with analysts' expectations.

This week, FNArena will publish articles on both Gentrack and Web Travel, the latter receiving two upgrades by separate brokers last week after interim earnings beat the consensus estimate.

Plumbing, building and hardware supplies company Reece also received two upgrades to Hold or equivalent from Morgans and Macquarie.

Management's AGM update showed first quarter FY26 sales ahead of expectations from a bigger branch network in A&NZ and the US, but margins remained under pressure from higher costs. Management expects soft conditions to persist in the near term.

Macquarie felt the worst is behind the company, pointing to firmer revenue momentum, with group sales up 8%, driven by a stronger-than-expected US performance and ongoing store expansion.

Reece added five A&NZ stores and ten US stores, reinforcing the broker's confidence in the US model despite tougher competition.

Total Buy ratings in the database comprise 61.30% of the total, versus 30.77% on Neutral/Hold, while Sell ratings account for the remaining 7.92%.

## Upgrade

### **AROA BIOSURGERY LIMITED ((ARX)) Upgrade to Buy from Accumulate by Morgans .B/H/S: 2/0/0**

Aroa Biosurgery delivered a first half result that was below forecasts amid a lower contribution from Tela Bio and Enform.

Morgans notes FY26 guidance has been reiterated although revises down estimates to slightly above the midpoint of the range (EBITDA of NZ\$5-8m) following the downgrade at Tela Bio.

The broker highlights the current share price weakness and upgrades to Buy from Accumulate, also noting that compared with domestic peers the business is trading at attractive levels. Target edges down to \$0.79 from \$0.80.

### **CHRYSSOS CORP. LIMITED ((C79)) Upgrade to Buy from Hold by Bell Potter .B/H/S: 2/0/0**

Chrysos' update at the AGM showed revenue in FY26 to 31 October was up 54% y/y to \$28.9m, beating Bell Potter's forecast. This was driven by AAC surging 274% y/y to \$7.6m while MMAP was slightly down due to a temporary unit decommissioning.

AAC now makes up a larger share of revenue (26.4% vs 15.3% in FY25), the broker highlights, as exploration activity lifts sample volumes. FY26 guidance was reiterated at \$80-90m revenue and \$20-27m EBITDA.

Deployments sit at 41 with multiple new installs and leases secured, supporting continued rollout momentum. The broker lifted AAC forecast for FY26 and increased unit deployment estimate for 2H, resulting in a sharp rise to FY26 EPS estimate.

Target rises to \$9.40 from \$6.70 on a lower WACC of 8.1% vs 9.2%, and earnings revisions. Rating upgraded to Buy from Hold.

**LOVISA HOLDINGS LIMITED ((LOV)) Upgrade to Buy from Accumulate by Morgans and Upgrade to Outperform from Neutral by Macquarie .B/H/S: 3/3/0**

Morgans upgrades Lovisa Holdings to Buy from Accumulate despite the trading update for the first 20 weeks of FY26 coming in lower than anticipated.

Overall, total sales growth remains strong, over 20%, despite weaker sales in the last 12 weeks and a slower store rollout. Like-for-like sales rose 3.5% in the last 20 weeks versus the analyst's forecast of 5%, while total sales growth over the same period was up 26.2%.

The retailer has opened 62 new stores and closed 18 for a net of 44, resulting in a rate of 2.2 per week in FY26 versus 2.52 per week in FY25.

Morgans tweaks its EPS estimates and lowers the target price to \$40 from \$44.50, ascribing a valuation that aligns with market sentiment.

Macquarie notes Lovisa Holdings' update showed softer like-for-like growth of about 2.1%, below consensus but slightly ahead of the broker's expectations. Total sales rose 26.2% in 1H26 so far as new stores continued to perform well.

The analyst notes slower store rollout and emerging competitive pressure from Harli and Harpa, though Google search interest suggests no major shift yet.

Gross margin discipline remains a key strength, in Macquarie's view, with minimal promotional risk.

Macquarie lowers its target to \$37.30 from \$40.90 on more conservative multiples. Following the -14% share-price fall post update, the broker upgrades Lovisa to Outperform from Neutral.

**MEGAPORT LIMITED ((MP1)) Upgrade to Buy from Accumulate by Morgans .B/H/S: 3/2/1**

Morgans revised forecasts for Megaport to reflect its recent \$200m capital raising plus \$20m SPP (share purchase plan), the Latitude.sh Compute-as-a-Service acquisition, and expansion into India.

Already, the 1Q26 update showed improving retention and strong momentum, with revenue up 21% y/y and annual recurring revenue 22% y/y higher, making 20%-plus growth to FY30 look conservative.

The broker expects the Latitude.sh deal to accelerate revenue/EBITDA and complement connectivity in hybrid-cloud setups. Some tempering in investor sentiment is, however, expected as higher growth capex drags near-term FCF and on peers' weak private-cloud performance.

FY26 EBITDA forecast lifted by 59% and FY27 by 95%. Target rises to \$17.00 from \$16.50.

Rating upgraded to Buy from Accumulate.

**OBJECTIVE CORPORATION LIMITED ((OCL)) Upgrade to Accumulate from Hold by Morgans .B/H/S: 3/1/0**

Morgans assesses business momentum continues to build for Objective Corp and the company is well placed for profitable growth in the coming years. The recent investor briefing showcased the product, strategy and opportunity.

The broker believes the business is "best-in-class enterprise software" with a defensive government customer base. A key focus for the company is reducing the time and costs required to deploy its RegWorks solution to reduce potential barriers to adoption and time to value.

The launch of Build in Australia remains on track for March release, and there are now six foundation partners in NSW. Rating is upgraded to Accumulate from Hold in light of the recent pullback in the shares.

Target is reduced to \$20.00 from \$22.90.

**REECE LIMITED ((REH)) Upgrade to Hold from Trim by Morgans and Upgrade to Neutral from Underperform by Macquarie .B/H/S: 1/4/1**

Reece's AGM update showed 1Q26 sales ahead of expectations from a bigger branch network in A&NZ and the US, but margins remained under pressure from higher costs, Morgans remarks. Management expects soft

conditions to persist in the near term.

The broker lifted FY26-28 sales forecasts 7% but EBIT forecasts rose just 1%. The forecasts factor in the impact of the recent off-market share buyback of \$365m.

Rating upgraded to Hold from Trim. Target rises to \$11.25 from \$11.10, with the broker seeing the stock as fully valued at 24.2x FY26 PE.

Macquarie believes the worst is behind Reece and raises its target to \$11.00 from \$10.10 and upgrades to Neutral from Underperform.

The broker points to Reece's 1Q26 update which showed firmer revenue momentum, with group sales up 8%, driven by a stronger-than-expected US performance and ongoing store expansion.

Margins remain soft, with 1Q EBITDA at 9.2% versus the broker's prior 9.8%, as staff costs and higher D&A continue to weigh, although the analyst expects improvement from here.

Reece added five A&NZ stores and ten US stores, reinforcing Macquarie's confidence in the US model despite tougher competition.

**RAMSAY HEALTH CARE LIMITED ((RHC)) Upgrade to Equal-weight from Underweight by Morgan Stanley**  
.B/H/S: 1/5/0

First quarter revenue and earnings growth from Ramsay Health Care was robust and ahead of forecasts and Morgan Stanley upgrades to Equal-weight from Underweight, raising the target to \$34.80 from \$31.30.

The upgrade is also underpinned by a potential resolution in relation to the holding in Ramsay Sante. The company has finalised the strategic review of options relating to its 52.8% holding in the French health business with an update expected by February.

Based on a more favourable financial profile of the group and simplified business scope, the broker has highlighted the potential for a re-rating through an in-specie distribution of the holding in Ramsay Sante. Industry view is In-Line.

**TEMPLE & WEBSTER GROUP LIMITED ((TPW)) Upgrade to Neutral from Sell by UBS** .B/H/S: 3/2/1

Temple & Webster's AGM update shows revenue growth slowing sharply, observes UBS, with year-to-date growth of 18% versus 28% in the first six weeks to August. The analysts attribute weakness to a softening in the broader macro consumer demand environment.

The broker now forecasts 1H26 / FY26 revenue growth of 17.5% and 17.2%, respectively, well below the 20%-plus topline growth delivered over the last five years.

UBS lowers its target price to \$14.80 from \$17.70, and upgrades to Neutral from Sell, given the valuation is now more realistic after a -32% share price fall yesterday.

See also TPW downgrade.

**WEB TRAVEL GROUP LIMITED ((WEB)) Upgrade to Accumulate from Hold by Morgans and Upgrade to Equal-weight from Underweight by Morgan Stanley**.B/H/S: 6/1/0

Web Travel posted strong growth in the top line in 1H26, although this did not translate into strong net profit growth, Morgans observes. Cash flow was better than expected, and the broker was pleased that top-line growth had actually accelerated.

FY26 guidance is a little stronger than expected, and the broker upgrades EBITDA estimates for FY26 and FY27 by 3.4%.

The outlook comments for FY27 were also considered upbeat, and the rating is upgraded to Accumulate from Hold. Target is raised to \$5.20 from \$4.88.

Web Travel delivered 1H26 results that were largely pre-announced, and Morgan Stanley considers it generally better vs modest market expectations. FY26 guidance appears "very achievable", given the historical seasonality of higher take rates in the 2H.

The broker lowers EBITDA estimates by -3% for FY26 and lifts FY27-28 by 4% and points out a broader trend of lower take rates amongst peers has persisted. This trend is meaningfully impacting the company's earnings power.

There is also the prospect of significant consensus earnings downside if the Australian dollar appreciates.

The risk-reward is now more balanced, and Morgan Stanley upgrades to Equal-weight from Underweight. Target raised to \$4.40 from \$4.00. Industry View: In-Line.

## Downgrade

### A2 MILK COMPANY LIMITED ((A2M)) Downgrade to Accumulate from Buy by Ord Minnett .B/H/S: 4/3/0

At the AGM, a2 Milk Co lifted FY26 revenue growth guidance to low double-digits from high single-digit. The company cited strong year-to-date performance in infant formula, liquid milk and nutrition sales plus NZD tailwinds.

FY26 net profit is now expected to be slightly higher than FY25. Ord Minnett notes it is unusual for a company to upgrade guidance after just one quarter, but the company clearly has had a strong start, likely driven by the English-label Genesis launch.

NZD weakness should boost earnings, the broker reckons, though hedging may mute FY26 benefits, with a potential 5% uplift to FY27 if hedges roll off. FY26 EPS forecast lifted by 1.8% and FY27 by 3.2%.

Target rises to \$9.60 from \$9.40. Rating downgraded to Accumulate from Buy following over 8% price rise so far this month.

### ACCENT GROUP LIMITED ((AX1)) Downgrade to Underweight from Overweight by Morgan Stanley and Downgrade to Neutral from Buy by UBS and Downgrade to Hold from Buy by Morgans and Downgrade to Neutral from Buy by Citi and Downgrade to Hold from Buy by Bell Potter.B/H/S: 0/4/1

Morgan Stanley downgrades Accent Group to Underweight from Overweight and cuts the target price to 95c from \$1.80. This follows a downgrade to earnings forecasts on management's new FY26 earnings (EBIT) guidance, which missed expectations.

The retailer lowered guidance to \$85-\$95m, which is -23% lower than the previous consensus earnings forecast at the mid-point and notably below management's prior guidance of high-single-digit y/y earnings growth.

Trading conditions have weakened substantially with the 20-week like-for-like sales growth down to -0.4% from 0.8% in the first seven weeks and well below the consensus of 2.2% growth.

The recovery now remains uncertain, and the broker believes the risks point to further possible downside. The analyst drops their EPS forecasts by -37% for FY26 and around -28% for FY27.

UBS downgrades Accent Group to Neutral from Buy with a lower target price of \$1.10 from \$1.70 on the back of the group's trading update, which was weaker than expected.

Like-for-like sales were down -0.4% for the first 20 weeks of FY26 versus 0.8% growth in the first seven weeks as trading slowed. Gross margins for weeks 1-18 of 1H26 were down -160bps versus a year earlier.

Management's FY26 guidance pointed to a flat FY26 result and 1H/2H26 earnings (EBIT) of \$55m/\$60m, below consensus at \$80m/\$38m, respectively.

The analyst lowers their EPS estimates by -31% for FY26 and -26% for FY27, arising from lower sales revenue, fewer new stores and higher cost of doing business.

Morgans notes Accent Group FY26 update at the AGM was weak, with the company blaming tough retail conditions and heavy promotions for pressure on margins.

Group-owned sales rose 3.7% (retail like-for-like was down -0.4%), with momentum fading after early FY26 as tough retail conditions and heavy promotions hurt lifestyle footwear. Sports and wholesale, though, stayed solid with a strong 2H pipeline.

The company cut FY26 EBIT guidance sharply cut to \$85-95m, down -14% to -23% y/y from prior high-single digit growth expectations. This compared with the previous consensus of \$117.3m.

The broker made material downgrades to forecasts, resulting in a -27% cut to FY26 EBIT and a -24% cut to FY27.

Target trimmed to \$1.10 from \$1.65. Rating downgraded to Hold from Buy, with the broker seeing limited near-term catalysts that would drive the stock price higher.

After a detailed review, Citi downgraded Accent Group to Neutral from Buy, noting risk from weak lifestyle sales. Limited further cost flexibility, and elevated key-person risk are expected to outweigh improving comps

and stable margins.

Target trimmed to \$1.08 from \$1.83.

Previous commentary from the broker follows:

In an early assessment, Citi describes today's Accent Group AGM update as sharply weaker than expected, with year-to-date like-for-like sales down -0.4% vs consensus of 2.15%. Gross margins were also -160bps lower, against expectations for a rise.

The broker notes FY26 guidance relies on a 2H26 recovery in both sales and margins, both difficult to justify.

Management cut 1H26 earnings (EBIT) guidance to \$55-60m (from around an implied \$80.7m), around -28% below the consensus forecast. FY26 EBIT of \$85-95m was a -23% downgrade at the midpoint, observe the analysts.

While October like-for-like sales lifted to 0.4%, Citi doubts the market will place any weight on this, given the scale of the guidance downgrade.

Accent Group's trading update at the AGM was weaker than expected, Bell Potter observes. Owned sales for the first 20 weeks of FY26 were up 3.6% vs the broker's 5.9% estimate, and gross margin was down -160bps y/y due to soft lifestyle footwear.

Retail like-for-like (LFL) sales were down -0.4% from 0.8% in July-August, though October ticked back to a 0.4% rise. No new store target was provided, and FY26 EBIT guidance of \$85-95m was -23% below consensus at the midpoint.

The broker made significant cuts to forecasts to reflect weaker LFLs, margins and guidance, and has kept medium-term forecasts conservative until a clearer recovery emerges. FY26 net profit forecast lowered by -33% and FY27 by -25%.

Rating downgraded to Hold from Buy. Target cut to \$1.10 from \$1.80.

**BEACH ENERGY LIMITED ((BPT)) Downgrade to Sell from Neutral by Citi .B/H/S: 0/4/3**

Beach Energy faces further Waitsia delays after new commissioning issues pushed first LNG sales out again despite Ready-For-Start-Up status, observes Citi.

While the risk of capex overruns is low, the broker's confidence in operability has weakened, with Mitsui issuing a revised schedule incorporating extra downtime.

The analyst highlights the company's short 2P reserve life of around seven years, implying M&A is needed within 12-24 months. It's believed a capital management reset is required to preserve balance sheet capacity.

Citi lowers its target to \$1.00 from \$1.05 and downgrades to Sell from Neutral.

**HARVEY NORMAN HOLDINGS LIMITED ((HVN)) Downgrade to Neutral from Buy by UBS and Downgrade to Neutral from Outperform by Macquarie .B/H/S: 2/3/0**

UBS downgrades Harvey Norman to Neutral from Buy as the PE multiple upside is reduced because of the re-rating of the stock and the comparable de-rating of peer JB Hi-Fi ((JBH)).

The consumer outlook is strong, franchisee sales are robust, and the company's category mix is an advantage, yet there is now a fear of higher interest rates. Harvey Norman is more exposed vs any other in its coverage, the broker asserts.

The risk/reward is now more balanced than attractive as a result. Target is reduced to \$7.50 from \$7.75.

Harvey Norman's trading update at the AGM showed FY26 year-to-date Australian sales are supported by replacement demand, but momentum hasn't really accelerated since the Jul-25 update, Macquarie observes.

Internationally (NZ, Malaysia, UK) sales trends have improved sequentially, with the UK showing encouraging early traction as a longer-term growth option, the broker notes.

FY26 EPS forecast lifted by 2% and FY27 by 3% on better-than-expected sales so far, both in Australia and offshore. Target rises to \$7.60 from \$7.40.

After a 30% share re-rating over 12 months, a 50% share price rise, and expectations the RBA rate cut cycle is done, risk/reward looks balanced, prompting a downgrade to Neutral from Outperform.

**QUBE HOLDINGS LIMITED ((QUB)) Downgrade to Equal-weight from Overweight by Morgan Stanley and**

## **Downgrade to Hold from Buy by Ord Minnett .B/H/S: 1/2/0**

Morgan Stanley notes the bid by Macquarie Asset Management for Qube Holdings at \$5.20/share represents a 24% premium to the volume-weighted average price since the FY25 results.

Macquarie Asset Management will have exclusive due diligence until February 1 2026. Based on recent investor consultation, Morgan Stanley remains of the view underlying volume growth in containers, automotive and energy is under-appreciated by the market.

Price target is adjusted up to \$5.20, in line with the bid, from \$4.50. Rating is downgraded to Equal-weight from Overweight. Industry View: In-line.

Ord Minnett downgrades Qube Holdings to Hold from Buy, raising the target to \$5.20 from \$4.52 in line with the conditional and non-binding proposal by Macquarie Asset Management to acquire the company.

Directors have confirmed they intend to unanimously recommend in favour of a scheme of arrangement should the proposal progress.

The broker notes that Macquarie Asset Management has been an active owner of global port and transport assets, and given the strategic nature of many of the Qube assets, incremental third-party interest is a possibility.

## **SIMS LIMITED ((SGM)) Downgrade to Hold from Accumulate by Ord Minnett .B/H/S: 1/3/1**

Ord Minnett notes Sims' guidance at the AGM for a meaningful y/y 1H26 EBIT uplift, roughly matching 2H25, supported by strong volumes and firm non-ferrous prices.

The company highlighted ferrous conditions remain tough due to Chinese exports and oversupply, though electric arc furnaces (EAF) growth and tariffs are helping US scrap demand and margins.

The standout was Sims Lifecycle Services, where 1H26 EBIT is expected to exceed all of FY25 on major price rises for reusable tech components. The broker lifted the FY26 EPS forecast by 5.8% and FY27 by 0.7%.

Target rises to \$14. Rating downgraded to Hold from Accumulate on valuation grounds.

## **TEMPLE & WEBSTER GROUP LIMITED ((TPW)) Downgrade to Neutral from Buy by Citi .B/H/S: 3/2/1**

Following a further review of Temple & Webster's trading update, Citi slashes its target to \$15.38 from \$34.32 and downgrades to Neutral from Buy. It's felt sustainable customer growth is now less certain, limiting confidence in the longer-term trajectory.

A summary of the broker's initial take follows.

Citi's first reaction to Temple & Webster's trading update at the AGM is a slight surprise at the rate of slowing in revenue growth, given expansion and recent updates from competitors.

Year-to-date revenue growth slowed to 18% vs 1H26 consensus of 23% y/y, and implies only 14% growth over the last 14 weeks, the broker highlights.

Black Friday timing may be weighing on sales, in the broker's view, but remains worried about marketing team departures. FY26 EBIT margin guidance stays at 3-5% (consensus 4.3%), though the broker is more cautious as comps get tougher through 1H26.

See also TPW upgrade.

## **TOWER LIMITED ((TWR)) Downgrade to Neutral from Outperform by Macquarie .B/H/S: 0/1/0**

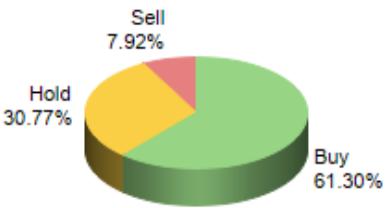
Macquarie suggests Tower is still delivering rare organic growth, but the late-cycle pricing backdrop and rising catastrophe/expense risk prompt a downgrade to Neutral from Outperform.

Levers are being pulled that are "slightly more risky" with the business guiding to a NZ\$45m large event allowance and the broker suspects this will "land at NZ\$55m".

FY25 results met guidance and Tower is guiding to more than 7.5% compound growth to FY28, well ahead of forecasts. Macquarie states, "we need to see it to believe it."

Target is raised to NZ\$1.80 from NZ\$1.70.

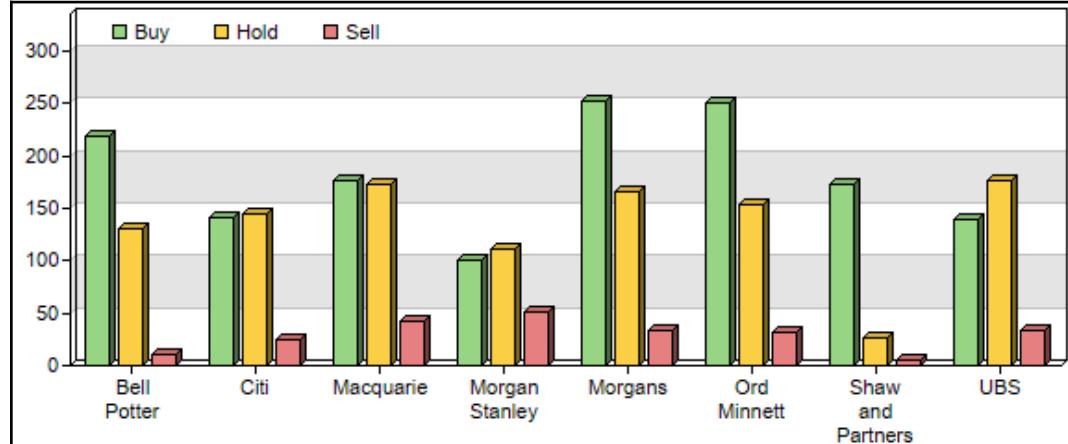
## Total Recommendations



## Recommendation Changes



## Broker Recommendation Breakup



## Broker Rating

Order	Company	New Rating	Old Rating	Broker
<b>Upgrade</b>				
1	<a href="#">AROA BIOSURGERY LIMITED</a>	Buy	Buy	Morgans
2	<a href="#">CHRYSSOS CORP. LIMITED</a>	Buy	Neutral	Bell Potter
3	<a href="#">LOVISA HOLDINGS LIMITED</a>	Buy	Buy	Morgans
4	<a href="#">LOVISA HOLDINGS LIMITED</a>	Buy	Neutral	Macquarie
5	<a href="#">MEGAPORT LIMITED</a>	Buy	Buy	Morgans
6	<a href="#">OBJECTIVE CORPORATION LIMITED</a>	Buy	Neutral	Morgans
7	<a href="#">RAMSAY HEALTH CARE LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Sell	Morgan Stanley
8	<a href="#">REECE LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Sell	Morgans
9	<a href="#">REECE LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Sell	Macquarie
10	<a href="#">TEMPLE &amp; WEBSTER GROUP LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Sell	UBS
11	<a href="#">WEB TRAVEL GROUP LIMITED</a>	Buy	Neutral	Morgans
12	<a href="#">WEB TRAVEL GROUP LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Sell	Morgan Stanley
<b>Downgrade</b>				
13	<a href="#">A2 MILK COMPANY LIMITED</a>	Buy	Buy	Ord Minnett
14	<a href="#">ACCENT GROUP LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	Morgans
15	<a href="#">ACCENT GROUP LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	Citi
16	<a href="#">ACCENT GROUP LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	UBS
17	<a href="#">ACCENT GROUP LIMITED</a>	Sell	Buy	Morgan Stanley
18	<a href="#">ACCENT GROUP LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	Bell Potter
19	<a href="#">BEACH ENERGY LIMITED</a>	Sell	Neutral	Citi
20	<a href="#">HARVEY NORMAN HOLDINGS LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	Macquarie
21	<a href="#">HARVEY NORMAN HOLDINGS LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	UBS
22	<a href="#">QUBE HOLDINGS LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	Morgan Stanley
23	<a href="#">QUBE HOLDINGS LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	Ord Minnett
24	<a href="#">SIMS LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	Ord Minnett
25	<a href="#">TEMPLE &amp; WEBSTER GROUP LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	Citi
26	<a href="#">TOWER LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	Macquarie

## Target Price

Positive Change Covered by at least 3 Brokers

Order	Symbol	Company	New Target	Previous Target	Change	Recs
1	ASX:ASX	ASX GROUP LIMITED	1.00	1.00	0.00	3

1	<a href="#">VAU</a>	VAULT MINERALS LIMITED	4.500	0.950	373.68%	3
2	<a href="#">M16</a>	MINERALS 260 LIMITED	0.523	0.443	18.06%	3
3	<a href="#">NWH</a>	NRW HOLDINGS LIMITED	5.413	4.900	10.47%	4
4	<a href="#">QUB</a>	QUBE HOLDINGS LIMITED	5.100	4.630	10.15%	3
5	<a href="#">DOW</a>	DOWNER EDI LIMITED	8.133	7.683	5.86%	3
6	<a href="#">MND</a>	MONADELPHOUS GROUP LIMITED	27.022	25.822	4.65%	5
7	<a href="#">RHC</a>	RAMSAY HEALTH CARE LIMITED	35.628	34.220	4.11%	6
8	<a href="#">SRG</a>	SRG GLOBAL LIMITED	3.075	2.975	3.36%	4
9	<a href="#">SGM</a>	SIMS LIMITED	14.720	14.300	2.94%	5
10	<a href="#">CHC</a>	CHARTER HALL GROUP	24.202	23.512	2.93%	5

Negative Change Covered by at least 3 Brokers

Order	Symbol	Company	New Target	Previous Target	Change	Recs
1	<a href="#">AX1</a>	ACCENT GROUP LIMITED	1.066	1.756	-39.29%	5
2	<a href="#">TPW</a>	TEMPLE & WEBSTER GROUP LIMITED	20.305	27.220	-25.40%	6
3	<a href="#">LOV</a>	LOVISA HOLDINGS LIMITED	37.375	42.317	-11.68%	6
4	<a href="#">SKO</a>	SERKO LIMITED	4.225	4.715	-10.39%	4
5	<a href="#">KGN</a>	KOGAN.COM LIMITED	4.400	4.733	-7.04%	3
6	<a href="#">CRN</a>	CORONADO GLOBAL RESOURCES INC	0.258	0.272	-5.15%	5
7	<a href="#">SUN</a>	SUNCORP GROUP LIMITED	21.628	22.628	-4.42%	6
8	<a href="#">FPR</a>	FLEETPARTNERS GROUP LIMITED	3.563	3.693	-3.52%	3
9	<a href="#">WTC</a>	WISETECH GLOBAL LIMITED	120.064	123.993	-3.17%	7
10	<a href="#">OCL</a>	OBJECTIVE CORPORATION LIMITED	22.350	23.075	-3.14%	4

## Earnings Forecast

Positive Change Covered by at least 3 Brokers

Order	Symbol	Company	New EF	Previous EF	Change	Recs
1	<a href="#">VAU</a>	VAULT MINERALS LIMITED	35.633	5.867	507.35%	3
2	<a href="#">AEL</a>	AMPLITUDE ENERGY LIMITED	6.140	1.333	360.62%	4
3	<a href="#">HMC</a>	HMC CAPITAL LIMITED	30.160	12.560	140.13%	6
4	<a href="#">SHV</a>	SELECT HARVESTS LIMITED	36.600	21.900	67.12%	3
5	<a href="#">GTK</a>	GENTRACK GROUP LIMITED	17.296	12.209	41.67%	4
6	<a href="#">ALD</a>	AMPOL LIMITED	177.900	168.933	5.31%	3
7	<a href="#">FPH</a>	FISHER & PAYKEL HEALTHCARE CORPORATION LIMITED	69.139	65.990	4.77%	4
8	<a href="#">MND</a>	MONADELPHOUS GROUP LIMITED	105.940	101.740	4.13%	5
9	<a href="#">FPR</a>	FLEETPARTNERS GROUP LIMITED	35.133	34.000	3.33%	3
10	<a href="#">QBE</a>	QBE INSURANCE GROUP LIMITED	202.296	198.225	2.05%	7

Negative Change Covered by at least 3 Brokers

Order	Symbol	Company	New EF	Previous EF	Change	Recs
1	<a href="#">CAT</a>	CATAPULT SPORTS LIMITED	-10.978	-7.993	-37.35%	4
2	<a href="#">AX1</a>	ACCENT GROUP LIMITED	7.040	10.520	-33.08%	5
3	<a href="#">TPW</a>	TEMPLE & WEBSTER GROUP LIMITED	11.340	15.000	-24.40%	6
4	<a href="#">MP1</a>	MEGAPORT LIMITED	-5.340	-4.440	-20.27%	6
5	<a href="#">SLC</a>	SUPERLOOP LIMITED	5.850	6.760	-13.46%	5
6	<a href="#">SUN</a>	SUNCORP GROUP LIMITED	108.250	118.600	-8.73%	6
7	<a href="#">KGN</a>	KOGAN.COM LIMITED	17.667	19.333	-8.62%	3
8	<a href="#">BPT</a>	BEACH ENERGY LIMITED	15.967	17.100	-6.63%	7
9	<a href="#">CRN</a>	CORONADO GLOBAL RESOURCES INC	-29.025	-27.468	-5.67%	5
10	<a href="#">LYC</a>	LYNAS RARE EARTHS LIMITED	33.917	35.600	-4.73%	6

### Technical limitations

*If you are reading this story through a third party distribution channel and you cannot see charts included, we apologise, but technical limitations are to blame.*

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**WEEKLY REPORTS**

# Uranium Week: U308 Catches Genesis Tailwinds

The US Administration has prioritised AI and energy production as part of its national security program the largest since the Apollo program.

- **Genesis Mission and AI electrification reinforce the long term case for U308 demand**
- **Reactor build, restarts and life extensions drive a multi decade uplift in uranium consumption**
- **Supply restraint and trust buying keep the market in deficit through 2029**

By Danielle Ecuyer

## Energy and AI rated as a national security imperative

As 2025 draws to a close and activity levels in both the U308 spot and term markets moderate, the outlook as proffered by major brokers continues to shine brightly for uranium and the global nuclear power industry.

While narratives around an “AI bubble” continue to do the rounds, the US Administration launched the Genesis Mission on November 24, through an Executive Order from President Trump, “as a dedicated, coordinated national effort to unleash a new age of AI accelerated innovation and discovery that can solve the most challenging problems of this century.”

The mission aims to substantially accelerate scientific discovery, strengthen national security, secure energy dominance, enhance workforce productivity, and increase America’s technological dominance and global strategic leadership.

The head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy described this as “**the largest marshalling of federal scientific resources since the Apollo program**”.

The program is expected to accelerate the rate of scientific breakthroughs in areas such as pharmaceuticals, energy production and engineering, of which nuclear fission and fusion energy are a part of the order.

AI and its adjacent industries, notably power generation and energy sources, have national security importance and the two remain inextricably linked, with the growth in AI processing reliant upon increased power generation capacity.

## Utilities and producers caught in a contracting dilemma

UBS’ latest deep dive into the uranium segment stresses U308 demand is based almost entirely on demand from the operation of nuclear reactors.

Currently nuclear reactors represent around 9-10% of global electricity generation, with 438 nuclear reactors operating in 2024 producing around 3,000TWh of electricity per year which equates to a baseline of around 180Mlb of U308 or circa 65-70kt of uranium consumption annually.

There are some 70 reactors in construction globally which could raise an additional 10-15Mlbs of U308 of demand per annum towards the end of the decade.

There is also potential incremental demand from restarts and existing nuclear plant life extensions.

UBS forecasts U308 demand to rise by over 50% by 2035 and over 80% by 2040, underpinned by rising nuclear power generation, (think AI growth).

The broker's projections translate to a compound average growth rate (CAGR) of circa 3.6% in U308 demand this decade, rising to around 4% CAGR from 2030-2040.

Under the COP28 declaration to triple nuclear capacity by 2050, the broker envisages demand to advance by over 60% by 2035 and 100% by 2040, a 4.5% CAGR.

Over 50% of the world's nuclear power generation comes from three countries; the US at 29%, France at 13% and China at 16%. As China and India are rapidly growing their nuclear capacity, China's share is anticipated to double to around 35% from circa 18% by 2035, representing some three quarters of demand growth over the next decade.

Turning to supply, some 75% comes from Kazakhstan (39%), Canada (24%) and Namibia (12%). Production has remained stable over the last 10 years and UBS now anticipates supply growth over the next decade of 6%-plus from 2025-2030 from restarts, ramp up of idled capacity and existing brownfield operations coming online in the early 2030s.

The uranium market is expected to remain in deficit from 2025-2029.

Currently the analysis describes the U308 market as in a **“contracting cycle dilemma”**.

Utilities are slowly contracting despite increasing requirements not covered by contracts. In turn, producers are deferring release of underlying supply or investment in new capacity until longer term contracting demand rises at a price that is high enough to incentivise bringing supply on stream.

In the spot market, physical uranium trusts like Sprott Physical Uranium Trust continue to accumulate inventory and remove volumes.

UBS believes utility demand can be deferred but not canceled, which means longer term contracting rates will by necessity have to increase and breach consumption towards the end of the decade.

## Morgan Stanley remains upbeat on U308 outlook

Morgan Stanley emphasised how uranium was added to the US list of critical minerals alongside copper, metallurgical coal and potash last month.

The US government also announced a US\$80bn partnership with Westinghouse Electric's owners Cameco and Brookfield Asset Management to speed up the development of nuclear reactors.

The aim is to meet the growing demand for electricity from AI data centres and industrial electrification.

The Morgan Stanley sustainability team forecasts around 587GW of new global nuclear capacity additions by 2050 versus circa 400GW currently.

The commodities team remains positive on uranium with a forecast price of US\$87/lb for 1Q2026 and US\$90/lb by 2Q2026.

## U308 spot and term markets soften into year end

Industry consultants TradeTech noted the U308 spot price indicator declined -US\$6.75/lb from October 31 to US\$75.75/lb by the end of November, but the price is still up US\$11.75/lb from the low of US\$64/lb at the end of March.

Utilities have not actively stepped into the spot market as the price declined, which TradeTech attributes to utilities not needing material to be delivered before the end of the fiscal year with relatively constrained discretionary spending power available in their budgets.

Forty-three transactions were conducted in November in the spot market for a total of 3.7mlbs of U308, with half of the transactions involving 50klb lots. The industry consultants also observe activity in the U308 spot market is tending to more closely align with the general sentiment underpinning financial markets.

The TradeTech Mid-term U308 price indicator slipped to US\$86.50 at the end of November from US\$87/lb at

the end of October, and the consultants' Long-term price indicator was unchanged at US\$86/lb.

The consultants explain buyers have been more willing to secure one-time deliveries in the mid-term delivery window and sellers have been more proactive and competitive to secure the business which also characterised the month of November.

## Stock updates and short interests on the move

Morgan Stanley continues to rate **Paladin Energy ((PDN))** as an Overweight with a \$10.40 target price as Langer Heinrich continues to scale up full mining. Its Patterson Lake project in Canada offers growth of 9Mlbs p.a. from 2031.

**Boss Energy ((BOE))** remains Underweight rated with ongoing risks around Honeymoon's mine life, opex and capex as an overhang on investor sentiment and the stock.

An expert report is anticipated to be completed this month. Target price set at \$1.85.

As at November 25, short interests as reported by ASIC had risen in Boss by 1.83% over the prior week to 24.07%. Boss remains the number one shorted stock on the ASX.

Paladin has moved up to the third most shorted position by 0.91% to 13.26% and **Lotus Resources ((LOT))** shorts have risen by 0.74% to 7.9% with that stock scrapping in at number twenty most shorted.

For more weekly reading on uranium updates at FN Arena, see:

<https://fnarena.com/index.php/2025/11/25/uranium-week-geo-politics-japans-restart/>

<https://fnarena.com/index.php/2025/11/18/uranium-week-risk-off-rules/>

<https://fnarena.com/index.php/2025/11/11/uranium-week-biggest-spot-fall-since-march/>

<https://fnarena.com/index.php/2025/10/28/uranium-week-projecting-us150-lb-post-2026/>

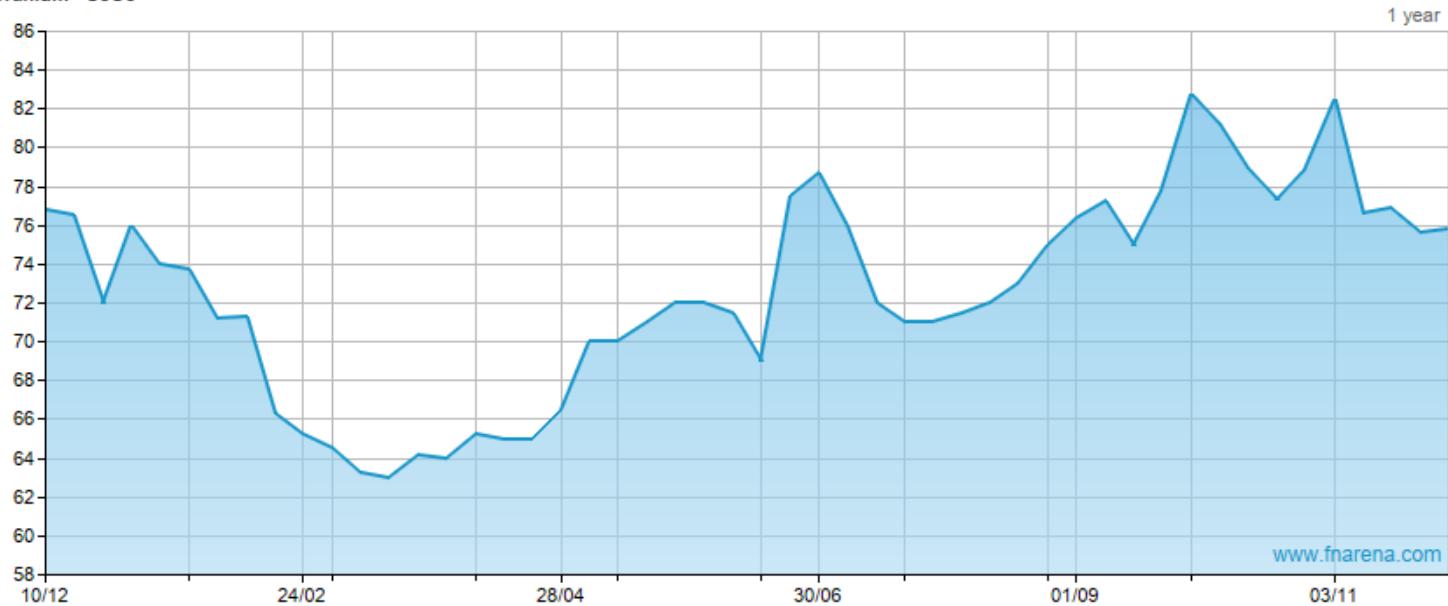
<https://fnarena.com/index.php/2025/10/21/uranium-week-jpmorgans-us1-5trn-plan/>

## Uranium companies listed on the ASX:

ASX CODE	DATE	LAST PRICE	WEEKLY % MOVE	52WK HIGH	52WK LOW	P/E	CONSENSUS TARGET	UPSIDE/DOWNSIDE
1AE	28/11/2025	0.1000	0.00%	\$0.12	\$0.03			
AEE	28/11/2025	0.1700	0.00%	\$0.28	\$0.10			
AGE	28/11/2025	0.0200	▲ 4.17%	\$0.04	\$0.02		\$0.070	▲250.0%
AKN	28/11/2025	0.0100	0.00%	\$0.01	\$0.01			
ASN	28/11/2025	0.0700	▼ -5.19%	\$0.13	\$0.04			
BKY	28/11/2025	0.5200	▲ 4.00%	\$0.70	\$0.31			
BMN	28/11/2025	2.9000	▲ 7.14%	\$4.07	\$1.76		\$5.100	▲75.9%
BOE	28/11/2025	1.5800	▲ 6.95%	\$4.75	\$1.51	8.3	\$2.279	▲44.2%
BSN	28/11/2025	0.0540	▲ 8.00%	\$0.08	\$0.01			
C29	28/11/2025	0.0230	▼ -11.54%	\$0.09	\$0.01			
CXO	28/11/2025	0.2300	▲ 12.50%	\$0.27	\$0.06		\$0.230	
CXU	28/11/2025	0.0200	0.00%	\$0.03	\$0.01			
DEV	28/11/2025	0.1700	▲ 3.03%	\$0.18	\$0.07			
DYL	28/11/2025	1.6000	▲ 3.81%	\$2.49	\$0.75	-328.0	\$1.930	▲20.6%
EL8	28/11/2025	0.2800	▲ 12.00%	\$0.50	\$0.19			
ERA	28/11/2025	0.0020	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00			
GLA	28/11/2025	0.0100	0.00%	\$0.05	\$0.01			
GUE	28/11/2025	0.0600	0.00%	\$0.09	\$0.05			
HAR	28/11/2025	0.1500	▲ 7.14%	\$0.25	\$0.04			

I88	28/11/2025	0.2500	▼- 4.00%	\$0.76	\$0.08			
KOB	28/11/2025	0.0600	▼-14.29%	\$0.11	\$0.03			
LAM	28/11/2025	0.6600	0.00%	\$0.88	\$0.55			
LOT	28/11/2025	0.1600	▲ 3.23%	\$0.26	\$0.13	\$0.337	▲110.4%	
MEU	28/11/2025	0.0800	▲ 1.41%	\$0.09	\$0.03			
NXG	28/11/2025	13.5300	▲13.83%	\$15.21	\$6.44	\$15.375	▲13.6%	
ORP	28/11/2025	0.0500	0.00%	\$0.06	\$0.02			
PDN	28/11/2025	7.9800	▲ 8.99%	\$9.95	\$3.93	67.9	\$9.843	▲23.3%
PEN	28/11/2025	0.4800	▲15.73%	\$1.61	\$0.28	\$1.330	▲177.1%	
SLX	28/11/2025	8.1800	▲11.82%	\$10.85	\$2.28	\$11.200	▲36.9%	
TOE	28/11/2025	0.4000	▲12.68%	\$0.52	\$0.15			
WCN	28/11/2025	0.0200	0.00%	\$0.04	\$0.01			

#### Uranium - U3O8



wp market price history u3o8

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FNArena is proud about its track record and past achievements: [Ten Years On](#)

**WEEKLY REPORTS**

# The Short Report - 04 Dec 2025

FNArena's weekly update on short positions in the Australian share market.

See **Guide** further below (for readers with full access).

**Summary:**

Week Ending November 27th, 2025 (most recent data available through ASIC).

**10%+**

BOE 24.16%

DMP 16.69%

PDN 13.39%

GYG 12.92%

IEL 12.36%

FLT 11.41%

PWH 11.25%

PNV 11.15%

TLX 10.77%

PLS 10.77%

Out: **IPH**

**9.0-9.9%**

IPH 9.71%

CTD 9.61%

CUV 9.39%

NAN 9.04%

In: **IPH, CUV, NAN**

**8.0-8.9%**

ILU 8.70%

LIC 8.54%

VUL 8.50%

DRO 8.35%

DGT 8.14%

LOT 8.10%

In: **DRO, LOT**

Out: **NAN, JHX**

**7.0-7.9%**

KAR 7.72%

RIO 7.26%

BRG 7.26%

DYL 7.05%

In: DYL

Out: GEM, LOT, BSL

### 6.0-6.9%

TWE 6.82%

MSB 6.49%

IPX 6.42%

HMC 6.31%

NXT 6.16%

SLX 6.12%

In: HMC, NXT, SLX

Out: CUV, DYL, DRO

### 5.0-5.9%

MIN 5.95%

ING 5.86%

GMD 5.40%

BAP 5.40%

NEU 5.34%

BPT 5.22%

ARB 5.20%

RFF 5.04%

In: RFF

Out: NXT, SLX, HMC, JIN

### ASX20 Short Positions (%)

Code	Last Week	Week Before	Code	Last Week	Week Before
ALL	0.2	0.2	NAB	0.6	0.5
ANZ	0.7	0.8	QBE	0.2	0.2
BHP	0.9	1.0	RIO	7.3	7.0
BXB	0.5	0.5	STO	0.4	0.3
CBA	0.7	0.6	TCL	0.7	0.6
COL	0.3	0.3	TLS	0.3	0.3
CSL	0.3	0.4	WBC	0.6	0.5
FMG	1.8	1.8	WDS	3.7	3.7
GMG	0.3	0.4	WES	0.3	0.4
MQG	0.4	0.6	WOW	1.2	1.0

To see the full Short Report, please [go to this link](#)

### Guide:

*The Short Report draws upon data provided by the Australian Securities & Investment Commission (ASIC) to highlight significant weekly moves in short positions registered on stocks listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). Short positions in exchange-traded funds (ETF) and non-ordinary shares are not included.*

Short positions below 5% are not included in the table below but may be noted in the accompanying text if deemed significant.

Please take note of the Important Information provided at the end of this report. Percentage amounts in this report refer to percentage of ordinary shares on issue.

Stock codes highlighted in green have seen their short positions reduce in the week by an amount sufficient to move them into a lower percentage bracket. Stocks highlighted in red have seen their short positions increase in the week by an amount sufficient to move them into a higher percentage bracket. Moves in excess of one percentage point or more are discussed in the Movers & Shakers report below.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS REPORT

The above information is sourced from daily reports published by the Australian Investment & Securities Commission (ASIC) and is provided by FN Arena unqualified as a service to subscribers. FN Arena would like to make it very clear that immediate assumptions cannot be drawn from the numbers alone.

It is wrong to assume that short percentages published by ASIC simply imply negative market positions held by fund managers or others looking to profit from a fall in respective share prices. While all or part of certain short percentages may indeed imply such, there are also a myriad of other reasons why a short position might be held which does not render that position "naked" given offsetting positions held elsewhere. Whatever balance of percentages truly is a "short" position would suggest there are negative views on a stock held by some in the market and also would suggest that were the news flow on that stock to turn suddenly positive, "short covering" may spark a short, sharp rally in that share price. However short positions held as an offset against another position may prove merely benign.

Often large short positions can be attributable to a listed hybrid security on the same stock where traders look to "strip out" the option value of the hybrid with offsetting listed option and stock positions. Short positions may form part of a short stock portfolio offsetting a long share price index (SPI) futures portfolio - a popular trade which seeks to exploit windows of opportunity when the SPI price trades at an overextended discount to fair value. Short positions may be held as a hedge by a broking house providing dividend reinvestment plan (DRP) underwriting services or other similar services. Short positions will occasionally need to be adopted by market makers in listed equity exchange traded fund products (EFT). All of the above are just some of the reasons why a short position may be held in a stock but can be considered benign in share price direction terms due to offsets.

Market makers in stock and stock index options will also hedge their portfolios using short positions where necessary. These delta hedges often form the other side of a client's long stock-long put option protection trade, or perhaps long stock-short call option ("buy-write") position. In a clear example of how published short percentages can be misleading, an options market maker may hold a short position below the implied delta hedge level and that actually implies a "long" position in that stock.

Another popular trading strategy is that of "pairs trading" in which one stock is held short against a long position in another stock. Such positions look to exploit perceived imbalances in the valuations of two stocks and imply a "net neutral" market position.

Aside from all the above reasons as to why it would be a potential misconception to draw simply conclusions on short percentages, there are even wider issues to consider. ASIC itself will admit that short position data is not an exact science given the onus on market participants to declare to their broker when positions truly are "short". Without any suggestion of deceit, there are always participants who are ignorant of the regulations. Discrepancies can also arise when short positions are held by a large investment banking operation offering multiple stock market services as well as proprietary trading activities. Such activity can introduce the possibility of either non-counting or double-counting when custodians are involved and beneficial ownership issues become unclear.

Finally, a simple fact is that the Australian Securities Exchange also keeps its own register of short positions. The figures provided by ASIC and by the ASX at any point do not necessarily correlate.

FN Arena has offered this qualified explanation of the vagaries of short stock positions as a warning to subscribers not to jump to any conclusions or to make investment decisions based solely on these unqualified numbers. FN Arena strongly suggests investors seek advice from their stock broker or financial adviser before acting upon any of the information provided herein.

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## WEEKLY REPORTS

# In Brief: Energy One, New Murchison, America West Metals

Three small/micro cap companies capturing secular trends across the energy transition markets, the demand for gold, copper and critical minerals.

- Renewables complexity towards net zero and trading lifts demand for Energy One's software suite
- New Murchison Gold's Crown Prince project cash flow to fund a bigger Garden Gully story
- America West Metals targets Storm Copper upside and strategic West Desert indium leverage

By Danielle Ecuyer

This week's quote comes from Carl Ang, MFS Investment Management

*"Recent inflation and activity data like GDP and credit growth have generally been on the stronger side, challenging the RBA's assessment that policy remains a little restrictive.*

*"We expect the RBA to stay on hold at the December meeting but express openness to a rate hike should the economy strengthen materially from here.*

*"The base case remains for a prolonged hold by the RBA as the labour market gradually softens.*

*"However, the balance of risks are clearly tilting towards a rate hike, likely sometime in the second half of 2026 at the earliest."*

## Energy One, including ASX300 potential

Canaccord Genuity initiated coverage of **Energy One** ((EOL)) a specialist provider of software services for companies involved in the wholesale energy, environmental and carbon markets.

The company has grown through strategic M&A across Australasia, UK/Europe and has expanded from a software business concentrating on industrial and commercial billing systems to focus on energy trading and risk management systems (ETRM).

The analyst notes with over 450k global customer installations, Energy One services nearly 50% of the Australian power generation market. Europe/UK are standout growth opportunity markets over the medium term.

The expanding renewable energy mix and changing market pricing structures are positive macro tailwinds. From a competitive position, Energy One is not the largest company but the analyst views it as one with "*deep domain expertise*" in a market segment where M&A and private equity are active.

Over 30% of revenue is generated by ETRM which assists generators, retailers and traders manage physical and financial energy positions across all aspects of the trading suite, substantially improving risk management.

Energy One has several offerings for the domestic and UK/EU markets in the physical trading segment.

The three key factors underpinning Canaccord's positive stance on the company are:

- Regulatory changes in the European market are expected to underpin upgrades and new customer activity across FY26 and FY27.
- Major end markets are experiencing significant structural changes and thematic tailwinds in the move to net zero and rising share of renewable generation.
- If the company can achieve its cash earnings (EBITDA) margin target of 30% versus 17.5% currently

around FY27, this infers a EPS compound annual growth rate of 57% organic while management continues to be on the lookout for M&A opportunities. Management is also targeting recurring revenue growth of 15-20% p.a. on or around FY27.

At a current market cap of circa \$550m, Energy One has scope to ascend to the ASX300 over the next year with ongoing earnings growth, positive accretive acquisitions and possible improvements in free float.

The stock is rated Buy given the recent pullback in the share price with a \$22.94 target price. The broker does not believe there are reasons for the PEG valuation to be at a discount to its closest peers Gentrack Group ((GTK)) and Hansen Technologies ((HSN)).

## Emerging gold producer

Taylor Collison initiated coverage on **New Murchison Gold ((NMG))**, described as an early-stage Western Australian gold producer concentrating on the 100% owned Garden Gully Gold project in Murchison, near Meekatharra.

The main asset is the high-grade Crown Prince gold deposit which started producing gold in mid-2025. Strategically, management is aiming to speed up Crown Prince to steady state production by concentrating on a single open pit ore reserve, amounting to 0.89Mt at 4.8g/t for 140koz.

There is a 2.5-year timeline producing around 56koz, and ore is being mined at over 50kt per month and stockpiled by grade for on-site crushing and sampling prior to being trucked to **Westgold Resources' ((WGX))** Bluebird plant under a toll-treatment agreement.

Westgold enables New Murchison to move swiftly into production removing the need for capex investment on processing infrastructure.

The broker estimates the open-pit stage is forecast to generate around \$340m in post-tax cash flow across a 30-year mine life depending on the gold price.

The ore purchase agreement with Westgold means New Murchison is paid on recovered gold ounces net of treatment, haulage and processing charges.

The cash flow generated from Crown Prince will be deployed to fund additional open pit and underground development, as well as further exploration regionally across the Garden Gully project.

Commentary posits Crown Prince's proposition as a high-grade feed delivers robust margins and makes New Murchison an attractive supplier to nearby mills seeking to raise the blended grades and better returns.

In its first quarter, 3.2koz of gold sales were achieved. Open pit mining produced 9.9koz at 1.92g/t of which 7.7koz grading 3.8g/t was sold to Westgold under the agreement.

The 2.4koz of low-grade stockpiles at 0.7g/t is considered as providing flexibility for the back end of life of mine, the analyst explains.

The underground scoping study for Crown Prince is viewed as the most significant technical milestone and is due 2Q2026. Taylor Collison anticipates it to test gold continuity below the pit shell and offer a realistic underground operation.

New Murchison is only expected to commit its resources once they come in above 300koz, which the analyst believes will be achieved and thus this has been included in the EV/oz-based valuation.

The stock is rated Speculative Buy with a 4.1c target price.

## Two secular sweetspots

In the US' race to secure critical minerals supply, a micro-cap popped on MST Access' radar this week. **America West Metals ((AW1))** recently raised \$7m at 4.5c per share, an 18% premium to the 30-day VWAP (volume weighted average price).

America West has two main exploration projects, 100%-owned West Desert (Utah, US) which is home to the only indium resource in the US with possible gallium potential; both are critical minerals for major national

security related industries like technology and defence.

The area is the largest undeveloped indium deposit in the world.

The second, more near-term project, is the 80% owned Storm Copper in Nunavut, Northern Canada spanning over 2,200 square kilometres. The location is afforded transport infrastructure via sea routes, as it is located on an uninhabited island, has government support and is noted as low capex.

The analyst explains Storm Copper is the only near-term copper development in Northern Canada and can potentially qualify for government funding. Management believes the project can start production in the next 2-3 years and MST estimates it will generate earnings (EBITDA) around US\$45m p.a. with margins over 40%.

The preliminary economic assessment released in March models a 10-year, open pit operation producing 487t of Cu-AG concentrate. The analyst estimates 83kt contained copper and 750koz of contained silver with a low capex of -US\$47.7m, and cash costs of -US\$2.63/lb. Initial mining inventory is 10.3Mt at 1.3% Cu and 3.7g/t Ag.

Two funding packages have been secured. Taurus in September 2024 with a commitment to US\$12.5m milestone-based royalty financing which has assisted in funding drilling and resource expansion.

The second occurred in April 2025. Ocean Partners committed funding of up to 80% of initial development capex (up to US\$40m) from project debt and a US\$2m equity placement with consideration of 100% off-take of base copper and silver production from Storm for the longer of either 8 years or the PEA-defined resource life.

West Desert is surrounded by a region which houses existing infrastructure, including Rio Tinto's ((RIO)) Kennecott copper smelter, as well as a major railway line. The project is across 32 square kilometres and includes private land, un-patented lode mining claims, and a single state metalliferous Mineral Lease.

The deposit is mineral rich, containing zinc, copper, gold, silver. Grades of 1,055g/t indium were found with only 35% of the West Desert samples assayed for indium.

The current mineral resource estimate as of 2023, is 1,290kt of zinc, 49kt of copper and 9,818kt of silver. These are accompanied by indium, gallium and gold, which is typical for the area.

MST has a valuation of 14c per share, up from 11c, with Storm being the main factor, with West Desert lifting the valuation.

The analyst believes there is upside potential to the Storm resource size and West Desert and considers the shares as "substantially undervalued".

*Find out why FN Arena subscribers like the service so much: "[Your Feedback \(Thank You\)](#)" - Warning this story contains unashamedly positive feedback on the service provided.*

*FN Arena is proud about its track record and past achievements: [Ten Years On](#)*

**WEEKLY REPORTS**

# In Case You Missed It - BC Extra Upgrades & Downgrades - 05-12-25

A summary of the highlights from Broker Call Extra updates throughout the week past.

## Broker Rating Changes (Post Thursday Last Week)

### Upgrade

#### **BIG RIVER INDUSTRIES LIMITED ((BRI)) Upgrade to Buy from Hold by Moelis.B/H/S: 0/0/0**

Moelis raises its target for Big River Industries to \$1.68 from \$1.60 and upgrades to Buy from Hold.

The company will acquire John's Building Supplies for ~\$17m, adding scale in Western Australia and strengthening exposure to higher-margin product categories such as structural timber, engineered wood and cladding, explains the broker.

The analyst highlights John's Building Supplies' solid financial profile, with three-year average revenue of \$41.2m and earnings of \$5.2m. The deal is expected to be earnings accretive.

A \$10m entitlement offer at a -2% discount to the 10-day VWAP will partly fund the upfront consideration.

Management's latest trading update indicates to Moelis improving daily sales and resilient gross margins despite ongoing softness in several residential markets.

#### **MACQUARIE GROUP LIMITED ((MQG)) Upgrade to Overweight from Underweight by Jarden.B/H/S: 0/0/0**

After reviewing 1H results, Jarden believes Macquarie Group is entering a transition phase, with recent divestments providing improved earnings visibility.

The broker highlights the agreed sale of Macquarie Asset Management's (MAM's) stake in Aligned Data Centers, which secures around three years of performance fees.

MAM has stabilised, according to the analysts, with proceeds from selling its US and European public investments business to Nomura to be redeployed into private markets. A solid capital markets pipeline is believed to support Macquarie Capital (MacCap).

Jarden lifts its FY26-28 cash earnings by up to 5%, upgrading to Overweight from Underweight. Target rises to \$220 from \$200.

#### **OBJECTIVE CORPORATION LIMITED ((OCL)) Upgrade to Buy from Hold by Moelis.B/H/S: 0/0/0**

Moelis states Objective Corp's electronic content management platform is well positioned to enable AI, and it has now branded its AI enabled services as "Objective Intelligence."

The analyst believes Objective Intelligence is a significant incremental opportunity, allowing customers to share information with AI securely and efficiently.

Moelis has not updated earnings forecasts, so AI upside is not yet explicitly captured in estimates, while core growth remains underpinned by migration to Nexus SaaS, Build planning rollout, and Regulatory Solutions wins.

Rating is upgraded to Buy from Hold, with the broker arguing the stock trades at a material discount to its

valuation and Objective Intelligence offers additional upside on top of existing strategies. Target remains at \$24.29.

## Downgrade

### **GREATLAND RESOURCES LIMITED ((GGP)) Downgrade to Neutral from Overweight by Jarden.B/H/S: 0/0/0**

Greatland Resources intends to release outcomes from the Havieron feasibility study early in December, which Jarden notes will mark the first material update on the project since the 2024 admission document.

The broker accounts for potential scope changes, significant capital expenditure inflation and a longer development schedule. First production is still expected in FY28 but the forecast ramp up profile is lengthened.

Underground mining costs are expected to reflect ongoing industry cost pressures. Jarden's -\$70/t real underground mining cost forecast now is 40% higher than the 2024 company estimate.

Rating is downgraded to Neutral from Overweight as despite Havieron being one of the best undeveloped projects in Australia, the economics have been reduced. Jarden lowers the target to \$5.50 from \$6.90.

Order Upgrade	Company	New Rating	Old Rating	Broker
1	<a href="#">BIG RIVER INDUSTRIES LIMITED</a>	Buy	Neutral	Moelis
2	<a href="#">MACQUARIE GROUP LIMITED</a>	Buy	Sell	Jarden
3	<a href="#">OBJECTIVE CORPORATION LIMITED</a>	Buy	Neutral	Moelis
Downgrade				
4	<a href="#">GREATLAND RESOURCES LIMITED</a>	Neutral	Buy	Jarden

## Price Target Changes (Post Thursday Last Week)

	Company	Last Price	Broker	New Target	Old Target	Change
APA	APA Group	\$9.34	Jarden	9.65	9.10	6.04%
ASL	Andean Silver	\$2.09	Canaccord Genuity	4.25	3.80	11.84%
AUB	AUB Group	\$31.97	Jarden	37.80	40.20	-5.97%
BML	Boab Metals	\$0.42	Petra Capital	0.99	1.08	-8.33%
BRI	Big River Industries	\$1.40	Moelis	1.68	1.60	5.00%
CAR	CAR Group	\$32.85	Jarden	34.65	34.50	0.43%
GGP	Greatland Resources	\$8.11	Canaccord Genuity	10.65	14.00	-23.93%
			Canaccord Genuity	11.55	14.00	-17.50%
			Jarden	5.00	6.90	-27.54%
			Jarden	5.50	6.90	-20.29%
GLN	Galan Lithium	\$0.25	Moelis	8.50	8.10	4.94%
			Canaccord Genuity	0.30	0.20	50.00%
			Jarden	7.60	6.70	13.43%
			Jarden	3.30	3.41	-3.23%
IDX	Integral Diagnostics	\$2.47	Jarden			
IKE	ikeGPS Group	\$0.95	Moelis	1.00	1.02	-1.96%
IMD	Imdex	\$3.24	Jarden	2.90	2.75	5.45%
IPG	IPD Group	\$3.99	Moelis	4.83	4.21	14.73%
KCN	Kingsgate Consolidated	\$4.67	Taylor Collison	4.70	4.50	4.44%
			Moelis	5.95	6.20	-4.03%
MAH	Macmahon Holdings	\$0.57	Petra Capital	0.67	0.49	36.73%
MQG	Macquarie Group	\$196.96	Jarden	220.00	200.00	10.00%
MTO	Motorcycle Holdings	\$3.29	Moelis	4.17	4.13	0.97%
MTS	Metcash	\$3.35	Jarden	3.80	4.00	-5.00%
NXT	NextDC	\$13.44	Canaccord Genuity	22.55	21.70	3.92%
OMA	Omega Oil & Gas	\$0.40	Canaccord Genuity	0.85	0.84	1.19%
PEX	Peel Mining	\$0.13	Canaccord Genuity	0.20	0.17	17.65%
QBE	QBE Insurance	\$18.94	Jarden	20.70	20.20	2.48%
RHC	Ramsay Health Care	\$37.13	Jarden	42.40	43.64	-2.84%
SEK	Seek	\$24.07	Jarden	29.70	30.00	-1.00%

		Last Price	Broker	New Target	Old Target	Change
SFR	Sandfire Resources	\$16.83	Canaccord Genuity	15.00	14.25	5.26%
SHV	Select Harvests	\$5.00	Canaccord Genuity	4.30	4.02	6.97%
STK	Strickland Metals	\$0.18	Canaccord Genuity	0.60	0.50	20.00%
TPW	Temple & Webster	\$14.01	Canaccord Genuity	22.50	30.50	-26.23%
			Jarden	19.60	32.79	-40.23%
			Petra Capital	20.15	30.00	-32.83%
VAU	Vault Minerals	\$4.90	Canaccord Genuity	6.15	0.96	540.63%
			Jarden	3.70	0.49	655.10%
WEB	Web Travel	\$4.80	Canaccord Genuity	6.40	5.45	17.43%
			Jarden	5.90	5.40	9.26%
Company			Broker		New Target	Old Target
						Change

## More Highlights

# BOAB METALS LIMITED

**Mining - Overnight Price: \$0.51**

Petra Capital rates ((BML)) as Buy (1) -

Boab Metals has entered into a debt facility for up to \$236m with Merricks Capital and Davidson Capital Management.

Merricks is a private credit fund manager owned by Regal Partners ((RPL)).

Petra Capital notes the facility is sizeable, and when combined with existing cash of around \$54m and the Trafigura prepayment of \$45m, the miner has sufficient funds for the Sorby Hills silver-lead project.

A Buy rating is retained with a 99c target price, down from \$1.05 previously.

This report was published on November 28, 2025.

Target price is **\$0.99** Current Price is **\$0.51** Difference: **\$0.48**

If BML meets the Petra Capital target it will return approximately **94%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges). The company's fiscal year ends in June.

**Forecast for FY26:**

Petra Capital forecasts a full year FY26 dividend of **0.00** cents and EPS of **minus 0.50** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **minus 102.00**.

**Forecast for FY27:**

Petra Capital forecasts a full year FY27 dividend of **0.00** cents and EPS of **minus 4.00** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **minus 12.75**.

**Market Sentiment: 1.0**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FN Arena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

# BOOM LOGISTICS LIMITED

**Industrial Sector Contractors & Engineers - Overnight Price: \$1.59**

Taylor Collison rates ((BOL)) as Outperform (2) -

Taylor Collison did not anticipate Boom Logistics would offer earnings guidance at the 1Q26 update due to the recent departures of the CEO and CFO.

The analyst believes the decision to do so is encouraging around the confidence of the interim CEO and former

COO, who has a more active role.

Guidance stands at 15% growth for FY26 EPS which according to commentary, even considering the \$4m share buy-back, is upbeat and continues to support the ongoing turnaround in the company.

Net capex fell -76% y/y to \$1.8m from \$7.8m which assisted a decline in net debt by -\$1.8m to \$96m.

Outperform rating retained. Target \$2.13.

This report was published on November 28, 2025.

Target price is **\$2.13** Current Price is **\$1.59** Difference: **\$0.535**

If BOL meets the Taylor Collison target it will return approximately **34%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

The company's fiscal year ends in June.

#### Forecast for FY26:

Taylor Collison forecasts a full year **FY26** dividend of **0.00** cents and EPS of **25.20** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **6.33**.

#### Forecast for FY27:

Taylor Collison forecasts a full year **FY27** dividend of **2.00** cents and EPS of **30.20** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **1.25%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **5.28**.

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

## CEN CONTACT ENERGY LIMITED

### Infrastructure & Utilities - Overnight Price: **\$8.37**

Jarden rates ((CEN)) as Overweight (2) -

Contact Energy set a FY31 EBITDAF (EBITDA plus financial instruments fair value movements) target of NZ\$1.3-1.4bn compared with FY26 guidance of NZ\$980m, Jarden notes.

A new 50MW geothermal project plus an extra 100MW longer-dated geo was also confirmed.

The broker estimates dividend-capable cash flow to rise to NZ79c per share by FY31 from NZ52cps in FY26, making the NZ50c-plus FY31 target look conservative.

Overweight maintained. Target unchanged at NZ\$10.85.

This report was published on November 25, 2025.

Current Price is **\$8.37**. Target price not assessed.

The company's fiscal year ends in June.

#### Forecast for FY26:

Jarden forecasts a full year **FY26** EPS of **28.97** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **28.89**.

#### Forecast for FY27:

Jarden forecasts a full year **FY27** EPS of **30.96** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **27.03**.

This company reports in NZD. All estimates have been converted into AUD by FNArena at present FX values.

Market Sentiment: **0.5**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

# FPH FISHER & PAYKEL HEALTHCARE CORPORATION LIMITED

Medical Equipment & Devices - Overnight Price: \$33.34

Canaccord Genuity rates ((FPH)) as Buy (1) -

Fisher & Paykel Healthcare beat expectations in its first half results, and now targets 12-25% growth over FY26. Canaccord Genuity notes hospital sales beat across all categories while homecare slightly lagged its estimates.

Structural tailwinds are still expected from the sleep apnoea industry and the broker envisages a range of new drivers will come into contention as the high flow nasal cannula modality evolves across respiratory indications and care settings.

The broker retains a Buy rating with a target of \$37.58.

This report was published on November 26, 2025.

Target price is **\$37.58** Current Price is **\$33.34** Difference: **\$4.24**

If **FPH** meets the Canaccord Genuity target it will return approximately 13% (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

Current consensus price target is **\$37.00**, suggesting upside of 11.0%(ex-dividends)

The company's fiscal year ends in March.

## Forecast for FY26:

Canaccord Genuity forecasts a full year FY26 dividend of **43.46** cents and EPS of **65.18** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **1.30%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **51.15**.

How do these forecasts compare to market consensus projections?

Current consensus EPS estimate is **66.8**, implying annual growth of **N/A**.

Current consensus DPS estimate is **43.9**, implying a prospective dividend yield of **1.3%**.

Current consensus EPS estimate suggests the PER is **49.9**.

## Forecast for FY27:

Canaccord Genuity forecasts a full year FY27 dividend of **48.89** cents and EPS of **74.87** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **1.47%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **44.53**.

How do these forecasts compare to market consensus projections?

Current consensus EPS estimate is **78.4**, implying annual growth of **17.4%**.

Current consensus DPS estimate is **52.1**, implying a prospective dividend yield of **1.6%**.

Current consensus EPS estimate suggests the PER is **42.5**.

This company reports in **NZD**. All estimates have been converted into **AUD** by FNArena at present FX values.

Market Sentiment: **0.5**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

# IPG IPD GROUP LIMITED

Industrial Sector Contractors & Engineers - Overnight Price: \$3.85

Moelis rates ((IPG)) as Buy (1) -

Moelis notes IPD Group's trading update with 1H26 guidance implies earnings (EBITDA) of \$24.8m to \$25.3m

and EBIT of \$21.1m to \$21.6m, up 6.1% and 5.7% versus a year earlier at midpoint.

Management cited building momentum and a positive FY26 growth outlook. The analyst highlights recovery across end markets, strong order book growth, and a growing opportunity pipeline, with earlier CMI investments starting to bear fruit.

FY26 to FY28 EPS forecasts lifted by 3%, 1%, and 1%, respectively, reflecting stronger FY26 trading to date.

Rating is retained at Buy and target price is increased to \$4.83 from \$4.74. The broker adds construction demand momentum and rising non residential and infrastructure work support continued growth through FY26.

This report was published on November 27, 2025.

Target price is **\$4.83** Current Price is **\$3.85** Difference: **\$0.98**

If **IPG** meets the Moelis target it will return approximately **25%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges). The company's fiscal year ends in June.

#### Forecast for FY26:

Moelis forecasts a full year **FY26** dividend of **13.90** cents and EPS of **27.80** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **3.61%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **13.85**.

#### Forecast for FY27:

Moelis forecasts a full year **FY27** dividend of **14.90** cents and EPS of **29.80** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **3.87%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **12.92**.

Market Sentiment: **1.0**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

## MTS METCASH LIMITED

**Food, Beverages & Tobacco - Overnight Price: \$3.33**

Jarden rates ((MTS)) as Overweight (2) -

Jarden observes Metcash's 1H26 result came in about -5% below consensus, with hardware and liquor the main sources of weakness as competition, costs and softer demand weighed on earnings.

Food performed better, and the broker notes early signs of improvement in hardware, including strong Total Tools like-for-like growth early in 2H26, though liquor remains under pressure.

Jarden sees leverage to a housing recovery as a key medium-term driver of operating leverage and margin upside.

Overweight. Target price falls to \$3.80 from \$4.00 given the broker's earnings forecasts are trimmed -2-3% across FY26-28 on margin pressure, despite modest upgrades to Food.

This report was published on December 2, 2025.

Target price is **\$3.80** Current Price is **\$3.33** Difference: **\$0.47**

If **MTS** meets the Jarden target it will return approximately **14%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

Current consensus price target is **\$3.80**, suggesting upside of **14.1%**(ex-dividends)

The company's fiscal year ends in April.

#### Forecast for FY26:

Jarden forecasts a full year **FY26** dividend of **17.50** cents and EPS of **24.10** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **5.26%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **13.82**.

How do these forecasts compare to market consensus projections?

Current consensus EPS estimate is **25.1**, implying annual growth of **-2.9%**.

Current consensus DPS estimate is **18.2**, implying a prospective dividend yield of **5.5%**.  
Current consensus EPS estimate suggests the PER is **13.3**.

#### Forecast for FY27:

Jarden forecasts a full year **FY27** dividend of **21.00** cents and EPS of **27.40** cents.  
At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **6.31%**.  
At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **12.15**.

How do these forecasts compare to market consensus projections?

Current consensus EPS estimate is **27.4**, implying annual growth of **9.2%**.  
Current consensus DPS estimate is **19.2**, implying a prospective dividend yield of **5.8%**.  
Current consensus EPS estimate suggests the PER is **12.2**.

Market Sentiment: **0.4**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FN Arena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

## PEX PEEL MINING LIMITED

#### Mining - Overnight Price: **\$0.12**

Canaccord Genuity rates ((PEX)) as Speculative Buy (1) -

Canaccord Genuity notes Peel Mining has refreshed its board and management team to reinvigorate the South Cobar Project. Experienced leadership has been instated with strong mining, development and capital-markets credentials.

The new strategy will focus on targeted exploration, pre-development work and regional consolidation, explain the analysts, underpinned by a 22.9mt resource base.

Early drilling results from the Nombinnie gold prospect show broad, shallow mineralisation and highlight a system with scale potential, assesses the broker, ahead of further assays.

Management has also secured NSW critical-minerals funding to accelerate exploration across its Cobar Basin portfolio.

Canaccord lifts its target to **\$0.20** from **\$0.17** and retains a Speculative Buy rating.

This report was published on November 27, 2025.

Target price is **\$0.20** Current Price is **\$0.12** Difference: **\$0.085**

If PEX meets the Canaccord Genuity target it will return approximately **74%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FN Arena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

## RCL READCLOUD LIMITED

#### Education & Tuition - Overnight Price: **\$0.10**

Research as a Service (RaaS) rates ((RCL)) as No Rating (-1) -

ReadCloud had pre-released key financial metrics, hence why the Research as a Service (RaaS) analyst didn't spot any major surprises in the FY25 result release.

It is the analyst's assessment the core strategic Australian schools-facing businesses in eBooks and VET-in-Schools (collectively 85% of FY25 group sales revenue) delivered strong results, with VET-in-Schools the standout growing revenue at 26% to \$5.7m and continuing to deliver gross margins exceeding 90%.

Commentary suggests the schools-facing businesses remain the growth driver for the company and they are

considered well-positioned to continue to perform well in FY26 and beyond.

Small upward adjustments to forecasts have pushed up the DCF valuation to 0.38 from 0.35.

This company services the education and training sectors through the provision of digital learning content, proprietary interactive technology and support for students and educators.

Research as a Service (RaaS) research standard doesn't carry any targets, ratings or recommendations. Investors can draw conclusions from valuations and commentary.

This report was published on December 3, 2025.

Target price is **\$0.38** Current Price is **\$0.10** Difference: **\$0.275**

If RCL meets the Research as a Service (RaaS) target it will return approximately **262%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

The company's fiscal year ends in September.

#### **Forecast for FY26:**

Research as a Service (RaaS) forecasts a full year **FY26** dividend of **0.00** cents and EPS of **0.50** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **21.00**.

#### **Forecast for FY27:**

Research as a Service (RaaS) forecasts a full year **FY27** dividend of **0.00** cents and EPS of **1.10** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **9.55**.

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

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