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AUSTRALIA

The Market In Numbers - 21 Mar 2026

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	21 Mar 2026	Week To Date	Month To Date (Mar)	Quarter To Date (Jan-Mar)	Year To Date (2026)	Financial Year To Date (FY26)
NZ50	12989.990	-1.50%	-5.34%	-4.12%	-4.12%	3.07%
All Ordinaries	8628.30	-2.38%	-8.56%	-4.37%	-4.37%	-1.65%
S&P ASX 200	8428.40	-2.19%	-8.37%	-3.28%	-3.28%	-1.33%
S&P ASX 300	8360.90	-2.23%	-8.50%	-3.70%	-3.70%	-1.34%
Communication Services	1688.70	0.23%	-1.46%	-2.99%	-2.99%	-8.87%
Consumer Discretionary	3345.00	-3.47%	-9.44%	-16.23%	-16.23%	-19.26%
Consumer Staples	12498.80	2.09%	-0.10%	7.58%	7.58%	3.14%
Energy	11146.60	6.35%	16.21%	33.24%	33.24%	28.49%
Financials	9548.60	-0.50%	-4.11%	2.27%	2.27%	0.21%
Health Care	27530.50	-2.25%	-7.79%	-18.53%	-18.53%	-33.83%
Industrials	7805.40	-2.39%	-9.58%	-7.36%	-7.36%	-6.17%
Info Technology	1639.30	-4.24%	-7.97%	-23.90%	-23.90%	-43.49%
Materials	20520.20	-7.09%	-19.03%	-2.85%	-2.85%	29.40%
Real Estate	3296.00	-1.51%	-10.69%	-16.90%	-16.90%	-15.46%
Utilities	10049.20	3.25%	-0.72%	4.05%	4.05%	9.93%
A-REITs	1519.20	-1.48%	-10.65%	-16.79%	-16.79%	-15.17%
All Technology Index	2602.90	-4.75%	-8.68%	-23.37%	-23.37%	-35.64%
Banks	4316.50	-0.60%	-3.62%	6.10%	6.10%	7.31%
Gold Index	15815.80	-11.52%	-27.70%	-15.30%	-15.30%	36.85%
Metals & Mining	7094.50	-7.37%	-19.12%	-2.37%	-2.37%	35.89%

The World

Index	21 Mar 2026	Week To Date	Month To Date (Mar)	Quarter To Date (Jan-Mar)	Year To Date (2026)	Financial Year To Date (FY26)
FTSE100	9918.33	-3.34%	-9.09%	-0.23%	-0.23%	13.21%
DAX30	22380.19	-4.55%	-11.49%	-8.62%	-8.62%	-6.40%
Hang Seng	25277.32	-0.74%	-5.08%	-2.23%	-2.23%	5.01%
Nikkei 225	53372.53	-0.83%	-9.31%	6.03%	6.03%	31.83%
NZ50	12989.990	-1.50%	-5.34%	-4.12%	-4.12%	3.07%
DJIA	45577.47	-2.11%	-6.94%	-5.77%	-5.77%	3.36%
S&P500	6506.48	-1.90%	-5.41%	-5.65%	-5.65%	4.86%
Nasdaq Comp	21647.61	-2.07%	-4.50%	-7.56%	-7.56%	6.27%

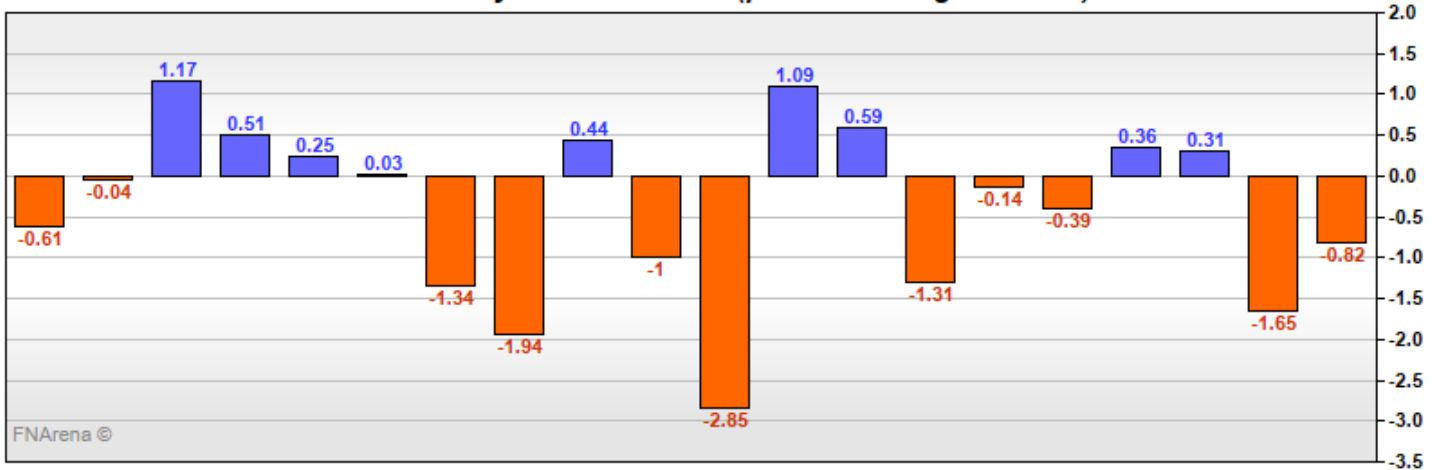
Metals & Minerals

Index	21 Mar 2026	Week To Date	Month To Date (Mar)	Quarter To Date (Jan-Mar)	Year To Date (2026)	Financial Year To Date (FY26)
Gold (oz)	4659.14	-8.32%	-10.65%	6.22%	6.22%	41.09%
Silver (oz)	72.84	-13.25%	-18.02%	-6.51%	-6.51%	101.21%
Copper (lb)	5.5203	-5.17%	-8.52%	-2.85%	-2.85%	8.34%
Aluminium (lb)	1.4710	-7.88%	2.98%	9.98%	9.98%	24.75%
Nickel (lb)	7.7049	-1.37%	-4.31%	2.90%	2.90%	12.99%
Zinc (lb)	1.3935	-7.40%	-8.94%	-0.01%	-0.01%	10.38%
Uranium (lb) weekly	85.50	0.59%	-4.47%	4.27%	4.27%	8.71%
Iron Ore (t)	105.64	0.88%	6.67%	-1.39%	-1.39%	11.80%

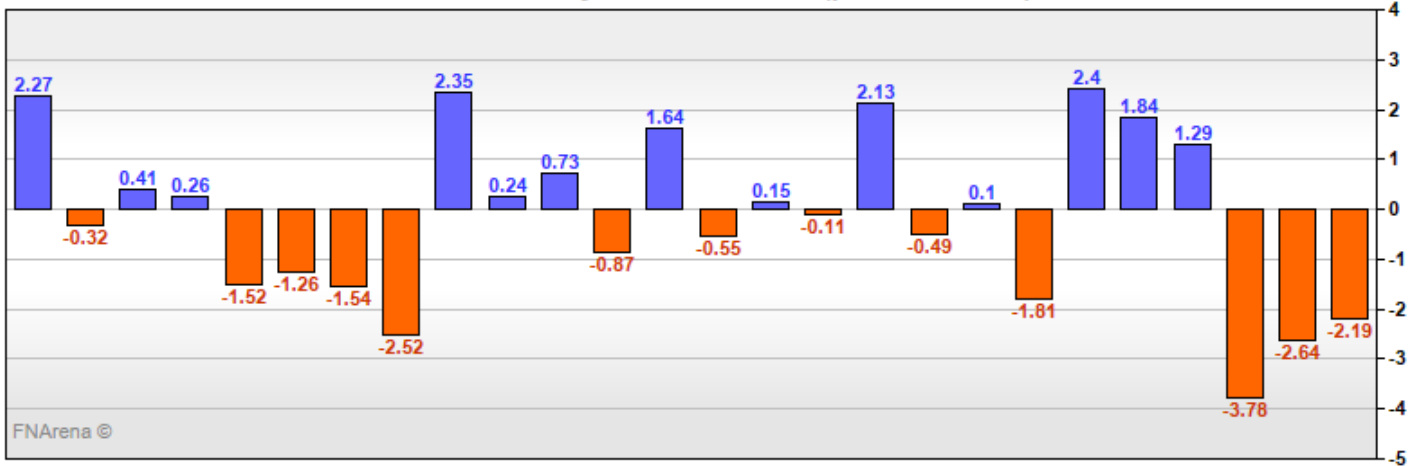
Energy

Index	21 Mar 2026	Week To Date	Month To Date (Mar)	Quarter To Date (Jan-Mar)	Year To Date (2026)	Financial Year To Date (FY26)
West Texas Crude	94.59	-1.83%	44.66%	64.73%	64.73%	44.37%
Brent Crude	107.69	6.18%	51.68%	76.98%	76.98%	61.21%

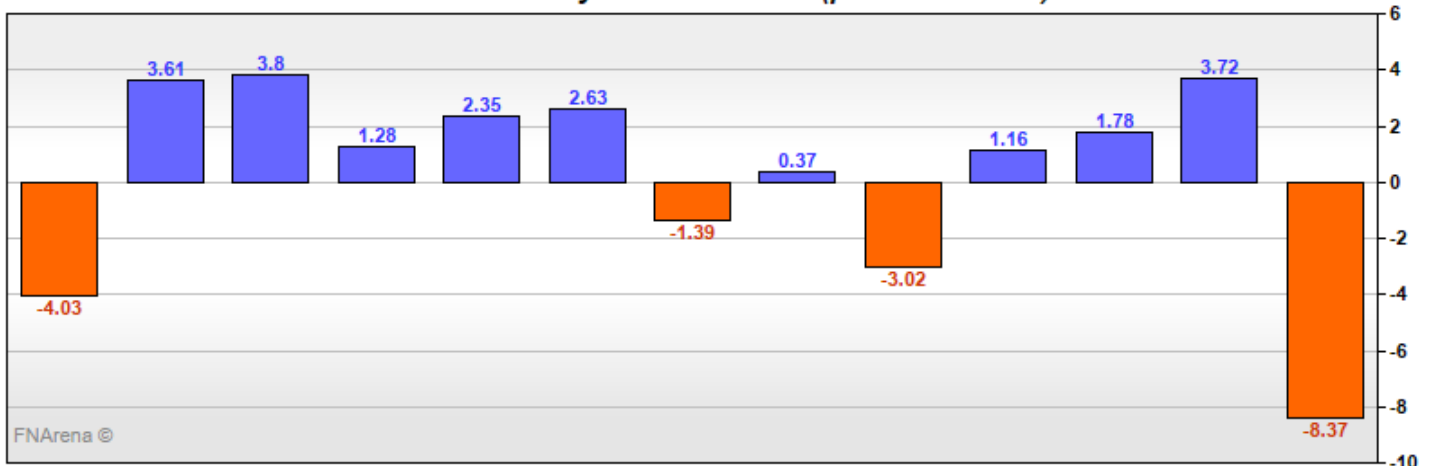
ASX200 Daily Movement in % (past 20 trading sessions)



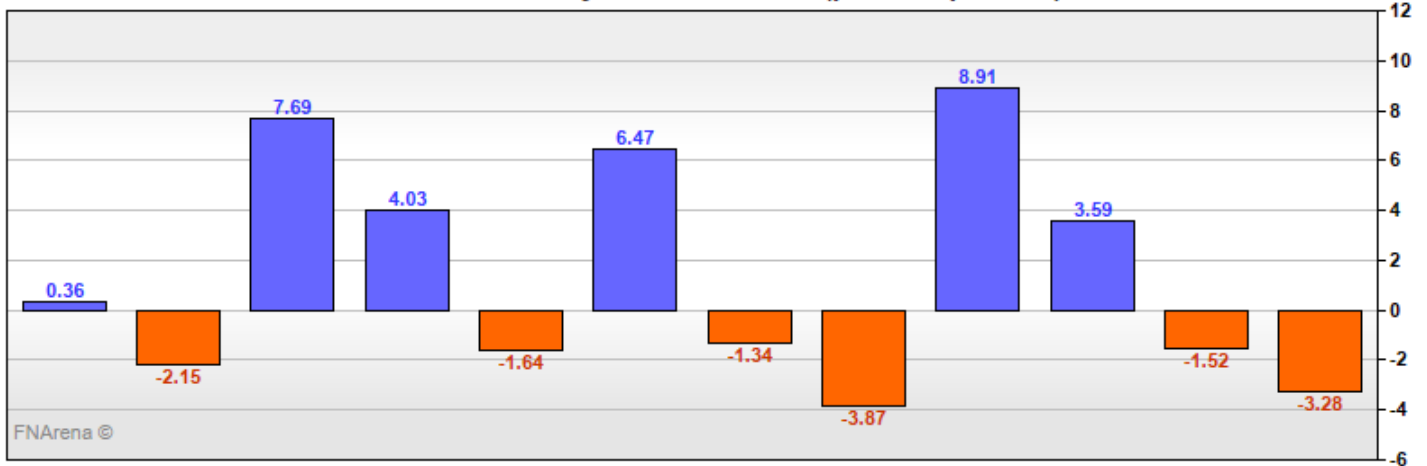
ASX200 Weekly Movement in % (past 26 weeks)



ASX200 Monthly Movement in % (past 13 months)



ASX200 Quarterly Movement in % (past 12 quarters)



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AUSTRALIA

a2 Milk Confidently Targets More Gains In China

Despite recent fears around demographic factors weighing on a2 Milk Co's performance, analysts note supportive Chinese policies and highlight market share gains.

- a2 Milk Co delivered strong interim performance across segments & products
- Analysts and management agree the company remains a market share story
- Product innovation, margin expansion and reduced US losses assist
- Chinese policies seen supporting childbirth and assisting ageing demographics

By Mark Woodruff



a2 Milk chinese tins

Shares in branded dairy nutrition company a2 Milk Co ([A2M](#)) received a boost in mid-February following the release of a strong interim performance across all segments and products, leading to upgraded FY26 guidance.

While demographic pressures suggest overall infant milk formula (IMF) demand remains in long-term structural decline, Jarden explains **a2 Milk remains a market share gain story**.

Indeed, management noted further share gains in the period driven by ongoing strong execution and new product development, including a2 Genesis Early Life, two new China-label products in development, and the first upgrade to the a2 Platinum formulation since 2022.

The company now holds 8.2% share of the China IMF market, up from 8.0% in FY25, and remains a top-4 player in the China market, with management targeting 10% share over the next few years.

From underlying revenue growth of around 15%, Morgan Stanley highlights product innovation contributed roughly one-third, driven by a2 Genesis, the Other Nutritional Products segment, and expansion in the Vietnam market.

Profit of \$112m came in 7% ahead of the consensus forecast with Citi highlighting the 'beat' was across all key lines of the Profit & Loss statement, with both sales and earnings margin also exceeding consensus estimates.

UBS believes profit could double by FY30, driven by infant formula share gains across both English Label and China label, alongside margin expansion from internalised manufacturing and reduced US losses.

More result details

The interim gross profit margin fell to 48.9% from 50% a year ago primarily due to a2 Pokeno under-utilisation manufacturing losses, according to management. The earnings margin remained flat at 15.6%.

China Label IMF revenue grew by 6.5% while English label IMF jumped by 20.9% thanks to a growing contribution from a2 Genesis, the company's ultra-premium, probiotic human milk oligosaccharide (HMO) product.

Faster growth for English Label benefits the company given 19.1% market share compared to 5.6% for China label, Citi explains.

Liquid milk sales in A&NZ and USA grew by 11.9% and 29.3%, respectively, while Other Nutritionals sales also increased by 69% or, 42.9% excluding a2 Pokeno to demonstrate underlying organic growth.

Management expects to achieve its medium-term revenue ambition of around NZ\$2bn this financial year, one year ahead of schedule.

Margin expansion

Compared to the prior year, interim revenue and earnings grew by 18.8% and 18.4%, respectively, to reach NZ\$993.5m and \$155m, while the underlying earnings margin rose by 0.9 percentage points to 16.6%.

Long term, Macquarie continues to see earnings margins of around 20% as achievable with greater scale and returns from the Pokeno facility.

This broker also highlights current operating leverage, with earnings growth of 26% (excluding Pokeno losses) outpacing revenue growth.

Earnings exceeded the UBS forecast by NZ\$8m, mainly reflecting stronger Other Nutritionals sales, supported by new China seniors milk powder and kids UHT products, alongside lower marketing spend.

It's believed entry into the US\$8bn China paediatric supplement market with four China-label products should further lift Other Nutritionals sales and margins from FY27.

By reporting segment, respective revenues for China & Other Asia, A&NZ, and USA grew by 20.3% to NZ\$739m, 8.6% to NZ\$171.3m, and 29% to \$NZ483.2m.

Management upgraded FY26 revenue growth guidance again to mid double-digit from low to mid double-digits and tightened EBITDA margin guidance to circa 15.5%-16.0%.

Given 19% revenue growth achieved in the first half, Macquarie notes management requires 10%-14% second half growth to meet the new guidance range.

Jarden notes the revenue guidance uplift reflects stronger Liquid and Other Nutritionals revenues (less so IMF) and marketing intensity tracking at the low end of the continuing-basis range.

There was a -NZ\$9.8m EBITDA loss in the half as the business prepares for a Synlait Milk ((SM1))-to-Pokeno transition of a2 Platinum in 1H27.

Strategy shift

The company's strategic centre has shifted toward greater supply-chain control.

Management completed the acquisition of the Pokeno nutritional manufacturing facility (with attached China label IMF registrations) in September last year and in mid-October announced the divestment of its 75% holding Matura Valley Milk.

The Pokeno acquisition is designed to increase end-to-end control over China label manufacturing and registrations, reduce reliance on third-party manufacturers, and enable product relaunches under the a2M

brand subject to China regulatory approvals.

China go-to-market is a multi-channel strategy (offline mother & baby stores, online platforms, and cross-border e-commerce), while A&NZ/US liquid milk is a higher-frequency retail business with emphasis on core and lactose-free offerings.

Management commentary highlights channel expansion and innovation as key growth levers.

Illustrating current product concentration, during the first half China label and English and other label IMF generated NZ\$324.9m and NZ\$362.4m in revenue, respectively, along with liquid milk of NZ\$198.1m, Other Nutritionals (NZ\$107.2m) and minor “other revenue”.

Capital Management

Morgans highlights the company generates strong cash flow and has a strong balance sheet.

Lease-adjusted operating cash flow (OCF) was NZ\$92.3m compared to NZ\$75.9m in 1H25.

A 1H26 fully franked interim dividend of NZ11.5 cents (up from NZ8.5 cents in the prior year) was declared compared to the consensus estimate of NZ10.19 cents.

As previously announced, the board intends to declare a NZ\$300m special dividend subject to regulatory approvals being received in connection with amendments to the two existing a2 Pokeno China label registrations for use under the a2 brand.

Birth rates

Citi highlights potential tailwinds from China’s draft 15th Five-Year Plan, which aims to create a “childbirth-friendly society” and promote the “silver economy”.

It’s believed policies supporting childbirth and ageing demographics could benefit sales of a2 Milk’s infant formula and seniors products.

Measures include expanded maternity insurance coverage, guaranteed maternity leave and regulated support for assisted reproductive technologies such as IVF.

Additional childcare subsidies and targeted housing incentives for families with two or more children are also proposed, highlights the broker.

Beyond 2026, management anticipates the birth rate will decline by low-single digits. The company expects earnings growth driven by further market share gains.

Outlook

Key near-term catalysts for a2 Milk Co include execution of the Pokeno/registration transfer pathway (China regulatory approvals), delivery of upgraded FY26 guidance, and potential further capital returns flagged as special dividends once regulatory milestones are met.

Management expects stronger China-label new customer wins in 2H26, supported by a new marketing campaign and a recovery in China’s birth rate.

Hold-rated Bell Potter suggests the company may benefit from a flight to safety in the near term.

Jarden retains its Underweight rating on valuation grounds, as its estimates already assume success across newly announced products and those currently in development.

Morgan Stanley continues to see several avenues for market share gains, including upside from the Pokeno acquisition through vertical margin expansion, and capital management optionality.

The upgrade cycle remains ongoing in Macquarie’s view, given strong execution, supply chain investment upside, new markets and products, and a net-cash balance sheet.

Morgans now forecasts revenue growth of 16.5% in FY26, up from 13.0% previously and ahead of guidance for around 15%. While rating the company and its management team highly, this broker also believes the stock is currently trading at fair valuation multiples.

In the wake of interim results, the average target of six daily monitored brokers in the FNArena database has edged up by 19c to \$9.92 implying around 4.8% upside to Friday's closing share price of \$9.47.

There are three Buy-equivalent ratings and three Neutral/Holds.

Outside of daily coverage, Jarden raises its target to NZ\$9.40 from NZ\$8.60 and retains an Underweight rating, midway between Hold and Sell.

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AUSTRALIA

Execution Capacity Key To Contractor Premiums

Valuations for contractors and engineering companies are wildly different; a result of investors valuing execution over volume.

- Valuing contractors and engineering firms is no longer a one-size-fits-all exercise
- Proven track records of successful execution attract premium valuation
- Access to human capital is treated as a scarce and valuable resource
- Monadelphous' sector premium supported by gold standard status

By Paul Githaiga



Among contractors and engineering companies, investors are valuing execution over volume

The recent reporting season pointed to a shift long in motion: not all project backlog is valued equally. Revenue is there, pipelines are strong, yet valuation gaps are widening.

Part of this reflects “Alxiety” around white-collar work, but the real driver is scarce physical execution.

Investors are more willing to pay a “New Blue-Collar Premium” for contractors who turn work into cash reliably, maintain deep in-house teams, and deliver complex projects with precision.

In this environment, execution –not volume– is what creates lasting enterprise value.

The Taxonomy of the New Blue-Collar Premium

To understand the current market premium that is dividing the sector on the ASX, we must look beyond headline revenue and EBITDA.

The key metric is the cash conversion ratio. It measures the efficiency of turning EBITDA into operating cash flow.

Sustained ratios above 90% indicate synchronised project management, milestone certification, and billing processes.

Ratios below this threshold often signal revenue trapped on the balance sheet due to rework, claims, or delivery friction.

Comparative Sector Performance Metrics (H1 FY26 and FY25 Baseline)

Company	H1 FY26 Revenue	Cash Conversion (Reported)	Work-in-Hand (Dec 2025)	Valuation (EV/EBITDA 26E)
Monadelphous	A\$1,530M	186.0% (H1)	A\$11.9bn*	18.7x
SRG Global	A\$743.9M	97.0% (H1)	A\$4.2bn	10.6x
Ventia	A\$3,037M (H1)	93.6% (FY25)	A\$22.1bn	11.3x
Downer EDI	A\$4,860.7M	90.5% (H1)	A\$38.2bn	11.1x
NRW Holdings	A\$1,974.2M	114.1% (H1)	A\$7.5bn	9.5x
Service Stream	A\$1,194M (H1)	148.4% (H1)	A\$9.2bn	8.4x

***Note:** Monadelphous Work-in-Hand includes the FY25 base plus A\$1.4bn in new awards/extensions since July 2025. Service Stream H1 revenue reflects the latest statutory scorecard.

Data sources: company filings, ASX announcements, and market consensus estimates for forward multiples.

Contractors - March 2026

The forward multiples' dispersion –from Monadelphous at 18.7x to Service Stream at 8.4x– cannot be explained by revenue or backlog alone.

Execution reliability, portfolio quality, and annuity-style revenue are now central to market valuation.

A Small Analytical Caveat

This is a small peer sample, so the conclusions are directional rather than absolute.

Company Profiles and Execution Insights

Monadelphous Group: Benchmark of Technical Specialisation

Monadelphous ((MND)) is widely recognised to be the sector's gold standard.

H1 FY26 revenue hit \$1.53bn, a 45.6% year-on-year increase, with a record 186% cash conversion.

This spike reflects both operational discipline and significant customer advances on new contracts, transferring financing risk from contractor to client – a privilege reserved for those with proven execution.

Divisional revenue growth underscores this capacity:

- Engineering Construction: up 67.2% to \$677.8m
- Maintenance & Industrial Services: up 32.1% to \$852m

Monadelphous maintains a direct-hire workforce of 8,389, providing both safety compliance and technical depth that acts as a barrier to entry.

In doing so, it captures the essence of the **New Blue-Collar Premium**: the market rewards its human capital as a scarce and valuable resource.

SRG Global: Annuity-Style Stability

SRG Global ((SRG)) demonstrates the premium in a mid-cap, capital-light context. H1 FY26 EBITDA rose 20% to \$71m, with 97% cash conversion.

Its 80% recurring/annuity revenue profile reduces cyclicity and stabilises cash flows, exemplifying a predictable work-to-cash engine.

Strategic acquisitions like TAMS strengthen its market position in marine infrastructure, enhancing the execution premium.

Aggressive deleveraging and 20% dividend growth further cement SRG's status as a reliable, high-quality operator.

Ventia Services Group: Defensive Scale

Ventia Services ((VNT)) is Australia's largest essential services contractor, with \$22.1bn Work-in-Hand and 93.6% cash conversion.

Its focus on higher-margin work and disciplined exit from low-margin contracts improved EBITDA by 13.3% despite modest revenue growth.

Long contract tenures (6.4 years average, 95% renewal) and a \$250m buyback illustrate why investors assign an 11.3x multiple: predictable execution reduces risk and stabilises cash flows.

Downer EDI: Portfolio Simplification

Downer EDI ((DOW)) has re-rated its valuation by exiting non-core businesses, improving EBITA margins to 4.6%, and achieving 90.5% cash conversion.

This disciplined approach highlights the market's recognition that the quality of earnings –not top-line growth– is the primary determinant of execution premium.

FY30 target of 6% EBITA margin shows continued alignment between operational discipline and market expectations.

NRW Holdings: Execution vs Volatility

NRW Holdings ((NWH)) presents a paradox: 114.1% cash conversion in H1 FY26 vs a low 9.5x multiple.

The explanation lays in project mix volatility – heavy reliance on contract mining and civil works, and a more variable delivery condition.

Strategic diversification via Fredon acquisition, with exposure to renewable, health, and data center sectors, positions NRW to capture the New Blue-Collar Premium once cash reliability is sustained across sectors.

To offer the full picture: shareholders in this company have had to endure multiple setbacks in recent years and exercise patience throughout multiple disappointing announcements.

NRW Holdings' operational challenges were contract-specific rather than group-wide, with the first major pressure point emerging in FY23 as La Nina weather in Queensland, delayed project starts, labour shortages and cost inflation squeezed margins, particularly at Primero where fixed-price work was hit hard by cost escalation and labour availability.

The Primero issues ran deeper than site conditions alone, with NRW later restating FY22 after identifying a

\$10.3m revenue and margin overstatement on two completed projects, prompting tighter group-level oversight and management changes; by FY24, management was pointing to recovering MET margins as activity levels improved.

A second wave hit in FY25, this time in Mining, where profitability fell because of significantly higher-than-average rainfall in Queensland, the early termination of the Mt Cattlin lithium contract and reduced scope at Curragh.

The Curragh pressure appears to have been driven largely by the client's own cost-reset, with Coronado Global Resources ((CRN)) disclosing the removal of five fleets from operation since April 2024 as it worked to cut costs and lift productivity.

Separately, statutory earnings were hit by the Whyalla/OneSteel problem rather than an operational failure, after Golding was left owed about \$113.3m and NRW ultimately booked a -\$110.5m impairment once its security position over Whyalla Ports came under threat.

Service Stream: Value-to-Quality Pivot

Service Stream ((SSM)) demonstrates the potential for re-rating via cash conversion. H1 FY26 reported 148.4% EBITDA-to-OCFBIT conversion, with a 80% O&M recurring revenue profile.

Expansion into Defence Base Services adds high-barrier, long-duration contracts.

Sustained execution improvement positions Service Stream to transition from a value-oriented stock to a quality-focused premium.

Cash Conversion and Valuation: Mathematical Insight

The market's premium can be expressed via a simplified EV model:

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Where:

- g = sustainable growth rate
- WACC = weighted average cost of capital
- Cash Conversion = probability-weighted efficiency of the work-to-cash cycle

When companies like Monadelphous and SRG convert more of their earnings into cash, their value goes up; but it is not just about the math.

Investors also see less risk, which effectively lowers the cost of capital.

That combination is why Monadelphous can trade at an 18.7x multiple, while a competitor with weaker cash conversion might sit at 8x.

The "Execution Premium" is simply the market paying for that reliability.

Table 2: Reconciling Cash Conversion Definitions (H1 FY26 vs FY25)

Table 2: Reconciling Cash Conversion Definitions (H1 FY26 vs FY25)

Company	Reporting Metric	H1 FY26	FY25	Interpretation
Monadelphous	Cash flow from operations / EBITDA	186.0%	77.0%	H1 surge due to advances and collections.
SRG Global	EBITDA to cash conversion	97.0%	102.0%	Highly consistent, reflecting annuity mix.
Ventia	Operating cash flow conversion	93.2%*	93.6%	Extremely stable, target is >90%.
Downer EDI	Normalised cash conversion	90.5%	97.9%	Slight dip in H1 but remained above target.
Service Stream	EBITDA to OCFBIT conversion	148.4%	104.4%	H1 driven by working capital improvements.
NRW Holdings	Cash flow conversion	114.1%	82.9%	Strong recovery in H1 from FY25 weather impacts.

**Note: Ventia's "H1" reflects the HY25 period (January–June) as the company reports on a calendar year basis.*

Contractors - Table 2 - March 2026

Lessons from Failure: Execution Capacity Defines Whether Backlog Has Economic Value

Clough Group remains the clearest recent domestic example of backlog failing to protect enterprise value.

At the point of collapse, awarded work remained substantial.

The failure emerged because project delivery costs, labour availability, fixed-price exposure, and claims pressure overwhelmed the company's ability to convert contracted revenue into cash.

The lesson is straightforward: Backlog supports valuation only where execution capacity is credible.

Key takeaways:

1. Labour Control as a Strategic Asset - direct-hire models insulate firms from cost inflation and schedule slippage.
2. Annuity Re-Rating - recurring O&M work stabilizes cash flows and lifts multiples.
3. Portfolio Simplification Works - focusing on core, high-quality operations increases valuation.

The Takeaway

The sector is being priced differently than it was a few years ago.

Winning work still matters, but the bigger question is whether that work can be delivered cleanly and turned

into cash without disruption.

In a labour-constrained market, this is why the same contractors continue to attract premium valuations.

The market is paying less for growth alone and more for confidence in execution.

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AUSTRALIA

Australian Banks: Impact Of Oil Shocks And AI

Analysts discuss the potential impact of the current oil shock on Australia's banking sector and of increasing AI adoption.

- Oil shocks historically lead to economic slowdowns
- Inflation and higher interest rates put pressure on consumers and businesses
- Impact on credit growth and loan arrears
- AI adoption brings costs as well as benefits

By Greg Peel



Higher petrol prices are adding to the cost-of-living pressures for Australian households

UBS is receiving more incoming questions from clients on whether geopolitical events in the Middle East could cause any growth shocks to the Australian economy, which, in turn, could impact on bank asset quality via cost-push inflation and higher-than-expected interest rate increases.

The short answer, in UBS' view, is it is unlikely as consumers and business are "battle hardened" from the impact of 4.25ppts of interest rate increases over the past four years.

Macquarie is not so sure.

Oil and the Banks

While banks are not directly exposed to higher oil prices, the second order effects can be meaningful, Macquarie warns.

Sustained periods of disruption in energy markets have historically been associated with subsequent economic slowdowns.

Over the past 50 years, major oil price shocks, often driven by geopolitical events or supply constraints, have frequently coincided with, or preceded, periods of weaker economic growth, Macquarie notes.

Persistent increases in energy prices act as a tax on households and businesses, lifting inflation, compressing real incomes, and tightening financial conditions.

Given inflation was already stubbornly above the RBA's target, sustained higher oil prices have only increased pressure for more rate hikes.

The market is now pricing a terminal rate of more than 4.6%. This, along with the inflationary impact, are likely to pressure consumers and discretionary spending, which could weigh on credit growth and contribute to higher loan arrears.

Overall, Macquarie expects sustained higher energy prices to be negative for bank earnings and valuations.

While the current situation remains highly uncertain and fragile, Macquarie expects banks to take provision overlays in upcoming results, with impairment charges likely to rise from the broker's current base case.

Macquarie downgrades FY26 earnings by -1-2% and FY27 by -1% from a circa 10%-35% increase in forecast impairments.

Banks have outperformed the market by up to 9% since the conflict began.

Given the balance of risks is skewed to the downside from here, Macquarie is taking a more cautious view on the sector, moving to an Underweight positioning on the sector and downgrading National Australia Bank ((NAB)) to Neutral from Outperform.

Mixed Exposures

Morgan Stanley believes the domestic economy will be impacted by tighter monetary and fiscal policy in 2026.

In addition, the second order impacts of disruption to oil markets could increase the probability of an economic slowdown. This makes banks vulnerable to both earnings downgrades and a de-rating, in this broker's view.

Developments in the Middle East are volatile, but Morgans Stanley's macroeconomic analysts have noted Australia may be one of the first economies to face a meaningful disruption linked to diesel.

The energy analysts have also identified various diesel-intensive industries in Australia, which include mining (some 34% of diesel use), transport (26%), commercial services (11%), agriculture (10%), construction (9%), and manufacturing (3%).

Morgan Stanley believes that:

- (1) NAB (circa \$127bn) and ANZ Bank ((ANZ)) (\$124bn) have the most total exposure;
- (2) NAB has the most as a proportion of total exposures (11.5%) and as a proportion of non-housing exposures (21.5%);
- (3) Commonwealth Bank ((CBA)) has the least exposure (6.5% and 14%, respectively);
- (4) NAB has the highest exposure to agriculture and construction;
- (5) ANZ has the highest exposure to manufacturing and mining; and
- (6) CBA has slightly more exposure to transport.

Credit quality should remain sound at the end of March, Morgan Stanley suggests, but banks could increase collective provision coverage by reassessing their "downside scenarios" and raising "forward looking adjustments" or "overlays" for industries exposed to the change in operating conditions.

The Banks and AI

Westpac ((WBC)) will provide an update on its Unite technology simplification project on 26 March (tomorrow) and Citi expects the tone to remain measured despite rising investor interest in how rapid AI developments could reshape the program's scope and budget.

While AI offers opportunities to lift productivity and strengthen testing, stringent regulatory standards and the

requirement for flawless accuracy mean it is unlikely to materially change timelines or scope in the near term, Citi suggests.

With the discovery phase complete, 2026 will be a year centred on testing and simplification, before heavier implementation and decommissioning through 2028-29.

Consensus revisions highlight the limitations of Westpac's relative performance targets, Citi notes, particularly as peer return on tangible equity expectations have risen.

This strengthens the case for Westpac to introduce absolute targets to provide greater clarity and confidence to the market. Credible absolute targets could serve as a positive catalyst if management chooses to set them, Citi suggests.

Increased productivity through AI is a positive, but what of the negative? Increased adoption of AI implies a subsequent reduction in human employees.

Macquarie has analysed the credit risk from AI-driven labour displacement. It's not all downside, the broker suggests, and there are meaningful cost saving opportunities to capture.

Yet, leveraging proprietary data, Macquarie estimates banking is one of the most exposed industries to AI automation, with some 56% of employees in the highest disruption category.

Macquarie presents three scenarios: gradual AI adoption; a base case; and accelerated AI adoption, for banks to realise these savings.

Allowing for automation potential alongside regulatory and political frictions, the broker estimates banks could reduce full-time employees by circa -10%-30% over a 5-10-year period. However, with AI costs per full-time employee ranging from -\$4,000 to -\$110,000, net staff cost savings are likely to be smaller, at circa 6%-20%.

This implies 3%-15% upside to Macquarie's earnings forecasts, with the greatest benefit for CBA.

Under the broker's accelerated scenario, sector cost-to-income ratios could fall into the low 40s -- the lowest level since 2013 (assuming no change to the revenue outlook).

Macquarie expects AI cost savings to be realised across three broad buckets:

- (1) reduction in outsourced workforce providers (Westpac to benefit most);
- (2) reduction in offshore employees (ANZ to benefit most);
- (3) natural attrition of domestic workforce (CBA to benefit most).

However, domestic headcount reduction carries political and social licence costs that the major banks are likely unwilling to absorb, Macquarie believes.

In the broker's view, this means banks will largely rely on attrition rather than large-scale restructuring, and they are likely to lag other highly exposed sectors in realising savings.

While material cost savings are likely over 5-10 years, in the short term Macquarie believes the need to uplift data and system capabilities will likely mean AI is a net cost.

Further, given the high cost of AI replacement of complex roles, near-term benefits are likely to come from augmentation-driven productivity improvement, rather than full automation.

And there is another side effect of increased unemployment via banking sector lay-offs.

Macquarie thinks material AI cost savings are likely for the banking sector, indeed global peers are already flagging workforce reductions of some -10% over the next five years.

However, they could coincide with increased bad debt charges, as AI-driven labour market disruption feeds through to credit quality deterioration.

While the net effect on earnings will likely still be positive, Macquarie warns credit quality concerns could see bank multiples compress.

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AUSTRALIA

ASIC Watch: Star Entertainment Judgment Draws Executive Liability Line

Recent court decisions and actions undertaken by ASIC signal a definitive end to corporate complacency regarding regulatory risk in Australia.

By Valery Prihartono



ASIC Watch: FN Arena is keeping a watchful eye over the ins & outs of the financial sector regulator in Australia

This story features THE STAR ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, PLATINUM ASSET MANAGEMENT, and regulatory developments affecting director duties, criminal enforcement, and financial reporting obligations.

The Federal Court's March 5 ruling in The Star Entertainment case provides the most significant judicial commentary on executive versus board liability in over a decade, while ASIC's enforcement momentum continues with record jail sentences and aggressive director disqualifications.

- Star Entertainment CEO and Chief Legal Officer found liable for filtering critical risk information from the board
- Seven non-executive directors exonerated - entitled to rely on management absent dishonesty indicators
- Chris Marco receives a 14-year sentence, the highest ever from ASIC investigation
- Rodney Forrest (Platinum) was sentenced to 6 years for insider trading, following a 16-month investigation
- ASIC is pursuing the wind-up of Liberty Bell Bay for the four years of missing financial reports

The Star Judgment: Where Executive Liability

Begins and Board Protection Ends

The Federal Court's March 5, 2026, ruling in *Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Bekier* provides definitive guidance on director and officer duties under section 180(1) of the Corporations Act, drawing a clear distinction between executive accountability and board oversight limits.

The case targeted eleven former directors and officers of The Star Entertainment Group ((SGR)) regarding handling of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing risks associated with dealings with Asian gambling junkets, specifically the Suncity Group.

The judgment's outcome --finding former CEO Matthias Bekier and former Chief Legal and Risk Officer Paula Martin liable while exonerating seven non-executive directors-- establishes the modern framework for corporate accountability in Australia.

Executive Liability: The Information Filter Prohibition

Justice Lee's judgment establishes that senior executives cannot act as filters preventing boards from exercising monitoring functions. Bekier's liability centered on possessing "alarming information" about Suncity operations that indicated risks significantly higher than what was being reported to the board.

The court found Bekier synthesized information --particularly regarding Suncity's operations in Salon 95-- demonstrating the casino's AML/CTF programs were inadequate.

AML/CTF programs are written, risk-based compliance programs that set out how a regulated business will prevent its products or services being used for money laundering or terrorism financing.

Despite possessing this knowledge, Bekier failed to alert directors that board papers were deficient, effectively acting as an impermissible filter preventing the board from discharging its oversight obligations.

The Chief Legal Officer's Indivisible Duty

Paula Martin's liability carries particular significance for professionals holding dual roles as legal counsel and risk officers. Martin argued her roles as Company Secretary, Chief Legal and Risk Officer, and General Counsel were divisible, with distinct duty boundaries.

The court rejected this "compartmentalisation" defense, reinforcing an officer's duty of care encompasses all their responsibilities and the entirety of their professional expertise. Martin was found to have breached duties by:

- Failing to ensure material risks were brought to the board's attention
- Permitting misleading communications to the National Australia Bank ((NAB)) regarding the use of the China Union Pay card
- Allowing over \$900m to be obtained by Star customers using CUP cards in a manner disguising gambling transactions as hotel expenses -- a practice prohibited by China Union Pay

Martin's failure to correct misrepresentations to the bank between 2013 and 2019 constituted "serious contravention" of statutory duties.

Non-Executive Director Protection: The Legitimate Reliance Shield

While findings against management were severe, the court's dismissal of cases against seven former non-executive directors provides critical guidance on board liability boundaries.

ASIC argued directors breached duties by failing to treat credit limit resolutions as checkpoints to interrogate the casino's continued dealings with high-risk junket operators. The regulator essentially contended directors should have looked past management-provided information to uncover underlying risks.

Justice Lee rejected this approach, characterizing ASIC's case as "clouded by hindsight". The judgment re-affirmed non-executive directors are entitled to rely on management to report problems or irregularities, provided no reason exists to believe management is dishonest, untrustworthy, or incompetent.

The court found management engaged in "dramatic understatement" of risks in materials provided to the board. Because information received by NEDs was insufficient to trigger reasonable inquiry, they were not in breach for failing to act on information they didn't possess.

The Business Judgment Rule Clarification

The judgment also clarified the application of the Business Judgment Rule under section 180(2). Bekier attempted to invoke this rule, arguing his actions represented conscious management of commercial interests.

The court rejected this, emphasising the rule only protects officers who have made "conscious decisions" and informed themselves to the extent they reasonably believe appropriate.

Failure to act due to neglect or failure to consider a matter doesn't constitute "judgment" in the statutory sense.

Investment Implications: The Governance Quality Framework

The Star judgment creates an actionable framework for investors evaluating governance risk:

Executive Turnover as Red Flag: Companies experiencing frequent senior executive departures --particularly Chief Risk Officers or Chief Legal Officers-- may indicate executives facing pressure to withhold information from boards or disagreeing with risk management approaches.

Board Independence and Active Oversight: While Star's board was exonerated, Justice Lee noted evidence didn't present "a portrait of directors actively pressing management with difficult questions". Boards demonstrating healthy skepticism and challenging management deserve premium valuations.

Information Flow Quality: The critical distinction was information quality reaching the board. Companies must demonstrate board papers provide complete, accurate risk assessments rather than filtered summaries that management wants directors to see.

Dual-Role Professional Risk: The finding against Martin establishes that lawyers, compliance officers, and risk managers cannot compartmentalise duties. Their obligation to the company overrides reporting line constraints.

For The Star specifically, the judgment creates ongoing governance reconstruction challenges. The company must rebuild board-management trust while continuing to operate under heightened regulatory supervision from gaming authorities.

Criminal Enforcement Acceleration: Record Sentences

ASIC's criminal enforcement velocity has accelerated dramatically, with investigations moving from detection to sentencing far more rapidly than historical timelines.

Chris Marco: 14-Year Record Sentence

Western Australian fraudster Chris Marco received a 14-year imprisonment sentence in the Supreme Court of Western Australia -- the highest prison sentence ever imposed for an ASIC criminal investigation.

Marco was found guilty of 43 counts of fraud totaling more than \$34m. Operating an unregistered managed investment scheme, Marco built investor trust over the years before systematically misappropriating funds.

The sentence --with a 12-year non-parole period-- signals judicial hardening toward large-scale financial fraud, eroding system trust.

While subject to appeal, the sentence establishes a new benchmark for fraud severity recognition.

Rodney Forrest: Platinum Insider Trading

Former Platinum Asset Management ((PTM)) investment manager Rodney Forrest was sentenced in January 2026 to six years' imprisonment for insider trading and procuring others to trade in more than \$3m of shares.

The case demonstrates ASIC's new specialist insider trading team's capabilities. The investigation was completed and finalised within 16 months of the offending; a significant improvement over multi-year timelines traditionally associated with such cases.

Forrest gained unauthorised access to the chairman's computer, photographing confidential documents

regarding a takeover proposal. He then used this inside information to trade personally and tip off others, even leaking takeover details to the media to drive price movement.

Upon public release of the proposal, shares jumped 12.5%. Justice Bromwich described the offending as "serious and pernicious", noting it was a "profound breach of trust".

Forrest was ordered to forfeit illegal profits of \$309,571 and won't be eligible for parole until 2029.

The 16-Month Investigation Velocity

The Forrest case's 16-month timeline from offense to sentencing represents a material shift in enforcement velocity:

Detection Capability: ASIC's systems now rapidly identify suspicious trading patterns around material corporate events

Evidence Gathering: Improved warrant processes and technology access enable faster evidence compilation

Prosecution Efficiency: Specialist teams build prosecution-ready cases without extended preparation periods

Guilty Plea Incentives: Rapid case development encourages guilty pleas, avoiding extended trials

For corporate insiders and investment professionals, the message is clear: the time from misconduct to imprisonment has compressed dramatically, materially elevating detection risk and deterrence effect.

Remedy Housing: Targeting Vulnerable Communities

The March 11, 2026, sentencing of Brent Smith, Mahmoud Khodr, and Fue Mano in the County Court of Victoria addressed particularly predatory fraud targeting Pacific Islander communities.

Operating through Remedy Housing, the group promoted "interest-free mortgages" to consumers between 2019 and 2021. The scheme attracted \$1.83m in deposits from approximately 107 customers who were told that paying deposits of at least \$10,000 would secure interest-free mortgages within twelve months, supposedly funded by overseas investors.

In reality, no investors existed, and no mortgages were ever provided. Smith and Khodr misappropriated over \$750,000 for personal use or the operation. Judge Claire Quin described it as a "sophisticated scheme that targeted vulnerable customers".

Smith was sentenced to six years and two months, Khodr to five years, and Mano to thirty months. Reparation orders were made to return stolen funds to victims.

Director Disqualification Intensifies

ASIC has aggressively deployed section 206F powers to remove recidivist directors from corporate management, targeting corporate phoenixing and creditor protection.

Claudio Criniti: \$8m Debt Trail

On March 4, 2026, ASIC announced a five-year disqualification of Claudio Criniti following his involvement in the failure of seven companies between April 2023 and September 2024.

The companies - including Lamio Masonry Contractors and Reliance Food Pty Ltd - owed over \$8m to creditors:

- \$2.6m to the Australian Taxation Office
- \$466,288 to Revenue NSW
- \$434,151 to Workers Compensation Nominal Insurer
- \$4.8m to trade creditors, including nearly \$300,000 in wages and superannuation

ASIC found Criniti failed to ensure companies didn't trade while insolvent, failed to maintain adequate books and records, and failed to provide reasonable assistance to liquidators -- a common pattern among directors obstructing winding-up processes.

The five-year ban --maximum period allowed under section 206F-- reflects ASIC's assessment that Criniti represents a high risk to the public and the tax system.

Kylie Jane Campbell: Property Trust Account Malfeasance

In late February 2026, ASIC disqualified Port Melbourne property developer Kylie Jane Campbell for five years following the collapse of three companies: Englobo Group Holdings, Agritrade Fund, and Entertainment Group.

These companies failed owing \$4.55m, with \$3.3m owed to twenty-one unsecured trade creditors.

Campbell's case is particularly notable because it combines corporate failure with prior criminal conduct. In 2022, Campbell was convicted in Melbourne County Court of causing a deficiency in her company's trust account and wrongful conversion of funds.

She had misappropriated over \$100,000 from a BSM Realty trust account to pay a deposit on personal property and transferred additional funds into her personal account. She received a three-year community corrections order and was ordered to repay \$94,000 to the Victorian Property Fund.

ASIC's 2026 disqualification was based on findings she didn't understand her duties as a director and failed to ensure companies complied with tax and reporting obligations.

The combination of criminal malfeasance and corporate negligence resulted in removal from corporate life until 2031.

Financial Reporting Enforcement: The Liberty Bell Bay Wind-Up

On March 6, 2026, ASIC filed an application in the Supreme Court of New South Wales to wind up Liberty Bell Bay Pty Ltd, a significant entity within Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance focusing on steel, aluminum, and energy.

Four Years of Missing Reports

The application follows Liberty Bell Bay's repeated failure to lodge annual financial reports for 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Despite ASIC obtaining court orders in June 2025 to enforce compliance, the company failed to produce reports. ASIC alleges reports for the 2025 financial year are also outstanding.

Under Australian law, large proprietary companies --those with consolidated revenue over \$50m, assets over \$25m, or more than 100 employees-- must lodge financial reports within four months of financial year end.

Wind-Up as Transparency Enforcement

ASIC's pursuit of wind-up orders rather than merely penalties represents a strategic escalation. The regulator is establishing that corporate privilege of limited liability is contingent upon statutory transparency obligations.

The failure of large entities to report prevents informed decision-making by creditors and markets dealing with the company.

When companies systematically refuse to meet reporting obligations despite court orders, ASIC will pursue a wind-up on "just and equitable" grounds.

Investment Implications for Unlisted Subsidiaries

The Liberty Bell Bay case carries implications for listed companies with material unlisted subsidiaries or holdings:

Reporting Compliance Matters: Listed parent companies should verify unlisted subsidiary compliance with reporting obligations. Non-compliance creates regulatory risk extending to parent entities.

Transparency as License to Operate: The wind-up pursuit establishes that continued corporate existence depends on meeting transparency obligations, not merely paying penalties for non-compliance.

GFG Alliance Context: GFG Alliance's Australian operations include Whyalla Steelworks and Tahmoor Coal, with several subsidiaries having faced external administration.

The Liberty Bell Bay action indicates broader scrutiny of the group's Australian reporting compliance.

License Cancellations: The CSLR Connection

ASIC is increasingly canceling licenses linked to Compensation Scheme of Last Resort (CSLR) payments, establishing that firms generating customer compensation claims through misconduct are unfit to continue operating.

Private Wealth Cancellation

In February 2026, ASIC canceled the Australian Financial Services license of Private Wealth Pty Ltd following two compensation payments made by the CSLR.

The CSLR provides up to \$150,000 to consumers with unpaid AFCA determinations, usually due to firm insolvency.

The cancellation reflects a new regulatory loop: where firm misconduct results in CSLR payouts, that firm is deemed unfit to continue holding licenses.

This ensures the scheme --funded by industry levies-- isn't used to subsidise the continued operation of insolvent or high-risk entities.

John Adicho ACL Cancellation

In March 2026, ASIC canceled the Australian Credit License of Sydney-based licensee John Adicho for multiple administrative failures:

- Failed to lodge six annual compliance certificates
- Expelled from the Australian Financial Complaints Authority for non-payment of fees
- Failed to pay industry funding levies

Under the National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009, ASIC can cancel licenses if entities fail to pay levies after twelve months or don't maintain AFCA membership.

Emerging Threats: AI, Personal Loan Fraud, and Gen Z Targeting

ASIC and ACCC have intensified warnings regarding evolving fraud patterns leveraging technology and targeting demographic vulnerabilities.

Personal Loan Fraud Surge

In March 2026, major alerts were issued regarding scammers posing as legitimate personal loan brokers.

These fraudsters create sophisticated websites and social media ads offering personal loans to those in financial hardship.

Once victims apply, they're asked to provide bank login details, photo ID, and payslips; information then used for identity theft. Key red flags include:

- Requests for "payment protection insurance" or "loan establishment fees" upfront before fund release
- Quoting real ABN and credit license details of legitimate firms found on ASIC registers to appear genuine

AI Tools and Gen Z Financial Decision-Making

Research released in March 2026 shows one in five Gen Zs are using AI platforms for financial advice, while nearly two-thirds rely on social media.

ASIC has urged young investors to "sense-check" information they receive, highlighting automated tools often lack context and can perpetuate riskier financial decisions without safeguards provided by licensed human

advisers.

The regulator's Moneysmart website has launched refreshed guidance specifically helping consumers navigate the intersection of AI and personal finance.

Strategic Priorities: Audit Quality and Sustainability Reporting

Deputy Chair Sarah Court's March 20, 2026, Parliamentary Committee statement elaborated ASIC's strategic direction for 2026.

Audit Surveillance Expansion

ASIC is significantly expanding its audit surveillance program, increasing from fifteen file reviews in 2024-25 to twenty-five in 2025-26.

This expansion focuses on auditors' critical role in examining financial reports, ensuring they provide a "true and fair view" of entity performance.

Sustainability Reporting Oversight

A major new frontier is the surveillance of mandatory sustainability reports.

As companies begin lodging these reports, ASIC intends to take a "pragmatic and proportionate approach" in the early years but has made clear that sustainability reporting will eventually be held to the same standards as financial reporting.

The regulator is already investigating eighteen companies that agreed to change financial reports to address inadequate disclosure of material business risks.

Procedural Victory: Sunshine Loans High Court Ruling

The High Court's March 18, 2026 unanimous (7-0) ruling in the Sunshine Loans case has strengthened ASIC's ability to pursue civil penalties without disruption.

Sunshine Loans attempted to force the trial judge to recuse himself from the penalty phase, arguing the judge's earlier findings that their director was "not credible" indicated apprehension of bias.

The High Court ruled judges are not required to put aside credibility findings when moving to the second stage of civil penalty proceedings.

This decision provides essential certainty, ensuring enforcement actions aren't "derailed by unfounded claims of apprehended bias".

Investment Strategy: Navigating the Accountability Era

The March 2026 developments signal a definitive end to corporate complacency regarding regulatory risk.

The Star judgment, criminal sentences, director disqualifications, and reporting enforcement create a clear framework for investment positioning.

Favor Active Board Oversight

Companies demonstrating boards that actively challenge management, seek independent verification, and maintain healthy skepticism deserve premium valuations.

The Star case demonstrates passive boards --even if legally protected when misinformed-- create elevated risk.

Look for evidence of:

- Board minutes showing probing questions and challenges to management
- Independent expert engagement when appropriate
- Voluntary disclosure of near-misses and emerging risks
- Management turnover stability, particularly in risk and compliance roles

Discount Information Flow Deficiencies

Companies with recent senior executive departures in risk, compliance, or legal functions face an elevated risk that information filtering may be occurring.

The Star case establishes that executives withholding material information from boards face personal liability.

Red flags include:

- Frequent Chief Risk Officer or Chief Legal Officer turnover
- Whistleblower complaints about risk escalation barriers
- Regulatory actions revealing boards were unaware of material risks
- Board composition lacks independent members with relevant expertise

Monitor Criminal Enforcement Velocity

The 16-month Forrest investigation timeline demonstrates ASIC's enhanced capability to rapidly move from detection to sentencing.

Investment professionals and corporate insiders face materially elevated detection risk.

Companies should demonstrate:

- Robust personal trading policies for employees with access to material non-public information
- Active monitoring and surveillance of employee and related party transactions
- Clear escalation procedures when material information is obtained
- Board oversight of insider trading risk management

Assess Unlisted Subsidiary Compliance

The Liberty Bell Bay wind-up application demonstrates that unlisted subsidiary reporting failures create material regulatory risk for corporate groups.

Listed companies with significant unlisted operations require scrutiny around:

- Subsidiary financial reporting compliance and timeliness
- Parent company verification procedures ensuring subsidiary compliance
- Disclosure of any subsidiary reporting delays or court orders
- Group reporting transparency enabling stakeholder assessment

Financial Services License Quality

The Private Wealth cancellation and Adicho license removal demonstrate ASIC is using license cancellation aggressively for firms generating CSLR compensation claims or failing basic administrative obligations.

For investors in wealth management platforms and financial advice networks, assess:

- CSLR payment history and potential exposures
- AFCA determination volumes and amounts
- Compliance certificate lodgment track records
- Industry funding levy payment status

Conclusion: The Personal Accountability

Regime

The March 2026 regulatory landscape confirms Australia has entered a personal accountability era where:

Executives Cannot Filter Information: The Star judgment establishes that management must ensure boards receive complete, accurate risk information. Filtering creates personal liability.

Criminal Enforcement Has Accelerated: The 16-month Forrest investigation and 14-year Marco sentence demonstrate a rapid pathway from misconduct to imprisonment.

Director Disqualifications Target Recidivists: Maximum five-year bans are being applied to directors leaving trails of insolvent companies and unpaid creditors.

Transparency Is Mandatory: The Liberty Bell Bay wind-up pursuit establishes that reporting obligations aren't optional regardless of company size or ownership structure.

License Cancellation Follows Misconduct: Firms generating CSLR compensation claims or failing basic compliance lose operating licenses.

For investors, these developments create a clear framework: governance quality and transparency have become primary valuation drivers.

Companies with robust information flows, stable executive teams, active board oversight, and proactive compliance cultures deserve premium valuations relative to peers treating governance as a minimal obligation.

The regulatory message is unambiguous: transparency is mandatory, accountability is personal, and the path from misconduct to incarceration is shorter than ever.

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FYI

How The ASX300 Index Is Calculated

An overview of what goes in and out the ASX300, when and why.

The ASX300 index doesn't track exactly 300 companies at random. It uses a specific methodology that determines which stocks get in, how much they matter, and when membership changes.

Understanding the calculation mechanics explains why some stocks move the index more than others, why rebalancing dates create trading volume spikes, and how passive funds must mechanically buy and sell.

ASX300

Index Constituents & Latest News

More Indices: [ASX20](#) | [ASX50](#) | [ASX100](#) | [ASX200](#) | [ASX300](#) | [ALL-ORDS](#) | [ALL-TECH](#)

#	SYMBOL	COMPANY NAME	SECTOR (FNARENA)	PRICE	RECS	CONSENSUS TARGET
1	360	LIFE360 INC	Software & Services	\$18.98	5	\$31.74
2	4DX	4DMEDICAL LIMITED	Medical Equipment & Devices	\$6.28	2	\$3.75
3	A2M	A2 MILK COMPANY LIMITED	Dairy	\$9.24	6	\$9.92
4	A4N	ALPHA HPA LIMITED	Aluminium, Bauxite & Alumina, New Battery Elements	\$0.54	1	\$1.50
5	AAI	ALCOA CORPORATION	Aluminium, Bauxite & Alumina	\$83.76	2	\$99.00
6	ABB	AUSSIE BROADBAND LIMITED	Telecommunication	\$4.80	5	\$6.08
7	ABG	ABACUS GROUP	REITs	\$1.02	2	\$1.23
8	ACL	AUSTRALIAN CLINICAL LABS LIMITED	Healthcare services	\$2.06	2	\$2.25
9	AEF	AUSTRALIAN ETHICAL INVESTMENT LIMITED	Wealth Management & Investments	\$4.41	1	\$7.50
10	AEL	AMPLITUDE ENERGY LIMITED	Crude Oil, NatGas	\$1.62	4	\$3.06

The ASX300 only re-balances twice a year and it does not always have 300 stocks in it

Market Capitalisation Weighting: The Foundation

The ASX300 index is market-cap weighted. This means bigger companies have bigger impacts on index movements.

Here's how it works:

BHP moves 2%. The index feels it significantly. A small cap in the bottom ranks moves 10%. The index barely notices.

Market capitalisation equals share price multiplied by shares outstanding. A company trading at \$50 with 100 million shares has a market cap of \$5 billion. That determines its weight in the index relative to other constituents.

The practical impact:

The largest companies in the [ASX 300](#) collectively drive most index movement. The top 10 to 20 stocks can account for substantial index influence despite representing a small fraction of constituent count.

This creates concentration. When major banks or miners move, the index moves.

When small caps rally, the index barely registers unless it's widespread.

Free-Float Adjustment: Only Tradeable Shares Count

The ASX 300 uses float-adjusted market capitalisation. Only shares available to public investors count toward index weighting.

What gets excluded:

- Founder and director holdings
- Strategic corporate stakes
- Government positions
- Any strategic shareholding over 5% of issued shares

The Investable Weight Factor (IWF) represents this adjustment. An IWF of 0.75 means only 75% of shares count for index purposes.

Free-float adjustment prevents closely held companies from distorting the index.

The methodology only considers shares that could actually trade if index funds need to buy or sell.

The Divisor: Making Price Changes Pure

Index values don't directly equal total market cap. They use a divisor to isolate price movements from corporate actions.

Index Level = Sum of Float-Adjusted Market Caps / Divisor

When companies issue new shares, market cap increases but prices don't change (they can in response to the dilution, but not by default).

The divisor gets recalculated to neutralise this, ensuring the index only moves when prices move.

Eligibility Requirements: Getting Into the ASX300

Not every ASX-listed company qualifies. The methodology sets specific hurdles.

Market capitalisation requirements:

Companies need sufficient size to even be considered. The ASX300 targets the top 300 eligible securities by float-adjusted market cap.

Practically, this means market caps above roughly \$100 million, though the exact threshold moves with market conditions.

Liquidity requirements are strict:

The ASX300 index requires minimum relative liquidity of 30%. This measures a stock's trading volume against the broader market.

Relative liquidity equals median daily value traded divided by float-adjusted market cap, compared against the All Ordinaries benchmark.

A stock falling below 15% relative liquidity (half the minimum) faces removal at the next rebalancing.

This prevents illiquid stocks from becoming index constituents despite having adequate market caps.

Why liquidity matters:

Index funds need to trade these stocks without moving prices dramatically.

Including illiquid names creates implementation problems for passive portfolios trying to track the index.

Semi-Annual Rebalancing: When Changes Happen

The ASX300 rebalances twice yearly, not quarterly like the ASX200.

Rebalancing schedule:

Effective after market close on the third Friday of **March** and **September**

Reference date for ranking data is the second-to-last Friday of the previous month.

Announcement comes with advance notice, allowing markets to anticipate changes.

What happens during rebalancing:

- All constituents get reassessed against eligibility criteria
- Float-adjusted market caps get recalculated using the prior six-month average
- Companies get ranked by size and liquidity
- Additions and deletions get determined based on buffer zones
- Investable Weight Factors get updated to reflect current free-float

The six-month average market cap smooths volatility. A company doesn't get added or deleted based on a single day's price movement.

The methodology looks at sustained size over six months.

Buffer Zones: Preventing Excessive Churn

The ASX 300 employs buffers to minimise unnecessary turnover.

How buffers work:

- A company must rank 274 or higher to enter the index
- A company isn't removed until it ranks 326 or lower

This creates a buffer zone where stocks ranking 275 to 325 are either maintained if already in the index or excluded if outside it.

Why this matters:

Without buffers, stocks hovering around the 300 mark would constantly enter and exit. Each change forces index funds to trade.

Excessive turnover creates transaction costs and potential tax implications.

Buffers recognise that companies ranked 299th and 301st aren't meaningfully different. The buffer zone prevents mechanical churning around the threshold.

Stocks comfortably in the top 274 face no removal risk. Stocks clearly above 326 have no additional prospects.

Only the buffer zone (275 to 325) creates uncertainty.

Intra-Quarter Changes: When They Happen (and Don't)

Unlike the ASX200, the ASX300 handles intra-quarter events differently.

Key rule:

If a company is removed from the ASX 300 between rebalancings, no replacement gets added until the next scheduled rebalancing.

This means the index can temporarily hold fewer than 300 constituents.

When intra-quarter removals happen:

- Mergers and acquisitions
- Company suspensions or delistings
- Bankruptcy or administration

These forced changes can't wait for scheduled rebalancing. But the replacement waits until March or September.

Calculation Mechanics: The Real-Time Process

The formula in practice:

Multiply current price by index shares for each constituent

Sum all constituent values

Divide by the current divisor

Index shares represent each stock's weighting. They're calculated based on float-adjusted market cap. Large-cap stocks get more index shares, so their price movements create larger index impacts.

Practical Implications for Investors

Understanding this methodology explains observable market patterns.

Trading volume spikes around rebalancing dates as index funds adjust holdings.

Stocks being added see buying pressure. Deletions face selling.

Passive funds must hold every constituent at specified weights (there is some discretion regarding little speccies with minimal index weight).

Front-running occurs as traders anticipate changes and position ahead of (potentially) forced index fund trades.

Market-cap weighting creates concentration. The largest stocks dominate despite the 300-stock count.

Why the Methodology Matters

The ASX 300 calculation methodology isn't academic trivia. It determines:

- Which stocks passive funds must own
- When mechanical buying and selling happens
- Why some price movements affect the index more than others

- How new companies can enter the index

These mechanics create trading opportunities around rebalancing dates, influence portfolio construction decisions, and shape index fund behavior.

For active investors, understanding when and why index funds must trade creates potential alpha opportunities.

For passive investors, knowing the methodology explains why your index fund makes certain trades and holds specific weights.

The Bottom Line

The ASX300 index uses float-adjusted market-cap weighting, semi-annual rebalancing, liquidity filters, and buffer zones to create a rules-based benchmark of Australia's top 300 tradeable stocks.

Companies don't arbitrarily get chosen. Size, liquidity, and free-float determine membership.

Mathematical weighting ensures larger companies influence the index proportionally. Regular rebalancing keeps the index relevant as companies grow or shrink.

The methodology balances representing the market accurately against creating an investable, trackable benchmark that index funds can efficiently replicate.

Understanding these mechanics helps investors interpret index movements, anticipate rebalancing impacts, and recognise why passive funds behave as they do.

[FNArena](#) keeps you up to date with Financial and economic news for both small and large investors.

Find out why FNArena subscribers like the service so much: "[Your Feedback \(Thank You\)](#)" - Warning this story contains unashamedly positive feedback on the service provided.

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RUDI'S VIEWS

Rudi's View: Make Today's Crisis Your Opportunity

Don't get mad, or frustrated, get even. Turn this crisis in an opportunity to upgrade your portfolio and strategy.

By Rudi Filapek-Vandyck, Editor



There's sound logic in using share market crises to upgrade the investment portfolio

Make Today's Crisis Your Opportunity

Last week, I was reminded by FN Arena team member Mark Woodruff about Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius' sage advice:

"You have power over your mind, not outside events. Realise this, and you will find strength."

Easier said than done, of course, with the war in the Middle East enforcing maximum uncertainty for the world economy and financial markets.

I am by nature not a gambler, but I am willing to bet most investors are coping by not looking at their equity holdings.

The share market can be a brutal place, sometimes.

At the same time, every crisis, big or small, long or short, creates opportunity for those who can stay level-headed, and this year's challenging context should be no different.

The fact more than 66% of all ratings for individual ASX-listed companies from the seven local stockbrokerages monitored daily by FN Arena is Buy-equivalent rated -- more than during the GFC Bear Market in 2008, leaving only 26.6% for Neutral/Holds and 7.5% for Sell ratings, might as well be seen as one big indicator of that.

Sure, forecasts might have to come down, which also impacts on valuations and price targets, but so many

household names are already trading at significant gaps to analysts' assessments, this makes it virtually impossible not to see significant opportunities emerging, unless the world is truly on the precipice of another GFC-alike thunderstorm, for which there is no valid indication to date.

In fact, while financial markets are losing their patience with the notoriously mercurial and unreliable US President, there remains a genuine possibility hostilities might cease sooner than anyone is expecting, which would *ceteris paribus* (all else equal) also limit the damage done to oil supplies and the global economy.

But, yes, the other scenario looks just as valid right now in that Israel and this US administration might well be prepared to endure greater sacrifices in order to achieve indisputable victory.

And even under the first scenario outcome, there's no reliable guessing just how low share prices might still go.

The opportunity for investors remains the same, though. Whether one is sitting on a pile of cash or still fully exposed to day to day share market shenanigans, the ultimate goal should be to bend this serious challenge to our own benefit, as much as we can.

Upgrading The Portfolio

As I have time and again advocated during similar crisis situations in the past --including covid and the great bond market reset of 2022-- these are ideal conditions to get the broom out and sweep through our portfolio (assuming you're not hiding in cash).

The idea here is to trade in your disappointing choices --and we all have those-- for much better alternatives: those high quality performers we've always wanted to own, but for a variety of reasons we don't.

The idea itself is not 100% new and I am most definitely not the only voice in support of such strategy.

Ellerston Capital sent out a press release on Monday morning, allowing Jack Briggs, portfolio manager of the **Ellerston Australian Micro Cap Fund** to declare the ASX is now offering "compelling opportunities for active stock pickers" as "Indiscriminate, sentiment-driven selling can create dislocations between price and underlying earnings trajectories".

The first sector that comes to Ellerston's mind is the local technology sector, which seems far from an outrageous suggestion to make.

FNArena's consensus price targets are showing many share prices are trading at levels -40% and much more below target already.

Even if those targets will reset lower, one must adopt a very bearish worldview to suggest updated forward-looking valuations and targets will end up at or below today's beaten down prices.

This is apart from the fact many of such technology companies remain poised for ongoing robust growth numbers in the years ahead.

And falling bond yields (at some point) and interest rate cuts from central banks (when economies are in need of extra support) should benefit these higher-multiple stocks down the track (all else remaining equal).

Short-Term Defensives

Shorter-term, institutional investors who cannot shift substantially into cash and have to stay invested in the market, will try to identify defensive options and park their money there.

Freshly released historical research by **UBS** has identified the obvious safe havens we are all too familiar with, ranging from Metcash ((MTS)) and Woolworths Group ((WOW)), to APA Group ((APA)), Telstra ((TLS)), Transurban ((TCL)), Ampol ((ALD)), and Brambles ((BXB)).

Most of the share prices identified have performed relatively well in recent weeks. The **FNArena-Vested Equities All-Weather Model Portfolio** owns shares in Telstra and Woolworths, which has most certainly compensated somewhat for the falls elsewhere.

However, a big chunk of the funds that are today hiding in these share prices is only temporary a fan and share prices in many cases are looking relatively fully valued as a result of said portfolio rotation.

These are no longer the stocks to chase when putting new money into the market.

In addition, UBS's research has simply looked at the past. Its list includes a number of healthcare stocks that this time around have not been the same safe havens from the past.

Hence, all of ResMed ((RMD)), CSL ((CSL)), Cochlear ((COH)), Ramsay Health Care ((RHC)) and Sonic Healthcare ((SHL)) have experienced ongoing share price weakness since the start of the war (and prior).

The same observation applies to Computershare ((CPU)). Iress ((IRE)) is also on UBS's historical list, as is the ASX ((ASX)).

The one key counter-argument to this observation is the market's first focus has preferred inflation over weakening growth, and this was also expressed through a strong Aussie dollar.

If the war goes on for longer, and oil supplies remain significantly disrupted, a shift in market focus could well re-ignite interest in higher-multiple defensives that offer less risk operationally.

Stock pickers at Ellerston prefer to ignore the market's short-term flight to defensive safety and focus instead on "high-quality companies with resilient balance sheets, clear pricing power and multiple drivers of sustainable growth".

Ellerston's press release only mentions one recent addition to the Micro Cap Fund; Queensland's construction materials provider Wagner's ((WGN)).

Having traveled through hell and back (proverbially) before and after covid, that share price has remained on a firm uptrend since the third quarter of last year.

More All-Weathers Exposure?

When it comes to high quality companies with ongoing strong growth prospects, I'd of course recommend everyone take a peak at my curated lists on the website.

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

Most have had a terrible time over the past nine months or so and it happens quite regularly that I am truly shocked by how low share prices have fallen.

Then again, it's not the first time the market's momentum pendulum has switched into the opposite direction and it probably won't be the last time either.

A properly diversified portfolio should be able to much better cope with these sharp swings in fund flows, unlike the All-Weather Portfolio which has its restrictions in this regard.

To those who might not have read my Weekly Insights from early March, prior staple in my All-Weather selection, CSL ((CSL)) is no longer included.

This does not mean today's share price doesn't look 'cheap' or this company will never again experience better times, but I now believe the moniker of 'All-Weather' has become a misnomer when applied to this truly struggling Australian icon.

Many more companies have been removed since I started my research in the later stages of the GFC, back in 2008-09.

Names that come to mind are Ansell ((ANN)), Ramsay Health Care, and Seek while today's car crash business (pun intended) Bapcor ((BAP)) was once selected as a potential future All-Weather stock.

Things change, even without covid, AI and/or oil affected by war in the Middle East.

I have also used the opportunity to add two new names to my list of **Emerging New Business Models**. Of course, I do think both Energy One ((EOL)) and Generation Development ((DGD)) should be on investors' radar.

Energy One, with a market cap of \$400m-plus, is to date only included in two key local indices; the All-Ordinaries and All-Tech index.

This company provides end-to-end software, outsourced operations, and advisory services for wholesale energy, environmental, and carbon markets, serving over 450 customers across 30-plus countries.

Its core advantage is a flexible, fast-to-implement one-stop-shop platform that simplifies complex energy trading and operational requirements. Analysts believe growing renewable penetration increases system volatility and complexity, strengthening demand for Energy One's mission-critical tools and services.

Equally important: it seems quite difficult to envisage how AI can destroy its business case. Instead, management is applying AI to accelerate productivity gains and development of new tools and applications.

There has been cyberattack vulnerability in the past and management has since spent ~\$2m over roughly two years to achieve ISO 27001 certification, the main international standard for an information security management system (ISMS).

Currently, the stock is covered by three brokers inside the FNArena universe and all have positive views, backed up by price targets well above today's share price.

As a small cap, market sentiment needs to improve noticeably before this share price is likely to ever close the current gap.

But as a wise man once said: nothing lasts forever, especially in financial markets. Patience seems but the necessary ingredient.

Generation Development has gone through a major transformation in recent years, not dissimilar from Energy One's, and this also explains that big bump on share price charts up until September last year.

The trajectory since has been nothing but brutal.

Make a note: small caps will break your heart during the tougher times on the market. Now the share price is so far below valuations and price targets, it is almost impossible not to see this as a great opportunity (though patience might still be required, just as with Energy One).

For those not familiar, Generation Development is the number one player locally for investment bonds, a niche for which demand is helped by tax and retirement tailwinds, plus growing interest in tax-effective and longevity solutions.

Acquired Evidentia is the local market leader in managed accounts. The third engine, Lonsec, provides research and ratings to investment professionals.

The big announcement was a strategic alliance with BlackRock to co-design retirement solutions, with BlackRock taking a \$25m minority stake on a five-year lock-up.

As shown in recent result releases, there is constant risk for not quite meeting high expectations, but the current share price should take care of that, plus some.

That assessment is backed up by seven Buys out of seven brokers currently available through Stock Analysis on the website.

I believe both small caps have potential to grow above the mainstream and offer investors a slice of 'special', similar to what the likes of ResMed, TechnologyOne ((TNE)) and WH Soul Pattinson have done over multiple decades, and what I hope a company like Sigma Healthcare ((SIG)) will be able to achieve in the decade(s) ahead.

Keep believing there will be better times ahead, exact timing as yet unknown, and make this crisis your next best opportunity.

See also:

<https://fnarena.com/index.php/2026/03/19/rudis-view-top-picks-conviction-buys/>

<https://fnarena.com/index.php/2026/03/12/rudis-view-post-february-conviction-calls-2/>

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below.



Dividend Investing, The Smart Way_250(1)



Cover Investing in GenAi - medium sized

(This story was written on Monday, 23rd March 2026. 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).

SMALL CAPS

Fortress Australia: Identifying The 'Real' Beneficiaries Of The \$330bn Defence Pipeline

Defence spending is on an upward trajectory, globally. Which (small cap) companies on the ASX stand to benefit?

- Australia's annual spending on defence is trending toward \$100bn by 2033-34
- ASX defence sector has matured into a legitimate industrial thematic, non-correlated with consumer spending
- Multiple companies have not been immune to shareholder controversies
- Lumpiness of government procurement and margin caps on sovereign contracts remain industry characteristics

By Lily Brown



Annual defence spending in Australia is on a trajectory to hit \$100bn by 2034

The era of the peace dividend is officially behind us. For decades, Australian investors could afford to ignore the defence sector as a niche corner of the industrials market, often characterised by lumpy contracts and speculative tech that rarely translated into bottom-line earnings.

However, as we move through 2026, the macroeconomic landscape has shifted fundamentally.

Australia's transition to a "Strategy of Denial" is no longer just a white-paper concept; it is now backed by a staggering \$330bn commitment to the Integrated Investment Program (IIP) over the next decade, with annual spending on a trajectory to hit \$100bn by 2033-34.

For investors, the question is no longer whether defence spending will rise, but how that capital will translate into earnings across the listed market.

The global primes –the Lockheeds and BAEs of the world– capture the headlines as the winners of defence contracts, but they remain largely out of reach for ASX-focused portfolios.

To find the real value, one must look at the sovereign industrial capability winners. These are local companies that have successfully embedded themselves into the all-weather pipelines of sustainment and asymmetric technology.

The industrial anchor: Austal's strategic monopoly

The narrative for Australian defence begins at the waterline. Austal ((ASB)) has undergone a fundamental re-rating in the eyes of analysts, moving from a commercial shipbuilder to a protected strategic asset.

The **signing of the Strategic Shipbuilding Agreement (SSA)** in late 2025 was a watershed moment, effectively granting the company a long-term monopoly on large-vessel construction at the Henderson shipyard in Western Australia.

This structural shift is finally showing up in the financial plumbing. In its results released in February 2026, Austal reported a 34.4% surge in revenue to \$1.1bn, but more importantly, a 41.3% increase in EBIT.

With a record order book of \$17.7bn and a dominant position in the \$1.029bn Landing Craft Medium (LCM) program, Austal has transitioned into a sustainment king.

The company has 64 vessels currently under sustainment contracts, providing a high-margin, recurring revenue base that buffers the volatility of new-build cycles.

Despite the growth, Austal's stock recently fell -10.95% following the earnings call as management admitted to forecasting errors on US contracts. Some US contractual incentives had been booked twice.

Austal said the overstatement was about US\$17.1m and that it had been included in FY26 EBIT guidance, so FY26 EBIT guidance was cut to about A\$110m. The earlier official guidance cited A\$135m for FY26 EBIT.

The latest mishap follows on from a much more serious case whereby Austal USA had artificially reduced cost estimates in order to compete for new shipbuilding projects, effectively overstating the company's profitability on projects.

That case was settled with the DOJ in the US, including a -US\$24m penalty in 2024.

In addition, as a sovereign monopoly, Austal risks becoming a regulated utility, where the government caps profit upside in exchange for de-risking the business.

This leaves investors with bond-like earnings certainty but reduced exposure to outsized equity returns.

Asymmetric growth: The DroneShield pivot

If Austal provides the defensive floor, DroneShield ((DRO)) represents the high-velocity ceiling. The conflict in Ukraine has served as a global laboratory for the effectiveness of cheap, autonomous drones, turning counter-UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) technology into a mandatory requirement for modern militaries.

DroneShield's FY25 results confirmed the company has moved past its speculative phase. Revenue surged 276% year-on-year to \$216.5m, while a statutory net profit of \$3.5m signalled a definitive return to profitability.

However, the real data point for the quality-focused investor is the Software as a Service (SaaS) momentum. SaaS revenue now accounts for over 27% of locked-in 2026 revenue, offering the kind of recurring, high-margin visibility that typically commands a premium valuation.

With a sales pipeline of \$2.3bn, DroneShield is arguably the purest play on the Ukraine lesson available on the local exchange.

Despite the many positives, the "war premium" is real. With a price-to-sales (P/S) ratio of 14.3x (compared to a peer average of 4.4x), DroneShield is arguably already priced for perfection.

Any de-escalation in global tensions or a single quarter of flat growth could see that premium evaporate rapidly.

Similar to Austal, Dronesield has not been immune to public debate and controversy.

The company's governance came under scrutiny after three directors sold large parcels of shares between 6 and 12 November 2025, with ASX questioning whether the disposal of their holdings was itself price-sensitive.

The controversy intensified because some of the selling on 10 November occurred after the company announced a US\$7.6m-equivalent order update, but before that statement was withdrawn later the same day when DroneShield acknowledged the contracts were not new orders but re-issued ones.

ASX also raised concerns about the company's trading-policy compliance and the initial Appendix 3Y disclosures, which grouped the sales into a broad date range rather than listing each transaction day separately.

The episode contributed to a sharp share-price pullback and led DroneShield to tighten its governance framework, including longer blackout periods, stronger approval processes, and a formal disclosure committee.

The recovery narrative: Electro Optic Systems (EOS)

Few companies have tested investor patience as much as Electro Optic Systems, yet 2026 marks its emergence as a leaner, debt-free contender.

Following an aggressive restructuring, EOS has successfully aligned its directed energy (lasers) and remote weapon systems (RWS) with the needs of NATO and the AUKUS Pillar II framework.

The company's FY25 Annual Report revealed a transformation of the balance sheet. By January 2025, EOS reached zero debt after fully repaying its lending facility with Washington H Soul Pattinson ((SOL)).

There had been talk of a commercial dispute between the two companies prior to that.

This financial de-risking has been met with significant commercial momentum; the unconditional order book ballooned to \$459.1m, anchored by a world-first export contract for a 100kW laser weapon system to the Netherlands.

But sceptics remember the 2020-2023 period when massive backlogs failed to convert to cash.

While revenue ramp-up is expected, current valuation narratives suggest the stock may already be overvalued at its current price, assuming a 30% yearly revenue growth requirement that leaves little room for execution error.

The share price has pulled back recently and is currently trading some -24% below FNArena's consensus price target (two brokers; Bell Potter and Ord Minnett).

This company too has had its own share of shareholder controversy recently, based on management share sales.

On 17 March, EOS disclosed chief executive Andreas Schwer had exercised options and received board approval to sell up to 2.5m shares, while chief financial officer/chief operating officer Clive Cuthell and other senior managers also flagged plans to sell some or all of their holdings.

The announcement unsettled investors because it followed a strong run in the share price and came only weeks after a short-seller attack on EOS's US\$80m Korean contract with Goldrone, which had already dented market confidence.

EOS later confirmed Schwer had sold 1.5m shares but retained 1.4m shares, which the company said remained above its minimum shareholding policy.

The picks and shovels of AUKUS

While the shipbuilders and tech-heads grab the limelight, the industrial backbone of the defence surge is found in the supply chain.

Veem Ltd ((VEE)), market cap circa \$82m, recently secured a nine-year Manufacturing Licence Agreement with Northrop Grumman, a move that embeds the company directly into the US and Australian submarine supply

chains.

This is a critical prerequisite for the AUKUS rollout. Similarly, Bisalloy Steel ((BIS)), market cap circa \$198m, continues to benefit from the demand for specialized armour, with its 1H FY26 report showing a 7.3% rise in Australian segment revenue driven in part by the protection steel requirements of the Hunter-class frigates.

The expert verdict: Mind the gap

Despite the bullish figures, seasoned analysts warn against mistaking budgeted spending for immediate earnings.

Elizabeth Buchanan, a senior fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), argues Australia's defence debate is "lost in rhetoric" and has "failed to discern between the concepts of intent and capability", highlighting a persistent gap between strategic ambition and deliverable outcomes.

Analysts highlight Australia's integrated air and missile defence capability remains underdeveloped. As a result, the program is likely to take years to fully mature before its benefits are realised across the defence industrial base.

Beyond individual stock picking, the entire sector faces a systemic risk: labour. As the ASPI Cost of Defence report warns, the Australian Defence Force is failing to meet its personnel targets; some estimates put the shortage at 4,500.

For listed companies, this translates into intense wage inflation for specialised engineers and technicians, which may consume most of the revenue uplifts achieved within the sector in 2026.

The Bottom Line

The ASX defence sector has matured into a legitimate industrial thematic, offering a rare pocket of structural growth decoupled from the consumer cycle.

However, the lumpiness of government procurement and the reality of margin caps on sovereign contracts mean not every dollar of the \$330bn pipeline will reach shareholders.

Find out why FNArena subscribers like the service so much: ["Your Feedback \(Thank You\)"](#) - Warning this story contains unashamedly positive feedback on the service provided.

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SMALL CAPS

Premier Investments Counts On Smiggle Refresh

Following Premier Investments largely in-line interim results, analysts point to ongoing momentum for Peter Alexander and potential upside from a Smiggle strategy reset.

- Premier Investments' interim meets guidance
- Trading update shows stronger Peter Alexander momentum
- Ongoing Smiggle weakness prompts a strategic reset
- Analysts observe the shares are trading at a sizeable discount

By Mark Woodruff



Peter Alexander remains the key earnings driver for Premier Investments

Retail investment company Premier Investments ((PMV)) delivered first-half results broadly in line with both management guidance and consensus forecasts.

While revenue missed market expectations by -3%, this was offset by better-than-expected cost control and a higher-than-expected interim dividend.

A trading update for the first seven weeks of the second half also highlighted strong momentum in core sleepwear brand Peter Alexander.

Bell Potter identifies the result's key positive as a strategic reset at children's school supplies retailer Smiggle.

This is aimed at improving performance through product repositioning, faster speed to market and brand elevation initiatives underway in the second half.

Following the organisational refresh, Smiggle is expected to return to positive growth by the end of the first half of FY27, breaking the trend of declines in place since the first half of FY24.

The company also announced it is exploring global wholesale partnerships for Peter Alexander as the next

phase of growth.

Premier operates through its Retail and Investment segments.

Retail comprises specialty chains including Peter Alexander and Smiggle alongside mature brands such as Portmans.

The Investment segment includes property holdings and investments in securities for both capital gains and income, including dividends, rent and interest.

Key assets within this segment include equity stakes in Breville Group ((BRG)) and Myer ((MYR)), as well as properties at St Kilda Road (global head office) and its Australian distribution centre.

The outlook for Peter Alexander and Smiggle

Second-half trading was strong for Peter Alexander but weaker for Smiggle, implying to Macquarie a greater contribution from Peter Alexander and an improved overall earnings mix for the group.

Peter Alexander's first seven weeks exceeded first half sales growth, highlights Morgan Stanley.

Smiggle's second half is expected to remain a transition period as inventory is reset ahead of new product launches in the first half of FY27, with a return to growth targeted in line with consensus.

Macquarie views strong second half commentary for Peter Alexander as encouraging, particularly against a more challenging A&NZ macroeconomic backdrop.

Certainly, Morgan Stanley argues the strong Peter Alexander performance and a potential Smiggle turnaround do not warrant the current implied trough valuation multiples for the retail business.

This broker believes a strategic reset at Smiggle, supported by the appointment of a permanent Managing Director, provides greater confidence in a potential recovery.

Georgia Chewing has been appointed Managing Director of Smiggle, having previously served as interim COO, while John Bryce will return to his role as CFO after acting as interim CEO.

It's felt a product refresh and improved sourcing provide a solid foundation to rebuild momentum, though execution risk remains given the price gap to discount department stores and emerging online competitors.

The gross margin, including Peter Alexander UK losses, was 66.6% compared to 67.7% a year ago, slightly above consensus of 66.5%, according to UBS.

Management guided to FY26 pre-AASB16 earnings (EBIT) of \$183m, in line with the consensus estimate.

Premier, a brief history

Founded in 1987 and controlled by Solomon Lew, Premier initially focused on acquiring strategic retail stakes.

Over time, management built a portfolio of apparel brands including Just Jeans, Portmans and Dotti, alongside wholly owned growth concepts Smiggle and Peter Alexander.

Around 2013-2014 the group expanded internationally, primarily through Smiggle's global rollout. Rapid expansion followed across the UK, Europe and Asia through the mid-to-late 2010s.

Peter Alexander's international expansion has been more limited and recent, having historically been A&NZ-focused, with offshore growth, such as entry into the UK, only commencing from around 2022.

In 2025, Premier completed a major transformation, selling its Apparel Brands to Myer and repositioning as a higher-margin, capital-light business focused on Smiggle, Peter Alexander and investments such as its 25% stake in Breville Group.

Shares in Premier have lost around one-third of their value since the AGM in early December last year to be trading around \$12.50 today. Over the last year, shares have traded between a high of \$22.92 and the recent \$11.20 low.

At the AGM, management guided to 1H FY26 underlying earnings of \$120m, below consensus forecasts of

\$133m, with Smiggle, particularly the UK, driving the shortfall.

Peter Alexander is benefiting from an expanding addressable market, while Smiggle has struggled to grow its addressable audience (TAM) due to a narrow age range and weaker product innovation.

Additionally, Smiggle's core customers of young families are facing rising cost-of-living pressures, further weighing on demand.

Management noted at the AGM "discretionary spending remains under pressure with consumers cautious due to ongoing cost-of-living impacts".

The latest interim results

The interim net profit declined by around -13% to \$101.6m, largely reflecting weakness in Smiggle.

Revenue and earnings for the Premier Retail segment (the sum of Peter Alexander and Smiggle) were \$452.8m and \$119.3m, respectively.

Peter Alexander sales rose 4.9% on the prior year to \$312.3m, a near doubling of sales over the past six years.

Market share expanded across all product categories, notes Macquarie, with growth further supported by four new store openings in Australia and four store relocations or expansions.

In contrast, Smiggle sales declined -10.7% to \$140.5m, reflecting ongoing exposure to consumers facing cost-of-living pressures across global markets.

The brand reduced its store footprint by around -8.7% to 282 stores in 1H26, with the majority of closures in the UK.

While this weighed on earnings in the period, Macquarie believes it should support improved operational efficiency going forward.

Re-invigorating Smiggle

Management has decided to initiate a brand repositioning strategy for Smiggle including new product categories, store format changes and a renewed focus on its core six-to-twelve-year-old demographic.

Jarden suggests the around -23% revenue decline over FY24-F26 reflects both rising competition and the absence of a CEO for more than 18 months.

With a new CEO announced and a renewed focus on product, it's felt management can stabilise the business, though Citi suggests the situation at Smiggle may worsen before improving.

The appointment of a permanent MD and initiatives to reinvigorate the brand through repositioning toward the core customer and expanding boys' ranges carries execution risk, cautions this broker, particularly amid rising competition from international entrants such as Pop Mart and Miniso.

Capital Management

The interim dividend was reinstated at 45 cents, signalling confidence in cash generation despite earnings pressure, analysts suggest.

Management remains comfortable with its up to \$100m buyback announced last December, which Jarden estimates could be up to 4% EPS accretive.

This broker notes the circa \$257m net cash position provides balance sheet flexibility and offers investors downside protection if macroeconomic conditions deteriorate.

Outlook

Following interim results, the average 12-month target price of Premier Investments for the six daily covered brokers in the FNArena database has fallen to \$17.53 from \$20.23, including a downward adjustment this morning by Morgan Stanley in anticipation of more challenges for household spending in the year ahead.

Five have Buy or equivalent ratings while Citi is on Hold. Among these six brokers only Ord Minnett is yet to update its research for interim results.

Macquarie highlights Premier is trading at a -71% discount to its apparel peer average, despite delivering industry-leading earnings margins. Also, UK sales are growing, and the shift toward outlet stores should lower the cost base, while also mitigating downside risk if the strategy underperforms, explains the analyst.

Bell Potter agrees Premier is trading at a sizeable discount to other retailers.

While valuation is becoming increasingly attractive, Citi believes caution remains warranted given execution risks at Smiggle and rising earnings pressures from higher fuel prices and interest rates (similar to Morgan Stanley's motivation).

Outside of daily coverage, Jarden lowers its target by -\$1.00 to \$15.60 (due to fresh assumptions adopted by a new analyst) but upgrades to Overweight, midway between Hold and Buy in this broker's rating system.

While acknowledging headwinds are building, this broker raises its earnings forecasts for Premier given the stock is trading on around 7x 1 year forward PE ex-cash/Breville equity, an up to \$100m buyback, circa \$257m net cash providing M&A optionality, and high management alignment.

Upcoming potential catalysts identified by Macquarie include enhanced disclosure and improved trading at Peter Alexander, a recovery in UK consumer spending, a Smiggle turnaround or potential sale/closure, additional capital returns including the current \$100m buyback, and a possible sale of the Breville stake.

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SMALL CAPS

Beetaloo Energy Strengthens Path To Market

ASX-listed micro-cap Beetaloo Energy Australia will this year produce first gas in the Beetaloo Basin. Is this the turning point larger players are waiting for?

- **First gas for Beetaloo expected this year**
- **Other catalysts: pilot completion and gas plant commissioning**
- **Valuation gap, with acquirer interest growing**
- **Infrastructure advantages and funding outlook**

By Mark Woodruff



The Beetaloo Basin is attracting attention from investors and major industry players, including Beetaloo Energy

As the wet season draws to a close in the Northern Territory, activity in the Beetaloo Basin is set to re-accelerate, with incumbent players resuming drilling, advancing farm-out processes and progressing projects toward first gas.

However, they are unlikely to have the field to themselves for long, according to the analyst at Research as a Service (RaaS), with well-capitalised potential acquirers monitoring developments in the basin as the LNG-scale potential becomes clearer.

One of the existing participants is Beetaloo Energy Australia ((BTL)), an oil and gas developer (market cap circa \$293m) transitioning from exploration to execution in one of Australia's most prospective onshore gas regions.

Key upcoming catalysts include pilot completion, gas plant commissioning and initial gas sales.

Management aims to supply both domestic gas markets and LNG export markets, supported by proximity to pipeline infrastructure and growing demand for gas in Australia and Asia.

Canaccord Genuity notes the Beetaloo Basin has historically been overlooked due to its remote location and

above-ground (non-geological) risks impacting a project's development, economics or timelines.

With regulatory uncertainty largely resolved and clear demand drivers emerging, the outlook is seen as improving.

The company's core asset is the Carpentaria Project (EP187), targeting gas from the Velkerri shale formation, with additional upside from broader basin resources.

Following a final investment decision (FID) in December, management expects first gas from the Carpentaria Pilot Project by the end of 2026.

Should the pilot prove commercial, Canaccord analysts expect **majors to move quickly, with Beetaloo's strategic foothold and first-mover advantage positioning it to benefit from any basin re-rating.**

Additionally, holding 100% of its licences provides flexibility to access future funding via partnerships, RaaS highlights.

Canaccord lists key de-risking factors including the proximity and recent tie-in to the Northern Territory Power and Water Corporation's McArthur River Pipeline, and a 10-year binding gas sales agreement (GSA) with the Northern Territory Government.

Given \$18m in cash and a \$35m debt facility (compared to the analysts' -\$25m estimate for remaining pre-production capex), liquidity is seen as sufficient.

The GSA provides a foundational revenue stream through ex-field, take-or-pay pricing into a Northern Territory market that is structurally in deficit, the broker highlights.

Canaccord notes the East Coast gas market is equally nearing supply shortfalls, while nearby LNG hubs such as Ichthys and Darwin offer potential to backfill depletion and access higher-value export markets.

Recent history, value on offer?

Formerly Empire Energy Group, the company rebranded in 2025 as it moved toward early-stage production and commercialisation from exploration.

In the same year, the Carpentaria Pilot Project reached FID alongside key regulatory approvals, enabling development to proceed.

Operationally, the company completed a large-scale hydraulic stimulation program at the Carpentaria-5H well, followed by flow testing.

This well forms part of a three-well pilot program supporting initial production plans.

Flow test results and operational updates through late 2025 indicated strong gas flow rates, supporting confidence in the basin's productivity and commercial potential.

As Canaccord notes, "Beetaloo continues to deliver basin-leading flowrates, capitalising on its highly prospective acreage".

In the September quarter, basin-peer Tamboran Resources' (TBN) acquisition of Canadian-listed Falcon Oil & Gas consolidated a significant portion of the deeper Velkerri B area.

In late October, Morgans noted on a like-for-like basis Tamboran paid around US\$169 per acre for Falcon's 986k acres, while Beetaloo Energy was trading at roughly US\$8 per acre based on a \$350m market capitalisation, highlighting a significant valuation gap within the basin.

The Beetaloo share price at the time was 28.5c and is now trading at 25c.

RaaS views the impending completion of Tamboran Resources' farm-out process as a key catalyst, providing an initial resource benchmark for the Beetaloo play.

The gas plant

The 2023 acquisition of the Rosalind Gas Plant for -\$2.5m has accelerated Beetaloo's path to market, reducing

capex by around -\$30m and timelines by approximately -12 months, highlights Canaccord.

While regional infrastructure remains limited, the broker points out the Power and Water Corporation's recently installed T-piece (pipeline junction) now connects the Carpentaria project to the McArthur River Pipeline, supporting an initial run-rate of 25TJ/d.

Over the longer term, it's also noted several proposed infrastructure projects aim to unlock the Beetaloo Basin and improve access to East Coast and offshore markets.

The plant has capacity of 42TJ/d, notes RaaS, representing material organic upside of around 70% above initial contracted processing rates.

It's felt the facility provides a significant operating and capex advantage relative to greenfield developments.

Outlook

This week Canaccord Genuity initiated research coverage on Beetaloo Energy Australia with a Speculative Buy rating and a 12-month target price of 45 cent.

Morgans has the same rating and a 70-cent target while Research as a Service (RaaS) doesn't carry any targets, ratings or recommendations. RaaS has set a valuation of 89 cents.

The average of these three targets/valuations is 68 cents. Yesterday, the shares closed at 25c.

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WEEKLY REPORTS

Weekly Ratings, Targets, Forecast Changes - 20-03-26

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

By Mark Woodruff

Guide:

The FNArena database tabulates the views of seven major Australian and international stockbrokers: Citi, Bell Potter, Macquarie, Morgan Stanley, Morgans, Ord Minnett, 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 March 16 to Friday March 20, 2026

Total Upgrades: 14

Total Downgrades: 5

Net Ratings Breakdown: Buy 66.06%; Hold 26.64%; Sell 7.30%

FNArena recorded fourteen upgrades and five downgrades from the seven brokers monitored daily across ASX-listed companies for the week ending Friday, March 20, 2026.

Buy ratings remain elevated at 66.06% (all-time record high), with Sell ratings at just 7.30%, leaving 26.64% as Neutral/Hold.

The ongoing volume of rating upgrades suggests share prices are trading at depressed levels, pointing to underlying bear market conditions much worse than the relatively minor losses at the index level would suggest.

Percentage falls in average target prices for the week exceeded increases in the tables below, while declines in average earnings forecasts also outweighed upgrades, particularly across the top half of the lists.

Concerns over acid and diesel disruptions tied to the Middle East conflict weighed on uranium player Lotus Resources, which heads the forecast earnings downgrade table.

Elemental sulphur drives sulphuric acid pricing, a key input in uranium leaching, while diesel (linked to oil markets) underpins mining fleets and remote power generation.

Macquarie lowered its FY26 EPS forecasts for Lotus by -171% on higher pre-production costs and lower U308 sales, noting risks to the ramp up at Kayelekera as the Strait of Hormuz is the key to stabilising the supply chain of sulphuric acid.

While 29Metals appears next on the earnings downgrade table, this is solely due to new and upbeat research coverage by Morgans. When added to existing coverage in the FNArena database, new earnings forecasts by this broker drag down the average forecast.

29Metals has been in struggle street for a while, but is seen as an attractive copper exposure with clear catalysts. The recent equity raising is thought to provide flexibility on the balance sheet to pursue initiatives at Golden Grove in Western Australia to restore grades and operating flexibility, as well as a potential Capricorn Copper restart in Queensland.

Combined with a bullish long-term copper outlook, Morgans envisages upside for the 29Metals share price from

current levels and begins with a Buy rating and 54 cent target, which compares favourably to last week's close of 34 cents.

New Hope and Liontown Resources follow next on the earnings downgrade list, with the FN Arena Corporate Results Monitor <https://fnarena.com/index.php/2026/03/18/fnarena-corporate-results-monitor-18-03-2026/> showing a respective 'miss' and 'beat' across the March-July 2026 reporting period.

Both New Hope and Liontown's ratings were upgraded by two separate brokers.

A full account of analyst views on Liontown's result is available at <https://fnarena.com/index.php/2026/03/17/liontown-ramps-up-as-lithium-price-recovers/>

Northern Star Resources is next after management delivered yet another production guidance downgrade.

Despite elevated gold prices, 2026 has been a challenging year for the company. A summary of broker views explains why at <https://fnarena.com/index.php/2026/03/18/when-might-northern-stars-woes-end/>

Northern Star also appears third in the negative change to average target price list, below ImpediMed and Life360.

ImpediMed remains a higher-risk exposure, with Ord Minnett highlighting near-term funding access as the key concern. The company's core product, SOZO, is a medical device using bioimpedance spectroscopy (BIS) to measure fluid levels in the body.

The share price has declined around -56% over the past six months, reflecting weaker US SOZO sales, slower growth in annual recurring revenue, and delay to operating cash flow breakeven.

Ord Minnett identified three potential catalysts for a material re-rating, including a re-acceleration in US SOZO sales from 3Q26, early execution in Heart Health and Weight Management markets, and potential strategic interest from global women's health med-tech players.

The analysts lowered their target for ImpediMed to 5 cents from 12 cents on weaker earnings forecasts and a higher weighted average cost of capital assumption.

The broker suggested the company's strategic value is underappreciated at current levels, with improving sales traction potentially attracting interest from global med-tech players such as Hologic and Danaher.

After a further review of Life360's 4Q results on March 3, Morgan Stanley lowered its target to \$30 from \$50.

While the broker raised its earnings forecasts, the broader sector de-rating and trading patterns observed through 2022-2023 prompted a reduction in the applied valuation multiple (in line with the company's post-listing average), despite improvements in scale, track record and profitability.

Turning to rises in average price targets, Sims and Viva Energy lead the week's table with increases of 8% and 7%, respectively.

Following ongoing strength in both the non-ferrous and memory chip markets, management at Sims provided an upbeat trading update last week.

FY26 underlying earnings guidance of \$350m-\$400m came in around 25% ahead of consensus forecast, driven by a stronger-than-expected outlook for Sims Lifecycle Services (SLS) and the Metals division.

UBS noted a fivefold half-on-half increase in pricing for double data rate 4 (DDR4), a widely used generation of computer memory in servers, PCs and data centres.

The target for Sims was raised to \$30.00 from \$26.50. UBS' channel checks indicate under-supply of memory chips should continue to support DDR4 pricing through 2027.

Among the beneficiaries of the Iranian conflict, due to sharply higher refining margins driven by elevated oil prices, are Australia's largest downstream fuel and energy companies, Viva Energy and Ampol.

The analysts at UBS assumed modest margin compression for Viva in the Commercial & Industrial segment, along with lower fuel volumes and sales per store in Convenience & Mobility due to consumer response to higher fuel prices, although Refining (Energy & Infrastructure) tailwinds remain the dominant driver.

Ord Minnett reiterated its Buy ratings for Viva Energy and Ampol, highlighting both as preferred exposures to the current commodity price spike given their greater leverage to refining margins relative to producers' exposure to oil and LNG prices.

Viva also heads up the week's table for positive change to earnings forecasts with a rise of 50%, followed by Block and Ora Banda Mining on 45% and 25%, respectively.

Block is next on the earnings upgrade table after Citi noted its growth outlook is improving. It's thought GenAI initiatives are driving potential gross profit upside and stronger product velocity.

AI-led tools including Cash App Green, Moneybot and Managerbot have the potential to lift inflows, monetisation and seller engagement across Cash App and Square, suggested the broker. A Buy rating and target of US\$85 were retained.

Impacting on the earnings and target price tables below, last week UBS initiated research coverage with Buy ratings on five gold stocks.

In order of preference these were Pantoro Gold, Westgold Resources, Minerals 260, Catalyst Metals, and Ora Banda Mining.

Subscribers can see the respective target prices via The Australian Broker Call Report and Stock Analysis on the FNArena website.

The broker's investment thesis assumed strong volume growth alongside elevated gold prices, providing a "healthy pathway" to higher earnings and cash flow across the sector.

Serko appears fifth on the week's table for negative change to target prices after Citi reduced its target by -17% to \$2.85. The company is also fourth placed on the FY26 earnings upgrade list, though the size of the percentage change is heavily influenced by the small numbers involved.

Following Serko's Investor Day, Citi lowered its FY27 forecasts to reflect Middle East uncertainty, though the broader outlook for the Buy-rated company remains positive, in the broker's view, supported by ongoing development of Serko.ai.

Serko.ai is a multi-agent corporate travel platform featuring a conversational interface that enables end-to-end booking and trip management.

Upgrade

BREVILLE GROUP LIMITED ((BRG)) Upgrade to Buy from Accumulate by Ord Minnett .B/H/S: 6/0/0

Breville Group has secured primary partner status in Best Buy's small domestic appliance category, Ord Minnett notes, following the latter's move to consolidate suppliers.

Breville rolled out store-in-store formats across around 300 Best Buy locations during late 2025 as part of Best Buy's vendor rationalisation.

Ord Minnett views the shift to fewer brands as a structural change in the US retail channel, providing selected suppliers with greater shelf space and stronger positioning.

The new arrangement is seen as a competitive advantage for Breville. Ord Minnett upgrades to Buy from Accumulate and retains a target price of \$37.20.

EVOLUTION MINING LIMITED ((EVN)) Upgrade to Accumulate from Hold by Ord Minnett .B/H/S: 2/2/2

Ord Minnett notes gold equities are down -31% since the Middle East conflict began, having underperformed the US dollar gold price by -20%.

The broker suggests this reflects the broader equity sell-off and profit-taking but performance has also been affected by company specific factors and margin concerns.

Investors need to be selective and focus their holdings on companies that have valuation appeal, strong fundamentals and near-term cash flow, Ord Minnett advises.

Given the pullback, the broker upgrades Evolution Mining to Accumulate from Hold. Target is \$13.10 and unchanged.

GENESIS MINERALS LIMITED ((GMD)) Upgrade to Buy from Accumulate by Ord Minnett .B/H/S: 5/0/0

Ord Minnett notes gold equities are down -31% since the Middle East conflict began, having underperformed the US dollar gold price by -20%.

The broker suggests this reflects the broader equity sell-off and profit-taking but performance has also been affected by company specific factors and margin concerns.

Investors need to be selective and focus their holdings on companies that have valuation appeal, strong fundamentals and near-term cash flow, Ord Minnett advises.

Given the pullback, the broker upgrades Genesis Minerals to Buy from Accumulate. Target is steady at \$8.15.

LIFESTYLE COMMUNITIES LIMITED ((LIC)) Upgrade to Buy from Neutral by Citi .B/H/S: 1/3/0

Citi upgrades its rating for Lifestyle Communities to Buy from Neutral after media reports of Hometown Australia acquiring 11.9m shares from HMC Capital ((HMC)), representing around a 9.7% stake.

Shares were purchased at \$4.90 each, an 8% premium to the previous close of \$4.53.

Citi expects the transaction will reignite merger and acquisition discussion around Lifestyle Communities, noting uncertainty remains around margin recovery following recent results.

Unchanged target of \$5.60.

LIONTOWN LIMITED ((LTR)) Upgrade to Accumulate from Hold by Ord Minnett and Upgrade to Hold from Trim by Morgans .B/H/S: 3/3/0

Liontown Resources reported a first-half FY26 loss smaller-than-expected by Ord Minnett as lower tax charges and inventory movements offset higher depreciation.

FY26 production guidance for Kathleen Valley was reaffirmed, targeting a 1.5Mtpa run rate by the March quarter and 2.8Mtpa by June 2027.

Management forecasts unit costs at between -\$855-1045 per tonne versus the broker's expectation of -\$934 as underground ore replaces open pit feed.

The FY26 profit forecast is trimmed by -12% and FY27-FY28 estimates by -2-3% after incorporating higher finance and operating costs.

Ord Minnett upgrades to Accumulate from Hold and retains a target price of \$1.90.

Liontown delivered a first half result that was better than Morgans expected.

The balance sheet strengthened materially following the equity raising and conversion of the LG Energy Solution notes. Commentary highlights the company now has improved financial flexibility as it ramps up production at Kathleen Valley.

A refresh of the 4mtpa expansion study has started and should be achieved through a combination of plant debottlenecking and accessing additional underground stopes.

Morgans upgrades to Hold from Trim, assessing the stock is trading at fair value and the shares have been weak in recent times following the LGES decision to sell down its full stake.

Target is reduced to \$1.80 from \$2.00, after updating modelling.

NEW HOPE CORPORATION LIMITED ((NHC)) Upgrade to Neutral from Underperform by Macquarie and Upgrade to Hold from Sell by Bell Potter .B/H/S: 0/4/0

Macquarie raises its target for New Hope to \$4.80 from \$4.40 and upgrades to Neutral from Underperform. The market backdrop has improved due to increased demand for seaborne thermal coal, substituting natural gas on Qatar's LNG outage, the analyst explains.

Interim results (July year end) delivered earnings (EBITDA) in line with the broker's forecast, while profit missed due to higher depreciation. A 10c dividend exceeded the consensus expectation by circa 70%.

The broker highlights improved exposure to thermal coal prices at spot, with earnings and free cash flow (FCF) forecast to rise sharply into FY27 if current pricing persists.

No material upgrades to longer-term forecasts have been applied, though near-term earnings benefit from stronger coal pricing and operational recovery catalysts, the analyst explains.

New Hope posted first half underlying earnings of \$215m and statutory net profit of \$54m, which were below Bell Potter's estimates. A \$0.10 fully franked interim dividend was declared.

The broker notes conflict in the Middle East has raised the alarm over energy security and driven higher prices across the energy commodity complex. The spot thermal coal price is US\$132/t, up 23% compared with the December quarter average.

The broker upgrades to Hold from Sell, noting the company's low-cost operations will continue to underpin margins through the coal price cycle. Target is raised to \$4.50 from \$4.10.

PALADIN ENERGY LIMITED ((PDN)) Upgrade to Outperform from Neutral by Macquarie .B/H/S: 4/1/1

Post the Paladin Energy share price pullback and site visit, Macquarie upgrades the stock to Outperform from Neutral, with target price lowered by -4% to \$13.50.

EPS forecasts are lowered by -30% for FY26 and -37% for FY27 due to more elevated operating cost assumptions at Langer Heinrich.

The U308 producer is viewed as well positioned to beat FY26 production guidance and Patterson Lake South is making good progress on the development, with provincial approval recently received.

At current levels, the stock is seen offering value at an implied uranium price of US\$77.20/lb and is the top pick for ASX-exposure to uranium producers.

PERSEUS MINING LIMITED ((PRU)) Upgrade to Buy from Accumulate by Ord Minnett .B/H/S: 3/1/0

Perseus Mining has sold its Meyas Sand gold project in Sudan to China's Matrix Resources for what Ord Minnett asserts is a "strong" price of US\$260m.

This is more than double the value previously ascribed to the asset given the difficulties in a country that is enduring a continuing civil war.

Ord Minnett raises FY26 estimates for EPS by 14.8% to incorporate the net sale proceeds, while trimming FY27 and FY28 by -2.2% and -2.5%, respectively.

The broker considers the company one of the best options to gain exposure to the African gold industry and the divestment boosts the quality of its portfolio.

Target is raised to \$6.80 from \$6.50 and the rating is upgraded to Buy from Accumulate.

REGION GROUP ((RGN)) Upgrade to Buy from Sell by UBS .B/H/S: 3/2/1

UBS recommends ongoing caution on the Australian real estate sector in the near term, citing likely consensus earnings downgrades and persistent inflation risks.

The broker notes oil prices could rise to US\$120-150/bbl if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed for 2-6 weeks.

The current environment is thought to echo 2022, when REITs fell around -30% peak-to-trough amid the Ukraine energy crisis and a 300bps rise in the cash rate.

Providing some offset, the starting point for the cash rate in this tightening cycle is more restrictive at 3.6% versus 0.1%, while valuations are considered undemanding, the analysts note.

Across coverage, the broker lowers its price targets by -7% on average.

UBS is cautious on residential exposures and remains positive on retail REITs.

Region Group's target rises by 9.1% to \$2.40. Rating upgraded to Buy from Sell. The broker highlights defensive characteristics with hedging of 87% of 70% for FY27 and FY28, respectively. The ongoing buyback is also seen as supportive.

SIMS LIMITED ((SGM)) Upgrade to Hold from Sell by Ord Minnett .B/H/S: 2/1/1

Ord Minnett raises its target for Sims to \$20.00 from \$18.20 and upgrades to Hold from Sell after management raised FY26 earnings (EBIT) to \$350m-\$400m, driven by strong performance in Sims Lifecycle Services (SLS).

Second-half earnings for SLS are expected to rise more than six-fold year-on-year, supported by firm pricing for second-hand Double Data Rate 4 Random Access Memory (DDR4).

Stronger metals prices in North America support upgrades to the broker's earnings forecasts, while Australasian ferrous markets remain subdued.

SONIC HEALTHCARE LIMITED ((SHL)) Upgrade to Neutral from Sell by Citi .B/H/S: 3/4/0

Citi lowers its target for Sonic Healthcare to \$21.50 from \$22.00 after adjusting for exchange rate movements. The rating is upgraded to Neutral from Sell given a more balanced risk/reward scenario, in the broker's view.

While Australian pathology volumes in January appear slightly lower year-on-year, Sonic outperformed the broader market in 1H26, the analyst highlights.

Ongoing concerns around US operations and persistent group cost pressures are noted with further downside risks not ruled out.

TREASURY WINE ESTATES LIMITED ((TWE)) Upgrade to Hold from Lighten by Ord Minnett .B/H/S: 0/4/2

Ord Minnett upgrades Treasury Wine Estates to Hold from Lighten, having reviewed its modelling.

This resulted from increased debt assumptions as the company deals with tight grape supply in both the US and Australia. Management has signalled the contracts are relatively inflexible.

The broker expects inventory will increase again in FY27 before scaling down in following years. This assessment drives increases in financial debt assumptions over the next three fiscal years.

Ord Minnett acknowledges the business is some distance from breaching banking covenants, as operating earnings would have to fall a further -27% in FY26 to instigate a covenant breach, considered unlikely. Target is \$4.50.

Downgrade

BWP TRUST ((BWP)) Downgrade to Neutral from Buy by UBS .B/H/S: 1/2/0

UBS recommends ongoing caution on the Australian real estate sector in the near term, citing likely consensus earnings downgrades and persistent inflation risks.

The broker notes oil prices could rise to US\$120-150/bbl if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed for 2-6 weeks.

The current environment is thought to echo 2022, when REITs fell around -30% peak-to-trough amid the Ukraine energy crisis and a 300bps rise in the cash rate.

Providing some offset, the starting point for the cash rate in this tightening cycle is more restrictive at 3.6% versus 0.1%, while valuations are considered undemanding, the analysts note.

Across coverage, the broker lowers its price targets by -7% on average.

UBS is cautious on residential exposures and remains positive on retail REITs.

For BWP Trust, the rating is downgraded to Neutral from Buy on relative valuation and the target falls by -28c to \$3.89.

IMMUTEP LIMITED ((IMM)) Downgrade to Speculative Hold from Speculative Buy by Bell Potter .B/H/S: 1/1/0

Immutep's lead drug, Efti, has failed the futility analysis in its global phase 3 trial for non-small cell lung cancer.

The analysis has indicated the risk/benefit profile did not meet the pre-defined threshold at this interim time and therefore it is futile to continue the trial.

Bell Potter finds this "bitterly disappointing" and a "surprising outcome" considering the strength of the phase 1 and phase 2 data.

The failure of the trial makes it near impossible for any further development prospects for Efti in other indications, although the company will continue to review data.

The broker downgrades to a Speculative Hold rating from a Speculative Buy rating. Target is reduced to \$0.07 from \$0.65.

QUBE HOLDINGS LIMITED ((QUB)) Downgrade to Neutral from Buy by Citi .B/H/S: 0/3/0

Citi upgrades the Qube Holdings target price to \$5.15 from \$4.90 and downgrades the stock to Neutral from Buy.

SCENTRE GROUP ((SCG)) Downgrade to Sell from Neutral by UBS .B/H/S: 2/2/1

UBS recommends ongoing caution on the Australian real estate sector in the near term, citing likely consensus earnings downgrades and persistent inflation risks.

The broker notes oil prices could rise to US\$120-150/bbl if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed for 2-6 weeks.

The current environment is thought to echo 2022, when REITs fell around -30% peak-to-trough amid the Ukraine energy crisis and a 300bps rise in the cash rate.

Providing some offset, the starting point for the cash rate in this tightening cycle is more restrictive at 3.6% versus 0.1%, while valuations are considered undemanding, the analysts note.

Across coverage, the broker lowers its price targets by -7% on average.

UBS is cautious on residential exposures and remains positive on retail REITs.

For Scentre Group, the rating is downgraded to Sell from Neutral, reflecting elevated interest rate risk with gearing (including subordinated notes) around 38% and hedging declining to 38% by FY27. Target falls by -14.6% to \$3.50.

STOCKLAND ((SGP)) Downgrade to Equal-weight from Overweight by Morgan Stanley .B/H/S: 3/2/0

Morgan Stanley downgrades Stockland to Equal-weight from Overweight in the face of a slowing residential market and potential downward earnings revisions. Target price is lowered to \$5.50 from \$6.60.

The analyst reiterates an Equal-weight rating on Mirvac ((MGR)). Target unchanged at \$2.40.

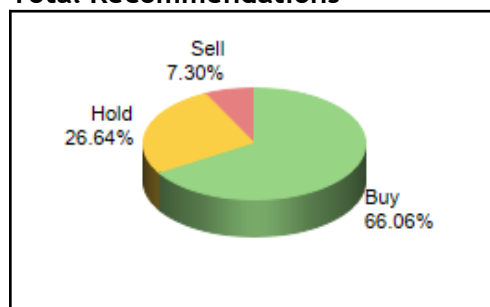
The downgrade in Stockland is due to weaker sentiment around higher RBA rates and the potential removal of CGT discounts for property investors, which could weigh on buyer sentiment.

Price to earnings ratings for both stocks remain above the 2018/22 troughs, albeit the stocks' valuations have de-rated by around -20% in the last 6-7 months. Value is there but not considered as "convincing".

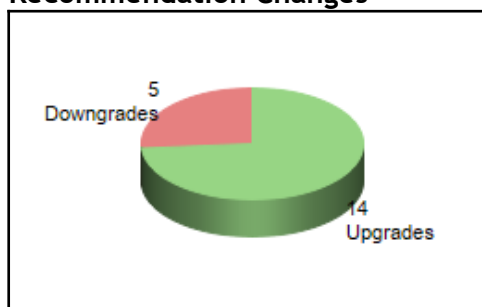
Morgan Stanley expects just 7,956 lot settlements in FY27 for Stockland, from 8,110, with consensus at 8,580 lots. FY27/FY28 funds from operations forecasts fall around -3%.

Industry View: In-Line.

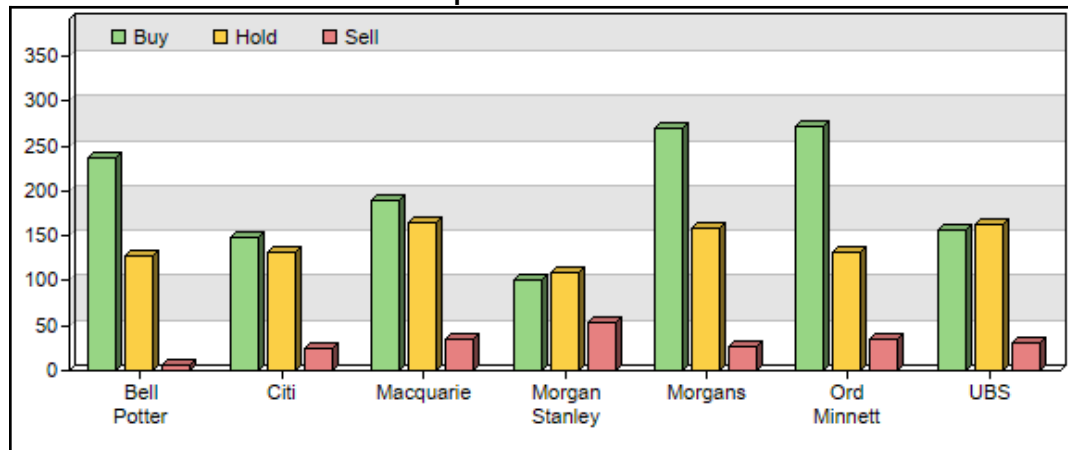
Total Recommendations



Recommendation Changes



Broker Recommendation Breakup



Broker Rating

Order Upgrade	Company	New Rating	Old Rating	Broker
1	BREVILLE GROUP LIMITED	Buy	Buy	Ord Minnett
2	EVOLUTION MINING LIMITED	Buy	Neutral	Ord Minnett
3	GENESIS MINERALS LIMITED	Buy	Buy	Ord Minnett
4	LIFESTYLE COMMUNITIES LIMITED	Buy	Neutral	Citi
5	LIONTOWN LIMITED	Neutral	Sell	Morgans
6	LIONTOWN LIMITED	Buy	Neutral	Ord Minnett
7	NEW HOPE CORPORATION LIMITED	Neutral	Sell	Macquarie
8	NEW HOPE CORPORATION LIMITED	Neutral	Sell	Bell Potter
9	PALADIN ENERGY LIMITED	Buy	Neutral	Macquarie
10	PERSEUS MINING LIMITED	Buy	Neutral	Ord Minnett
11	REGION GROUP	Buy	Sell	UBS

12	SIMS LIMITED	Neutral	Sell	Ord Minnett
13	SONIC HEALTHCARE LIMITED	Neutral	Sell	Citi
14	TREASURY WINE ESTATES LIMITED	Neutral	Sell	Ord Minnett
Downgrade				
15	BWP TRUST	Neutral	Buy	UBS
16	IMMUTEP LIMITED	Neutral	Buy	Bell Potter
17	QUBE HOLDINGS LIMITED	Neutral	Buy	Citi
18	SCENTRE GROUP	Sell	Neutral	UBS
19	STOCKLAND	Neutral	Buy	Morgan Stanley

Target Price

Positive Change Covered by at least 3 Brokers

Order	Symbol	Company	New Target	Previous Target	Change	Recs
1	SGM	SIMS LIMITED	22.075	20.450	7.95%	4
2	VEA	VIVA ENERGY GROUP LIMITED	2.608	2.445	6.67%	4
3	PMT	PMET RESOURCES INC	0.807	0.757	6.61%	3
4	NHC	NEW HOPE CORPORATION LIMITED	4.663	4.420	5.50%	4
5	PDN	PALADIN ENERGY LIMITED	13.067	12.458	4.89%	6
6	PNR	PANTORO GOLD LIMITED	6.670	6.393	4.33%	4
7	WGX	WESTGOLD RESOURCES LIMITED	9.500	9.125	4.11%	3
8	MI6	MINERALS 260 LIMITED	1.075	1.033	4.07%	4
9	PLS	PLS GROUP LIMITED	5.029	4.850	3.69%	7
10	QUB	QUBE HOLDINGS LIMITED	5.167	5.083	1.65%	3

Negative Change Covered by at least 3 Brokers

Order	Symbol	Company	New Target	Previous Target	Change	Recs
1	IPD	IMPEDIMED LIMITED	0.043	0.067	-35.82%	3
2	360	LIFE360 INC	32.300	37.300	-13.40%	5
3	NST	NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LIMITED	28.200	32.183	-12.38%	6
4	CYL	CATALYST METALS LIMITED	13.697	14.920	-8.20%	3
5	SKO	SERKO LIMITED	3.915	4.215	-7.12%	4
6	SGP	STOCKLAND	5.734	6.122	-6.34%	5
7	OBM	ORA BANDA MINING LIMITED	1.850	1.975	-6.33%	3
8	MAF	MA FINANCIAL GROUP LIMITED	11.280	11.895	-5.17%	3
9	PFP	PROPEL FUNERAL PARTNERS LIMITED	5.583	5.883	-5.10%	3
10	GDG	GENERATION DEVELOPMENT GROUP LIMITED	6.893	7.234	-4.71%	6

Earnings Forecast

Positive Change Covered by at least 3 Brokers

Order	Symbol	Company	New EF	Previous EF	Change	Recs
1	VEA	VIVA ENERGY GROUP LIMITED	25.033	16.700	49.90%	4
2	XYZ	BLOCK INC	518.732	358.445	44.72%	3
3	OBM	ORA BANDA MINING LIMITED	13.350	10.700	24.77%	3
4	SKO	SERKO LIMITED	-4.976	-5.632	11.65%	4
5	CYL	CATALYST METALS LIMITED	88.467	79.700	11.00%	3
6	SGM	SIMS LIMITED	94.500	86.167	9.67%	4
7	WGX	WESTGOLD RESOURCES LIMITED	81.733	76.100	7.40%	3
8	PNR	PANTORO GOLD LIMITED	53.875	52.167	3.27%	4
9	XRO	XERO LIMITED	115.159	111.795	3.01%	6
10	CNI	CENTURIA CAPITAL GROUP	13.750	13.500	1.85%	5

Negative Change Covered by at least 3 Brokers

Order	Symbol	Company	New EF	Previous EF	Change	Recs
1	LOT	LOTUS RESOURCES LIMITED	-17.400	-10.567	-64.66%	3
2	29M	29METALS LIMITED	0.500	0.800	-37.50%	3
3	NHC	NEW HOPE CORPORATION LIMITED	16.900	26.950	-37.29%	4
4	LTR	LIONTOWN LIMITED	1.875	2.875	-34.78%	6

5	NST	NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LIMITED	133.440	154.740	-13.77%	6
6	DYL	DEEP YELLOW LIMITED	-2.767	-2.600	-6.42%	4
7	ALX	ATLAS ARTERIA	34.300	35.000	-2.00%	5
8	REA	REA GROUP LIMITED	474.375	483.680	-1.92%	7
9	CIP	CENTURIA INDUSTRIAL REIT	18.133	18.467	-1.81%	6
10	GQG	GQG PARTNERS INC	22.802	23.200	-1.72%	5

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: Risk Off Frustrates

A general retreat in global risk appetite frustrated uranium sellers into lower prices last week.

By Rudi Filapek-Vandyck

TradeTech's weekly U3O8 spot price lost another -US\$2.80 to US\$82.70/lb last week as global turbulence gripped financial markets.

The industry consultant registered four spot transactions, while term markets remained quiet as a mouse (so to speak).

Friday's new price is still 0.9% higher than at the start of the calendar year, and up 29% from a year ago, but down from two failed attempts to price uranium sustainably above US\$100/lb.

According to TradeTech, there's no shortage of buyers' interest, in particular as every successful deal delivered a lower price, but sellers kept withdrawing from the market, in a pattern that kept repeating throughout the week.

The consultant has noted common frustration among sellers and investors, as expectations continue to build for higher prices, but a general risk-off sentiment across financial markets is disrupting such scenario.

SPUT, you did it again!

One indicator that is closely watched by market participants is the share price of the Sprott Physical Uranium Trust (SPUT), widely regarded as a proxy for spot uranium demand.

As global turmoil hit equity markets, the SPUT share price was hit too, which, TradeTech suggests, impacted on overall appetite to conclude transactions in the spot uranium market.

SPUT reportedly holds 79.9m pounds U3O8 and \$108.7m in cash.

Against this backdrop, Arizona Public Service has officially notified the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission of its intent to renew the operating licenses for all three units at Palo Verde Generating Station, which could extend operations from the mid-2040s through the mid-2060s.

Palo Verde, TradeTech explains, is the largest power generator in the western USA.

The US and Japan announced a joint US\$40bn project to build small modular reactors in US states Tennessee and Alabama.

TradeTech's Mid-Term price indicator currently stands at US\$88/lb, and it's Long-Term indicator at US\$90/lb.

Fresh Research

Stockbrokers issued freshly updated research on multiple ASX-listed uranium companies during the week past, including for Boss Energy ((BOE)), NexGen Energy ((NXG)), Paladin Energy ((PDN)), and Lotus Resources ((LOT)).

UBS refreshed its positive view on **NexGen Energy** because it sees a clearer de-risking path for the Rook I uranium project than the market is currently pricing in.

The broker rates the stock Buy with a \$21.00 target, arguing construction progress, funding, contracting and licensing milestones over the next 12-18 months could help close the valuation discount.

The key debate is timing. UBS thinks the company's targeted four-year construction schedule is achievable but risky, with investors more likely to assume closer to five years, a ramp-up in 2H 2032 and normalised production from late 2033.

The broker also takes a more conservative view on production than some market forecasts, modelling steady-state sales of around 20mlb a year rather than paying for more aggressive early-year output assumptions.

UBS is equally more cautious on capital intensity. It models about -CA\$2.85bn of capex to first production, above consensus, and assumes the project will likely need a mix of debt, pre-payments and a modest equity raising to get built, with higher uranium prices helping the funding equation.

In its base case, the market is effectively valuing NexGen at around US\$85/lb uranium, below UBS's US\$100/lb assumption.

Canaccord Genuity remains positive on **Boss Energy**, retaining a Speculative Buy rating, while cutting its target price to \$2.55 from \$2.80 after the latest resource update for Gould's Dam and Jason's Deposit.

The broker's central point is the deposits are now bigger in contained pounds, but lower in grade, which reduces confidence in the value of future expansion ounces.

The updated estimates lifted Gould's to 33.1Mlb and Jason's to 12.0Mlb, but grade assumptions were reduced to 388ppm and 410ppm respectively.

Canaccord argues this reinforces the view that, like East Kalkaroo, the satellite deposits lack continuous high-grade mineralisation, so the expansion case needs to be valued more conservatively even if wider-spaced wellfield extraction may still work.

Even so, the broker remains constructive on the broader development story. Baseline and technical studies are now under way for both deposits, with state and federal approvals targeted to begin in the second half of 2026, mining licence approvals targeted within 18-24 months, and a further 6-12 months likely needed for approval of Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR).

Citi has re-iterated its Buy rating for **Paladin Energy**, while lifting its target price to \$12.80 from \$9.00.

The broker's core argument is the stock still offers upside from three linked drivers: better-than-guided production at Langer Heinrich, continued de-risking of the Patterson Lake South project in Canada, and leverage to a stronger uranium price outlook.

The near-term focus is on Langer Heinrich. Citi notes first-half FY26 production implies an annualised run-rate of about 4.6Mlb, above current FY26 guidance of 4.0-4.4Mlb.

The report argues management is probably being conservative after earlier disappointments. The broker therefore sees risk skewed to the upside if operations keep stabilising and the mine transitions fully back to mining over the coming months.

The second leg of the thesis is growth and de-risking at Patterson Lake South. Citi views recent environmental approval as an important milestone and sees the next key approval from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission as relatively low risk, leaving the project on a clearer path to commercialisation.

More broadly, the broker remains constructive on uranium, expecting tightening supply-demand balances and stronger contracting activity to support higher prices through the cycle.

Macquarie highlighted acid and diesel disruptions in the Middle East as prime risks to **Lotus Resources'** ramp up at Kayelekera as the Strait of Hormuz is the key to stabilising the supply chain of sulphuric acid.

Lotus' acid plant reconstruction is "practically complete" and pressure testing was successful, according to the report, with cold commissioning started and hot commissioning targeted for April.

First uranium is expected to ship in 2Q2026. EPS forecasts are downgraded by -171% for FY26 on higher

pre-production costs and lower U308 sales.

The stock is rated Outperform. Macquarie lowered its target price by -8% to \$2.75.

Mining sector analysts at **RBC Capital** issued a more general update on uranium, continuing to project growing uranium demand with significant nuclear capacity expansion while the corresponding supply response could be challenged due to both geopolitical and operational risks paired with a limited pipeline of Western-aligned supply longer term.

RBC currently forecasts spot prices at US\$85/lb in 2026 and 2027, with term prices projected to rise to (averages) US\$90/lb in 2026 and US\$95/lb in 2027.

RBC sees a long-term price of US\$100/lb post-2035 to incentivise new production to meet the rising demand.

Preferred uranium equities include Cameco and NexGen Energy.

The Short Report

FNarena's Short Report is based on data collected by ASIC as at March 18, 2026.

Boss Energy has fallen off the shorters' prime focus, as also illustrated by it currently being ranked seventh most shorted on the ASX.

There have been times Boss was the undisputed number one target in Australia.

Total short positions still represent 11.23% of Boss's shareholder register.

Paladin shares, with short positions of 9.84% of its capital, are currently ranked number 11.

Lotus Resources and Silex Systems follow on positions 18 and 19.

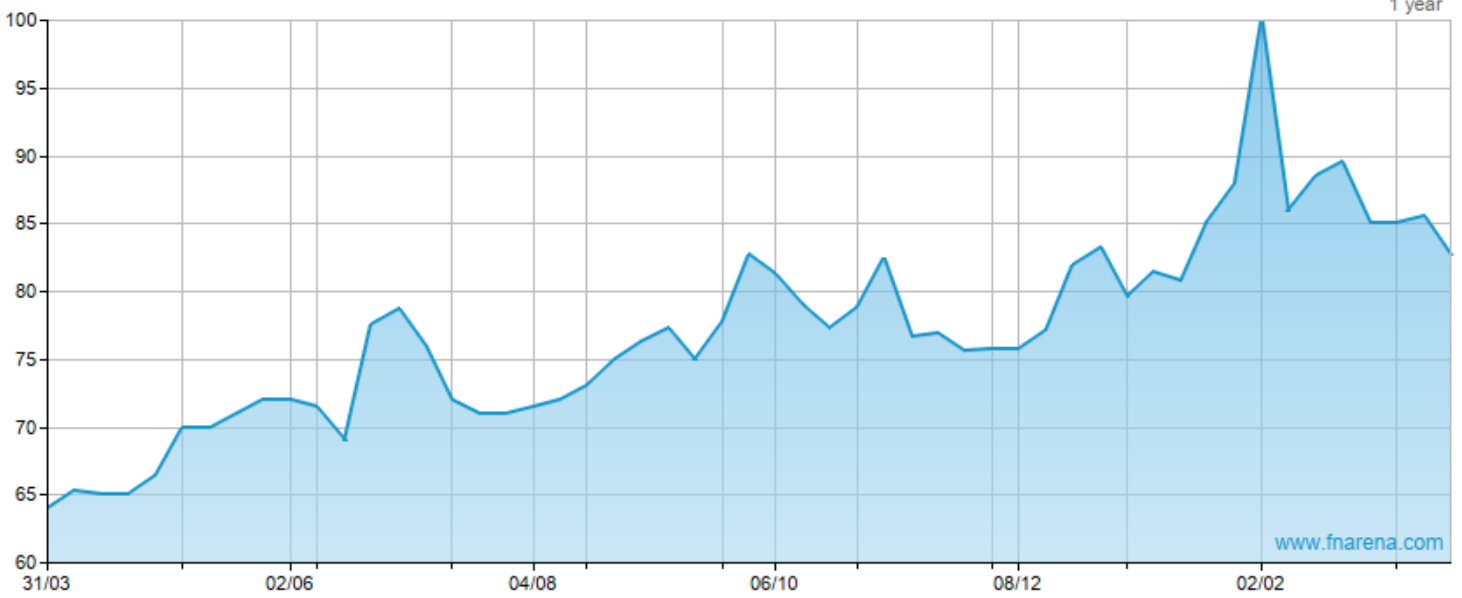
For more details (updated daily): <https://fnarena.com/index.php/analysis-data/the-short-report/>

Uranium companies listed on the ASX:

ASX CODE	DATE	LAST PRICE	WEEKLY % MOVE	52WK HIGH	52WK LOW	P/E	CONSENSUS TARGET	UPSIDE/DOWNSIDE
1AE	23/03/2026	0.0500	▼-13.33%	\$0.16	\$0.03			
AEE	23/03/2026	0.1100	▼- 8.33%	\$0.28	\$0.10			
AGE	23/03/2026	0.0300	▼-17.50%	\$0.06	\$0.02		\$0.070	▲133.3%
AKN	23/03/2026	0.0100	0.00%	\$0.01	\$0.01			
ASN	23/03/2026	0.0500	▼- 4.08%	\$0.13	\$0.04			
BKY	23/03/2026	0.4600	▼-10.34%	\$0.70	\$0.39			
BMN	23/03/2026	3.3200	▼- 7.97%	\$5.25	\$1.76		\$5.550	▲67.2%
BOE	23/03/2026	1.4800	▼- 8.44%	\$4.75	\$1.07	14.7	\$1.600	▲8.1%
BSN	23/03/2026	0.0300	▼- 3.03%	\$0.08	\$0.01			
C29	23/03/2026	0.0300	▼-16.67%	\$0.06	\$0.01			
CXO	23/03/2026	0.2100	▼-11.36%	\$0.36	\$0.06		\$0.350	▲66.7%
CXU	23/03/2026	0.0200	▼-16.67%	\$0.04	\$0.01			
DEV	23/03/2026	0.1700	▼-13.51%	\$0.28	\$0.07			
DYL	23/03/2026	1.6300	▼- 6.10%	\$2.97	\$0.75	-59.3	\$2.290	▲40.5%
EL8	23/03/2026	0.2600	▼-13.79%	\$0.50	\$0.20			
HAR	23/03/2026	0.1200	▲ 4.17%	\$0.25	\$0.05			
I88	23/03/2026	0.1200	0.00%	\$0.76	\$0.08			
KOB	23/03/2026	0.0400	▼-10.00%	\$0.09	\$0.03			

LAM	23/03/2026	0.7500	▼ - 7.23%	\$0.93	\$0.56		
LOT	23/03/2026	1.2200	▼ - 13.65%	\$3.20	\$1.20	\$3.450	▲ 182.8%
MEU	23/03/2026	0.0900	▼ - 20.87%	\$0.19	\$0.03		
NXG	23/03/2026	15.8500	▼ - 6.26%	\$20.47	\$6.44	-13165.3	▲ 27.1%
ORP	23/03/2026	0.0600	▼ - 11.29%	\$0.07	\$0.02		
PDN	23/03/2026	10.3200	▼ - 10.04%	\$14.44	\$3.93	124.2	▲ 26.6%
PEN	23/03/2026	0.5300	▼ - 6.90%	\$1.08	\$0.28		
SLX	23/03/2026	4.8700	▼ - 3.80%	\$10.85	\$2.28		
TOE	23/03/2026	0.4900	▼ - 6.86%	\$0.63	\$0.15		
WCN	23/03/2026	0.0200	▼ - 6.25%	\$0.04	\$0.01		

Uranium - U3O8



wp market price history u3o8

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WEEKLY REPORTS

The Short Report - 26 Mar 2026

FN Arena's weekly update on short positions in the Australian share market.
See **Guide** further below (for readers with full access).

Summary:

Week Ending March 19th, 2026 (most recent data available through ASIC).

10%+

DMP 15.76%
TLX 15.52%
TWE 15.49%
PNV 13.80%
GYG 13.61%
NAN 11.70%
BOE 11.45%
FLT 10.70%
IEL 10.23%
LYC 10.17%

9.0-9.9%

PDN 9.76%
BAP 9.42%
IPH 9.41%
NXT 9.31%

In: **BAP**
Out: **DRO, SLX**

8.0-8.9%

LOT 8.79%
PWH 8.72%
MMS 8.57%
ZIP 8.53%
BRG 8.50%
CTD 8.47%
DGT 8.38%
SLX 8.37%
MSB 8.34%
CU6 8.31%
IPX 8.30%

ILU 8.24%
ING 8.23%
CUV 8.23%
LIC 8.00%

In: LOT, SLX, MSB, CU6, IPX
Out: BAP

7.0-7.9%

CAT 7.93%
BPT 7.90%
DYL 7.56%
EDV 7.01%

In: EDV
Out: IPX, MSB, CU6, LOT, PLS, KAR

6.0-6.9%

PLS 6.96%
RIO 6.57%
HMC 6.54%
MIN 6.38%
HLS 6.17%
ACL 6.12%
PNI 6.05%
KAR 6.03%
CAR 6.00%

In: PLS, HLS, PNI, KAR, CAR
Out: EDV, NSR

5.0-5.9%

WTC 5.70%
RHC 5.54%
REA 5.53%
ORA 5.32%
JIN 5.23%
GMD 5.18%
NHC 5.09%
MYR 5.08%

In: ORA, NHC, MYR
Out: CAR, ELD, AD8, ADH, RFF

ASX20 Short Positions (%)

Code	Last Week	Week Before	Code	Last Week	Week Before
ALL	0.5	0.5	NAB	1.3	1.2
ANZ	0.8	0.8	NST	1.0	1.0
BHP	1.1	1.2	QBE	0.3	0.2
BXB	0.5	0.4	RIO	6.6	6.3

CBA	1.5	1.4	TCL	0.8	0.9
COL	0.9	0.9	TLS	0.3	0.3
CSL	0.6	0.6	WBC	1.2	1.1
FMG	2.6	2.7	WDS	3.6	3.9
GMG	1.2	1.3	WES	0.4	0.3
MQG	0.6	0.7	WOW	2.3	2.3

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 FNArena unqualified as a service to subscribers. FNArena 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.

FNArena 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. FNArena 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: Harmony, Car Dealers, Pro Medicus & BHP

This week brokers assess opportunities across online lending, car dealer groups, software and the Big Australian.

- Online lender Harmony's technology and scale advantage
- Boost for car dealer groups from trade deal and tax change
- Pro Medicus growth story intact despite macro noise
- BHP's Chilean copper project progressing toward key milestones

By Mark Woodruff

Given this article's typical focus on small-cap opportunities, today's quote comes from legendary American academic and hedge fund manager Joel Greenblatt, renowned for demonstrating how market inefficiencies can reward disciplined investors:

"The less a market is followed, the greater the opportunity."

Online lender Harmony's technology and scale advantage

Moelis forecasts strong earnings expansion and returns on equity (ROI) approaching 30% for Australia and New Zealand's largest 100% consumer-direct online lender Harmony ((HMY)); market cap circa \$96m.

A strong growth outlook is highlighted underpinned by technology, funding advantages and operating leverage, with a fast credit assessment engine and speed of cash delivery remaining key competitive advantages.

The direct-to-consumer (D2C) online model is another differentiator, according to the broker, enabling fast pricing decisions and flexibility in responding to funding cost changes.

Harmony benefits from a diversified funding mix, including warehouse facilities and asset-backed securities, with most funding hedged.

Moelis explains loan durations of two to three years help manage margins across interest rate cycles, while stable credit quality has seen cash losses remain consistent at around -3.6% in recent years.

Commentary suggests one key growth driver is accelerating loan origination, supported by the rollout of the Stellare 2.0 platform. This system has improved customer acquisition and lending efficiency, contributing to a 40% increase in new customer lending in Australia in FY25.

The platform launched in New Zealand in the fourth quarter of FY25 and is expected to provide a full-year contribution in FY26.

Future growth for Harmony will be supported by entry into new verticals, particularly secured auto finance in the used vehicle segment.

Management is targeting a loan book exceeding \$900m by FY26, a rise of 8% year-on-year.

Operational efficiency is also considered a key strength.

Harmony has significantly reduced its cost-to-income ratio to 18.9% in FY25 from 31.9% in FY22, with further improvements expected as scale increases.

The platform-driven model enables repeat lending at minimal acquisition cost, supporting strong cash profit growth, with FY26 guidance recently upgraded to \$13m.

Moelis highlights management incentives are closely aligned with shareholder returns with long-term incentive structures tied to ambitious EPS growth and total shareholder return (TSR) targets.

The broker begins its research coverage this week with a Buy rating and \$1.28 target price, implying around 73% upside to the 74-cent share price at the time of writing.

Boost for car dealer groups from trade deal and tax change

Jarden assesses an incremental positive for auto dealers with high exposure to European vehicle sales from recent announcements by the Australian government.

A trade deal with Europe includes removal of the 5% import tariff along with an increase in the Luxury Car Tax (LCT) threshold for electric vehicles (EVs) to \$120,000 from \$91,000.

Noting some degree of prior speculation around these changes, the broker sees benefits for Autosports Group ((ASG)) and, to a lesser extent, Peter Warren Automotive ((PWR)).

The expected outcome are lower vehicle prices. However, it remains unclear how OEMs will approach price pass-through, whether applied broadly or varied by model and price point.

Lower prices could encourage consumers to trade up into European brands or higher-spec models, potentially driving incremental gross profit for dealers.

For Autosports Group, more than 80% of revenue is derived from European OEMs, before accounting for manufacturing origin.

Peter Warren does not disclose OEM mix, and the recent Wakeling acquisition is likely to dilute European exposure, explain the analysts, who estimate exposure below 20%.

Eagers Automotive ((APE)) also does not provide a detailed OEM breakdown, and its exposure is seen as lower again.

While the increase in the LCT EV threshold has the greatest relative impact at the higher end of the market, Jarden suggests it is unlikely to provide a material near-term tailwind for dealer groups, given rising competition from lower-priced EV entrants below the threshold.

Pro Medicus growth story intact despite macro noise

Moelis reckons near-term consensus estimates for Pro Medicus ((PME)) might be overly aggressive, especially given currency swings and contract timing quirks.

Still, the long-term story hasn't missed a beat, with strong growth expected to roll on for years.

Since the interim results release in February, the share price decline of around -6% looks macro-driven rather than fundamental, in the analysts' view.

Certainly, it's felt market concerns around artificial intelligence and noise surrounding the Iran conflict are unlikely to derail operations anytime soon.

Expensive? Yes, at around 50x FY28 earnings, but Moelis argues the valuation is supported by around 30% medium-term growth per annum.

Commentary notes two recent contracts were renewed at higher fees per transaction.

Given average contract sizes stepped up materially in 2020-21, the broker anticipates renewals incorporating

additional products will increase in value over time.

The broker's 12-month price target of \$145 remains intact. The stock is upgraded to Buy from Hold, while noting macro risks will likely continue to be an overhang in the near term.

BHP's Chilean copper project progressing toward key milestones

Barrenjoey analysts recently visited the Vicuna copper project on the Chile-Argentina border, a 50:50 joint venture between BHP Group ((BHP)) and Canada-based Lundin Mining.

Around 20km away in Northern Chile, the Caserones copper mine was also toured, offering useful context on regional operating conditions and development challenges.

Caserones is relevant mainly because it is a producing, high-altitude Chilean copper-molybdenum mine that underpins Lundin's current cash flow.

While Caserones is not part of the Vicuna joint venture, Lundin ownership creates scope for synergies via shared logistics, power, water, infrastructure and export routes through Chilean ports for concentrate produced in the Vicuna district.

Vicuna, comprising the Josemaria and Filo del Sol deposits, remains at a relatively early stage but is advancing steadily, report the analysts. Key milestones include RIGI approval expected in March 2026, a final investment decision (FID) targeted for Q4 2026, and first production anticipated around 2030.

RIGI is an Argentinian government incentive framework designed to attract large-scale investment.

Despite its high-altitude location in the Andes at 4,000-5,400 metres, the Argentine side of the project offers surprisingly favourable topography for construction, commentary explains.

Compared with the more constrained terrain at Caserones, Vicuna benefits from broader valleys that can accommodate tailings storage facilities, processing plants and supporting infrastructure.

While challenges such as strong winds and reduced productivity at altitude remain, the analysts note the project team is actively assessing and mitigating these risks.

It's felt the partnership between BHP and Lundin Mining is functioning effectively.

Lundin has led operational and early-stage development activities, Barrenjoey explains, while BHP is contributing technical expertise and procurement advantages. Notably, Vicuna is leveraging BHP's scale to secure equipment, including 150-tonne haul trucks, more efficiently.

BHP's experience delivering large-scale projects such as Spence, Jansen and South Flank is expected to support execution.

Early works are already underway, with site preparation progressing and a larger mining fleet scheduled to arrive in late 2026.

Planned capital expenditure of around -US\$800m in 2026 signals to the broker an intent to advance the project rapidly, with potential to accelerate timelines if conditions allow.

Barrenjoey values BHP Group's stake in Vicuna at US\$9.7bn, based on a long-term copper price of US\$5.00/lb, highlighting the project's strategic importance and long-term growth potential despite its early stage.

The broker maintains its 12-month target price of \$54 and Neutral rating for BHP Group.

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WEEKLY REPORTS

In Case You Missed It - BC Extra Upgrades & Downgrades - 27-03-26

A summary of the highlights from Broker Call Extra updates throughout the week past.

Broker Rating Changes (Post Thursday Last Week)

Upgrade

PRO MEDICUS LIMITED ((PME)) Upgrade to Buy from Hold by Moelis.B/H/S: 0/0/0

Moelis upgrades Pro Medicus to Buy from Hold although acknowledges macro risks will overhang the stock in the near term while the long-term outlook is unchanged with strong growth rates likely continuing for a number of years.

The broker points out the share price since the first half result has fallen a further -6%, largely related to macro events that are beyond management's control.

The report also states it is important to note this is not a cyclical business and customers are largely insulated from the impacts of higher oil prices. Target is \$145.03.

PREMIER INVESTMENTS LIMITED ((PMV)) Upgrade to Overweight from Neutral by Jarden.B/H/S: 0/0/0

Premier Investments delivered a first half result that was in line with expectations. The main issue for Jarden is whether FY26 EBIT guidance is achievable when provided so early in the half and whether Smiggle can recover.

With a new CEO for Smiggle having been announced and a renewed focus on product, the broker concludes the company can stabilise the business.

Market expectations appear low yet, while headwinds are building in terms of interest-rate hikes and petrol prices, Jarden assesses the stock is insulated with an active buyback, management alignment and net cash.

Rating is upgraded to Overweight from Neutral. Target is reduced to \$15.50 from \$16.90.

SIMS LIMITED ((SGM)) Upgrade to Neutral from Underweight by Jarden.B/H/S: 0/0/0

Sims materially upgraded FY26 guidance with group earnings (EBIT) of \$350-400m now expected, around 23% above prior consensus.

Jarden highlights a stronger Metals performance driven by North America and pricing tailwinds, alongside Sims Lifecycle Services (SLS) benefiting from elevated dynamic random access memory (DRAM) pricing.

The FY26 earnings forecasts is lifted by 50% with further increases across FY27-28, reflecting improved operating momentum.

Jarden raises its target price to \$21.50 from \$19.50 and upgrades to Neutral from Underweight.

Order	Company	New Rating	Old Rating	Broker
Upgrade				
1	PREMIER INVESTMENTS LIMITED	Buy	Neutral	Jarden
2	PRO MEDICUS LIMITED	Buy	Neutral	Moelis

Price Target Changes (Post Thursday Last Week)

	Company	Last Price	Broker	New Target	Old Target	Change
AEL	Amplitude Energy	\$1.62	Canaccord Genuity	3.00	3.65	-17.81%
ARX	Aroa Biosurgery	\$0.57	Canaccord Genuity	1.16	0.90	28.89%
BOE	Boss Energy	\$1.54	Canaccord Genuity	2.55	2.80	-8.93%
BTL	Beetaloo Energy Australia	\$0.26	Canaccord Genuity	0.45	2.60	-82.69%
BTR	Brightstar Resources	\$0.36	Canaccord Genuity	2.40	2.80	-14.29%
EBR	EBR Systems	\$0.65	Canaccord Genuity	2.43	2.48	-2.02%
FCL	Fineos Corp	\$2.41	Moelis	3.16	3.27	-3.36%
MYR	Myer	\$0.31	Canaccord Genuity	0.73	0.79	-7.59%
PME	Pro Medicus	\$119.50	Moelis	145.03	141.04	2.83%
PMV	Premier Investments	\$12.58	Jarden	15.50	16.90	-8.28%
SGLLV	Ricegrowers	\$0.00	Canaccord Genuity	18.70	16.40	14.02%
			Research as a Service (RaaS)	18.20	19.10	-4.71%
SGM	Sims	\$20.40	Jarden	21.50	19.50	10.26%
TLS	Telstra Group	\$5.31	Jarden	5.05	4.95	2.02%
	Company	Last Price	Broker	New Target	Old Target	Change

More Highlights

ALL ARISTOCRAT LEISURE LIMITED

Gaming - Overnight Price: \$45.61

Jarden rates ((ALL)) as Buy (1) -

Jarden highlights a growing North American legislative pipeline supporting multi-year earnings upside for Aristocrat Leisure. It's felt expanding addressable markets and regulatory complexity reinforce structural barriers to entry, benefiting incumbent operators.

The broker notes progress across land-based gaming, iGaming and iLottery, with new state openings and capacity additions underpinning growth opportunities.

Competitive positioning remains strong, in the analysts' view, given proprietary content and regulatory moats, limiting disruption risks and supporting long-term earnings visibility.

The \$68 target and Buy rating are maintained.

This report was published on March 24, 2026.

Target price is **\$68.00** Current Price is **\$45.61** Difference: **\$22.39**

If **ALL** meets the Jarden target it will return approximately **49%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

Current consensus price target is **\$67.31**, suggesting upside of **44.9%**(ex-dividends)

The company's fiscal year ends in September.

Forecast for FY26:

Jarden forecasts a full year **FY26** dividend of **105.00** cents and EPS of **260.30** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **2.30%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **17.52**.

How do these forecasts compare to market consensus projections?

Current consensus EPS estimate is **260.4**, implying annual growth of **13.6%**.

Current consensus DPS estimate is **95.4**, implying a prospective dividend yield of **2.1%**.
Current consensus EPS estimate suggests the PER is **17.8**.

Forecast for FY27:

Jarden forecasts a full year **FY27** dividend of **115.00** cents and EPS of **286.50** cents.
At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **2.52%**.
At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **15.92**.

How do these forecasts compare to market consensus projections?

Current consensus EPS estimate is **292.1**, implying annual growth of **12.2%**.
Current consensus DPS estimate is **106.0**, implying a prospective dividend yield of **2.3%**.
Current consensus EPS estimate suggests the PER is **15.9**.

Market Sentiment: **1.0**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

AUE AURUM RESOURCES LIMITED

Gold & Silver - Overnight Price: \$0.53

Canaccord Genuity rates ((AUE)) as Speculative Buy (1) -

Perseus Mining ((PRU)) has invested -\$23.7m in Aurum Resources for a 9.9% stake.

Canaccord Genuity considers the investment strategically significant as it highlights potential synergies between Perseus' Sissingue operation and Bagoé tenure with the Boundiali gold project in northern Cote d'Ivoire.

The company has secured \$28.8m in a strategic placement of 48m shares at \$0.60 each, strengthening its balance sheet to over \$60m in cash.

Overall, the broker believes the capital raising endorses the project and the Perseus investment materially de-risks the development pathway. Speculative Buy rating and \$1.55 target.

This report was published on March 23, 2026.

Target price is **\$1.55** Current Price is **\$0.53** Difference: **\$1.025**

If **AUE** meets the Canaccord Genuity target it will return approximately **195%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

BTL BEETALOO ENERGY AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Energy - Overnight Price: \$0.25

Research as a Service (RaaS) rates ((BTL)) as No Rating (-1) -

Beetaloo Energy Australia explores for gas in the Northern Territory and with the end of the wet season approaching is scheduled to return to the field to complete testing and validation works to enable the mobilisation and construction of the Carpentaria gas plant.

Research as a Service (RaaS) would not be surprised if the production opportunity accelerates once field performance is better defined. While acknowledging that "not everything moves in a straight line" first gas by late 2026 appears possible.

The broker welcomes the impending completion of the Tamboran Resources ((TBN)) farm-out process, delivering an initial resource price benchmark.

Valuation ranges are \$0.81-1.16 with the midpoint at \$0.89.

Research as a Service (RaaS) research doesn't carry any targets, ratings or recommendations. Investors can draw conclusions from valuations and commentary.

This report was published on March 19, 2026.

Target price is **\$0.89** Current Price is **\$0.25** Difference: **\$0.64**

If **BTL** meets the Research as a Service (RaaS) target it will return approximately **256%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

Market Sentiment: **1.0**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FN Arena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

BRG BREVILLE GROUP LIMITED

Household & Personal Products - Overnight Price: \$26.03

Jarden rates ((BRG)) as Overweight (2) -

Jarden highlights AI and replacement cycles as potential upside drivers for IT and consumer electronics demand, despite a challenging macro backdrop. Replacement activity is expected to add 6%-9% to sales, with peak demand expected across FY26-FY27.

The broker believes OEM price increases, particularly from memory cost inflation, may support sales growth, though volume risks remain from higher prices.

Upside potential is strongest for JB Hi-Fi and Harvey Norman, according to Jarden, with AI adoption and device proliferation supporting multi-year demand growth.

The broker also expects Wesfarmers, via Officeworks, and Breville Group to benefit.

Target of \$34.90 and Overweight rating are kept for Breville Group.

This report was published on March 23, 2026.

Target price is **\$34.90** Current Price is **\$26.03** Difference: **\$8.87**

If **BRG** meets the Jarden target it will return approximately **34%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

Current consensus price target is **\$38.67**, suggesting upside of **43.0%**(ex-dividends)

The company's fiscal year ends in June.

Forecast for FY26:

Jarden forecasts a full year **FY26** dividend of **38.00** cents and EPS of **94.80** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **1.46%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **27.46**.

How do these forecasts compare to market consensus projections?

Current consensus EPS estimate is **97.7**, implying annual growth of **3.4%**.

Current consensus DPS estimate is **38.4**, implying a prospective dividend yield of **1.4%**.

Current consensus EPS estimate suggests the PER is **27.7**.

Forecast for FY27:

Jarden forecasts a full year **FY27** dividend of **44.00** cents and EPS of **106.60** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **1.69%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **24.42**.

How do these forecasts compare to market consensus projections?

Current consensus EPS estimate is **111.0**, implying annual growth of **13.6%**.

Current consensus DPS estimate is **42.5**, implying a prospective dividend yield of **1.6%**.

Current consensus EPS estimate suggests the PER is **24.4**.

Market Sentiment: **1.0**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

CNB CARNABY RESOURCES LIMITED

Mining - Overnight Price: \$0.36

Moelis rates ((CNB)) as Buy (1) -

Moelis highlights new drilling at Carnaby Resources' Trekelano deposit, confirming continuity of high-grade mineralisation and potential extension at depth.

These results support the prospect of expanding the resource and adding underground development potential below the current open pit, the analyst explains.

Commentary notes the breccia shoot is now defined over a 600m down-plunge extent, reinforcing confidence in the broader Greater Duchess project.

Management's development focus remains on advancing the feasibility study, the final investment decision (FID) and near-term production pathway supported by low capital intensity. explains Moelis.

Unchanged Buy rating and 90c target.

This report was published on March 25, 2026.

Target price is **\$0.90** Current Price is **\$0.36** Difference: **\$0.535**

If **CNB** meets the Moelis target it will return approximately **147%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges). The company's fiscal year ends in June.

Forecast for FY26:

Moelis forecasts a full year **FY26** dividend of **0.00** cents and EPS of **minus 3.30** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **minus 11.06**.

Forecast for FY27:

Moelis forecasts a full year **FY27** dividend of **0.00** cents and EPS of **0.00** cents.

Market Sentiment: **1.0**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

DUR DURATEC LIMITED

Industrial Sector Contractors & Engineers - Overnight Price: \$2.33

Shaw and Partners rates ((DUR)) as Buy (1) -

Shaw and Partners sees Duratec as an attractive way to gain Energy exposure, with a high-growth, high-margin platform targeting Australia's circa \$5bn infrastructure services market.

The Energy segment is a key earnings driver for Duratec, highlights the analyst, delivering 77% of FY25 revenue growth and sustaining a gross margin near 29% into 1H26.

Commentary posits strategic acquisitions have expanded capabilities across fabrication, remediation and decommissioning, increasing share of client spend and supporting integrated service delivery.

Shaw retains a Buy rating and target of \$2.40. Strong Tier 1 contracts and rising MSA exposure are noted, improving earnings visibility and margin stability.

This report was published on March 23, 2026.

Target price is **\$2.40** Current Price is **\$2.33** Difference: **\$0.07**

If **DUR** meets the Shaw and Partners target it will return approximately **3%** (excluding dividends, fees and

charges).

The company's fiscal year ends in June.

Forecast for FY26:

Shaw and Partners forecasts a full year FY26 dividend of **4.30** cents and EPS of **10.20** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **1.85%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **22.84**.

Forecast for FY27:

Shaw and Partners forecasts a full year FY27 dividend of **4.90** cents and EPS of **10.90** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **2.10%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **21.38**.

Market Sentiment: **0.8**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

FCL FINEOS CORPORATION HOLDINGS PLC

Cloud services - Overnight Price: \$2.40

Canaccord Genuity rates ((FCL)) as Buy (1) -

Fineos Corp has reiterated a focus on embedded AI implementation within its products, noting a substantial pipeline within existing customers as a key growth driver and emphasising improved admin productivity and reduced human error.

A medium-size contract win with an existing customer for the AdminSuite policy, billing & claims has been confirmed. Guidance is unchanged.

Canaccord Genuity notes the company's extensive industry experience in encoded industry rules, providing mission-critical software to insurance customers that are hypersensitive to reliability, strength and safety and retains a Buy rating and \$3.50 target.

This report was published on March 25, 2026.

Target price is **\$3.50** Current Price is **\$2.40** Difference: **\$1.1**

If FCL meets the Canaccord Genuity target it will return approximately **46%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

The company's fiscal year ends in December.

Forecast for FY26:

Canaccord Genuity forecasts a full year FY26 EPS of **3.16** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **76.02**.

Forecast for FY27:

Canaccord Genuity forecasts a full year FY27 EPS of **4.38** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **54.74**.

This company reports in **EUR**. All estimates have been converted into AUD by FNArena at present FX values.

Market Sentiment: **1.0**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

Moelis rates ((FCL)) as Buy (1) -

Following a platform update by Fineos Corp, Moelis notes ongoing growth in subscription revenue, with services revenue declining as the mix shifts.

The analyst observes the revenue model scales with customer volumes, while AI adoption should drive insurers

toward modern platforms.

Margin expansion is seen as a key driver, supported by cost control. Management targets 25% earnings margins by 2027 and 40% by 2029.

Currency headwinds are expected in 1H26 before easing, with ongoing client wins supporting growth momentum.

Target \$3.16. Buy.

This report was published on March 26, 2026.

Target price is **\$3.16** Current Price is **\$2.40** Difference: **\$0.76**

If FCL meets the Moelis target it will return approximately **32%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

The company's fiscal year ends in December.

Forecast for FY26:

Moelis forecasts a full year **FY26** dividend of **0.00** cents and EPS of **2.11** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **114.01**.

Forecast for FY27:

Moelis forecasts a full year **FY27** dividend of **0.00** cents and EPS of **3.33** cents.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **72.03**.

This company reports in **EUR**. All estimates have been converted into AUD by FNArena at present FX values.

Market Sentiment: **1.0**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

SGLLV RICEGROWERS LIMITED

Food, Beverages & Tobacco - Overnight Price: \$12.74

Canaccord Genuity rates ((SGLLV)) as Buy (1) -

Canaccord Genuity assesses Ricegrowers' FY26 outlook remains broadly unchanged, noting softer revenue guidance while profit growth expectations were maintained.

The broker highlights freight and distribution cost pressures, alongside currency headwinds and Middle East logistics disruption weighing on near-term performance.

It's believed longer-term growth will be supported by product innovation, market expansion and potential inorganic opportunities under the 2030 strategy.

Canaccord lowers its target price to \$18.70 from \$19.40 and retains a Buy rating.

This report was published on March 19, 2026.

Target price is **\$18.70** Current Price is **\$12.74** Difference: **\$5.96**

If **SGLLV** meets the Canaccord Genuity target it will return approximately **47%** (excluding dividends, fees and charges).

The company's fiscal year ends in April.

Forecast for FY26:

Canaccord Genuity forecasts a full year **FY26** dividend of **67.00** cents and EPS of **112.00** 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 **11.37**.

Forecast for FY27:

Canaccord Genuity forecasts a full year **FY27** dividend of **69.00** cents and EPS of **107.00** cents.

At the last closing share price the estimated dividend yield is **5.42%**.

At the last closing share price the stock's estimated Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is **11.91**.

Market Sentiment: **1.0**

All consensus data are updated until yesterday. FNArena's consensus calculations require a minimum of three sources

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