



BULLS vs BEARS

MPC Markets – Weekly edition

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MPC IN THE MEDIA

Kai Chen from MPC Markets provide detailed stock analysis on 'the' Alongside David Lane from Ord Minnett, he delivers in-depth, stock-specific insights featuring leading names such as Netwealth, Insignia Financial, SGH, Seven West Media, Breville, CSL, IAG, Ansell, Amotive, and Mineral Resources, with Audinate as the stock of the day.



RBA RATE CUT MORE ABOUT POLITICS THAN THE ECONOMY

The RBA cut rates this week by 25bps to 4.10%, however, the talk was very hawkish from the RBA Gov Michelle Bullock as she explained the move was a line ball. While inflation has fallen back into the target band, much of it has been due to the govts electricity subsidy, while food, insurance, rents and education all rising by 6%-11% over the course of the quarter. Add to this the strong employment number on Thursday, with the economy adding 44k jobs, taking the 12 month average to 46,500 per month, a whopping 50% above the 10 year average. So why cut you ask? well traditionally the RBA doesnt like to move rates close to elections and with an election due in April this year, it forced the hand of the RBA, just in case next months numbers justified a cut.



80% of our High Conviction picks beat earnings expectations this week returning more than 12% on average



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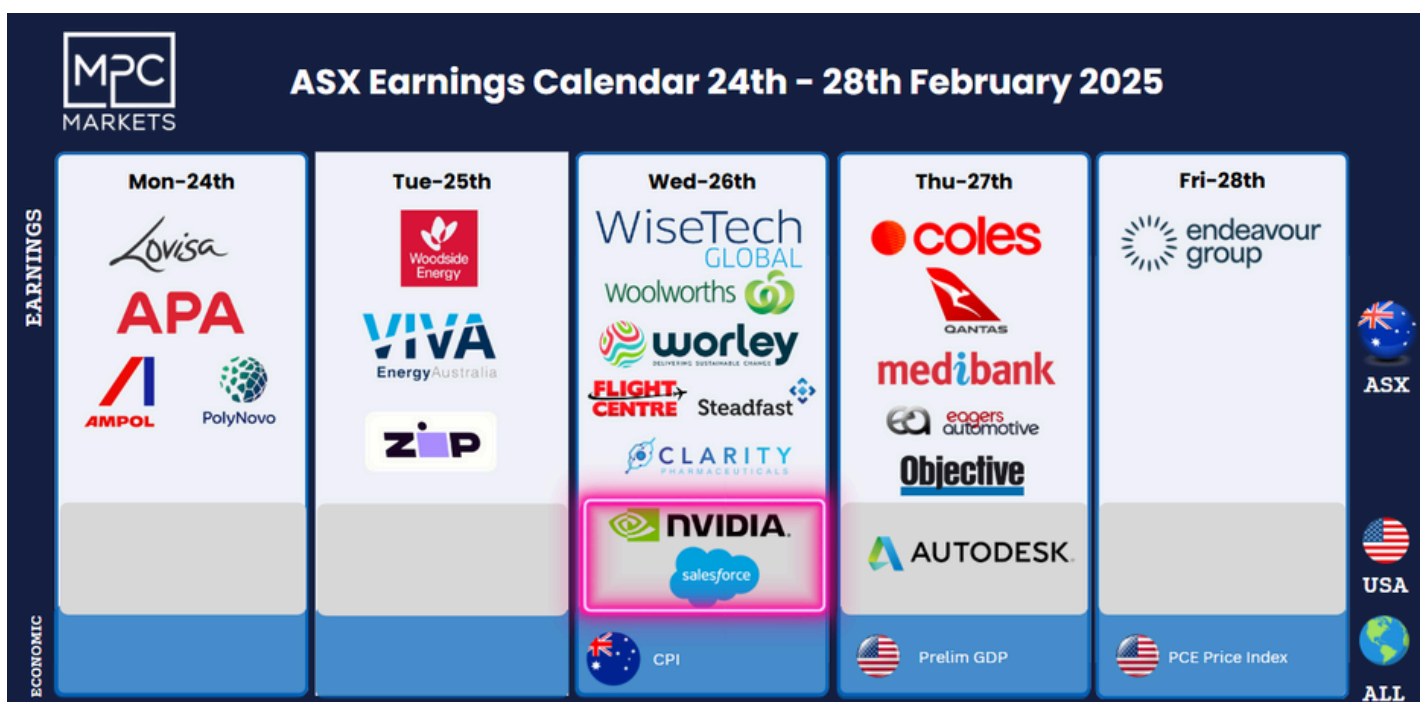
STOCKS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

National Australia Bank (NAB) Shares in Australia's major banks are under pressure as National Australia Bank (NAB) became the second major lender in three days to report weaker profits. Rising competition and higher funding costs have dented investor confidence, eroding valuations and triggering significant losses. NAB shares plunged over 7% on Wednesday, extending a \$14 billion market cap decline this week. Analysts cite concerns over rising bad debts and margin compression. Westpac's 5% drop on Monday and Bendigo & Adelaide Bank's 17% slump highlight sector-wide challenges. With earnings growth stalling, analysts remain bearish, reinforcing sell recommendations across the banking sector.

Domain (DHG) US property giant CoStar has launched a \$2.7 billion takeover bid for Domain, marking the first major test for new CEO Greg Ellis and parent company Nine Entertainment. The \$50 billion Nasdaq-listed firm acquired a 17% stake in Domain on Thursday before submitting a non-binding indicative offer. The bid, confirmed by Domain on Friday, requires Foreign Investment Review Board approval. E&P estimates that every 10¢ increase in Domain's valuation adds 3¢ per Nine share. Following the announcement, Domain shares surged 37% to \$4.28, while Nine rose 21% to \$1.74. The Domain board is now assessing CoStar's proposal.

[Get our analysis on 2 high conviction picks that rallied 14% each on earnings this week](#)





US STOCK NEWS

US Earnings and News

Alibaba Group (BABA:NYSE)

Alibaba Group reported strong financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2024. Revenue increased 8% year-over-year to RMB280,154 million (US\$38,381 million). Income from operations rose 83% to RMB41,205 million (US\$5,645 million). Net income surged 333% to RMB46,434 million (US\$6,361 million). Customer management revenue in the Taobao and Tmall Group grew 9%, while Cloud Intelligence Group revenue increased 13%. The company continued to invest in strategic initiatives while maintaining financial discipline. Alibaba also actively managed its balance sheet through non-core asset sales, share buybacks, and debt restructuring. The company remains focused on executing its strategic priorities in e-commerce and cloud computing to drive long-term growth.

Compared to the broker consensus, Alibaba outperformed expectations. The strong buy consensus aligns with Alibaba's solid performance and growth prospects in e-commerce and cloud computing.

Walmart Inc (WMT:NYSE)

Walmart fell more than 6% after unveiling an outlook for sales in its 2026 fiscal year that were below forecasts, in a potential sign that the big-box retailer may feel the impact of fading optimism among inflation-hit consumers. Analysts have widely viewed the ubiquitous chain that offers everything from retail goods to groceries as a possible bellwether for the state of the U.S. consumer during the early months of 2025. Arkansas-based Walmart said it expects annual consolidated net sales to increase in the range of 3% to 4%, versus analyst projections of a 4% uptick, according to LSEG data cited by Reuters.

Baidu (BIDU:NASDAQ)

Baidu reported mixed Q4 2024 and full-year 2024 results. Q4 revenues decreased 2% year-over-year to RMB34.1 billion (\$4.68 billion), while full-year revenues declined 1% to RMB133.1 billion (\$18.24 billion). Despite revenue dips, Q4 net income attributable to Baidu doubled to RMB5.2 billion (\$711 million), and full-year net income rose 17% to RMB23.8 billion (\$3.26 billion). AI Cloud business showed strong momentum, with Q4 revenue growth accelerating to 26% year-over-year. Apollo Go provided over 1.1 million rides in Q4, up 36% year-over-year. ERNIE handled 1.65 billion daily API calls in December, with external API calls increasing 178% quarter-over-quarter.

Baidu remains confident in its strategic AI investments driving long-term success, despite near-term pressures. The company's transformation from an internet-centric to an AI-first business continues to progress.



US STOCK NEWS

US Earnings and News



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Where to Invest in the Second Wave of AI

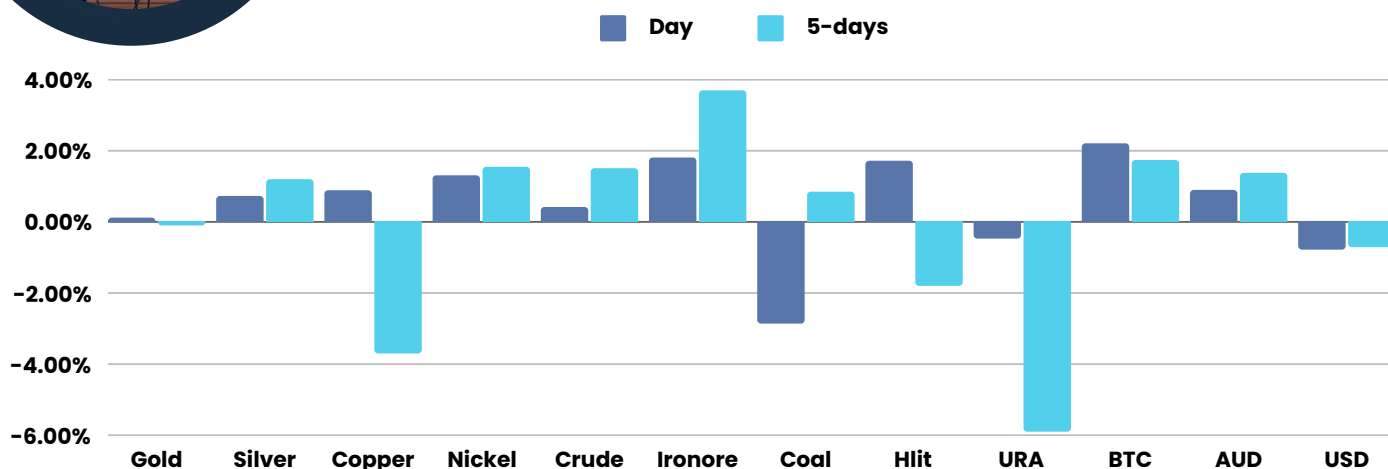
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CONFUSED BY AI TECH?
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BASICS, HISTORY AND
REAL WORLD USE
CASES OF AI?

WANT TO KNOW
WHAT COMPANIES TO
BUY TO LEVERAGE
THE SECOND WAVE
OF AI INVESTMENT?



COMMODITIES & FX



Gold: The consistent move higher for Gold continues as it printed another record high this week. There was a quick sell off at the end of last weeks trading but that was quickly absorbed by the bulls

Silver: Silver has broken out past the \$32.50 level and is currently trading around \$33. There was some suspicious price action at the end of last week as a brief break out was hammered into the close but this has been also quickly bought up by the bulls

Copper: Copper traded as high as \$4.87 at the end of last trading week before it also got sold off. The rebound has not been as strong as other precious metals and is trading just under the \$4.70 resistance level. There is support around the \$4.60 level, overall chart still looks bullish

Uranium: Uranium continues to disappoint as miners keep heading lower. Spot is trying to find a low but overall chart still looks weak

Crude Oil (WTI): Oil has found support at \$70 and is back above \$72 on the back of supply constraints. Tensions in the middle east have also returned, so will help this recent move

Iron ore: Iron Ore has recently bounced this week and is trading near the recent highs around \$110 a tonne. Miners price action also looks positive

Bitcoin: Bitcoin continues to trade sideways and is around the \$95k level. It has been about three weeks since there has been any volatility in BTC, so best to wait for a clear break before trying to find a trade

US Dollar: DXY downtrend has been confirmed as it is now trading around 106.30, which is a new lower low. Next downside target is around the 105.50 level and most interestingly it has been the JPY that has been strengthening. With JGBs now yielding 1.45% keep an eye on these levels as Japan has been the biggest liquidity source for the everything bubble



ECONOMY & POLITICS

Trump Watch- Ukraine

The relationship between President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has deteriorated significantly. Trump criticized Zelensky on social media, calling him a "dictator without elections" and blaming him for pushing the US into an unwinnable war. Zelensky responded by accusing Trump of living in a "web of disinformation".

Trump's aides have been monitoring Zelensky's public statements with growing frustration, particularly his criticism of Ukraine's exclusion from US-Russia talks in Saudi Arabia. The rift comes as Trump seeks to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Some view Trump's harsh rhetoric as a strategy to pressure European countries to increase their support for Ukraine. Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suggested that Trump's statements are meant to "shock Europeans into action".

European leaders are taking Trump's words seriously, with French President Emmanuel Macron warning that Russia poses an existential threat to Europeans. Despite the tensions, Trump portrays himself as a peacemaker, claiming that only he can negotiate an end to the war with Russia.

The situation has led to hastily arranged conferences among European leaders, and both Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer are scheduled to visit Washington. Trump's approach has raised concerns about the potential impact on long-standing US alliances in Europe and a shift towards the Kremlin in American foreign policy.

WHAT WE ARE READING



[S&P 500 falls as Walmart warning fuels economic jitters](#)



[Larry Fink says 30-year fixed rate mortgages could change Australia](#)



[US property giant lobs \\$2.7b bid for Domain after share raid](#)



TRADE OF THE WEEK

Energy One EOL:ASX

MPC Markets High Conviction Watchlist – Small-caps

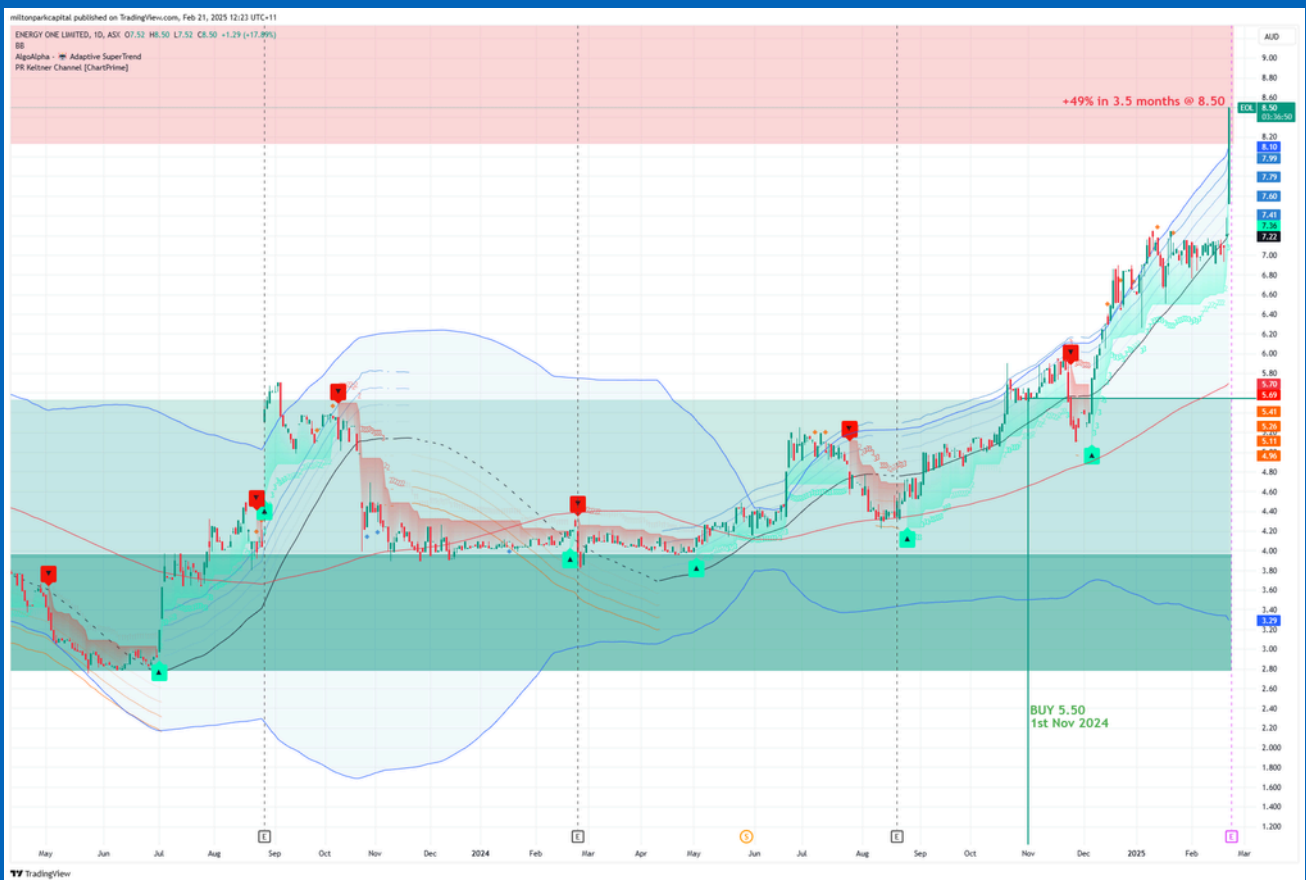
Energy One EOL:ASX

Added to High Conviction on the 1st of November 2024 @ \$5.50

Currently +49% in JUST 3.5 months

Find out BEFORE the move with MPC Members Portal

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