



HD Highlights of AAP Finance Wire Feb 18, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS Updated highlights of the AAP Finance Wire for Tuesday, Feb 18:

MELBOURNE - BHP Billiton has predicted a strong year ahead for both the global economy and itself after it announced a a surprisingly strong half year profit based on cost slashing. (BHP, with factboxes, on file)

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SYDNEY - Departing Coca Cola-Amatil boss Terry Davis hopes consumers and retailers have realised that if they don't buy Australian produce, there won't be any Australian farmers. (COCA COLA-AMATIL, with factboxes, on file)

SYDNEY - The economy is showing signs of getting stronger and that means more interest rate cuts from the central bank are unlikely. (RBA MINUTES on file)

SYDNEY - The minutes of the Reserve Bank of Australia's latest board meeting make it clear that jobseekers should not get excited about the prospect of a quick improvement in the labour market. (RBA NA on file)

SYDNEY - The maker of **Bonds** underwear is looking to hike prices by as much as 10 per cent to offset a slide in the Australian dollar. (PACIFIC BRANDS, with factboxes, on file)

SYDNEY - Seven West Media believes 2014 will be a better year for free to air television as its advertising market improves for the first time in years. (SEVEN WEST, with factboxes, on file)

PERTH - Port and rail operator Asciano will cut dozens of jobs after upgrading profit targets due to growth in its Pacific National **Coal** division. (ASCIANO on file)

SYDNEY - The trucking **company** involved in a fatal fuel tanker crash in Sydney is looking to cut hundreds of jobs, and expects to post a \$38 **million** half year loss. (MCALEESE on file)

SYDNEY - Sydney's Wet'n'Wild theme park made a profit of almost \$6 **million** in its first few weeks of operation. (VILLAGE ROADSHOW on file)

MELBOURNE - International pathology, imaging and medical centres operator Sonic Healthcare says Germany is the best place for it to acquire more pathology businesses. (SONIC on file)

MELBOURNE - Global packaging giant Amcor says solid growth in emerging markets such as **China** has contributed to a 21 per cent rise in profit from the group's continuing **operations**. (AMCOR on file)

PERTH - Steel and **mining** group Arrium expects **iron ore** prices to remain at solid levels this year as it returned to profit thanks to record **mining** earnings. (ARRIUM on file)

BRISBANE - The **company** behind the famous Hills Hoist clothes line has made a sizeable profit after selling off its steel business to focus on health and security devices (HILLS on file)

SYDNEY - It made **millions** by floating its boat. Now recently listed ferry and tour operator SeaLink Travel Group says solid profit and revenue for January has put it on track to meet the full-year profit forecast lodged on its ASX debut. (SEALINK on file)

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SYDNEY - The RBA clearly wishes it won't have to cut interest rates again, but if wishes were horses beggars would ride. (FINEX: RBA RATES on file)

See on general file:

CANBERRA - Almost 1000 Alcoa workers are assessing the personal cost of the aluminium giant's decision to close three factories but Victorian premier Denis Naphine believes Geelong will bounce back from the blow. (ALCOA)

CANBERRA - Federal Treasurer Joe Hockey insists this weekend's G20 meeting will be important for Australians as it focuses on future global growth and jobs. (G20)

Also Stocks Aust, Dollar Aust, Stockwatch and Finance Briefs on file.

AAP gfr/dmc

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