



HD Highlights of the AAP Finance Wire at 14:45 Aug 19, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS Highlights of the AAP Finance Wire for Tuesday, Aug 19:

PERTH - release of BHP Billiton's full year financial result (1700 AEST). (BHP BILLITON to come)

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SYDNEY - Insurer QBE will sell off or float businesses in three continents, including Australia, as it works to get back on track after another disappointing profit slide (QBE WRAP to come).

BRISBANE - A private **equity firm** is holding onto its **stake** in Dick Smith as the electronics retailer expects profit and sales to grow in the year ahead. (DICK SMITH WRAP to come)

MELBOURNE - Insurance Australia Group's (IAG) profit soared 59 per cent and more growth was flagged on a day struggling rival QBE announced plans to fix its balance sheet. (IAG to come)

SYDNEY - Confusion about the introduction of a \$7 co-payment for GP visits appears to be putting some people off going to the doctor and others from having pathology tests. (SONIC)

SYDNEY - Steel and **mining** group Arrium is targeting further earnings growth after lifting its full year profit 83 per cent.(ARRIUM WRAP to come)

SYDNEY - Low interest rates are likely to continue for a while yet as the Reserve Bank waits to see how Australia's current economic challenges play out. (RBA MINUTES WRAP to come)

SYDNEY - Consumers appear to have shaken off the bad news about rising unemployment and conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, with confidence rebounding last week. (CONSUMERS ANZ on file)

SYDNEY - Salmon farmer Tassal has overcome drops in fish supplies, caused by hot weather, to post a 23 per cent net profit rise to \$41.6 **million**. (TASSAL to come)

MELBOURNE - **Oil** Search increased first half net profit by 34 per cent and has forecast higher production and sales for the remainder of the year. (**OIL** SEARCH to come)

MELBOURNE - Transport and logistics provider Toll Holdings expects to make savings of \$40 **million** to \$50 **million** in the current financial year from previously announced restructuring initiatives (TOLL WRAP sent)

SYDNEY - Packaging business Amcor has lifted its full year profit more than 25 per cent and expects growth in emerging markets to help drive its earnings higher over the next year (AMCOR WRAP to come).

SYDNEY - Investors have cheered deals struck by consumer product supplier McPherson's to distribute a string of famous fragrances, including Gucci, Dolce and Gabbana and Hugo Boss. (MCPHERSONS to come)

BRISBANE - Household goods maker Hills Holdings plans to acquire more security and healthcare technology businesses after posting a healthy full year profit. (HILLS to come)

SYDNEY - More Australians are being laid to rest by funeral and cemetery operator InvoCare despite reporting a drop in profit (INVOCARE to come).

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SYDNEY - Buying an investment property is very different to buying your own home - it's not about what you like, it's about what the tenants want. (FINEX: PROPERTY on file)

See also on the general wire:

CANBERRA - Palmer United Party senator Jacqui Lambie has accused the government of refusing to listen to crossbenchers during drawn-out budget negotiations. (BUDGET)

CANBERRA - Treasurer Joe Hockey says Clive Palmer's extraordinary televised tirade against **China** is hugely damaging for Australia. (PALMER)

ADELAIDE - Arnott's has announced that 120 of its workers at its Adelaide bakery will be made redundant. (ARNOTTS)

Stocks Aust, Dollar Aust and Stockwatch on file.

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