



HD Highlights of AAP Finance Wire March 28, 2014

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HIGHLIGHTS Updated highlights of the AAP Finance Wire for Friday, March 28:

SYDNEY - Economists predict a string of interest rate increases in 2015, with the cash rate expected to rise to 3.25 per cent. (RATES PREVIEW, with factbox, on file)

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SYDNEY - Qantas has drawn the ire of frequent flyers by cutting the number of points passengers can earn on cheaper fares as part of an overhaul of its loyalty program. (QANTAS on file)

BRISBANE - The Abbott government is using public money to bribe states into selling off assets and forgoing **millions** of dollars in potential dividends, an economist says. (TREASURERS REAX on file)

BRISBANE - Travel agent Flight Centre has been hit with an \$11 **million** fine for threatening to stop selling flights on several airlines in order to offer the lowest fares. (LEGAL: FLIGHT CENTRE on file)

SYDNEY - Housing prices have climbed again after a pause in February. (HOUSE PRICES on file)

SYDNEY - The head of the **company** that owns troubled trucking group Cootes Transport has resigned, along with its chief financial officer. (MCALEESE on file)

PERTH - Andrew Forrest's Fortescue Metals Group will continue exploring for **iron ore** in the Pilbara despite lower growth forecasts for **China** and weaker **iron ore** prices. (FORTESCUE on file)

MELBOURNE - Woodside Petroleum has missed a deadline to seal a \$US2.7 **billion** (\$A2.92 **billion**) deal for a **stake** in a natural gas project in Israel. (WOODSIDE on file)

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By Garry Shilson-Josling, AAP Economist

SYDNEY - Picking a turning point is notoriously difficult for economists, and Australia is currently faced with two. (FINEX: ECONOMISTS on file)

See also on general file:

CANBERRA - Federal Treasurer Joe Hockey has struck an historic deal with all his state and territory counterparts that could see **billions** of dollars of new infrastructure built across the nation. (TREASURERS)

CANBERRA - The federal government's budget deficit is almost \$3 **billion** smaller than had been expected at this stage of the financial year but it was no thanks to the **mining** tax that raised nothing in February. (BUDGET)

CANBERRA - The federal government has asked the board of taxation to review the tax system with an aim of removing barriers that hinder small business. (BUSINESS)

Also Stocks Aust, Dollar Aust, Stockwatch, Stockwatch Week, Finance Week, Data Review and Data Preview on file.

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