

HD CSR's Half-Year Earnings Reinforced by Aluminum -- Market Talk**WC** 1,658 words**PD** 3 November 2014**ET** 10:21**SN** Dow Jones Institutional News**SC** DJDN**LA** English**CY** Copyright © 2014, Dow Jones & Company, Inc.**LP**

2321 GMT - Aluminum is likely to provide the key support for a 71% rise in CSR Ltd.'s (CSR.AU) first-half earnings before interest and tax to A\$104.9 million, says J.P. Morgan. The broker notes that premiums for aluminum ingots are up 60% when denominated in Australian dollars during the six months through September, and this will drive a near doubling in 1H divisional profit from aluminum to A\$47.5 million. J.P. Morgan sees four key focal points in the upcoming result. They include the extent to which increased residential construction activity has benefited CSR's building products division, as well as the progress of the response to the Australian consumer watchdog's Statement of Issues for the proposed brick JV with Boral (BLD.AU). Also a focal point is whether the Viridian business remains on track to break even at the end of FY15 before accounting for interest and tax. The broker rates CSR at neutral with a A\$3.45 price target. CSR last traded at A\$3.49.

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2320 GMT [Dow Jones] Macquarie Group (MQG.AU) has had a good start to the year but upside looks harder from here, says Deutsche Bank. "Whilst MQG delivered a strong 1H15 result which exceeded guidance, we find it difficult to see material upside to earnings and ROE in the near term with the strong 1H15 results aided by some positive one offs and capital intensity increasing from regulatory pressures and growth," says Deutsche Bank. "This lack of upside surprise together with a fair valuation is likely to limit near term share price performance." The broker has a A\$61.00/share price target on Macquarie, below the stock's recent trade of A\$61.78. (rebecca.thurlow@wsj.com; @beckthurlow)

2315 GMT [Dow Jones] Nymex crude is likely to consolidate near-term as long as it stays above Friday's low of \$79.55, Dow Jones technical analysis shows. The daily continuation chart is mixed as the MACD indicator is bullish, but the slow stochastic measure is turning bearish, while the five-day moving average is meandering sideways. Resistance is at \$81.27 (Friday's high); a breach would be near-term positive, exposing upside to \$82.09 (Thursday's high), then to \$82.88 (Wednesday's high, near middle 20-day Bollinger Band), \$83.15-\$83.26 band (Oct. 22 high-Oct. 21 high), \$83.48 (Oct. 20 high) and \$84.45 (Oct. 17 high). But a drop below \$79.55 would tilt the near-term view negative, targeting \$79.44 (more-than-two-year low hit Oct. 27), then the lower 20-day two-standard deviation Bollinger Band (now at \$78.14), \$77.28 (June 28, 2012 swing low) and \$74.95 (Oct. 4, 2011 swing low). December crude is down 13 cents at \$80.41/bbl on Globex. (jerry.tan@wsj.com)

2302 GMT [Dow Jones] After Macquarie Group's (MQG.AU) 35% 1H profit rise exceeded the company's own guidance, Bell Potter says Macquarie's guidance for full-year earnings remains conservative. Announcing the interim result Friday, Macquarie stuck to its previous guidance that FY15 net profit would be slightly up on the A\$1.27 billion profit recorded in FY14. After analyzing Macquarie's outlook statement for each operating group, Bell Potter says the company's guidance for the annuity-style businesses are "ultra-conservative given their respective strong underlying fundamentals" including assets under management growth, improving global equity markets and operating scale. The broker lifts its price target slightly to A\$67.00, from A\$66.40, citing stronger return-on-equity momentum in the annuity-style business, and maintains its buy rating on the stock. (rebecca.thurlow@wsj.com; @beckthurlow)

2244 GMT [Dow Jones] Australian stocks are poised for a moderately positive open, with SFE Futures up 0.1%, after U.S. stocks rallied Friday on the Bank of Japan's decision to further stimulate its economy. The news was priced in to the Australian market in the final hour of trading Friday, meaning the bourse

probably won't come close to the 1.1% jump recorded on the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Westpac also reported a strong full-year result on Monday morning, which should lend broader market support, says Chris Weston, a strategist at broker IG. Local investors will be taking cues from **Chinese** manufacturing data due later Monday. (Ross.Kelly@wsj.com)

2237 GMT [Dow Jones] Weakness in the **Chinese** official PMI report at the weekend has seen the Australian dollar open lower in Asia Monday, continuing the weakness from U.S. data strength on Friday, said ANZ in strategy note. It adds the U.S. ISM report should maintain strength keeping pressure on the Australian dollar and supporting the U.S. dollar. Locally, retail sales data Tuesday will provide the best directives for the Aussie dollar for direction. The expected range is US\$0.8630 to US\$0.8830. Now US\$0.8759. (james.glynn@wsj.com; Twitter @JamesGlynnWSJ)

2230 GMT [Dow Jones] Conditions in Australia's manufacturing sector improved in October partly in response to a sharp fall in the Australian dollar to its lowest levels seen in 2014 so far. The Australian Industry Group Australian Performance of Manufacturing Index increased by 2.9 points to 49.4 in October from September, indicating conditions were very close to stable across the sector. A reading below 50 indicates the sector contracted. The survey showed new orders, production and stock levels rose in October, with the food and beverages industry leading the increase. Still, the data suggests further recovery is needed before manufacturing becomes a strong source of job creation within the economy. AIG Chief Executive Innes Willox said "conditions remain patchy." (james.glynn@wsj.com; Twitter @JamesGlynnWSJ)

2216 GMT [Dow Jones] While the quality of Australia & New Zealand Banking Group's (ANZ.AU) earnings and lending book continues to improve, its stocks are still too expensive, says J.P. Morgan, which keeps an underweight recommendation, while lifting its price target to A\$36.39/share from A\$36.08. "We continue to expect overall revenue growth to remain subdued in the mid-single-digit range," the broker says. ANZ was last at A\$33.50. (Ross.Kelly@wsj.com)

2114 GMT [Dow Jones] Bell Potter cuts its price target for BC **Iron** (BCI.AU) by 38% to A\$1.80/share, saying investors need a healthy appetite for risk following a dreadful quarter featuring disruptions at its Western Australian mines. "With a market capitalization and enterprise value of A\$196 **million** and A\$118 **million**, respectively, BC **Iron** is trading at a similar value to other **iron ore** explorers/developers listed on the Australian Securities Exchange," the broker says. "At these levels, BC **Iron** represents cheap **iron ore** leverage, with a 10% change in our price estimates, leading to a 40-50% change to our valuation." As BC **Iron** ramps up annual production back to 6 **million** tons, the miner should generate positive operating cash flow, Bell Potter says. Still, the broker says risks to its buy call include persistently weak **iron-ore** prices and widening of pricing discounts. BCI last traded at A\$1.075. (david.winning@wsj.com; @dwinningWSJ)

2204 GMT [Dow Jones] Regis Resources's (RRL.AU) strong start to FY15 is a big step toward rebuilding confidence shaken by problems including flooding at its Western Australian mines and a hefty writedown against projects including its McPhillamys **gold** deposit in New South Wales state. Still, J.P. Morgan says it prefers the risk-reward balance offered by rivals Alacer **Gold** (AQG.AU) and OceanaGold (OGC.AU). The broker retains a neutral call with A\$1.80/share price target. Regis produced 89,000 ounces of **gold** in the three months through September, up 35% on the previous quarter, to beat J.P. Morgan's forecast for 81,000 oz. "Nonetheless, we remain concerned about the history of operational issues at Garden Well and Rosemont that have challenged our confidence in the **company's** assets," J.P. Morgan says. RRL last traded at A\$1.38. (david.winning@wsj.com; @dwinningWSJ)

2139 GMT [Dow Jones] Forsyth Barr lauds Ebos Group's (EBO.NZ) strategic **acquisition** of BlackHawk Premium Pet Care -- which provides a direct investment into the growing premium pet food category in Australia. It also grows Ebos' exposure to the animal care sector, characterized by above GDP growth and attractive margins, it says. Forsyth Barr expects the **acquisition** to be EPS accretive from FY15. However, with Ebos trading at a small PE discount to the market, it retains a neutral rating and a 12-month target price of NZ\$10.40. The share is +0.3% at NZ\$9.60 early in New Zealand. (rebecca.howard@wsj.com; Twitter: @FarroHoward)

2136 GMT [Dow Jones] The NZD/JPY remains well supported after the BOJ stunned markets by announcing an increase in the pace of its assets purchases, says BNZ FX Strategist Raiko Shareef. The pair is at 87.6475 and Shareef says BNZ is currently forecasting it will be at 0.85 by the end of the year, however, given that BNZ will have to adjust its USD/JPY forecast as a result of Friday's news, NZD/JPY will also be marked higher. (rebecca.howard@wsj.com; Twitter: @FarroHoward)

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(END) Dow Jones Newswires

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