



Tech rally lifts ASX; Qantas, Bubs climb; Equities

Australian Financial Review

January 23, 2025 Thursday

Print & First Editions

Copyright 2025 Fairfax Media Publications Pty. Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: MARKET WRAP; Pg. 26

Length: 490 words

Byline: Nicola Blackburn

Body

The sharemarket closed higher yesterday as a bumper day for technology stocks outweighed steep losses in Australian mining companies.

The S&P/ASX 200 Index rose 0.3 per cent, or 27.4 points, to 8429.8, with seven of the sharemarket's 11 sectors closing higher. The All Ordinaries climbed by a similar amount.

Technology stocks were set for a good day after Netflix posted its biggest quarterly subscription gain in history in after-hours US trading, sending the shares soaring 15.8 per cent.

That risk-on sentiment for tech accelerated in afternoon trading after US President Donald Trump announced a joint venture to fund artificial intelligence infrastructure worth billions of dollars, in a bid to strengthen the country's development of the emerging technology.

"Stocks, crypto assets and gold have continued to float higher after Donald Trump's first day," Moomoo market strategist Jessica Amir said. "Netflix showed its biggest gain in history ... zooming out, this suggests perhaps wonderful things to come from big tech stocks reporting next week."

On the ASX, WiseTech leapt 2 per cent to \$122.46, NextDC 2.2 per cent to \$16.09 and Technology One 2 per cent to \$29.80. The ASX's technology sector closed 2.4 per cent higher.

Meanwhile, news that US officials were considering a 10 per cent tariff on China triggered a sell-off in iron ore giants, which are reliant on Chinese sales. In Singapore, the benchmark iron ore futures contract fell 1 per cent to \$US103.75 a tonne. BHP dropped 2 per cent to \$39.80 and Fortescue lost 1.8 per cent at \$19.03.

Paladin Energy and Boss Energy were the index's biggest gainers. The uranium miners extended gains after Trump signalled on Tuesday that he would move quickly to impose tariffs on Canada - the US' largest foreign supplier of uranium. Paladin jumped 10.1 per cent to \$9.19 and Boss gained 14.2 per cent to \$3.22.

Iluka Resources posted the biggest loss, falling 7 per cent to \$4.95, as the tariff news prompted a sell-off in mined metals. This is despite **Iluka** reporting a 23.7 per cent increase in output in the December quarter.

Tech rally lifts ASX; Qantas, Bubs climb Equities

Bubs Australia soared 22.5 per cent to 12¢ after the company reported a turnaround in first-half earnings, with EBITDA hitting \$2.9 million after a \$6.8 million loss in the same period last year.

Woodside fell 1.9 per cent to \$25.25, dragging the energy sector lower. The oil and gas producer reported record output for 2024 but said production in the most recent quarter fell 3 per cent due to seasonal demand.

Qantas rallied 3.7 per cent to \$9.38 after the airline announced a shake-up of its loyalty scheme - leading to more expensive flights for frequent flyers.

West African **Resources** rose 1.5 per cent to \$1.66 after the gold producer posted a quarter-on-quarter increase in production, with output meeting full-year expectations.

And Generation Development advanced 5.2 per cent after the superannuation provider reported a 22 per cent rise in net inflows.

Load-Date: January 25, 2025

End of Document