

Stocks to watch on the Australian stock exchange at close

SYDNEY, May 12 AAP - Stocks to watch on the Australian stock exchange at noon:

WBC - WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION - in trading halt at \$25.97

SGB - ST GEORGE BANK LTD - in trading halt at \$26.65

Westpac Banking Corporation is in talks with St George Bank Ltd about an all-scrip merger of the pair that would create the nation's largest wealth platform provider.

BSL - BLUESCOPE STEEL LTD - down 25 cents at \$10.75

Bluescope Steel says it's on track for a 2008 second half stronger than the first half, on the back of continuing strong demand and higher global steel prices.

AGK - AGL ENERGY LTD - up 42 cents at \$13.65

AGL Energy Ltd has confirmed its earnings guidance for the 2008 financial year of an underlying net profit of up to \$360 million.

CNP - CENTRO PROPERTIES GROUP - down 5.5 cents at 39.5 cents

CER - CENTRO RETAIL GROUP - down five cents at 42 cents

Centro Properties Group and Centro Retail Group say they will vigorously defend a class action claim brought against them.

WRK - **WARWICK RESOURCES LTD** - up 8.5 cents, or 18.68 per cent, at 54 cents

BHP - BHP BILLITON LTD - down 17 cents at \$46.33

Minerals explorer Warwick Resources has identified its largest direct shipping iron ore target to date at its Woggaginna project in Western Australia's Pilbara.

PNA - PAN AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES LTD - down one cent at \$1.19

Pan Australian Resources has officially opened its \$US241 million (\$A257.03 million) Phu Kham copper-gold mine in Laos.

ORG - ORIGIN ENERGY LTD - down five cents at \$14.52

The bidder for Origin Energy, Contact Energy's majority owner, has received a New Zealand Takeovers Panel exemption from having to make any immediate takeover offer for Contact.

AAP pe

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Westpac Banking Corporation is in talks with St George Bank Ltd about an all-scrip merger of the pair that would create the nation's largest wealth platform provider.

BSL - BLUESCOPE STEEL LTD - down 19 cents to \$10.81

Bluescope Steel says it's on track for a 2008 second half stronger than the first half on the back of continuing strong demand and higher global steel prices.

AGK - AGL ENERGY LTD - up 34 cents to \$13.57

AGL Energy Ltd has confirmed its earnings guidance for the 2008 financial year of an underlying net profit of up to \$360 million.

CNP - CENTRO PROPERTIES GROUP - down 6.5 cents to 38.5 cents

CER - CENTRO RETAIL GROUP - down 2.5 cents to 44.5 cents

Centro Properties Group and Centro Retail Group say they will vigorously defend a class action claim brought against them over the alleged non disclosure of the true state of its finances.

WRK - WARWICK RESOURCES LTD - up 7.5 cents to 53 cents

BHP - BHP BILLITON LTD - up 35 cents to \$46.85

Minerals explorer Warwick Resources has identified its largest direct shipping iron ore target to date at its Woggaginna project in Western Australia's Pilbara.

PNA - PAN AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES LTD - down one cent to \$1.19

Pan Australian Resources has officially opened its \$US241 million (\$A257.03 million) Phu Kham copper-gold mine in Laos.

BYI - Beyond International Ltd - steady at \$1.20

Television program producer and seller Beyond International Ltd bought the 49 per cent of Force Media Entertainment Pty Ltd it didn't already own.

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