

# Floats sail into a lukewarm reception

## IPOs

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It's turned into a rough market out there, but that hasn't deterred some companies from pursuing a listing on the Australian Stock Exchange.

The performance of the debutantes has varied widely, and has been a little on the cool side since Myer's now infamous debut in November.

Mineral explorer Siburan Resources became the latest company to list on the ASX when it hit the board yesterday. The stock closed unchanged on its 20c listing price, compared with the S&P/ASX 200 index, which rose 0.08 per cent.

Today, Gerard Lighting Group will begin trading, having raised \$85 million at \$1 per share.

Resource companies have overwhelmingly dominated new listings. Among the better performers are Hunnu Coal, Southern Hemisphere Mining and Viking Ashanti.

Shares in Hunnu Coal, which is exploring for coal in Mongolia, have soared from a 20c issue price to 70c.

Hunnu Coal is hoping to produce thermal and coking coal for the

Mongolian and Chinese market and recently announced it had been granted an option to acquire another Mongolian coal project.

Southern Hemisphere Mining, which is developing manganese and copper-gold projects in the Republic of Chile, is another strong performer.

Its shares have risen from a 25c issue price to 46c, and at one stage traded as high as 58c after listing.

The dual-listed company's flagship Los Pumas manganese project in northern Chile has a Joint Ore Reserves Committee-compliant inferred ore resource of 14.63 million tonnes, grading about 10 per cent manganese.

Gold explorer Viking Ashanti is up 20 per cent since listing, although yesterday it had a tough session, dropping 12.7 per cent. Viking explores in southern Ghana, in the highly gold-endowed Ashanti Gold Belt.

But it hasn't all been smooth sailing for floats. Engineering services company Mastermyne, which was floated for \$1 has dropped 4 per cent to 96 c.

Miclyn Express Offshore, the year's biggest float at \$300 million, has had a lacklustre performance, having dropped 11.6 per cent from its \$1.90 offer price.

