

STATEMENT OF SENSITIVITY OF BUDGET ESTIMATES

This statement of sensitivity is made pursuant to Section 11(1)(c) of the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

Sensitivity of Budget Estimates

The following sensitivity analysis has been applied to economic parameters used in the formulation of the revised forward estimates.

Territory revenues are sensitive to changes in economic conditions, both in the ACT and nationally (for example, through GST revenues).

Territory expenses are less sensitive to economic conditions. However, over time, changes in parameters such as population, the age profile of the population or other demographic variables may affect the demand for government services. In response, policy decisions may be taken to vary expenditure levels to accommodate the change in demand.

Sensitivity of Economic Assumptions

Consumer Price Index

A change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) parameter will affect the forecasts for revenues such as conveyance, general insurance, leases, Australian Government grants, sales and various other revenues. If the CPI was to increase by 1 per cent more than the forecast in each year of the budget period, forecast revenue would increase by the amounts shown in Table A.1. It should be noted that future projection of general rates and regulatory fees are indexed by the Wage Price Index (WPI).

It is expected that CPI increases would generate cost increases for agencies. It is also expected that agencies would adjust mid-year expenditure plans to absorb immediate cost increases within the 2007-08 year, but in forward years budgets should change for adjustments in CPI. An estimate for the impact of a 1 per cent increase in CPI is shown in Table A.1.

Table A.1
Impact of CPI on General Government Sector revenues and expenses

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Taxation Revenue +1%	1,361	2,227	2,961	3,895
Sales of Goods and Services, Australian Government Grants* and Other Revenue +1%	0	16,079	33,868	53,082
Expenses + 1%	0	9,308	19,371	30,080

* refers to Specific Purpose Payments only.

Interest

In regard to the General Government Sector and the Superannuation Provision Account (SPA) cash investment portfolios, the impact of a 1 per cent variation in the estimated interest returns as assumed in the Budget estimates for interest revenue is shown in Table A.2.

Table A.2
Impact of an interest rate change on interest revenue

+/- 1%	2007-08 \$'000	2008-09 \$'000	2009-10 \$'000	2010-11 \$'000
General Government	+/- 4,971	+/- 3,863	+/- 3,910	+/- 3,919
SPA	+/- 1,391	+/- 243	+/- 267	+/- 292

The impact of a 1 per cent variation in the assumptions used to calculate the interest costs on the floating rate borrowings by the Territory is shown in Table A.3.

Table A.3
Impact of an interest rate change on borrowing costs*

+/- 1%	2007-08 \$'000	2008-09 \$'000	2009-10 \$'000	2010-11 \$'000
General Government	+/- 1,808	+/- 2,417	+/- 3,173	+/- 4,200

*A 1 per cent increase in interest rates will lead to increased expense and, accordingly, a corresponding reduction in the budgeted operating result and vice versa.

Currency

The estimated impact on international asset valuations from a 1 per cent variation in the Australian dollar against all international currency holdings, holding everything else constant, is shown in Table A.4.

Table A.4
Impact from the movement of the Australian dollar on valuations*

+/- 1%	2007-08 \$'000	2008-09 \$'000	2009-10 \$'000	2010-11 \$'000
SPA	+/- 4,622	+/- 5,087	+/- 5,577	+/- 6,092

*A negative outcome represents an appreciation of the AUD relative to other currencies.

Equity Valuation

Table A.5 outlines the impact to the SPA equity portfolio valuation from a 1 per cent variation in equity security valuations.

Table A.5
Impact of a change in equity valuations

+/- 1%	2007-08 \$'000	2008-09 \$'000	2009-10 \$'000	2010-11 \$'000
SPA	+/- 15,023	+/- 16,533	+/- 18,125	+/- 19,780

Superannuation Liabilities

A 1 per cent variation in the discount rate, used in the valuation of superannuation liabilities, results in an estimated change to the current liability of approximately \$590 million (actuarial gain or loss), with approximate annual variation estimates in superannuation related expenses (accruing liability) outlined in Table A.6.

Table A.6
Impact of liability valuations on superannuation expenses from variation in discount rate

+/- 1%	2007-08 \$'000	2008-09 \$'000	2009-10 \$'000	2010-11 \$'000
SPA	+/- 51,000	+/- 49,000	+/- 47,000	+/- 45,000

Wage Price Index (WPI)

General rates and various fees are indexed to WPI in future years. If WPI increased by 1 per cent more than the forecast in each year of the budget period, forecast revenue would increase by the amounts shown in Table A.7. The revenue in 2007-08 is not expected to vary as the indexation is expected to be based on the WPI result in December 2007.

Table A.7
Impact of WPI on General Government Sector revenue

	2007-08 \$'000	2008-09 \$'000	2009-10 \$'000	2010-11 \$'000
Taxation Revenue +1%	0	1,637	3,436	5,412

Sensitivity of Other Assumptions

Employee Wage Negotiations

Wages make up the single largest cost in providing government services. As a result, the budget estimates are sensitive to the outcome of enterprise bargaining negotiations. The 2007-08 Budget and forward estimates make provision for a moderate level of wages growth.

Residential conveyance volume and price

Table A.8 shows the revenue increases that would result from:

- the volume of residential transactions growing by 1 per cent more than the forecast in each year of the Budget period; and
- the average residential price growing by 1 per cent more than the forecast in each year of the Budget period.

Table A.8
Impact of change in volume and price on conveyance revenue

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Residential transaction volume +1%	3,159	5,166	7,538	10,322
Residential price +1%	4,593	7,494	10,838	14,679