

Fourth Quarter 2023

Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2023

From the CEO's Desk



With both the December quarter and the year quickly drawing to a close, it is good to step back and take time to reflect on the last year.

In an economic sense, the global economy continues to show resilience despite the past two years of substantial tightening of monetary conditions and the ongoing real geo-political conflicts. The US Federal Reserve, ECB and the Bank of England have recently kept interest rates on hold at elevated levels, but the tightening cycles appears to be coming to an end.

Domestically the Australian economy is still struggling with high inflation, with the RBA increasing the cash rate by 25 basis points to 4.35% at its November meeting. Recent data points to a slowing national economy, and inflation coming down, but the question into 2024 will be is it moderating quick enough, and without dragging down employment too far?

The Western Australian economy continues to go from strength to strength, with gross state product growing by 3.5% in 2022-23, its strongest economic growth in nine years. According to the Western Australian Government's recently released 2023-24 Mid-year Review, state final demand is forecast to grow by 4.5% per cent in 2023-24, building on the 3.8% growth recorded for 2022-23.

The strong economic performance, coupled with elevated iron ore prices, have translated into further improvement in the already strong

fiscal position. According to the Mid-year Review, the 2023-24 net operating surplus is forecast at A\$3.7 billion, which is A\$426 million higher than envisaged in the 2023-24 Budget in May of this year. At the same time, forecasts for public sector net debt at 30 June 2024 were revised A\$2.2 billion downwards, to A\$27.2 billion or 6.4% of gross state product. Net debt is expected to increase in the following years, reflecting conservative revenue assumptions and a record level of infrastructure spending, but it is to remain affordable at just 10.0% of gross state product at 30 June 2027.

At WATC, 2023 will be remembered for the release of our Sustainability Bond Framework in May and the successful launch of our inaugural Green Bond in June. These achievements represent the culmination of years of collaboration with Western Australian Government agencies, our banking partners and our investor base. Our Green Bond winning KangaNews' Australian Sustainability Bond Deal of the Year award, is great recognition by the market and reflects the very positive view participants and our peers have of the issuance.

As part of the ongoing support of our Green Bond, early in December we published our first annual report under our Sustainability Bond Framework. The report consolidates WATC's journey to become a committed participant in the sustainable finance market and showcases Western Australia's progress towards accelerating climate outcomes through the projects within our Green Bond, while delivering on our commitment to transparent and timely reporting.

This quarter has again been a busy one engaging with investors. During October, we were pleased to host domestic and international investors in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bank's 2023 Global Markets Conference. The two days of the Western Australian component of the conference provided a great opportunity to tell investors the 'WA story' of the strength and diversity of the economic powerhouse of our great State.

The Hon. Rita Saffioti, Western Australian Deputy Premier and Treasurer, was also busy engaging with investors and promoting the State, delivering the Official Welcome as part of the above-mentioned investor conference, providing an Economic and Fiscal Outlook presentation to investors in Tokyo, and participating in a Question and Answer interview with KangaNews.

During the quarter we also successfully launched our first syndicated dual FRN issuance, which received strong investor demand, achieving a final combined issue volume of \$2 billion.

Our client focussed teams continue to deliver our wide range of financial products and services supporting clients accessing and managing debt funding, investments, foreign exchange and financial advice. We received great feedback from our clients on our FX education series this year with excellent engagement from a range of agencies across the State. During the quarter we continued to develop our expertise on the broader range of financial risks faced by agencies as part of our role in supporting the GTEs under the GTE Act 2023.

Capitalising on this strong engagement and client partnerships, our Chief Economist Craig McGuinness presented as part of the Department of Treasury's Young Professionals Program in November. The event generated a lot of discussion around the financial markets, the global and domestic economies and Western Australia's transition to net zero emissions targets.

I would like to welcome our new and returning staff to the WATC team and I look forward to working together to continue delivering great outcomes for our State, stakeholders and WATC. I also want to acknowledge the valuable and significant contribution made by Peter Seeds, our Head of Legal and Governance, who recently retired after more than 30-years of service, and we wish him all the best for his retirement.

To all our partners, on behalf of everyone at WATC, thank you for your ongoing support during 2023 and we look forward to continuing working with you in 2024. I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. ■




Kaylene Gulich
CEO

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At WATC, 2023 will be remembered for the release of our Sustainability Bond Framework in May and the successful launch of our inaugural Green Bond in June. These achievements represent the culmination of years of collaboration with Western Australian Government agencies, our banking partners and our investor base.

Kaylene Gulich PSM
Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Treasury Corporation

Image courtesy of Tourism Western Australia



Peak?

'Inflation has eased from its highs, and this has come without a significant increase in unemployment. That is very good news (...) While we believe that our policy rate is likely at or near its peak for this tightening cycle, the economy has surprised the forecasters in so many years since the pandemic (...).'

Fed Chair Jerome Powell, Washington D.C., 13 December 2023.

The Global Economy

The global economy continues to show resilience to multiple headwinds, including the substantial tightening of monetary conditions over the past two years.

US GDP rose by an annualised 5.2% in Q3, accelerating from 2.1% in the previous quarter, with strong contribution from private consumption, restocking and government spending. Labour market conditions have shown further signs of easing, with employment growth slowing and the unemployment rate picking up to 3.9%, which is close to the FOMC's longer-run forecast. However, US wages continue to rise at an above-average pace.

Despite significant decline over the past months, US inflation remains above the FOMC's goal of 2%, both in headline and core terms. The upside risks to inflation increased during the quarter on concerns that the Hamas-Israeli military conflict would drag in other regional players and pose a threat to oil supplies. However, so far, those concerns have not come to fruition.

In other advanced economies, euro area growth remains very weak, with economic activity contracting in Q3. Inflation has declined substantially in headline terms, but remains elevated in core terms. UK GDP growth stalled in Q3, with still-high, albeit softer inflation.

Continued next page →

Closer to home, the Japanese economy contracted in Q3, following a strong first half of the year as heightened inflation weighed on household spending, businesses cut investment and inventories shrank.

The Chinese economic activity remains subdued. Real GDP grew a faster-than-expected 1.3% in Q3, although the growth slowed to 4.9% on base effects. Industrial output is rising steadily, but monthly growth in retail sales has been disappointing. Urban fixed asset investment growth eased further, to the slowest rate since 2020, reflecting ongoing troubles in the Chinese real estate sector.

The Australian Economy

Aussie real GDP rose by 0.2% in Q3, to be 2.1% up through the year. Quarterly growth was dragged down by a significant negative contribution from net external trade amid lower commodity exports. This was more than offset by a rise in government consumption amid increased social benefits, private business fixed investment and investment by public corporations.

The increased social benefits, such as electricity and childcare rebates, reduced out-of-pocket expenses of households, resulting in flat private consumption growth in Q3. This was despite increased purchase of vehicles as well as a rise in spending for hospitality and transport amid the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Labour market conditions are easing but remain solid. In October and November, employment

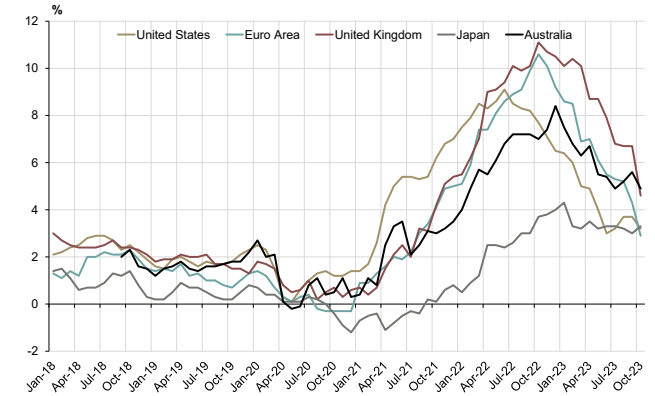
rose by a combined 104.2k, with further increases in both part- and full-time jobs. The unemployment rate has risen to the still-low 3.9%, supported by higher participation, with the labour force participation rate climbing to a record high of 67.2%.

The still-tight labour market, along with the increase in minimum and award wages in July, were reflected in a record 1.3% quarterly increase in the wage price index in Q3. The annual rate of wages growth rose to 4.0%, which is the fastest since Q1 2009.

Disinflation continues in Australia, with CPI inflation slowing to 5.4% in headline terms and 5.2% in trimmed mean terms in Q3. The monthly CPI indicator for October suggested that disinflation continued in early Q4. This was reinforced by the Melbourne Inflation gauge which indicated a further easing in inflation in November. Disinflation is being driven by goods prices, while more domestically driven services price inflation remains high. Despite the slower price growth, inflation is still significantly above the 2-3% target range, with two-thirds of the CPI basket rising faster than 3%.

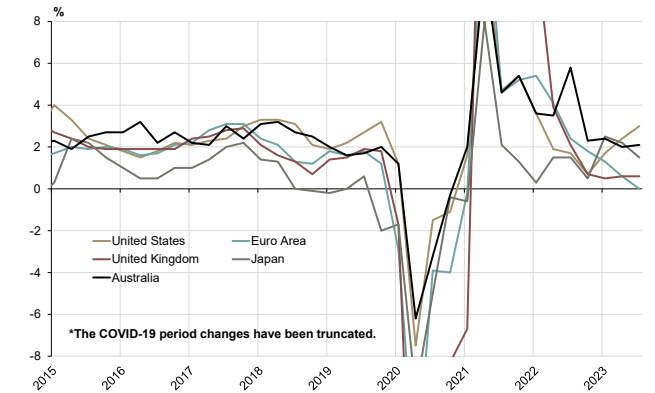
The ongoing housing supply shortage, together with the strong demand amid high immigration, continues to drive Aussie home prices higher, with the Core Logic national home value index rising 2.1% in the three months to November, to be 7.0% higher through the year.

Annual Rates of CPI Inflation



Source: Bloomberg

Annual Rates of GDP Growth*



Source: Bloomberg

Continued next page →

The Western Australian Economy

Western Australian gross state product rose by 3.5% in 2022-23, with solid contributions from household consumption, private business investment, government spending and net exports.

This was followed by 2.4% QoQ and 5.5% YoY increases in state final demand in Q3, which were the strongest of all states. Quarterly growth was helped by a solid rise in investment and government consumption. At the same time, household consumption spending declined by 0.3% in Q3, reflecting lower out-of-pocket expenses on electricity thanks to the most recent household electricity credit introduced by the Western Australian Government.

Western Australian labour market conditions remain robust. In October and November, employment rose by a combined 22.3k. The unemployment rate picked up to 3.7%, reflecting higher labour force participation. The Western Australian participation rate of 69.7% is by far the higher of all states. Wages growth accelerated to 4.6% YoY in Q3, which was the second fastest annual gain nationwide.

The annual rate of Perth inflation rose to 5.8% in Q3, reflecting the low base effects from the year before when the Western Australian Government rolled out the previous household electricity credit. At the same time, the 0.4% quarterly rise in CPI was the slowest of all capital cities. In the

three months to November, Perth home prices rose by another 5.4%, the most of all capital cities, to be 13.5% higher than a year before and at a new record high.

Financial Markets

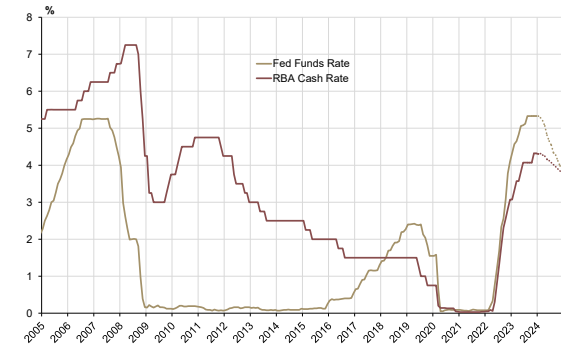
The FOMC appears to have concluded its 1.5-year long tightening cycle, with the fed funds rate target range unchanged at 5.25-5.50% since July and the Committee signalling that further hikes most likely will not be needed. The updated 'dot-plot' chart suggests three rate cuts next year, while the futures market is pricing in up to six cuts for 2024.

Concerns over the US fiscal position helped push US yields to over 15-year highs in October. However, declining expectations of future Fed tightening, amid softer inflation and employment data, and geopolitical concerns due to the Hamas-Israeli war, saw a decline in US Treasury yields, particularly at the front end of the yield curve. As of 14 December, the 2-year yield is 4.32%, down 72bps from end-September 2023, while 10-year yields dropped by 62bps to 3.95%.

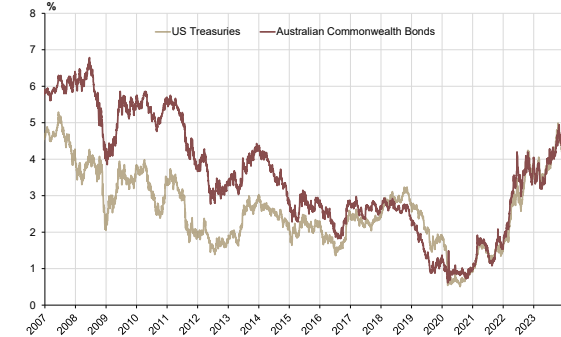
The MSCI World index, which is the broadest measure of global developed market equity performance, has risen 8.7% since the end of Q3, while the US S&P 500 gained 9.8%. The US dollar index fell by 3.1%, after climbing to a one-year high in October.

Similarly to the Fed, the ECB and Bank of England have kept their interest rates unchanged at

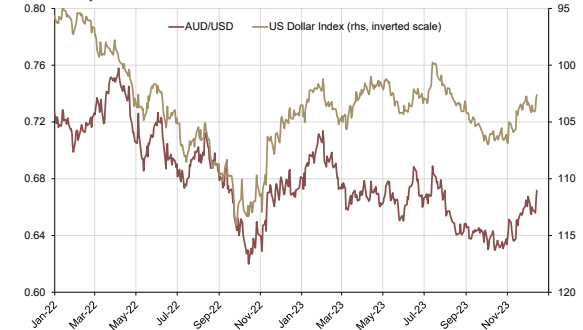
Central Bank Interest Rates - Actual and Expected



10-Year Government Bond Yields



AUD/USD and USD Dollar Index



Data source for above charts: Bloomberg

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elevated levels. At the same time, the Bank of Japan maintained its ultra-expansionary monetary policy settings, though relaxed its yield curve control policy further and hinted that it may move to a less accommodative policy at some stage.

Domestically, the RBA increased the cash rate target by 25bps to 4.35% in early November, before keeping it unchanged in December. The central bank said that, whether further hikes will be necessary would depend on incoming data.

Governor Michele Bullock continues to warn that inflation is increasingly 'homegrown' and generated by domestic demand pressures. A weaker-than-expected monthly CPI indicator for October and further evidence that households are struggling under the weight of higher interest rates and cost of living pressures has seen the futures market unwind its expectations for further RBA interest rate hikes, with rate cuts now partially priced in for 2024.

Aussie bond yields hit decade-long highs in Q4, with the 10-year Commonwealth bond yield peaking at 4.95% in early November before falling back along with US yields to be currently sitting at 4.11%.

Temporary concerns over further tightening from the RBA initially saw the Australian share market fall in Q4. However, the market bounced late in the quarter, with the ASX 200 gaining 4.5% so far this quarter. Real estate, health and mining were the strongest sectors. The energy sector has

been the worst performer amid a hit by a 22.1% drop in oil prices so far in the quarter, despite a temporary increase following Hamas' attack on Israel.

The diverging monetary policy outlook between the RBA and Fed, coupled with improved global market sentiment, saw the Aussie dollar close at a four-month high of US\$0.6694 in mid-December after a choppy quarter. The AUD also strengthened against the euro and British pound, but depreciated versus the stronger Japanese yen. The Australian dollar received some support from higher commodity prices, including a sharp rise in iron ore prices, with the benchmark Singapore futures price rising 12.2% in Q4. ■

Economic Services Team



Craig McGuinness
CHIEF ECONOMIST



Patrycja Beniak
ECONOMIST

More Economic Insights

Additional economic and market-related releases are available on our website.

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Sustainability Bond Framework Annual Report – Inaugural Release

On 6 December WATC released the inaugural Sustainability Bond Framework Annual Report. This follows release of the Sustainability Bond Framework (Framework) in April this year and subsequent issuance of the State's first Green Bond with a July-2033 maturity under the Framework in June.

Framework development and Green Bond issue

The annual report reinforced that the increasing requirement of investors seeking to understand, as part of their due diligence, the 'use of proceeds' underpinning WATC's issuance of Western Australian Government bonds was a key driver behind a *whole of government* approach to developing the Sustainability Bond Framework. As such, it was designed with the intent to establish credibility for entering the sustainable finance market and issuing 'ESG labelled' bonds, whilst

also supporting the ESG credentials of the broader WATC bond issuance program.

The Framework and a comprehensive investor information pack provided a strong evidence base to support the above objective, reinforced through an intensive investor engagement program in the latter half of May where WATC officials met with over 70 domestic and international investors. This built on and complemented broader ESG disclosures provided to the investor based since November 2021 through the publication series **Supporting Continuous Improvements in ESG Outcomes for Western Australia.**

Quick Links

[Full Report](#) →

[Sustainable Finance Program](#) →

[Continued next page](#) →

Image courtesy of Tourism Western Australia

The effectiveness of these investor engagement initiatives was ultimately reflected in the overwhelming support for the inaugural green bond issue which was heavily over-subscribed, receiving more than \$6 billion in investor bids for the \$1.9 billion issued. Importantly, there was strong interest offshore and a substantial number of new investors participated, including several requiring green bond certification. It was also covered extensively by a range of mainstream, financial and environmental news outlets who reported positively on the milestone.

Focus of the Annual Report

The inaugural Sustainability Bond Framework Annual Report captures WATC's journey to become a committed participant in the sustainable finance market. It showcases the State's progress towards accelerating climate outcomes through the projects within the inaugural green bond and delivers on a commitment to transparent and timely reporting – with publication within six months from issuance of the first green bond being one of the fastest turnarounds on a global scale.

With the input of key policy and project delivery information from agencies and governance oversight from the Portfolio Oversight Group for Climate Action and the Environment (POG), the report demonstrates alignment between the State's sustainability strategy and the 10 projects initially selected for inclusion within the green bond pool. These were chosen following prioritisation of three key environment themes strongly connected to the delivery of priority policies of the Western Australian Government that will contribute significantly to achieving meaningful, positive change.

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Forward looking projects comprise the green bond project pool reflecting the objective to accelerate climate action in areas our government can directly influence through transformational investments of large scale.

Hon Rita Saffioti BBus MLA
Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Tourism

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The release of WATC's Sustainability Bond Framework and inaugural green bond in May and June of this year represents the culmination of years of collaboration with our Western Australian Government Agency partners and an ongoing dialogue with our banking partners and investor base.

Kaylene Gulich PSM
Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Treasury Corporation

Projects in Green Bond Within Prioritised Western Australian Government Environmental Themes

	Environmental Theme	Green Bond Category	Project Name
1	Reducing emissions from electricity generation	Renewable Energy	Wind Farms
			Standalone Power Systems
			Solar Schools Program
		Energy Efficiency	Large Scale Batteries
			Advanced Metering Infrastructure
			LED Streetlights
2	Transport infrastructure to support net-zero transition	Clean Transportation	METRONET
			Electric Vehicle Initiatives
			Active Infrastructure
3	Enhancing climate adaptation and resilience	Sustainable Water	Renewable Energy Powered Desalination Plant

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Green Bond Proceeds Allocation

A core component of the report required by participating investors, particularly those which have subsequent reporting obligations for green bond or other relevant portfolios to which their investment contributes, is the allocation of green bond proceeds by project and demonstration of project progress indicators and outcomes where possible.

The annual report satisfies these requirements, reinforced through verification by an external assurance provider. In allocating the \$1,925 million in proceeds raised through the green bond to 31 October 2023, a commitment was also made that at least 50% of proceeds over the life of the green bond would be allocated to projects within the *reducing emissions from electricity generation* theme.

This reflects the critical importance of this objective, being directly related to the Western Australian Government's commitment to phase out State owned coal-fired power generation by 2030 and reduce own source emissions to 80% below 2020 levels. Furthermore, through providing an increasingly decarbonised electricity grid, delivery of projects within this theme are a primary enabler for enhancing environmental outcomes achievable from projects chosen within the other two priority environmental themes.

Where to from here?

The annual report signals that WATC intends to stay active in the ESG labelled bond market,

although the near-term focus will involve tapping the inaugural July-2033 Green Bond. WATC will continue to work with its agency partners to identify priority projects within the existing environmental themes and, through the POG, consider proposing additional priority environmental themes to support future issuances that might include projects targeted at improving biodiversity outcomes and supporting development of a renewable hydrogen industry.

Similarly, opportunities for including social projects in potential future ESG labelled issuances are being explored that focus on improving outcomes for target populations requiring assistance, such as Aboriginal people, people experiencing or at risk of domestic violence or homelessness, people living with disability and people requiring mental health support.

Want to find out more?

Visit WATC's [website](#) or contact Richard McKenzie, WATC Head of Strategy for more information. Call (08) 9235 9127 or email rmckenzie@watc.wa.gov.au.



Richard McKenzie
HEAD OF STRATEGY



Did you know our Green Bond won an award?

Our inaugural green bond issue won the KangaNews Award for *Australian Sustainability Bond Deal of the Year*.

[Find out more](#) →

Investor Quick Links

Access our ESG publications and other key information via our website.

[Sustainability Bond Framework Annual Report](#) →

[Sustainable Finance Program](#) →

Q&A with the Deputy Premier



WATC recently facilitated a Question-and-Answer session between KangaNews and Western Australia's Deputy Premier and Treasurer, the Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, which was published in the October / November edition of KangaNews.

KangaNews is the specialised information service covering the Australian and New Zealand debt markets with a broad readership of national and international fixed income investors.

In the Q&A article entitled "WA builds in sustainability and maintains focus on budget prudence", KangaNews asks the Deputy Premier some very pertinent and direct questions on behalf of its investor readership base, discussing topics including the management of the State's finances, debt, sustainability goals and other relevant issues. The full Q&A article with the Deputy Premier is available from the [KangaNews website](#). ▀

More For Investors

[View full Q&A article](#) →

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[Financial Markets Team](#) →

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Responsible management of our state's finances has always been a priority of our government. We remain really committed to continuing this, and growing our economy to maintain revenues, so we can continue funding essential services and supporting record infrastructure investment.

Hon Rita Saffioti MLA
Deputy Premier; Treasurer;
Minister for Transport; Tourism.

WATC Green Bond wins KangaNews Sustainability Bond Deal of the Year



Every year KangaNews, a specialised information service covering the Australian and New Zealand debt markets, awards the year's most outstanding institutions and deals.

The **KangaNews Awards** are decided based solely on the votes of hundreds of market participants, who are thoroughly and intensively polled for their feedback. Western Australian Treasury Corporation won the 2023 award for *Australian Sustainability Bond Deal of the Year*, with its July-2023 green bond, the first green bond delivered since the launch of our **Sustainability Bond Framework**.

The issuance was heavily oversubscribed, receiving more than \$6 billion in investor bids for the **\$1.9 billion issued**. ▀

Supporting Our Inaugural Green Bond

Our Sustainability Bond Framework Annual Report includes details on how Green Bond proceeds were allocated to eligible projects, together with detailed project descriptions, their delivery status and impact indicators.

[Sustainability Bond Framework Annual Report](#)



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This is a great recognition by our market partners, commentators and peers, and reflects the very positive view the market continues to take of the transaction and supporting information and ongoing engagement.

Kaylene Gulich PSM
Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Treasury Corporation

WATC promotes strength and diversity of Western Australia's economy to investors

As part of our role to promote investment in Western Australia, WATC recently hosted national and international fixed-income investors in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bank 2023 Global Markets Conference.

The two-day Western Australian component of the conference showcased the strength and diversity of Western Australia's economy with a full program of presentations and experiences. Delegates were welcomed to Western Australia by the Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA, Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Western Australia, who provided our delegates and guests with an introduction and overview of our great State which laid the foundation for a successful conference.

The theme for the conference was 'Western Australia, It's like no other', which was re-enforced throughout the conference. Presentations from leading Western Australian government and business experts, in conjunction with a number of site visits, provided valuable insights into the State's traditional strengths in mining, as well as a range of other existing, new, and emerging industries. Delegates gained a greater appreciation and understanding of the strength and diversity of the economic powerhouse of

Western Australia, as well as experiencing the State's cultural heritage.

Delegates provided very positive feedback on their conference experience in Western Australia and left with a deeper understanding of our great State of Western Australia, truly a state like no other. ■

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[Why Invest in WA](#) →

[WA's Economic Strengths](#) →

[Financial Markets Team](#) →



Investor Welcome Dinner at King's Park.



Indigenous experience at Murujuga National Park, Dampier.



Western Australia's Diverse Economy Presentation



Rio Tinto site visit, Dampier.

Syndicated Dual Issuance a First For WATC

On 14 November 2023, WATC simultaneously issued by syndication two new Floating Rate Notes (FRN) with a 21 February 2029 and 21 February 2031 maturity respectively. This was a first for WATC.

The joint lead managers were Bank of America, Deutsche Capital Markets Australia Ltd and Royal Bank of Canada Capital Markets. The new issues launched and priced on the same day, generating strong investor demand from launch.

At close the total bids across both issues exceeded \$3.45 billion. The final issue volume for the 2029 FRN was \$1.0 billion, allocated to 17 institutions with 93.5% going to domestic investors. The final issue volume for the 2031 FRN was also \$1.0 billion, allocated to 13 institutions with 100% going to domestic investors. ■

More For Investors

Further details of our borrowing activities and funding sources are available on our website.


[Institutional Investors](#) →

Image courtesy of Tourism Western Australia

WATC Improving Understanding of FX Risks

WATC delivered two online Foreign Exchange (FX) presentations during the quarter, focussing on FX in Procurement and FX Hedging respectively.

The two events saw over 50 participants take part with representation from 16 separate entities from across the Western Australian Government. Feedback on both events was very positive, with participants confirming that attending the event improved their understanding of identifying and managing FX risks.

If FX education could be of value to you or your organisation, please reach out to us 

[Email us about FX Education](#) 



50+ Event Participants

More than 50 client contacts participated in our FX presentations this quarter.





16 Different Entities

A total of 16 separate government entities were represented from across WA.

More For Clients

To find out more information about the products and tools developed to assist our clients, visit our website.

[How We Help](#) 

[Foreign Exchange](#) 

Young Professionals Program Presentation

WATC's Chief Economist, Craig McGuinness, recently presented at the Department of Treasury's Young Professional Program event 'Presentation & Pizza: The Future of Western Australia's Economy'.

At the event, Craig shared his views and insights on the financial markets, the domestic and global economies, and the opportunities and challenges for the Western Australian economy posed by the move to net zero emissions targets. The question-and-answer session following the presentation provided a healthy discussion.

Afterwards attendees enjoyed some pizza and networking. Feedback on the event was that Craig's presentation was well received. ▀



Client Economic Presentations

Our economists are always happy to share their knowledge. As a client of WATC, if you would like to have an economic presentation for your team, please contact your relationship manager to discuss.

You can also visit our website to access the wide range of commentary and analysis on financial markets and domestic and global economies prepared by our Economists and subscribe to our mailing list.

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Image courtesy of Mladen Zaneta

2024 EVENT PREVIEW

Economic Presentation

Impact of Net Zero Emissions Targets

In the first half of 2024, WATC will be providing insights to the impacts of net zero emissions targets on the economy.

WATC's panel guests will discuss the opportunities and challenges presented to Western Australia as the global transition to net zero emissions is implemented, plus an overview of Western Australia's first Sustainability Bond Framework. ▀



2024 Event



Panel Discussion



Interested in attending?

The exact date for this event will be confirmed in the new year. In the meantime, register your interest below and find out more about our Sustainability Bond Framework via our website.

[Register your interest for this event](#) →

[View Sustainable Finance Program](#) →

Image courtesy of Tourism Western Australia

Staff Movements

Back from secondment



Phillip Metaxas

Senior Risk Advisor

From July to September of this year, Phillip was seconded to the Public Sector Commission as a senior reviewer on the Department of Treasury's *Agency Capability Review*. During the secondment, Phillip supported Colin Murphy, lead reviewer and ex-auditor general and worked closely with the Department of Treasury's senior leaders.

New Staff Role



Chalani De Silva

IT Productivity Support Officer

Following her work in the role of IT Support Officer, Chalani has been appointed as the Productivity Support Officer within WATC's Technology and Change team. In this role she advocates for a digital-first workplace and encourages the use of a range of Microsoft Office 365 capabilities to ensure the provision of more secure and efficient collaborative services.



Season's Greetings

On behalf of the team at Western Australian Treasury Corporation, we would like to thank you for your continued support during 2023. We extend our best wishes to you and your family over the festive season and wish you all the very best for 2024.

Our offices are closed on the following public holidays:

- Christmas Day – Monday 25 December 2023
- Boxing Day – Tuesday 26 December 2023
- New Year's Day – Monday 1 January 2024

We will be open as usual on the business days over the Christmas and New Year period.

We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with you next year. ▀

Image courtesy of Water Corporation

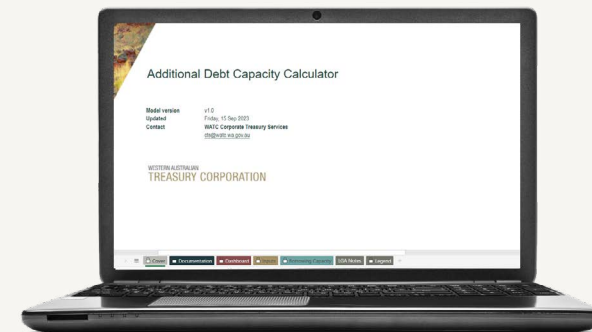
Debt Capacity Calculator for Local Government Clients

WATC has updated its Local Government **Additional Debt Capacity Calculator** which is available on the WATC Client Portal. The Calculator works in conjunction with a Local Government's long term financial plan to assist in determining if debt should be considered as a funding source for additional future capital expenditure.

WATC would like to emphasise that the Calculator is intended as a planning tool only and the borrowing capacity will vary year-to-year depending on budgets, long term financial plans, etc. and councils' risk appetite for debt.

If you have any queries, please contact WATC by emailing **csoperations@watc.wa.gov.au**.

[Go to Client Portal](#)



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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
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- asset and investment management
- financial advisory services
- financial risk management
- treasury management services and systems.

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