

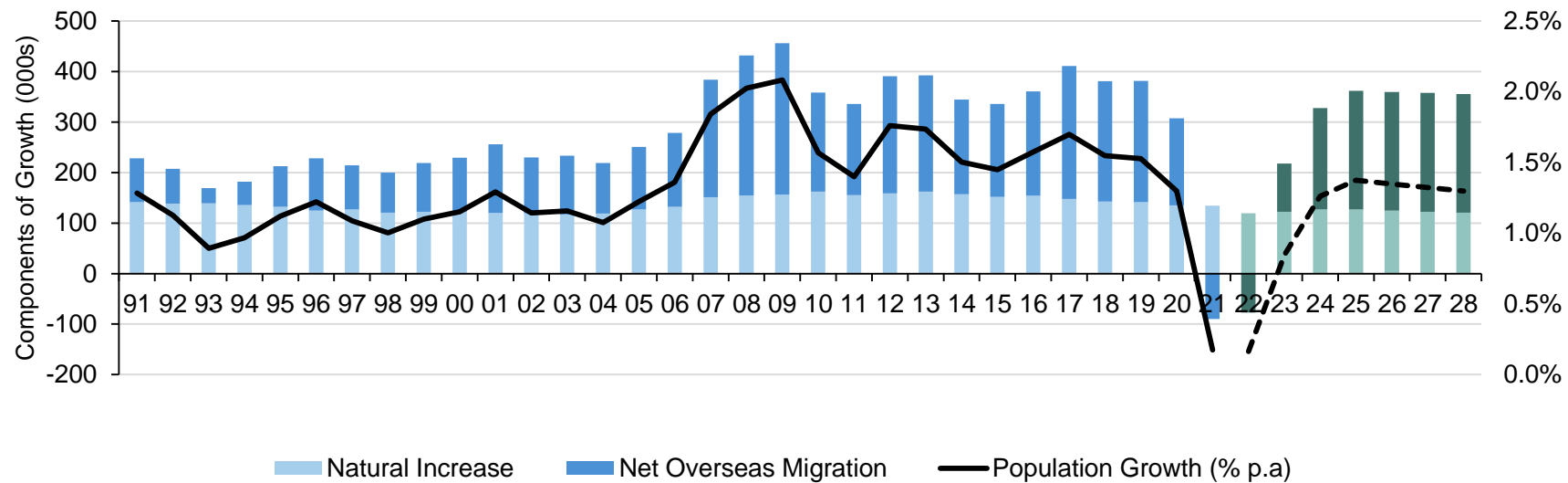
# FORCES FOR CHANGE



Risk and recovery in the post-pandemic  
economy

Prepared for PFA  
May 16<sup>th</sup> 2022

# THE PANDEMIC HAS DISRUPTED AUSTRALIA'S NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION GROWTH DRIVER

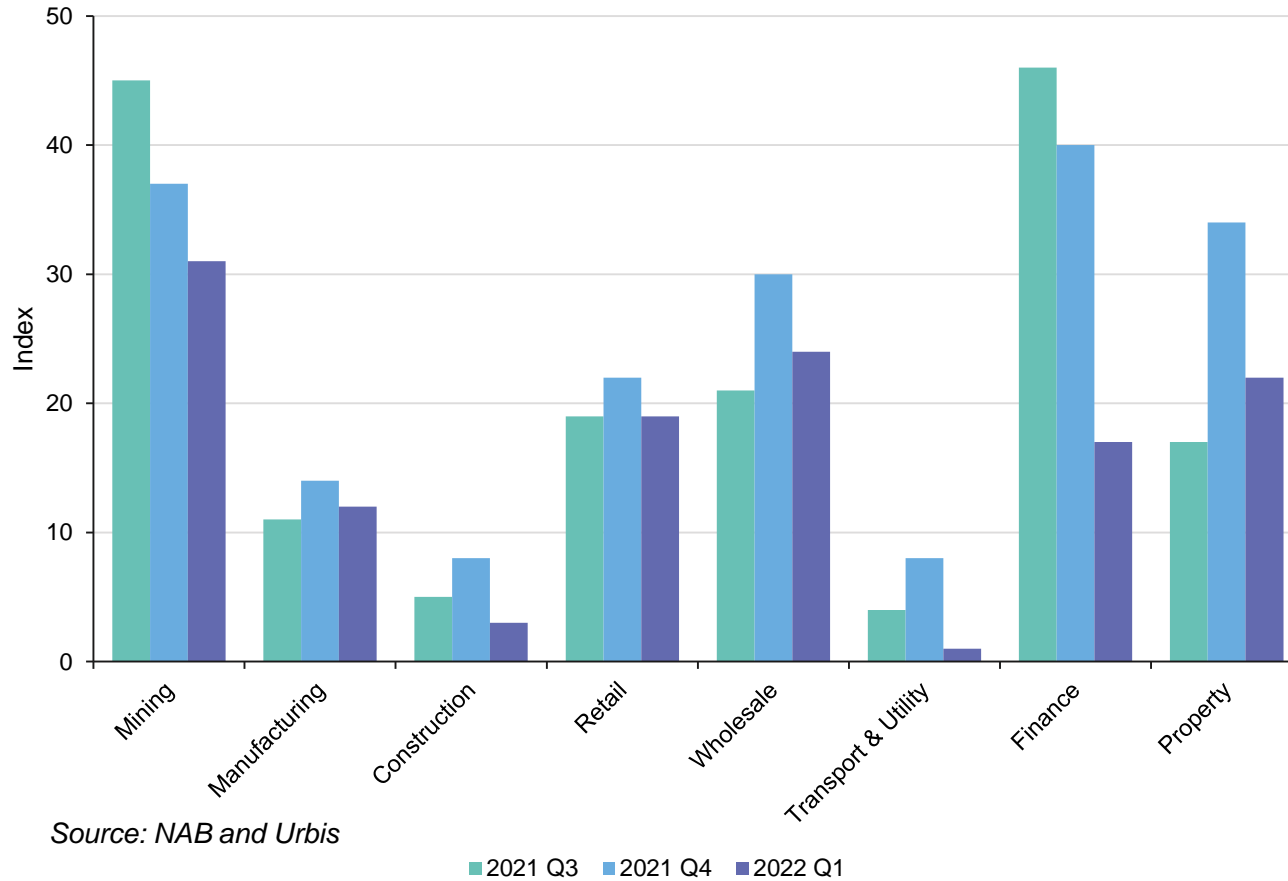


Source: ABS, Consensus and Urbis

The return of net overseas migration is likely to see increased demand for greenfield lots, driving up industrial land costs in outer-suburb spaces. Conversely, population and density increases are likely to flow through to demand for smaller, more flexible industrial spaces which can fulfil same-day fulfilment and/or multi-purpose use in inner-city locations.

Net overseas migration should re-emerge as a key driver of growth, with rises of 2% per annum from 2023-24.

# THE PANDEMIC CONTINUES TO CAST A SHADOW OVER BUSINESS OPERATING CONDITIONS






Source: NAB and Urbis

Business conditions have declined overall from Q4 2021 to Q1 2022. While remaining positive, overall business conditions have fallen by 5 index points in Q1.

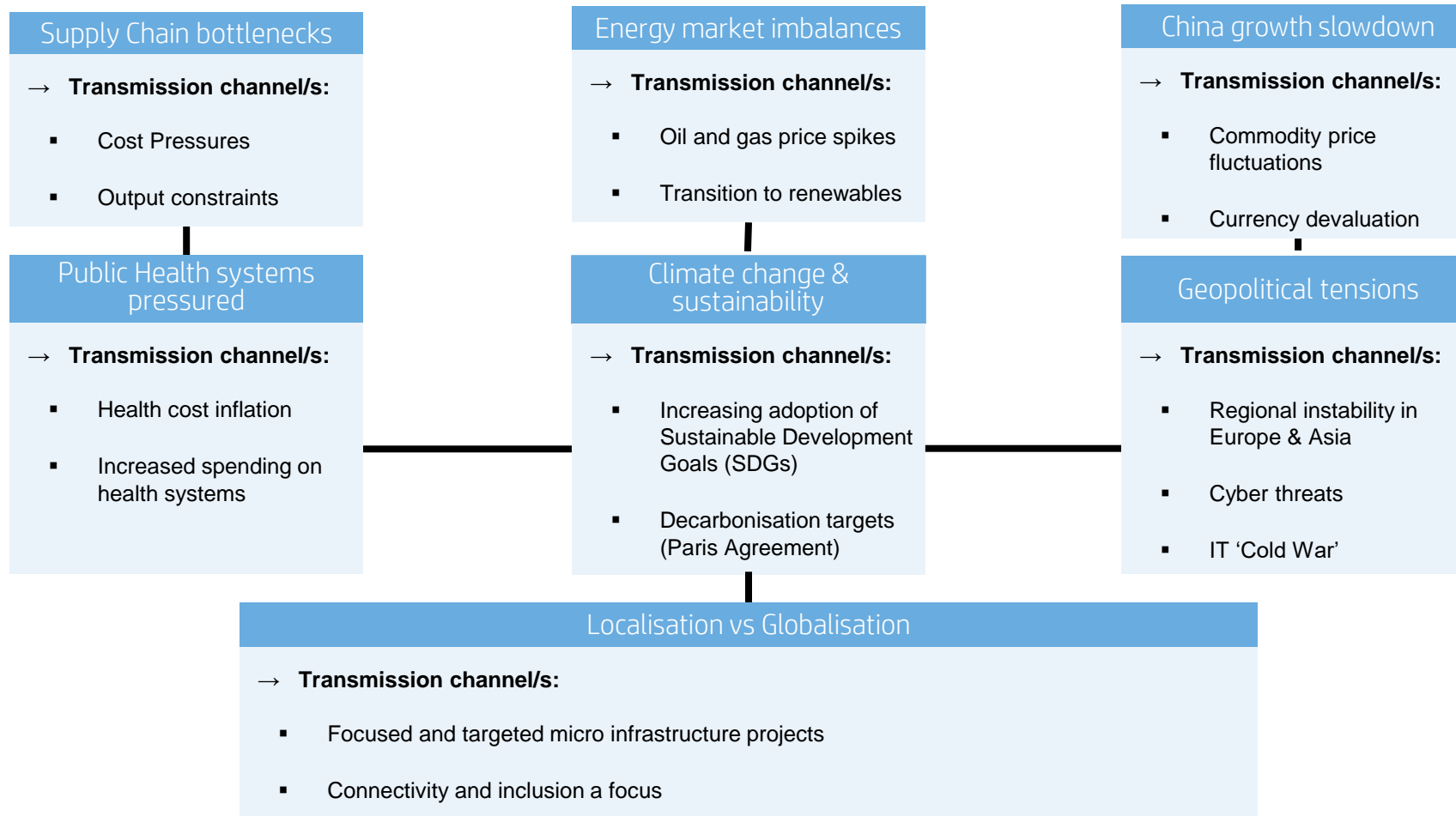
# CAPACITY TO ADAPT TO THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD VARIES ACROSS THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

STATE/TERRITORY	 Output capacity	 Business confidence & Investment intentions	 Population growth	 Financial position	 Regulatory environment	 Infrastructure pipeline
<b>New South Wales</b>	✗	—	—	—	—	✓
<b>Victoria</b>	✗	—	—	✗	✓	✓
<b>Queensland</b>	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
<b>Western Australia</b>	✗	—	✓	✓	✗	✓
<b>South Australia</b>	—	✗	—	✓	—	—
<b>Tasmania</b>	✓	—	—	—	—	✗
<b>Northern Territory</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
<b>ACT</b>	—	✓	—	—	✗	—

Source: Urbis

 Expansionary
  Neutral
  Contractionary

# THE PANDEMIC HAS REVEALED UNDERLYING STRUCTURAL AND CYCLICAL CHALLENGES ACROSS THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE



# WITH SUPPLY-SIDE REALIGNMENT AND DISRUPTION IS A PROMINENT INFLUENCE ON BUSINESS CYCLES

### International Supply Chain

**↑**  
Opportunity  
**Rapid post-COVID re-opening of economies with increased trade**

**↓**  
Risk  
**Inflation due to continuing skills and supply shortages, and surging freight costs**

### International skills competition

**↑**  
Opportunity  
**Drawing of international talent due to Australia as an attractive place of work and lifestyle**

**↓**  
Risk  
**Loss of skilled workers if affordability remains uncontrolled**

### Labour Force behavioural change

**↑**  
Opportunity  
**Improved productivity and participation from greater work-life balance, lower barriers to employment**

**↓**  
Risk  
**Insufficient workplace structures to ensure social inclusion, collaboration and employee support**

### Indebtedness

**↑**  
Opportunity  
**Asset value improvements offset indebtedness, allowing a staged repayment of debt**

**↓**  
Risk  
**A credit-crunch sees defaults on debts and asset values fall with mass sales**

### The Capital-labour gap

**↑**  
Opportunity  
**Capital is directed to productivity improvements, wages rise**

**↓**  
Risk  
**Capital continues to dominate economic activity, wages and productivity lag**

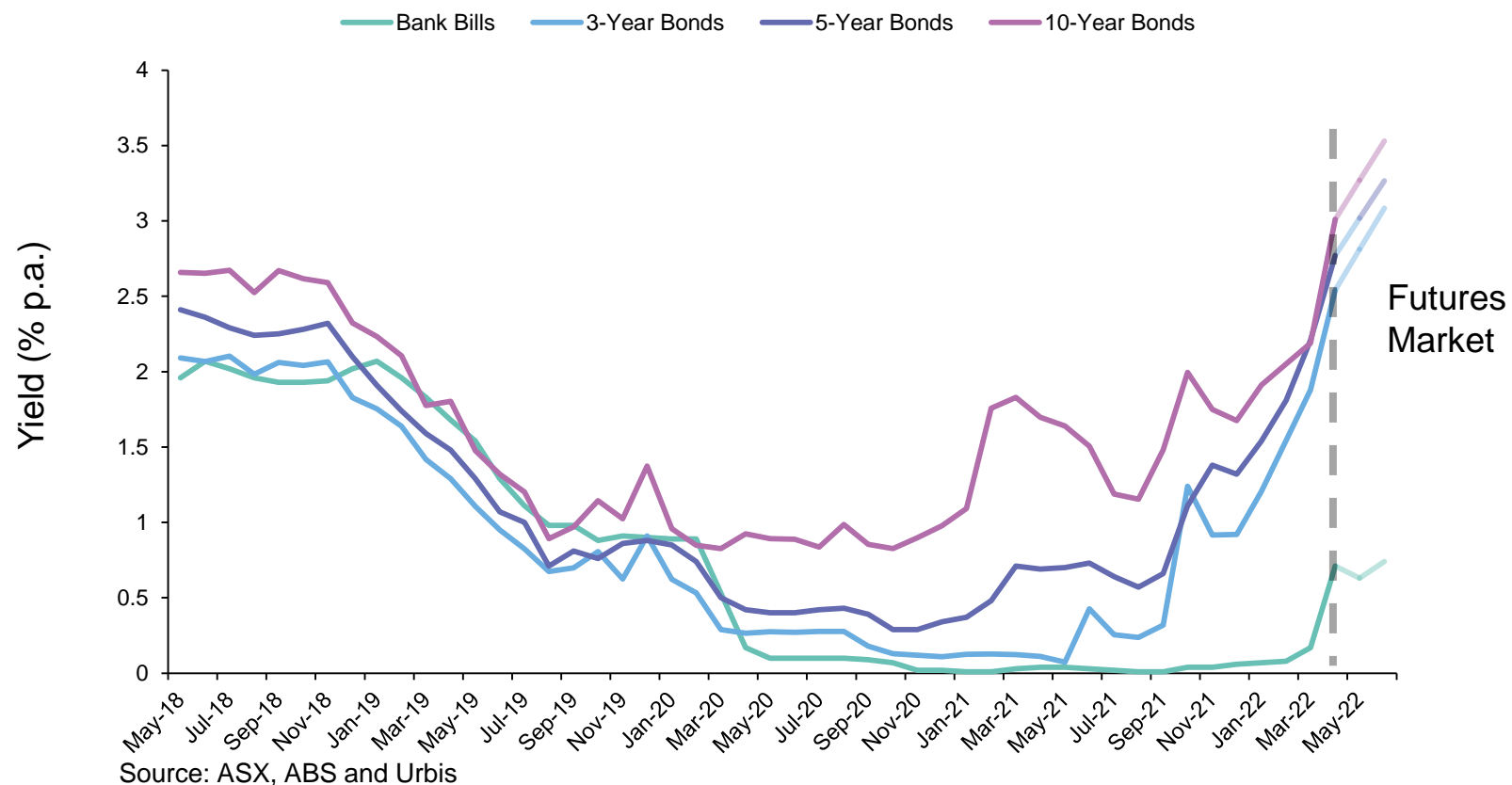
# MACRO RISKS FOR THE PROPERTY SECTOR WILL SHIFT IN THE WAKE OF POST-PANDEMIC CHANGES

Risk Factor	1 – 3 Years Horizon	5 – 7 Years Horizon	+ 10 Years Horizon
Global business cycle	+4	+3	+2
Domestic demand conditions	+3	+3	+4
Inflation pressures	+4	+2	+2
Interest rates	+5	+3	+1
Employment and income growth	+3	+2	+3
Population growth	+2	+3	+3
Sustainability and resilience	+4	+4	+5

+1 = Low risk to +5 = Extreme risk

Source: Urbis

# OFFICIAL INTEREST RATES ARE BEGINNING TO RISE AND MARKETS MUST RECALIBRATE THEIR CASH AND RISK-FREE RATES



With inflation and interest rates returning to long-term averages, the risk profile of assets will return to relying on the risk-free rate. This may see short term fluctuations in the opportunity cost of capital, however, conditions are likely to favour longer-term value assets that produce strong cash-flows.

The cash rate has risen for the first time in over a decade to 0.35%. The greatest risk is for mortgage holders, many of whom have never seen their loan repayments increase.



# RECALIBRATION WILL INEVITABLY RESULT IN ADJUSTMENT TO THE RISK-REWARD EQUATION



Business insolvency is at risk of rising due to lower revenue and higher costs.



Rising inflation and interest rates could make it difficult for borrowers to meet debt repayments.

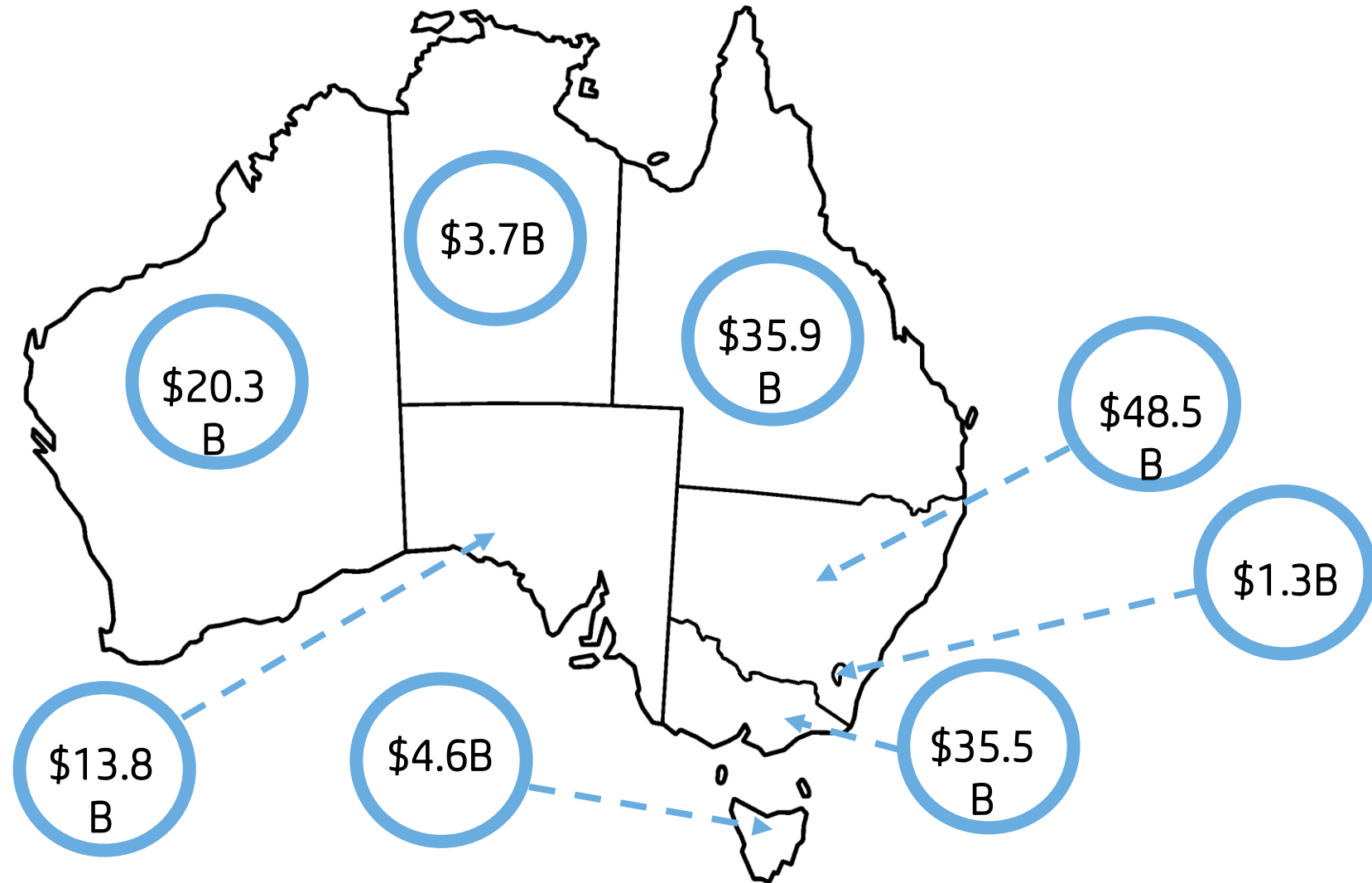


Interest rate increases are expected to impact commercial property valuations.

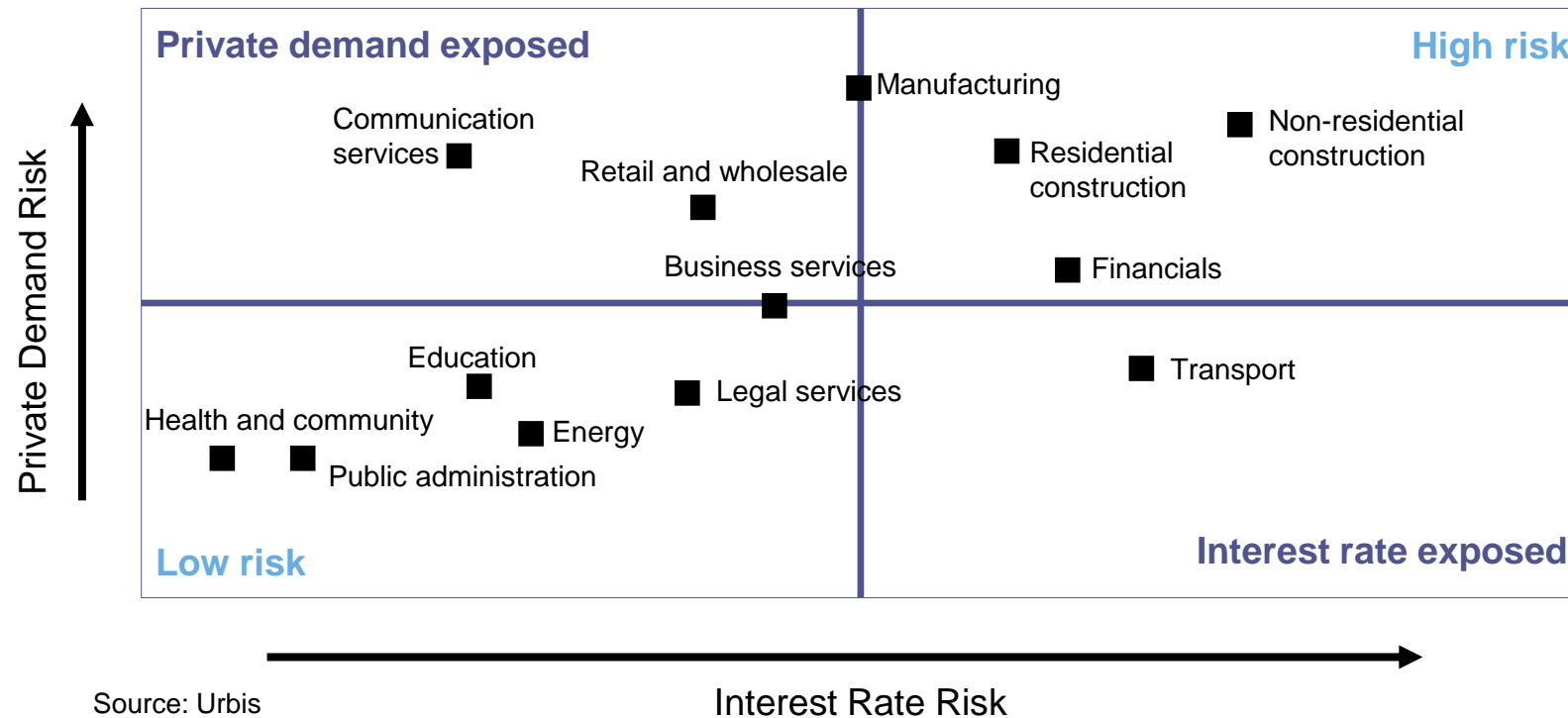


Underlying asset values will be negatively impacted by changing technological and logistical standards, as those that fail to adapt become obsolete.

# AUSTRALIA'S \$120 BILLION 10-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PIPELINE IS A PILLAR OF THE ECONOMY'S COVID-19 RECOVERY

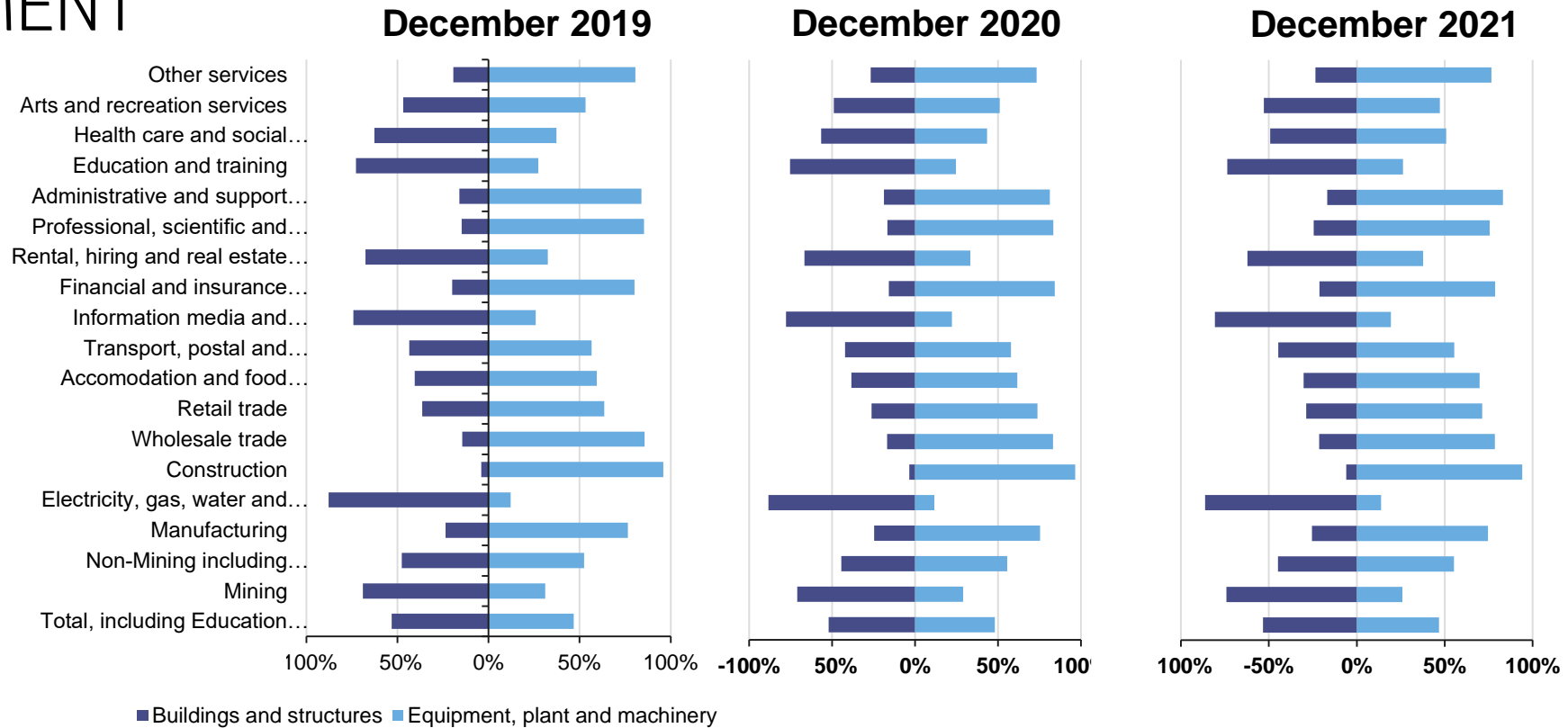


# PRIVATE DEMAND AND INTEREST RATES REPRESENT CHALLENGES FOR THE KEY SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY



Industries more highly weighted in physical capital have a larger exposure to both private demand and interest rate risk overall.

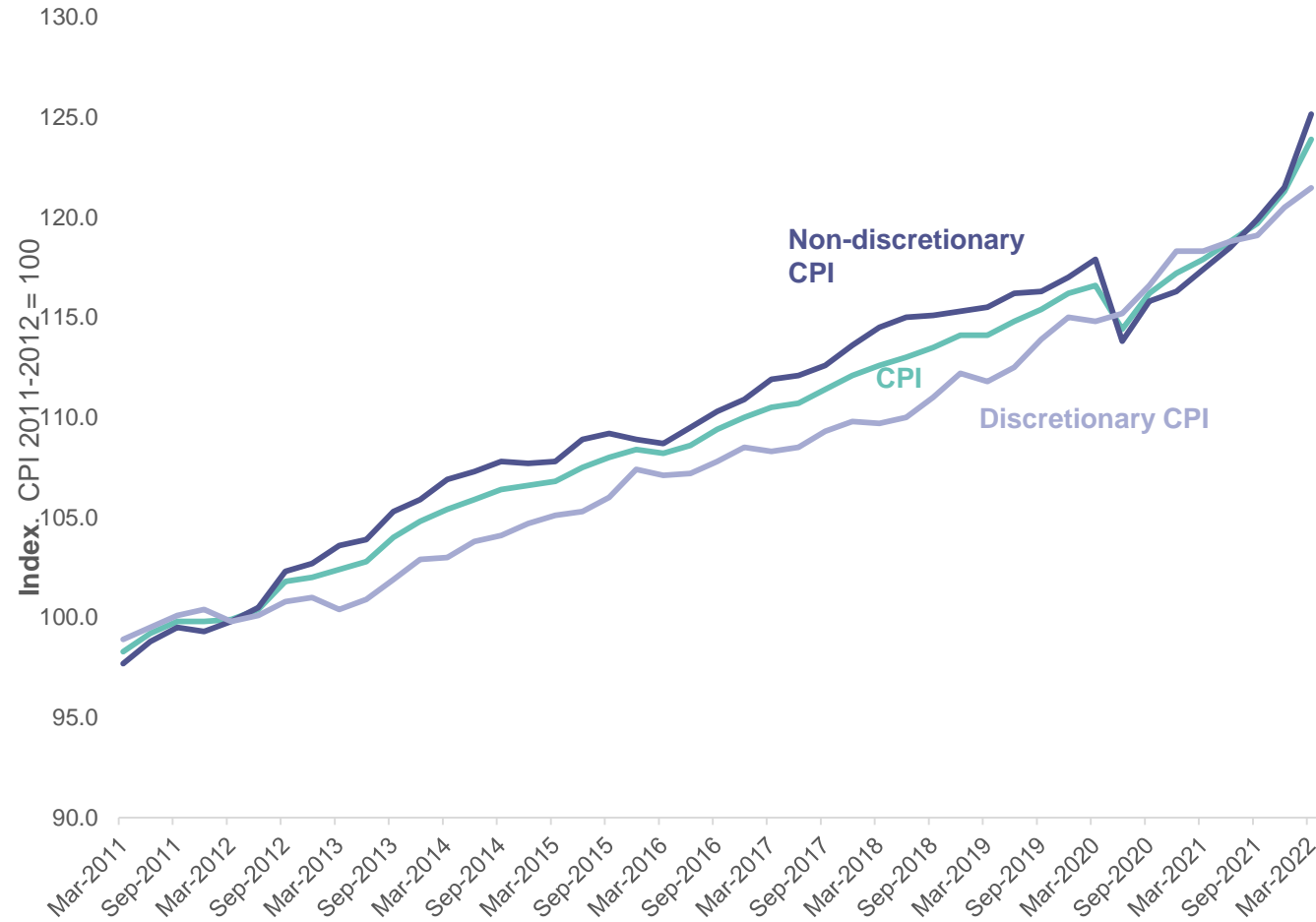
# BUSINESS CAPEX REMAINS BALANCED BETWEEN BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT



Source: ABS, Urbis

Automation in industrial and commercial sectors has seen strong ongoing investment in plant and equipment. Furthermore, data analytics and storage are increasingly important for businesses which is similarly maintaining high plant and equipment spending.

# COST-PUSH INFLATION CONTINUES TO RISE REFLECTING ONGOING DISRUPTION TO GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS

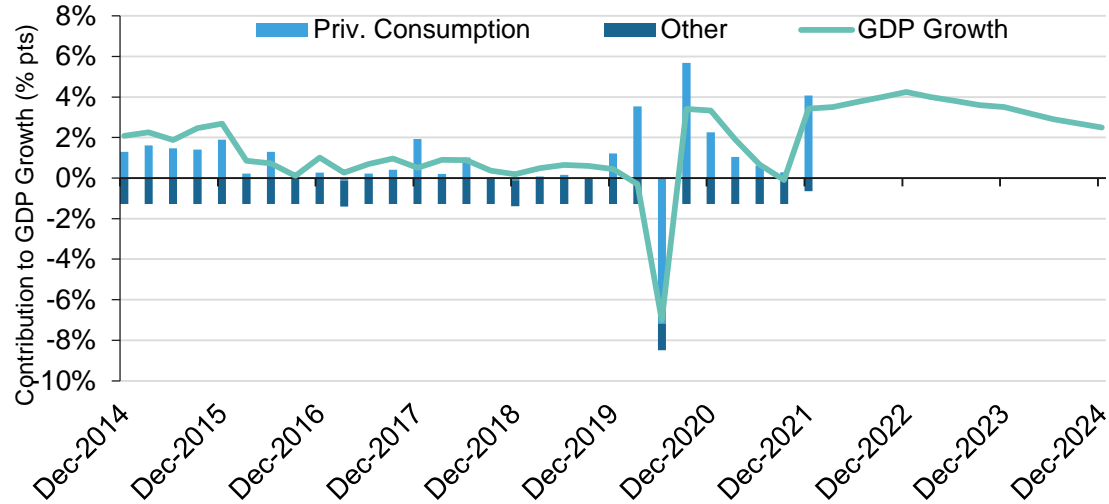


Source: ABS

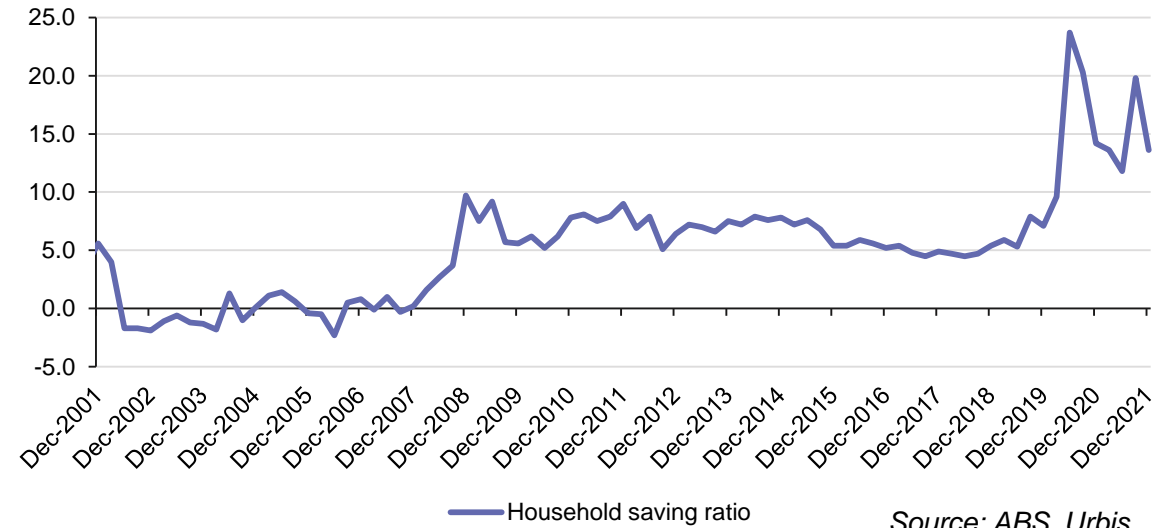
The continued growth of inflation will continue to cause strain on households, raising costs of living pressure and lowering the real growth of wages.

Producer costs are increasing at a higher rate than CPI, driving the need for efficient creation and delivery of goods and services.

# PENT UP STRENGTH OF PRIVATE CONSUMPTION WILL MODERATE AS THE 'WAR CHEST' OF SAVINGS IS SPENT



Source: ABS, Urbis



Source: ABS, Urbis

Private consumption will decrease as household savings diminish while concurrently facing growing cost of living pressures.

# SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE ARE NOW THE HALLMARKS OF RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT AND PRUDENT RISK MANAGEMENT

## Social License to operate

- **Even though something is legal, is it ethical or socially acceptable?**
- **Resilience towards emerging social concerns such as post-COVID health practices, climate-related concerns**

## Connection to country

- **Supporting the health and wellbeing of Country**
- **Respecting First Nations peoples and their cultural knowledge**
- **Sustained involvement of First Nations peoples**

## Community benefits

- **Realising the positive externalities to the community that arise from best practices**
- **Considering the social frameworks of the communities where business is undertaken**

## Working towards the United Nations SDG's

- **Transforming business models and systems for a sustainable future**
- **Implementing internal systems that support global environmental, economic and social objectives**

## EU Taxonomy (in Australia's pipeline)

- **Encouraging sustainable financial investment**
- **Accelerating investment into low carbon and environmentally friendly business activity**
- **Already impacting current investment between Australia and the EU**

# MOMENTUM IS BUILDING IN SUSTAINABLE FINANCING ACROSS ALL SECTORS

## Sustainable Financing

- Spurred by a combination of investor activism and regulatory and policy activity in the UK and Europe.
- Requirements are now flowing through to a wide range of sectors and deals, including real estate.

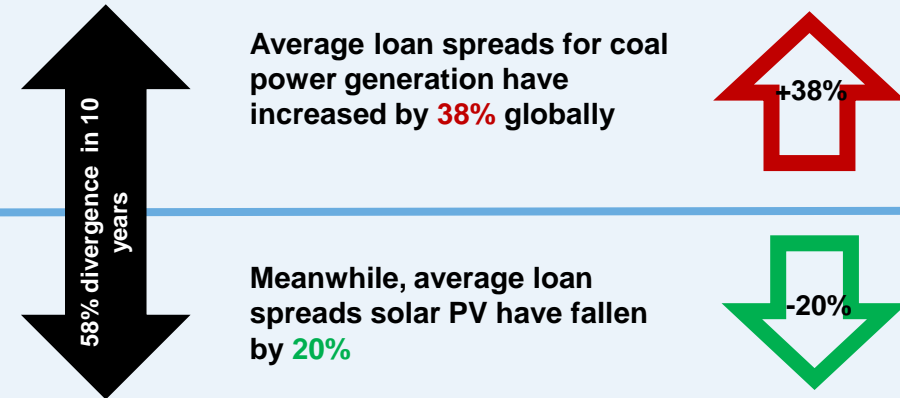
## Lenders

- Increasingly offering facilities with ESG incentives – such as reduced margins – that are affecting the cost of capital.
- Ramping up due diligence on qualifying ESG claims.

## Future outlook

- While the UK and Europe are currently leading the way, other regions are catching up.
- Sustainable financing is expected to be a fundamental driver of asset resilience in the future.

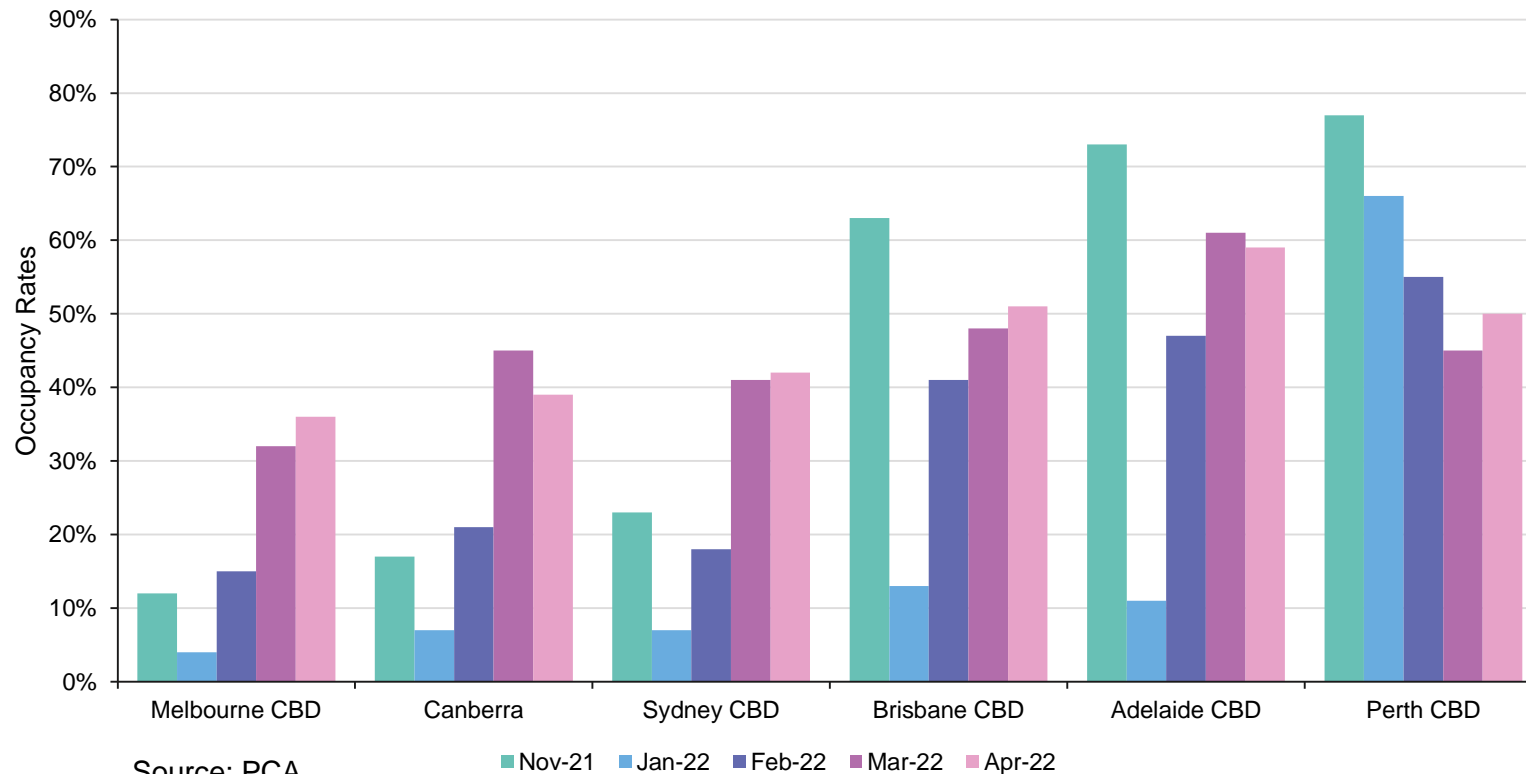
Over the last 10 years the cost of capital between renewables and fossil fuel energy has diverged by nearly 60%



Source: Oxford University



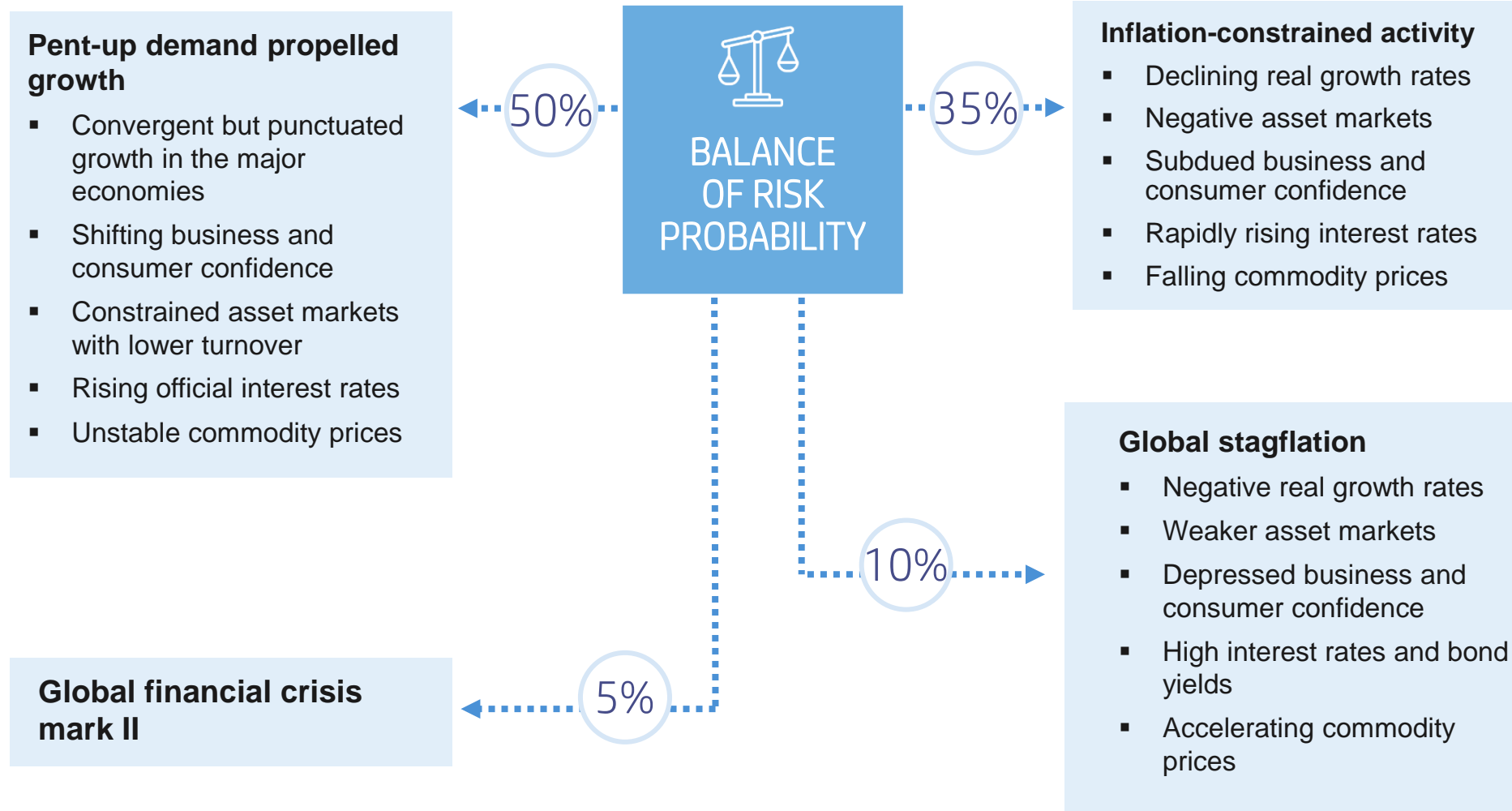
# WORKPLACE OCCUPANCY IS BOUNCING BACK, BUT IN THE FACE OF NEW POST-PANDEMIC NORMS



Increases in CBD occupancy rates suggest a return to at least hybridised workplace patterns. This is occurring following the cessation of lockdowns around Australia, and despite weather and transport disruptions on the east coast.

Despite strong returns to the workplace, employees are continuing to embrace the flexibility of hybridised work patterns to suit individual needs.

# BALANCE OF RISKS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY IN 2022-23





  
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