# Moody's **ANALYTICS**

#### Australia's Outlook Amidst the Housing Slowdown

STEVE COCHRANE, KATERINA ELL, FARAZ SYED



#### Presenters



#### **Steve Cochrane**

Steve is the Chief APAC Economist with Moody's Analytics, where he leads the Asia-Pacific economic analysis and forecasting activities of the research team and the company's forecast models.



#### Katrina Ell

Katrina is an Assistant Director of Economics with Moody's Analytics, specializing in macroeconomic issues across the Asia-Pacific, with a focus on Australia and New Zealand.



#### **Faraz Syed**

Faraz is an Economist with Moody's Analytics specializing in modelling and research related to Australia's housing market.



## Moody's Analytics Structural Macro Models

Each country model is based on theory and grounded with data

#### **Specification choice**

- » Economic theory puts restrictions on econometric specifications
- » No reliance on the extreme and unrealistic assumptions
- » Scalability and aiming at reducing problems of endogeneity bias

#### In-sample equation fit

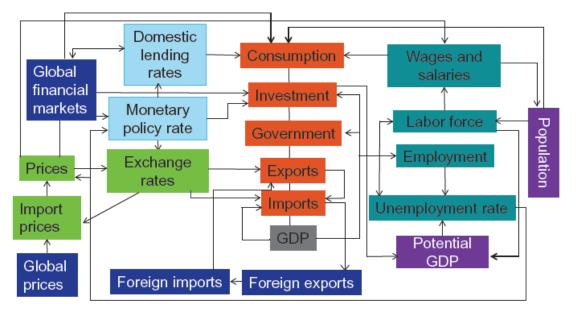
- » R-squared, RMSE, information criteria
- » Fitted values and residuals

#### **Forecasting performance**

- » Back-testing: conditional and unconditional evaluation
- » Benchmarking during important past episodes

#### Sensitivity to shocks

- » Forecasts across scenarios
- » Response to individual shocks



## More Than Just Macro...

Subnational, housing and scenarios

#### **Subnational**

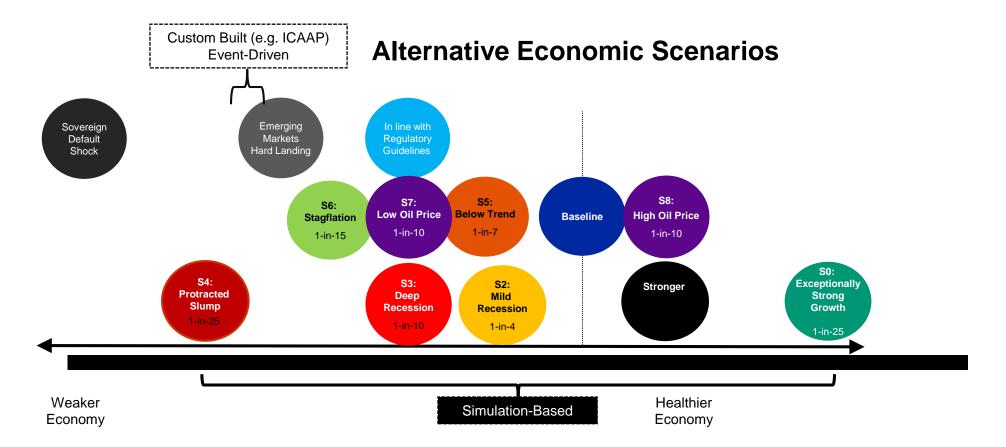
- 1. All States and Territories
- 2. All Greater Capital City Statistical Areas
- 3. All 106 SA4 areas

#### Housing

- 1. Using CoreLogic hedonic price indexes for 85 SA4 areas
- 2. Two-stage error correction framework
- 3. Pooled cross-sectional estimations account for area-specific fixed effects

#### ... With Baseline and Alternative Scenarios

Baseline forecast and scenarios updated each month

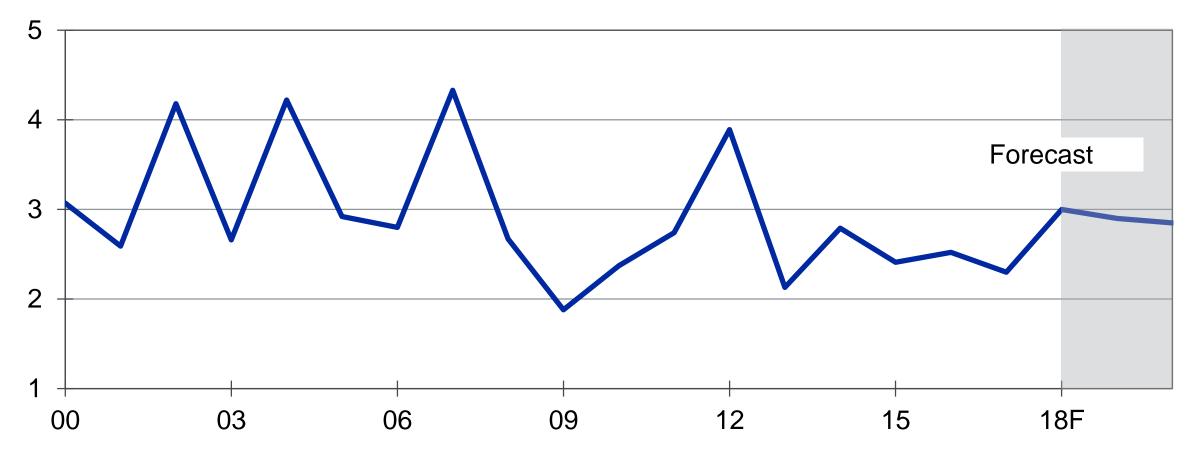




#### Macro Outlook

## **Hovering Around Potential**

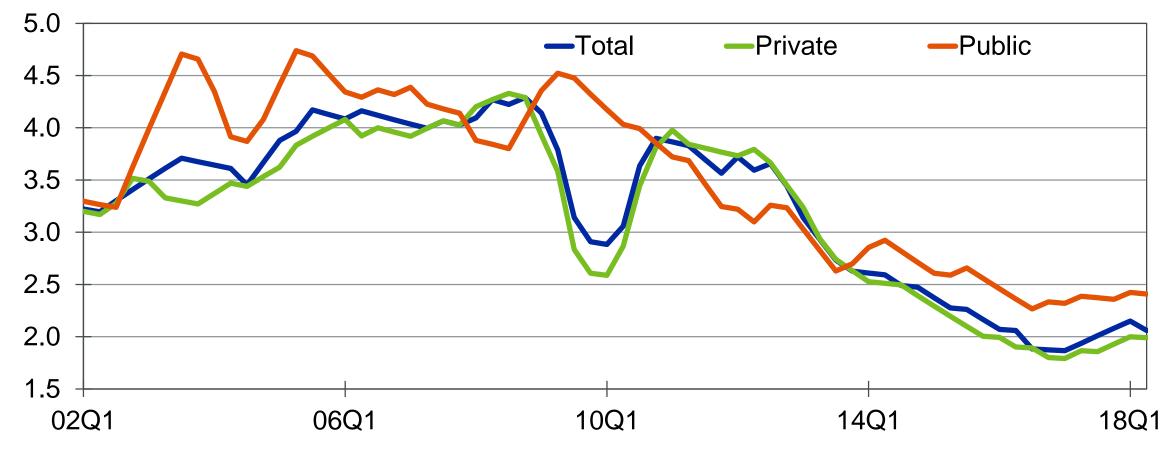
Australia's Real GDP, % change yr ago



Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Moody's Analytics

#### A Slow Climb

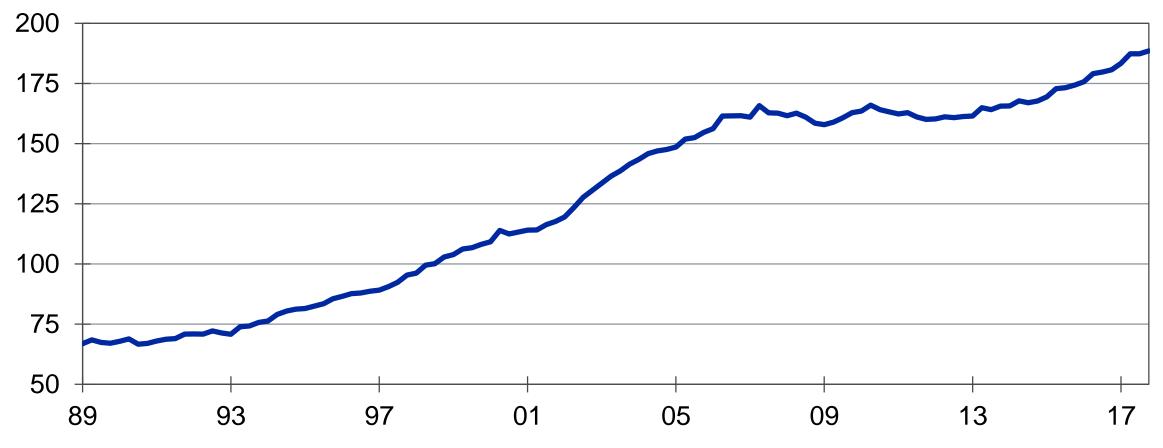
Wage price index, % change yr ago, trend



Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Moody's Analytics

## Households' High Debt Burden

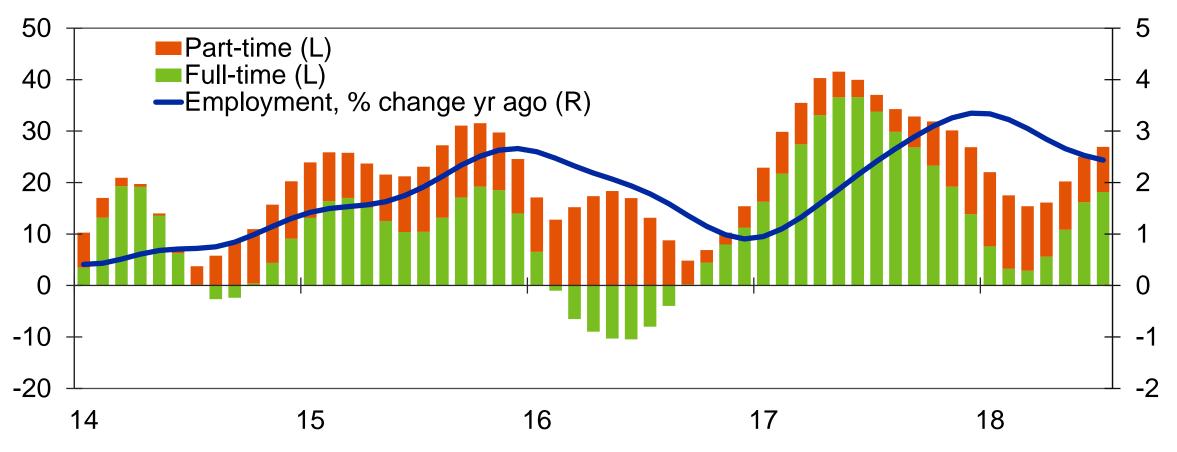
Australia household debt to disposable income, %



Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Moody's Analytics

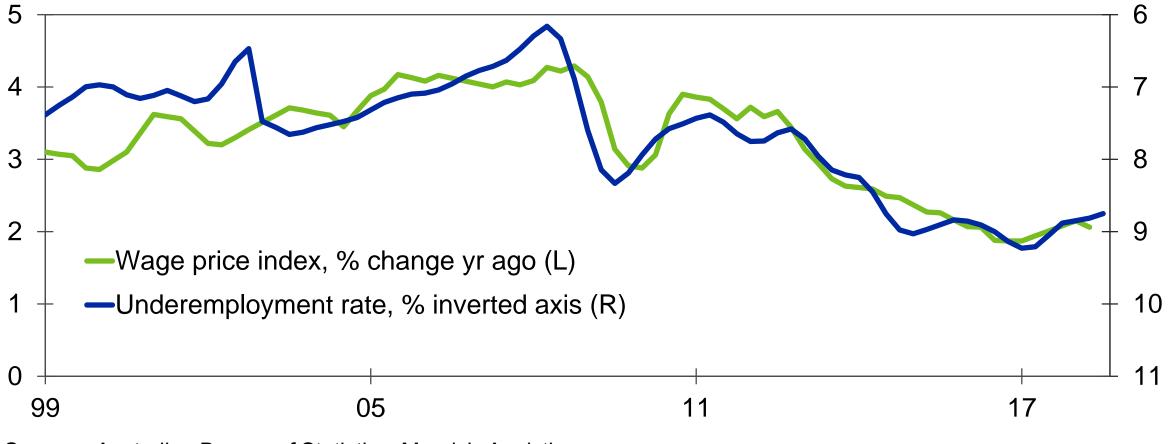
## Still Favorable Labour Market

Employment change monthly, trend, ths



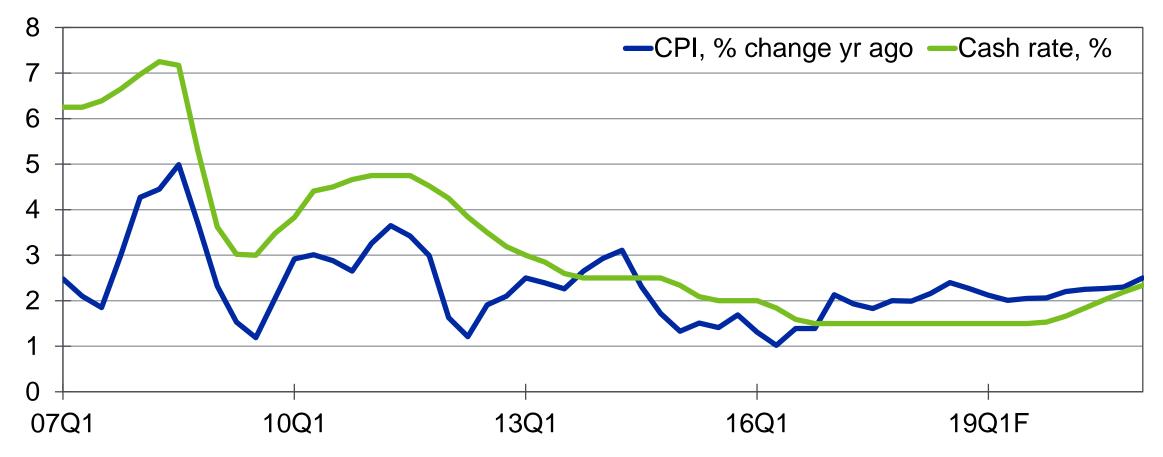
Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Moody's Analytics

# Strong Inverse Relationship



Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Moody's Analytics

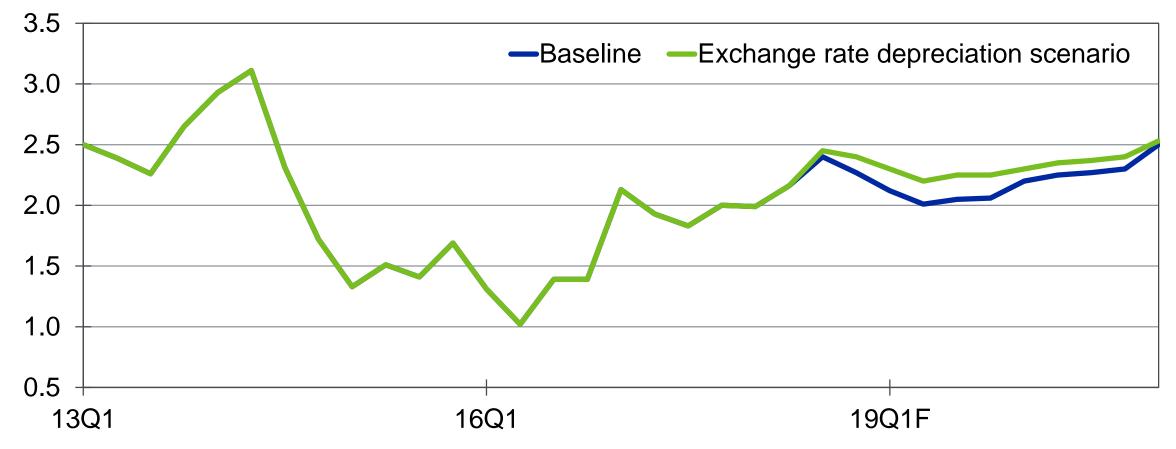
## Gradual Tightening Cycle



Sources: Reserve Bank of Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Moody's Analytics

## Weaker Aussie Pushes Inflation Higher

CPI, % change yr ago



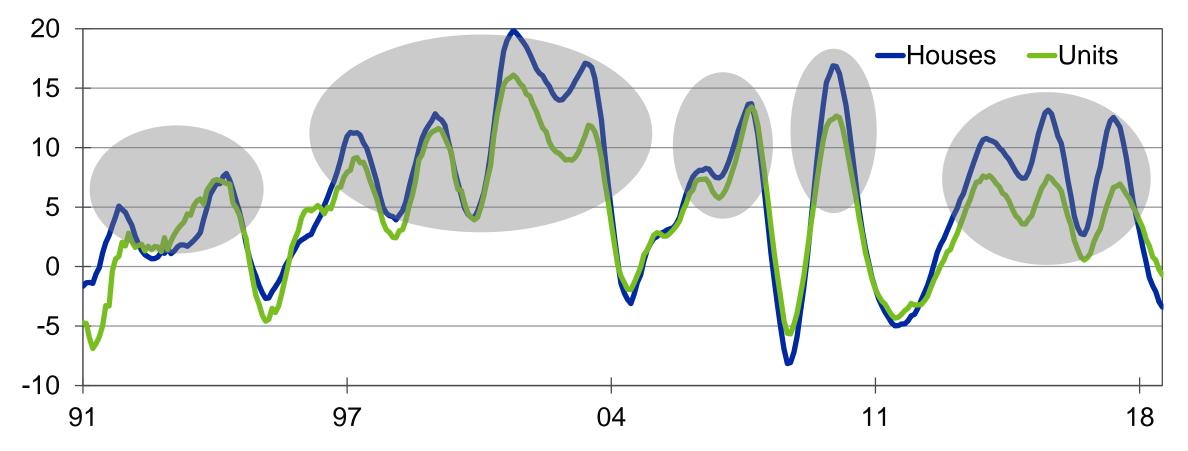
Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Moody's Analytics



## Housing Outlook

#### **National Home Values**

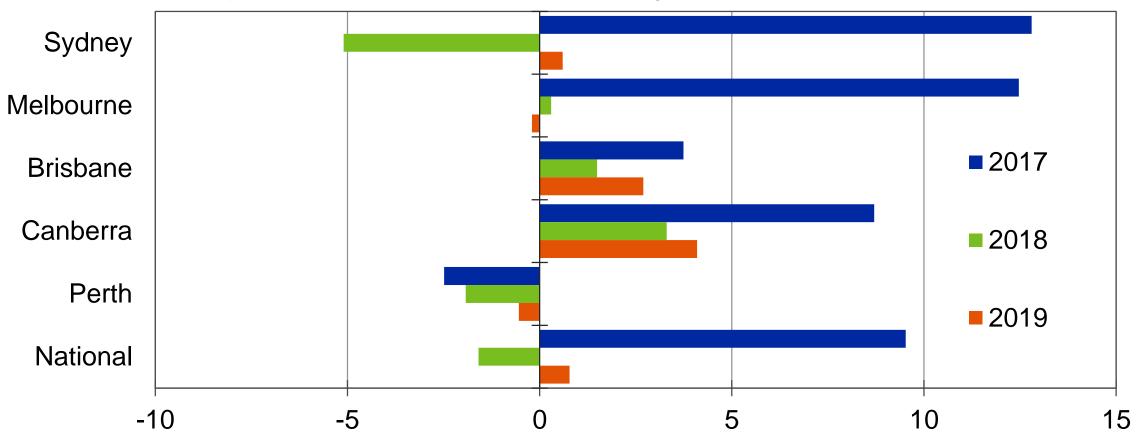
Hedonic home value index, % change yr ago



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics

#### East Coast Softer; Recovery Elsewhere

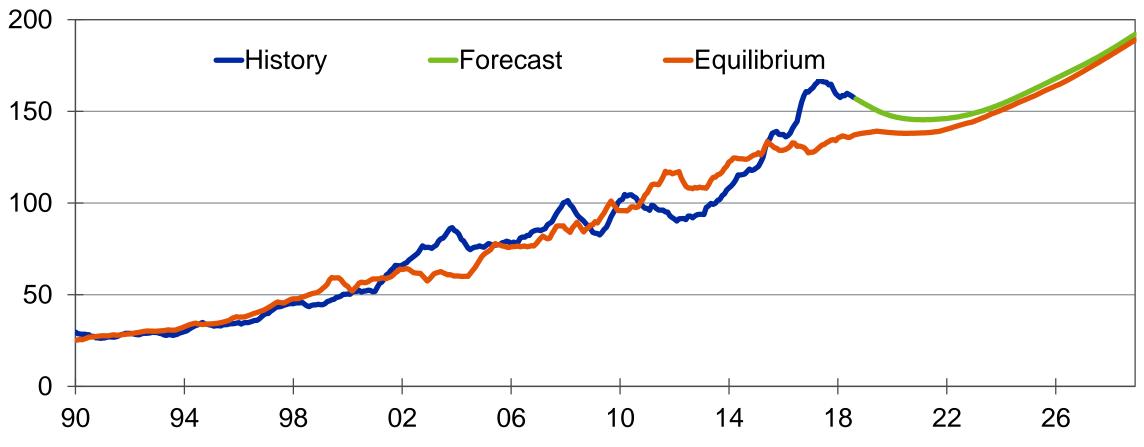
Greater capital city house value forecasts, % change



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics

## Slowdown in Sydney Areas...

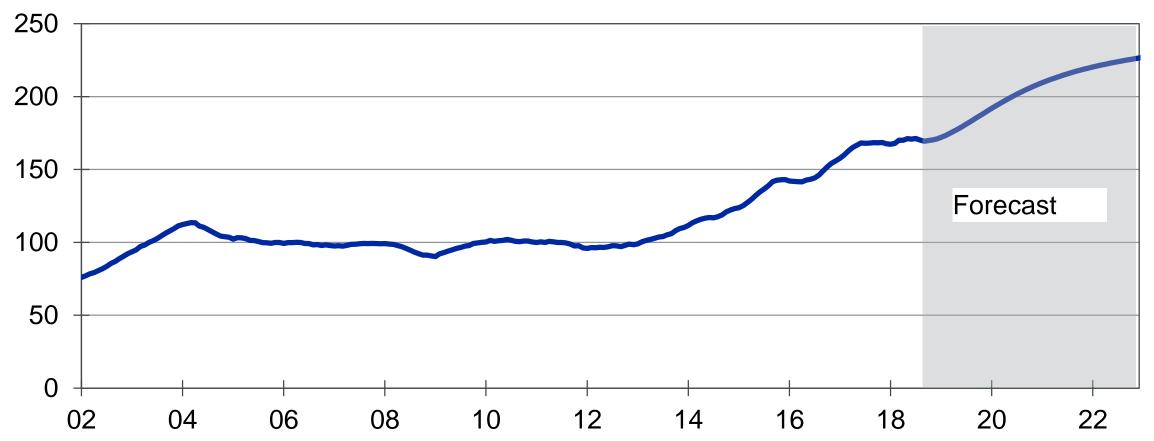
Sydney–Eastern Suburbs, hedonic house index, Dec 2009=100



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics

## ...But Improvements Outside Sydney

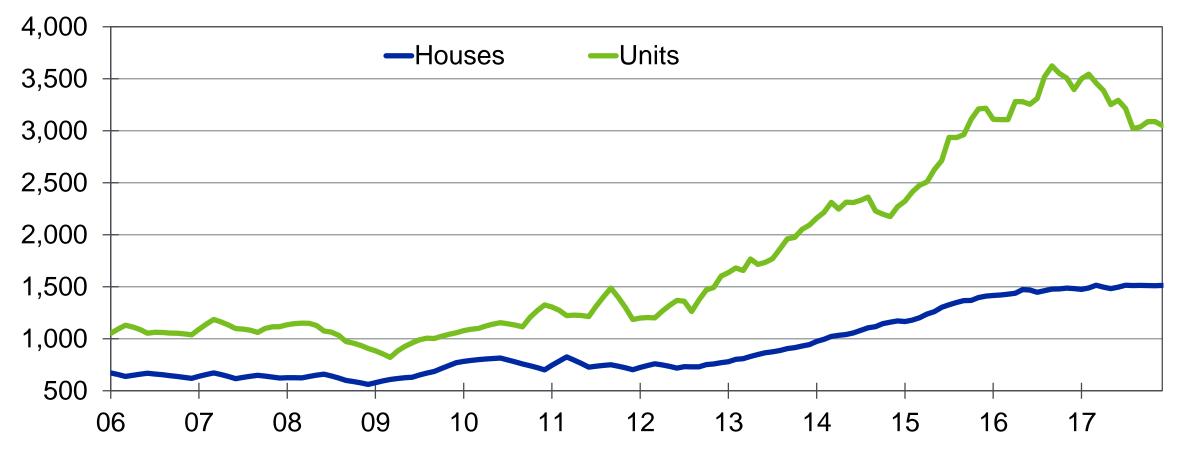
Central Coast, hedonic house index, Dec 2009=100



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics

## High Unit Supply in Sydney

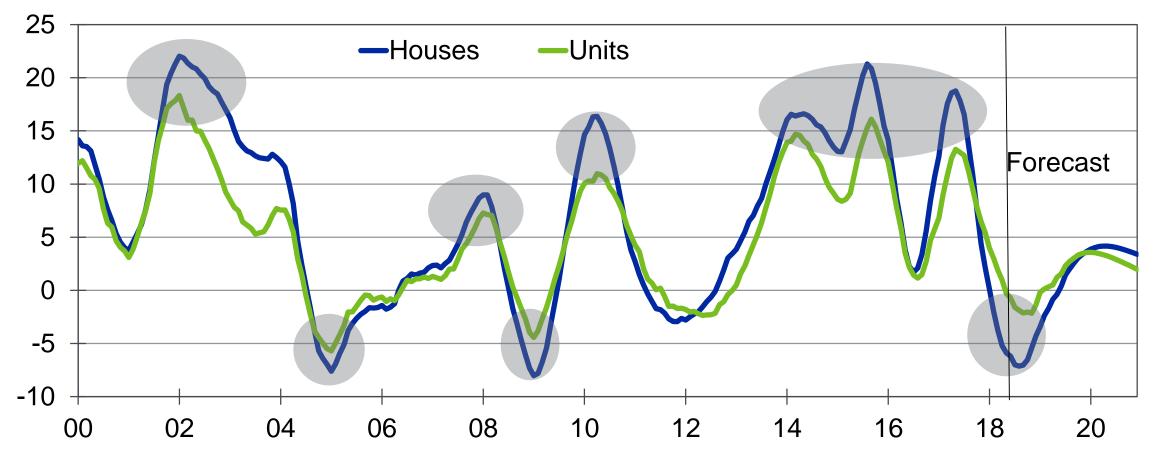
Building approvals, Greater Sydney, SAAR



Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Moody's Analytics

#### Houses More Volatile Than Units

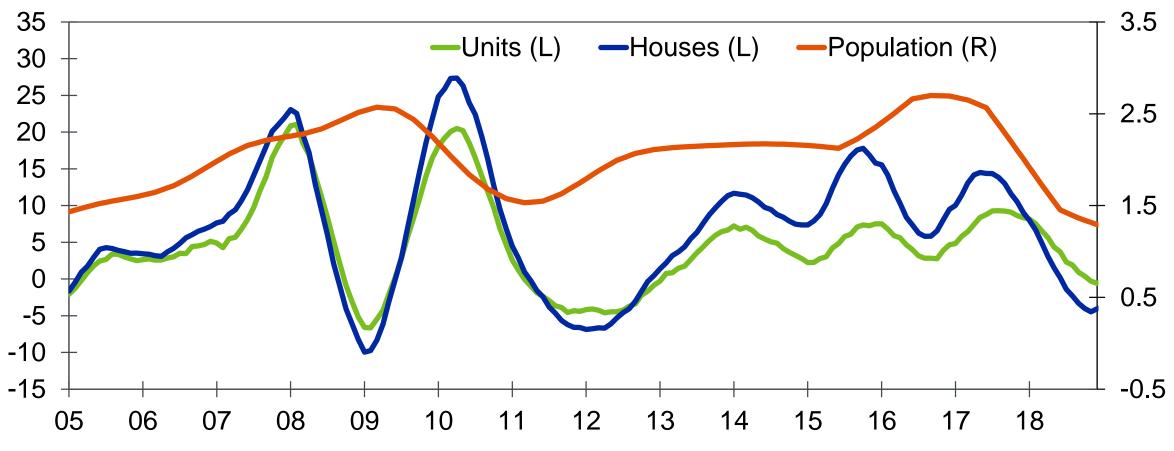
Hedonic home values, Greater Sydney, % change yr ago



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics

## **Population Driving Values**

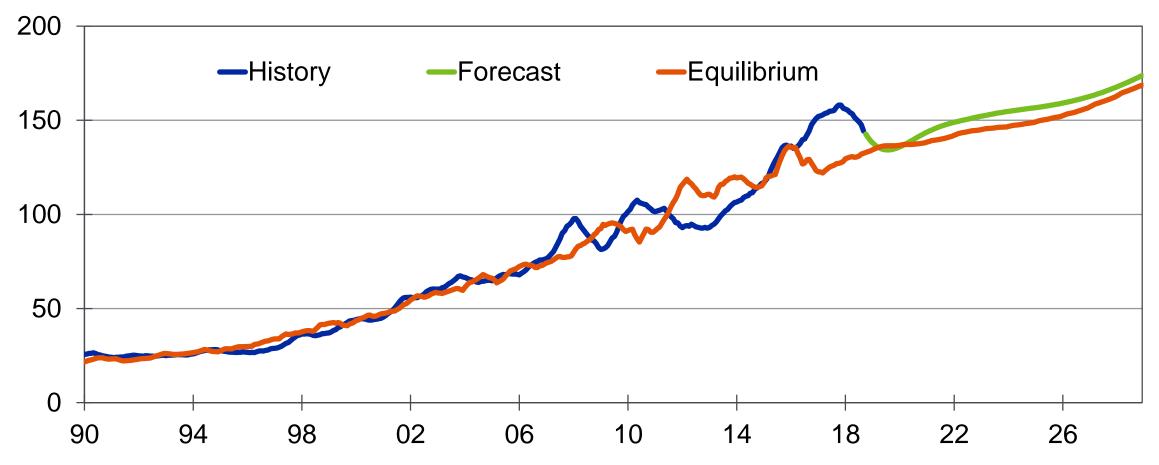
Greater Melbourne, % change yr ago



Sources: CoreLogic, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Moody's Analytics

#### Corrections Across Melbourne...

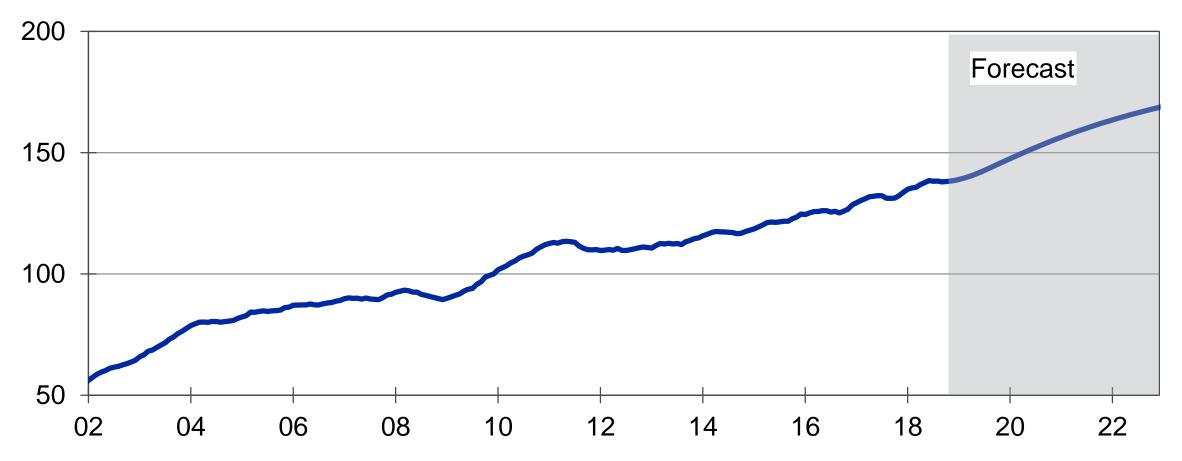
Melbourne – Inner, hedonic house index, Dec 2009=100



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics

## ...But Further Gains in Regional Victoria

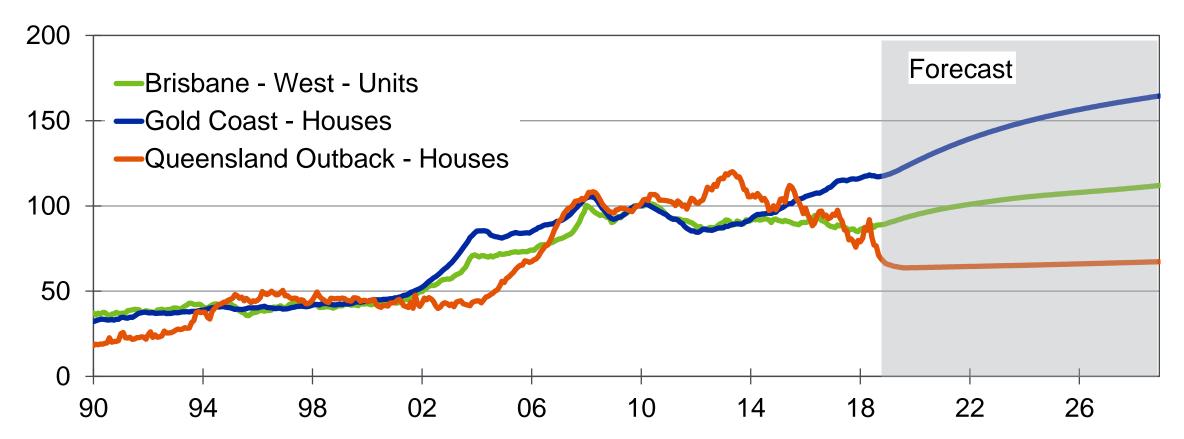
Rest of Victoria, hedonic house index, 2009=100



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics

## **Diverse Outcomes Across Queensland**

Hedonic home value index, Dec 2009=100



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics

#### **Stable Commodity Prices**

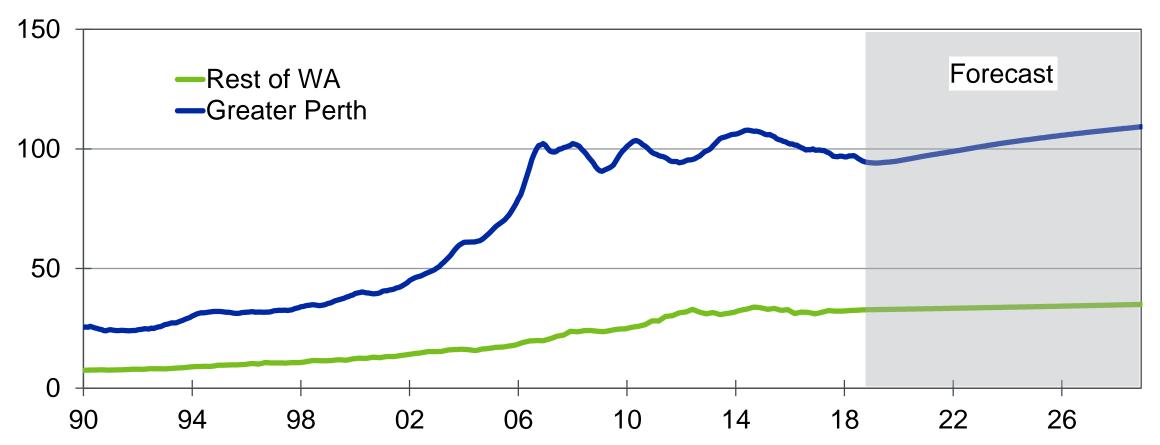
Nonrural, bulk commodity price index, \$A, 2015-16=100, NSA



Sources: Reserve Bank of Australia, Moody's Analytics

#### The West Coast Slump Is Nearly Over

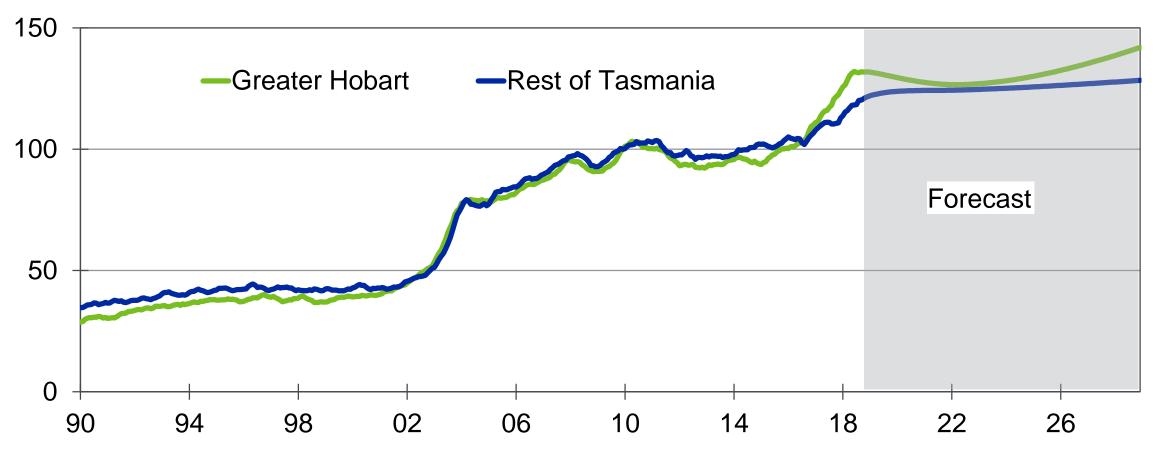
Hedonic home value index, Dec 2009 =100



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics

#### Slowdown in Tasmania

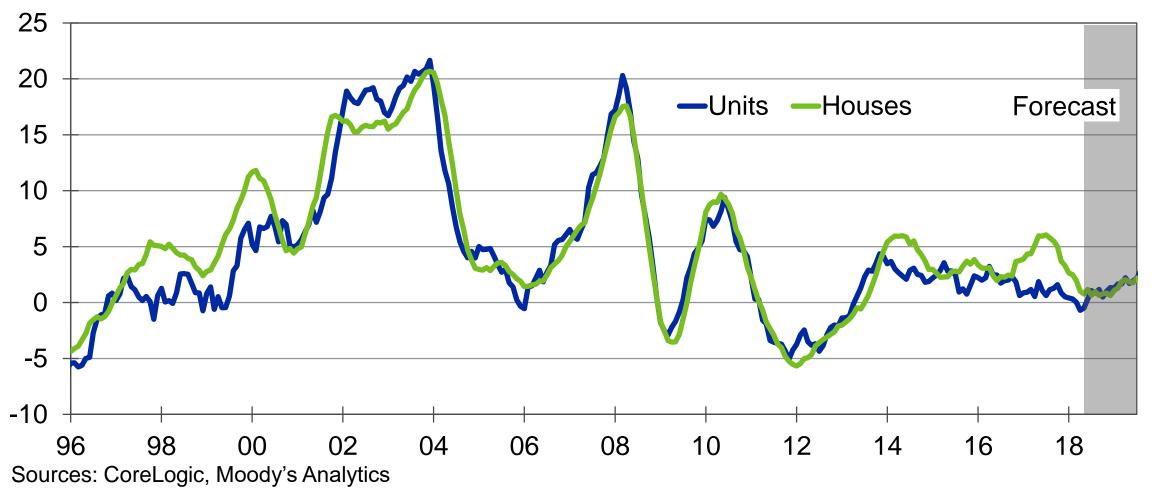
Hedonic home value index, Dec 2009 = 100



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics

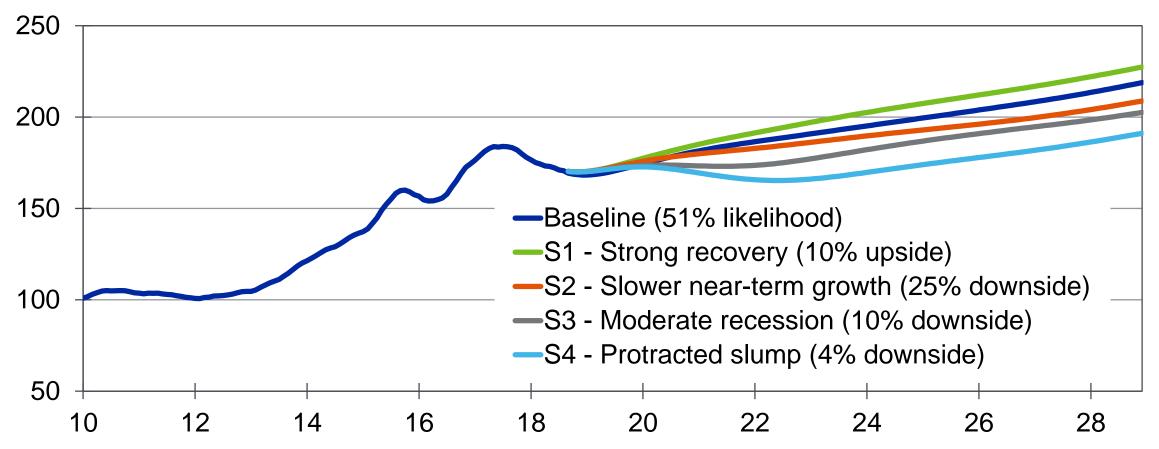
#### Adelaide's Stable Market

Greater Adelaide, hedonic home values, % change yr ago



## Sydney's Market Under Stressed Scenario

Hedonic home value index, Dec 2009=100



Sources: CoreLogic, Moody's Analytics



» Nationwide home values are expected to decline in 2018 and most of 2019.

» Sydney and Melbourne are leading the slowdown.

» Houses are expected to fall more than units owing to restrictions in supply.

- » Fundamentals remain firm: incomes and population continue rising, and interest rates are low.
- » Regional areas are forecast to outperform the capital cities in some states.



Additional questions?

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