

The ACT's debt, in one page

Every figure below is drawn from audited financial statements and the ACT Budget. Sources are listed at the foot of the page.

TOTAL TERRITORY BORROWINGS

\$17.2 billion

In 2025–26, up from \$1.4 billion in 2010–11. Forecast to reach \$23.7 billion by 2029–30.

NET DEBT (TOTAL TERRITORY)

\$11.2 billion

In 2024–25, up from \$91 million in 2010–11. Forecast to reach \$17.3 billion by 2029–30.

INTEREST BILL

\$657 million

In 2025–26 - about \$1.8 million every day. Forecast to reach \$1.23 billion a year by 2029–30.

FROM 1 JULY 2026

\$2.29m / day

The daily interest cost steps up as the 2026–27 interest bill rises to \$836 million.

INTEREST NOW OUTSTRIPS YOUR RATES

For more than a decade the Territory's interest bill was smaller than the total it collected in residential general rates. That flipped in 2025–26: interest of \$657 million passed the entire residential rates take of \$566 million. By 2026–27 it is \$836 million of interest against \$607 million of residential rates. In effect, every dollar of residential rates now goes to interest - with a widening shortfall on top - before it reaches a single service.

HOW FAST IT HAS GROWN

Total Territory borrowings have risen more than tenfold since 2010–11. Net debt has gone from near zero to over \$11 billion, and the annual interest bill has climbed from about \$83 million in 2010–11 to a forecast \$1.23 billion by 2029–30 - money committed to past borrowing before any new service is funded.

SOURCES. Total Territory borrowings, net debt and interest expense: audited ACT Consolidated Annual Financial Statements (to 2024–25) and the 2026–27 ACT Budget Outlook (forward estimates). Residential general rates: ACT Budget Outlooks and ACT Taxation Review. Daily interest figures are the relevant year's interest expense divided by 365. Figures are rounded for presentation. Authorised by Ed Cocks MLA.

Watch the numbers move in real time

Live tracker, charts and a contact-your-MLA tool at ACTDebtWatch.com