FUNDAMENTALS OF FORECASTING

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What am I covering today?

- Driver based Cash v Profit forecasting
- What you need to know when preparing a forecast?
- How to create a basic driver based cashflow forecast.





Cash Forecast vs Profit Forecast

What's included in a profit forecast?

- Focuses on your profit and loss
- Accounting adjustments (Non-cash items)
- Doesn't include balance sheet items such as:
 - Owner drawings
 - Taxes
 - Loan payments
 - Fixed Asset purchases

All of these can be substantial drains on your cashflow.



S M Y D SHOW ME YOUR DEBITS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Cash Forecast vs Profit Forecast

What's included in a Cash Forecast?

- It's all about money in and out of your bank account. It includes:
 - \circ Income
 - Expenses
 - Fixed Assets
 - Loan Payments
 - Taxes
 - \circ Drawings
- Profit is not the main focus.





What you need to know when forecasting



Revenue

Understanding where your cash is coming from?

- Revenue Channels Where does your revenue come from (Online / retail)?
- Revenue Streams How many revenue streams do you have and can you add more?
- Product / Service Split Do you know which product/service is the most profitable / resilient / adaptable?
- Value vs Volume



Expenses

- Direct Costs vs Overheads
 - What costs essentially stop when income earning activity stops?
- Overheads Fixed vs Variable
 - Which expenses are set per month? (Rent, subscriptions, some salaries, loan repayments, etc.)
 - Tend to have very little control over these costs
 - Variable costs can be adjusted to a certain extent (Petrol, Marketing, Advertising)





Balance Sheet cash items

• Debt

- What are your monthly loan payments?
- Tax
 - When is it due?
- Capital Expenditure
 - What do you need to buy and when?
- Drawings
 - How much can the business afford and how much are you taking?



Putting it all into action

Creating your Cashflow forecast

- Extract your information into Excel
- Scenario Planning
- Example



Summary

- Know your numbers = Know your drivers.
- Forecasting is pro-actively planning how to react to unknown environments.
- Profit v Cash forecast
- What's included in a cashflow forecast
- Seen an Excel forecast in action



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THANK YOU



- Go to www.smvd.co.nz/forecast to receive a free template and instructional video
- Contact me on jason@smyd.co.nz if you want help in preparing your forecast