

JOHN LINDEMAN'S

# CASH COW SUBURBS REPORT



Australia's best cash cow suburbs with potential for strong cash flow as well as high capital growth for the future

**WINTER 2021**



# **John Lindeman's Cash Cow Suburbs Report**

## **for Australia**

**Winter 2021 Issue**

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## 1) About the author and this report

### John Lindeman



CEO of innovative property market research firm **Property Power Partners**, John is widely respected as one of Australia's leading property market analysts. With well over fifteen years of experience researching the nature and dynamics of the housing market at major data analysts, John is renowned as the property market researcher that other property experts go to for all their Australian housing market insights.

John is a regular contributor to property media such as **Australian Property Investor Magazine**, **Your Investment Property Magazine**, **Michael Yardney's Property Update**, **Kevin Turner's Real Estate Talk**, **Rich Harvey's Property Buyer** and **Alan Kohler's Eureka Report**. John has also authored the landmark best-selling books for property investors, **Mastering the Australian Housing Market** and **Unlocking the Property Market**, both published by **Wileys**.

### About this report

Even if your aim from property investment is high capital growth, you also need positive cash flow from rent, because if your holding expenses such as repairs, maintenance, rates, insurance, property management fees and interest charges are more than your income from rent, your investment is losing money and some of your capital growth will be used up to offset this loss.

That's why we have produced this report revealing those Australian suburbs and towns with the highest rental yields generated by genuine rental demand, and also with the best potential to deliver high price growth.

However, as the housing market is already booming in many locations, we have only selected suburbs where housing market conditions currently suit potential buyers, and there are sufficient house or unit properties for sale to enable you to negotiate a good price.

In other words, we have not included suburbs where prices are already rapidly rising, or even where good further growth is forecast, unless they also offer opportunities for you to participate as a buyer and secure an investment property at a realistic market price.

The suburbs in this report have the potential to provide you with investment opportunities delivering both strong cash flow from day one, as well as high capital growth for the future.

I trust that you will both enjoy and profit from this report.

John Lindeman  
CEO Property Power Partners

## 2) Australia's only patented housing market prediction solution



This report brings you highly accurate property market forecasts produced by Australia's only patented Housing Market Prediction Solution, invented by leading property market analyst, John Lindeman.

Using this patented solution, the HOMPS database identifies the investment prospects for over 15,000 suburbs and towns, revealing their cash flow and price performance potential.

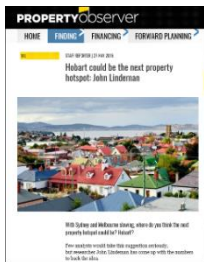
Since they were developed the predictive algorithms employed in the database have produced a consistent past predictive accuracy rate of over ninety per cent in terms of forecasting both the direction and intensity of price and rent changes.

## 3) John Lindeman's predictions – a legendary record of accuracy



In the *Australian Property Investor* magazine's **Hot One Hundred** Issue of **May 2013**, John Lindeman was the first expert to publicly predict **Sydney's** imminent housing market boom.

John's predictions in that issue also revealed **which of Sydney's suburbs** would be the first to rise in price, heralding the boom to come.



In *Property Observer* Issue of **27 May 2016**, John correctly forecast that **Hobart** was the next property hotspot and would boom in 2017, **just before** the growth kicked in.

**Hobart was the best performer** of all capital city housing markets in both 2017 and 2018.



In **March 2020**, John correctly predicted in *Your Investment Property*, *Michael Yardney's Property Update* and other property media that our property markets would **boom** as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was at the same time as the economists and other analysts were all forecasting **doom and gloom**.

All of the above predictions were authored by John Lindeman and published in the sources quoted, with the results independently verified by CoreLogic published data.

## 4) How we determine the current market for buyers

Potential property buyers and intending sellers need to be aware of whether the current market conditions for their type of property in the suburb where they intend to make a purchase or sale are in their favour, or whether the odds are stacked against them.

For example, potential buyers in areas which meet all their desired outcomes from property investment still need to know whether current market conditions favour an immediate purchase, whether it might be better to wait for a few months until buyer conditions improve, or whether it is simply better not to buy in the suburb at all due to the current unfavourable state of the market and choose another location.

Market conditions tend to suit buyers in suburbs where seller sentiment is negative, usually due to recent price falls, buyer demand is low, potential sellers are competing to attract a buyer and there are many properties listed for sale.

Market conditions suit sellers when there are few properties for sale and potential buyers are competing against each other, with rising prices resulting in positive seller sentiment.

Some areas have stressed housing markets where there are very few buyers and many potential sellers.

Even though buying conditions appear to be good in such markets and they may have favourable long-term predictions, potential buyers should look elsewhere, because prices could keep falling for years to come before the market improves.

The issue is complex because potential buyers and sellers often rely on biased or anecdotal information which is provided by those who may derive some form of commission, knock-on, finder's fee, kick-back or other reward for their efforts. The purchase or sale could be in their best interests, rather than yours.

While it is possible for you to form an independent and accurate opinion about the current type of housing market prevailing in an area, this is often beyond the desire or inclination of most of us to do.

For this reason, our reports describe the current market conditions for houses or units in any suburb and reveal whether they suit potential buyers.

To achieve this for you, we have conducted “on the ground” research of all the suburbs revealed by our research methodologies to confirm the findings and ensure that the suburbs in this report have current market conditions which are neutral or suit buyers and that there are good opportunities to obtain a bargain priced property.



## 5) How we determine the cash flow potential

Suburbs which offer strong cash flow are those where the rental demand is greater than the supply of properties available for rent. To obtain strong cash flow your first priority must be to buy properties where the rental demand is strong, which is a different dynamic to the buyer demand. Rent demand can also be seasonal, regular, permanent, semi-permanent or temporary, depending on the main types of renting households in any area.

Rent demand is **seasonal** in holiday destinations such as coastal holiday destinations, but could peak during winter in tropical locations or alpine resort towns.

Rent demand from workers is **regular** in tourist areas and is also **regular** from students in tertiary education precincts. While the workers or students in these areas may move fairly frequently, rental demand is constantly created by their need to live in the area for employment or education. When rent demand falls in education precincts during the semester breaks, it may rise in tourist areas.

Rental demand is **permanent** in the low socio-economic suburbs of our major cities and rural towns, and many of the households in these locations may rent all their lives.

**Semi-permanent** rent demand is common in older well-established suburbs where overseas arrivals tend to rent for several years before they can buy a home of their own. While this rent demand appears to be permanent, it is ultimately dependent on where migrants come from, as this determines where they are likely to rent, preferring areas where people of similar ethnic backgrounds already live.

Finally, there are locations where rent demand grows quickly, but is **temporary**, such as when mines are constructed or further developed and during transport infrastructure projects including the building or expansion of railway lines, ports or highways. These rental booms are most common in remote and regional areas where the workers must rent in nearby towns until the project is complete.

If the rental yields rise enough, investors start competing to buy properties and an investor led price boom may result, which collapses when the number of investor owned properties is greater than the demand for them, or when the project is completed and the workers depart.

Our analysis of the cash flow potential of any suburb starts with an assessment of whether there is a shortage or surplus of available rental stock of the type being sought by renters in the area. This indicates whether asking rents are rising or falling in the suburb. We then estimate the rental demand and rental stock supply trend to predict the likely direction of rents over the forecast period.

Lastly, we determine the main types of renters in each suburb to estimate whether the rental demand is more likely to be seasonal, regular, permanent, semi-permanent or temporary. It is this wholistic combination of rent demand and supply indicators, trends and dynamics that enables us to generate the cash flow potential for houses or units in any suburb.

## 6) How we estimate the future growth outlook

In order to generate the growth outlooks and long term price predictions provided in this report, we utilise the Housing Market Prediction Solution (HOMPS) which was invented by leading property market analyst and researcher, John Lindeman. HOMPS was awarded an Innovation Patent in 2016 and is owned by Property Power Partners.

HOMPS employs predictive data driven algorithms which reveal the medium and long-term growth dynamics of all types of housing at suburb level over typical buy and hold periods of up to ten years. It measures the long-term changes of all significant “top down” macro indicators as well as trends in “bottom up” micro indicators which operate in the housing market to predict where changes in the dynamics are likely to cause future housing price movements.

At a macro level, HOMPS measures changes in the nature and volume of housing demand experienced during economic, financial, social and demographically defined events such as economic booms, busts, recessions, depressions, pandemics, lockdowns and periods of high and low inflation, high and low population growth and during periods of easy and cheap housing finance compared to times when interest rates are high and when finance is difficult to obtain.

On a micro level, HOMPS measures changes in housing demand caused over time by owner/occupiers, renters and investors in different locations and types of markets and identifies the changes that are likely to occur over the next few years.

In assessing potential cash flow for this report, our analysis has in particular taken into consideration:

- The number of young people leaving home and becoming renters
- Potential movements by current renters to different suburbs within the same State
- Potential movements by current renters from one State or Territory to another
- Increased buyer demand from investors seeking high cash flow properties

In addition to man-made changes in the dynamics, HOMPS also evaluates the likely impact of current, emerging and recently concluded environmental events such as droughts, bushfires, floods and cyclones, each of which has a different long-term effect on housing markets and on the time taken for them to bounce back from such disasters.

To test and ensure the accuracy of the methodologies, we studied how housing markets in all types of locations for every different type of property have reacted over various time intervals to changes in the demand dynamics at both macro and micro levels from 1901 to the present. We then applied various iterations to determine which predictive algorithms produced the most accurate results.

From this analysis we utilised the predictive algorithms in HOMPS to forecast how house or unit prices are likely to perform during typical buy and hold periods of up to ten years.

## 7) Summary of selected suburbs and towns

This table shows you the number of suburbs and towns that met the following selection criteria for houses or units:

- ✓ Market conditions in the suburb currently suit buyers or are neutral.
- ✓ There are sufficient properties for sale in the suburb for you to negotiate a good price.
- ✓ The suburb has strong cash flow driven by genuine rent demand.
- ✓ The suburb has a current gross rental yield of 5% or more.
- ✓ The suburb has high price growth potential over the next few years.

A zero (0) indicates that no suburbs or towns met all the above criteria in that capital city or rest of the State for either houses or units. No suburbs qualified in the ACT, NT or Tasmania.

<b>John Lindeman's Cash Cow Suburbs Report - Winter 2021</b>					
<b>State</b>	<b>Total number of suburbs</b>	<b>Capital city houses</b>	<b>Capital city units</b>	<b>Rest of State houses</b>	<b>Rest of State units</b>
<b>New South Wales</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>South Australia</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>9</b>

There were no suburbs in ACT, NT and Tas that met all of our selection criteria for suitable buying conditions, minimum gross rental yield, strong cash flow or strong imminent price growth potential.

## John Lindeman's Masters Mentoring Program

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Australia's leading property market expert, John Lindeman will put his wealth of expertise and experience to work for you personally. His proven techniques, legendary predictive skill and expert assistance will help you to avoid costly mistakes and make the best possible decisions. [Click here to find out more.](#)



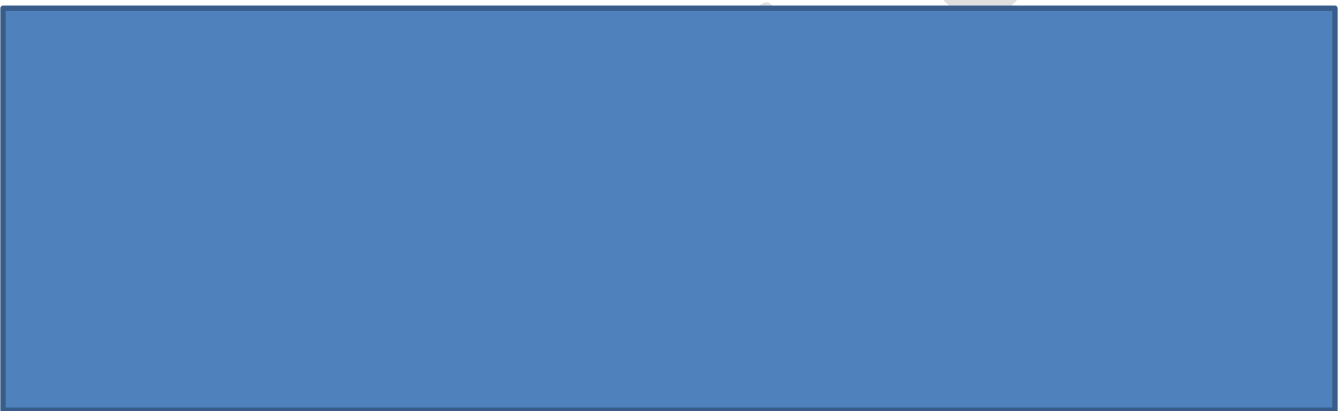
## 8) New South Wales' Cash Cows

These tables reveal the suburbs and towns which meet our selection criteria and are provided for houses and/or units. The suburbs are ranked in alphabetical order.

### SNAPSHOT OF THE CURRENT MARKET FOR NSW UNITS



### SNAPSHOT OF THE CURRENT MARKET FOR NSW HOUSES



### SHORT TERM MARKET FORECAST FOR NSW UNITS



### SHORT TERM MARKET FORECAST FOR NSW HOUSES



## MEDIUM TO LONG TERM PREDICTION FOR NSW UNITS



## MEDIUM TO LONG TERM PREDICTION FOR NSW HOUSES



### 9) Victoria's Cash Cows

These tables reveal the suburbs and towns which meet our selection criteria and are provided for houses and/or units. The suburbs are ranked in alphabetical order.

## SNAPSHOT OF THE CURRENT MARKET FOR VIC HOUSES



## SHORT TERM MARKET FORECAST FOR VIC HOUSES



## MEDIUM TO LONG TERM PREDICTION FOR VIC HOUSES



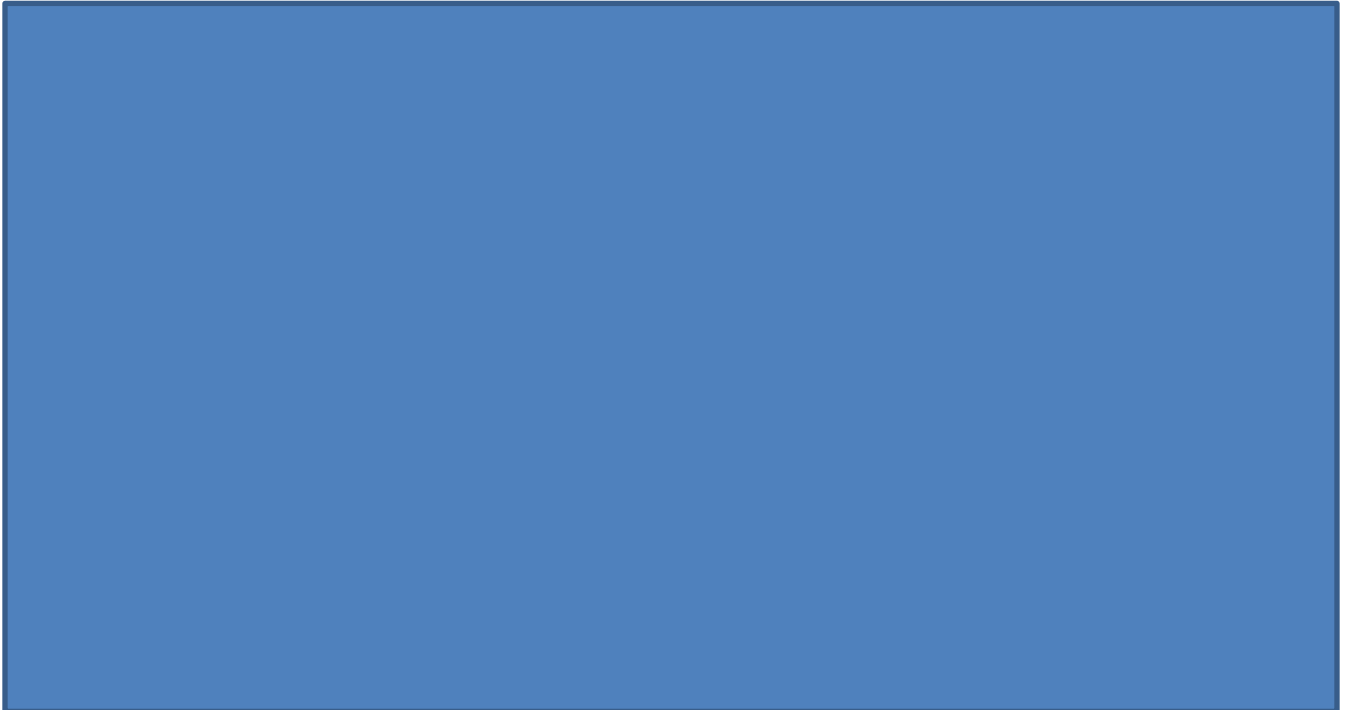
### 10) Queensland's Cash Cows

These tables reveal the suburbs and towns which meet our selection criteria and are provided for houses and/or units. The suburbs are ranked in alphabetical order.

## SNAPSHOT OF THE CURRENT MARKET FOR QLD UNITS



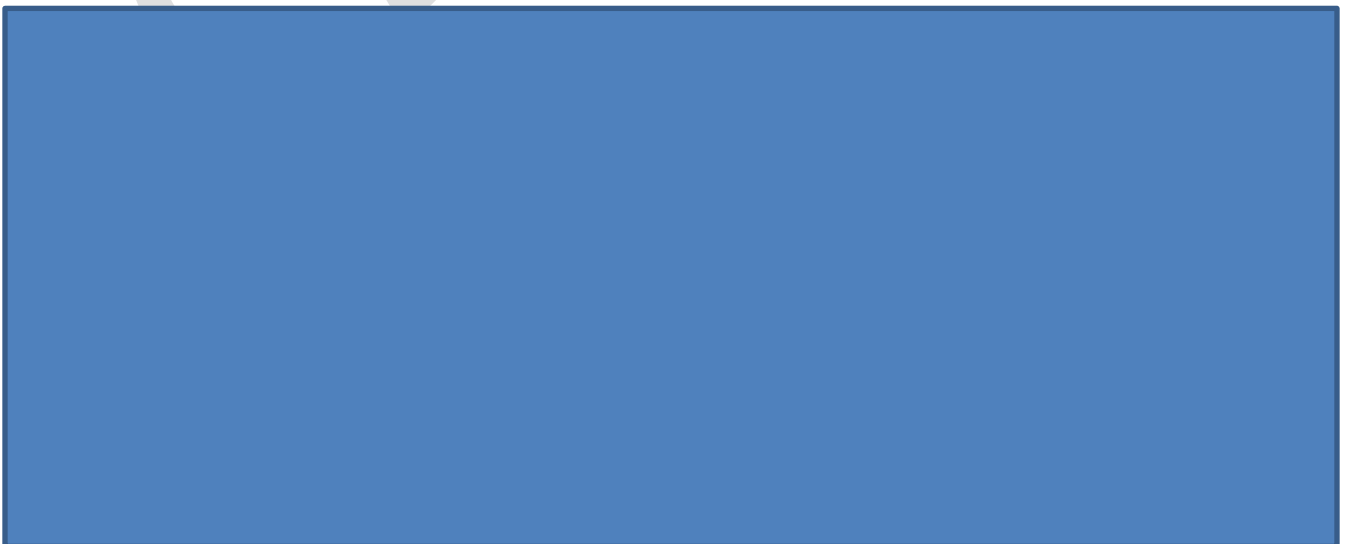
## **SNAPSHOT OF THE CURRENT MARKET FOR QLD HOUSES**



## **SHORT TERM MARKET FORECAST FOR QLD UNITS**



## **SHORT TERM MARKET FORECAST FOR QLD HOUSES**



## MEDIUM TO LONG TERM PREDICTION FOR QLD UNITS



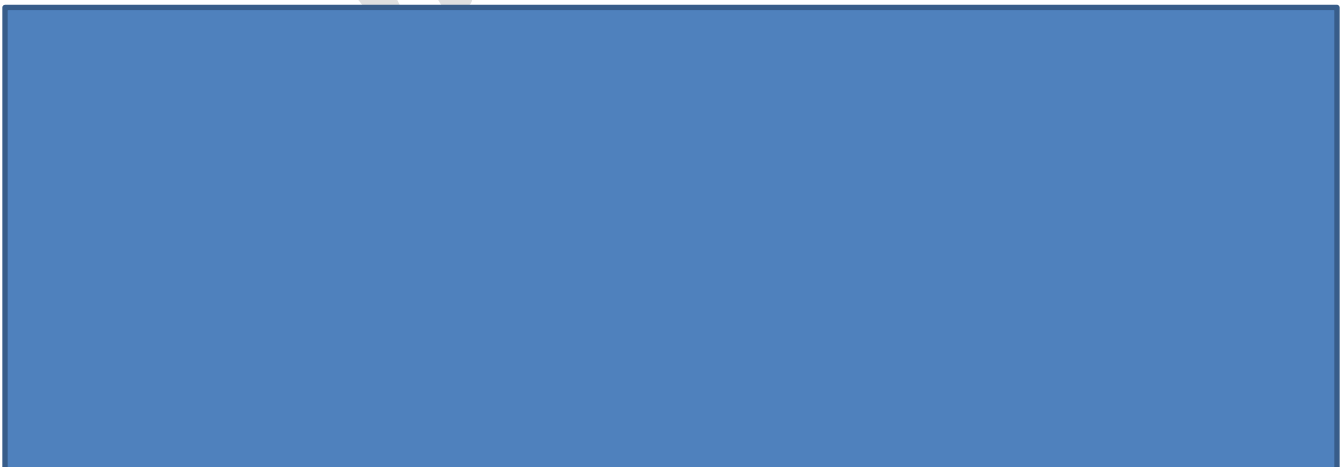
## MEDIUM TO LONG TERM PREDICTION FOR QLD HOUSES



### 11) South Australia's Cash Cows

These tables reveal the suburbs and towns which meet our selection criteria and are provided for houses and/or units. The suburbs are ranked in alphabetical order.

## SNAPSHOT OF THE CURRENT MARKET FOR SA HOUSES



## SHORT TERM MARKET FORECAST FOR SA HOUSES



## MEDIUM TO LONG TERM PREDICTION FOR SA HOUSES



### 12) Western Australia's Cash Cows

These tables reveal the suburbs and towns which meet our selection criteria and are provided for houses and/or units. The suburbs are ranked in alphabetical order.

## SNAPSHOT OF THE CURRENT MARKET FOR WA UNITS



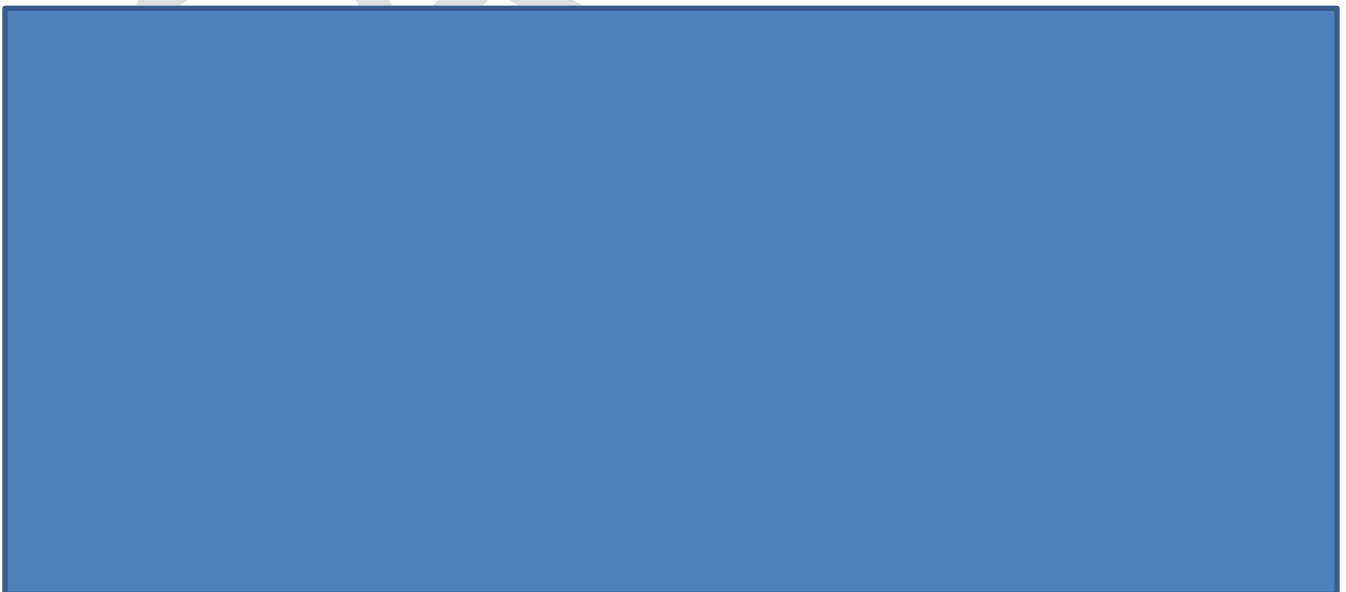
## **SNAPSHOT OF THE CURRENT MARKET FOR WA HOUSES**



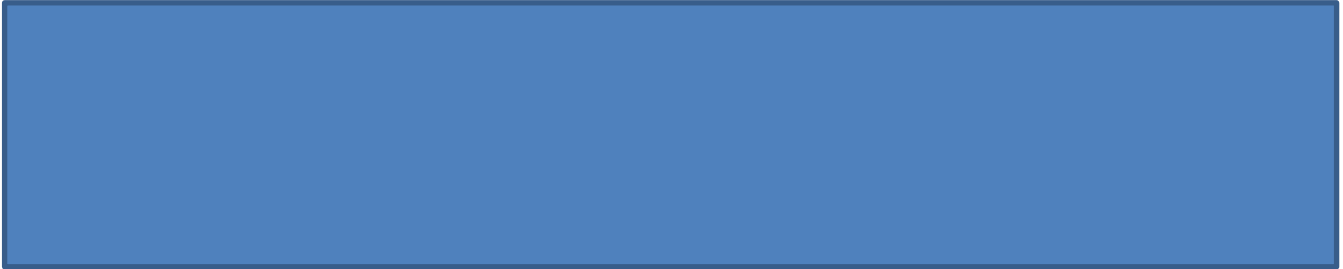
## **SHORT TERM MARKET FORECAST FOR WA UNITS**



## **SHORT TERM MARKET FORECAST FOR WA HOUSES**



## MEDIUM TO LONG TERM PREDICTION FOR WA UNITS



## MEDIUM TO LONG TERM PREDICTION FOR WA HOUSES



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## 13) What the information in the tables means

### **Suburb and Postcode**

There are many different ways to describe locations in Australia such as localities, hubs, villages, precincts, regions, towns and districts. The ones used officially in our reports are suburbs. The purpose of the Postcode is to ensure that you have selected the right suburb, as many suburbs share the same name.

### **Type of property**

All property data gathered by housing market analysts and published by major data providers is for houses or units. This means that you need to consider townhouses, duplexes and villas as either houses or units, according to which of these two types of housing they most closely resemble in the suburb.

### **Low buy price and high buy price**

Buying a property that is typical for the area is a form of demand insurance. For this reason, we provide a low and high buy price range for either houses or units in the selected suburb, within which typical properties will generally be priced.

Buying a property within this price range means that your property should be fairly typical and easier to rent now and then sell later. This is because renters and buyers will have certain expectations for property attributes when they look in the area, such as number of bedrooms, bathrooms, floor area or land size, and will prefer properties which meet their expectations.

For example, potential buyers or renters looking for properties in a suburb which typically has three-bedroom houses with one bathroom, will not be attracted to a dwelling which has four or more bedrooms, two bathrooms and maybe even a pool or other improvement. Not only will this property be valued and rented at a much higher price, it is not what buyers and tenants expect to find in such a suburb.

Housing finance providers will usually also set upper loan limits which are based around the median price, so buyers will find it difficult to obtain sufficient finance for properties whose asking prices are well above those for typical properties. It is also important for you to know that our predictions are based on typical properties which means that they may not be accurate for atypical properties such as those priced outside the buy price range provided.

### **Market conditions for potential buyers**

To assess the current market conditions for buyers, the HOMPS system collects information for houses or units in a suburb which compares the number of potential buyers to the number of intending sellers and then factors in the total stock of houses or units currently for sale on the market.

If all these conditions suit buyers, the market is said to be favourable for them to buy a property at a good price. If, some but not all of the current conditions suit buyers, the market is said to be neutral – which means that the buyer's prospects of obtaining a good price depend on whether there are other properties on the market which are similar in price, condition and appearance to the subject property, as these make conditions less competitive for potential buyers.

The buyer's prospects in neutral market conditions are also more reliant on their negotiation skills or whether they use the services of an accomplished buyer's agent.

If none of the conditions suit buyers, the market is said to be unfavourable for them to buy a property at a good price. In selecting suburbs and towns for this report, we have excluded those where current market conditions do not suit buyers.

### **The cash flow potential**

All the suburbs and towns selected for this report have strong cash flow potential, which means that current rental demand is greater than the supply of rental properties and is likely to rise further, resulting in high rental yields, rising asking rents and low vacancy rates.

### **The short and medium term price movement trend**

All the suburbs and town selected for this report have either a balanced or better short and medium term growth outlook.

#### **BALANCED**

This means that little change in median prices is likely over the forecast period.

#### **MODERATE GROWTH**

There is potential for median prices to rise by an average of less than 10% per annum over the forecast period.

#### **STRONG GROWTH**

There is potential for median prices to rise by an average of 10% per annum or more over the forecast period.

### **The five to ten-year growth prediction**

This is a prediction of the long-term growth potential of the suburb when compared to the forecast long-term performance potential of other suburbs in the same capital city or region over the same time and for the type of dwelling specified.

The prediction identifies whether the suburb has the potential to become a growth leader, an average performer or a growth lagger during a typical buy and hold time window of five to ten years into the future when compared to the average forecast long-term performance potential of all suburbs in the comparison area.

## 14) How to maximise your success

There is always a degree of unpredictability about the future, whether it concerns predicting the result of a football game, the next election, interest rate movements, or even the housing market. It is therefore crucial to maximise your chances of success in using this report by taking the following into account.

### **Understand the local dynamics**

Our predictive methodologies are based on the indicators and dynamics of supply and demand to identify areas with growth potential. This means that they can accurately forecast where changes are likely, but not always when. There are many factors which can impact housing market growth in any suburb, city or region, so it is essential that you understand the dynamics, such as population movements and change, types of households, percentage and type of renters and the percentage and cause of unoccupied housing.

Much of this 'demographic' information can be gained from QuickStats, a free on-line research facility produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Local government sites also provide useful information about the types and number of industries, businesses, facilities and residents in their council areas.

### **Do your own on the ground research**

Being well informed about the type of housing market and how it might change is a critical part of your due diligence. Even when you are satisfied that the dynamics and indicators are pointing in the same direction, you need to do your own 'on the ground' research by checking with as many local reliable sources as you can find to confirm or refute what the numbers are telling you.

### **Houses and units may perform differently**

Our predictions for each location are provided either for house or unit markets. Although there are many different types of dwellings offered for sale on the market such as units, apartments, townhouses, villas duplexes, terraces and free-standing houses, our title systems recognise only two – those built on Torrens Title or Old System Title, which are usually houses, and those on Strata Title or Company Title, which are usually units.

All property data gathered by housing market analysts and published by major data providers is therefore for houses or units. This means that you need to consider townhouses, duplexes and villas as either houses or units, according to which of these two types of housing they most closely resemble in the suburb as measured by median asking prices, median asking rents, types of renters and types of buyers.

### **Nearby suburbs may perform differently**

Even though suburbs close by or next to those suburbs selected in our reports may have the same types of housing and asking prices, this is no assurance that they may have the same growth potential. Each suburb will perform according to its own unique set of dynamics and while

it is common for similar types of housing markets to perform in the same way, there is no guarantee that this applies to all suburbs in a particular market area.

## **Properties with high or low market value may perform differently**

Demand creates the median asking price, because it measures the middle price of a group of properties for sale. Selecting a house or unit close to the median price is an easy way of ensuring that both rental and purchase demand will be higher than in those properties at the high- or low-priced ends of the market.

To assist you, we provide a low and high buy price range for either houses or units in each suburb, within which typical properties will generally be priced. Buying within this range means that your property will be easier to rent and to sell, because future renters and buyers will have certain expectations for property attributes when they look in the area, and your property may not meet them.

In addition, our predictions are based on typical properties which means that they may not be relevant to atypical properties or those priced outside the buy price range provided.

The only exception to this rule is when you are buying a property for cosmetic or structural renovations, in which case the expected selling price of your renovated property should be close to or slightly above the median asking price. To successfully achieve this, your purchase price should be at the low end of the asking price range for that suburb.

## **Different types of property may perform differently**

Buying a property that is typical for the area is much better than purchasing an atypical property, such as a five-bedroom house in a three-bedroom locality or a loft or studio apartment in a suburb where most units have two bedrooms. Such a property will be harder to sell and more difficult to rent, as renters and buyers will have certain expectations where they look in the area, and your property may not meet them.

## **Buy with your head, not your heart**

You may find your dream home when researching an investment property, but you will not live there, and the expected rental and purchase demand should be your priority. Extras such as a pool or landscaped gardens, while they appear attractive will prove to be costly burdens to maintain and can even make the property harder to rent, as the greatest rental demand may be for different types of properties.

## **Avoid paying more than market value**

If prospective vendors are aware that demand is higher than supply, they may encourage buyers to compete against each other, refuse to discount excessively ambitious asking prices and use sales processes such as auctions to drive prices up. In addition, if there are few listings in an area, it can be difficult for buyers to know a property's fair market value. The problem is that if you pay too much, you are handing some of your profit to the seller and will not achieve the

predicted level of growth. You may not even achieve any growth at all, so paying no more than market value is an essential step in successful investment.

While there are many free property price reports available on line, many of these are no more than lead generation devices, and provide little more than a list of recent sales, the median price of properties in the suburbs, or even an estate agent's appraisal. You can either pay for a property price report from a recognised property market information provider or estimate the market value yourself by comparing recent sale prices of similar properties in the area.

### **Only use up to date information**

Just as you wouldn't read last week's New York Times newspaper to find out what happened in Sydney yesterday, make sure that all the housing data you rely on is up to date and from a reliable and appropriate source.

It is essential that this report is recent, as our predictions are like snapshots in time which constantly change along with the dynamics of the market and they may no longer be valid if this report is older than three months.

### **Always use the same data source**

The housing market is complex and because of this, major data providers such as CoreLogic, Australian Property Monitors, Real Estate Institute of Australia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics have each developed their own way of measuring median sales prices and presenting historical data. The result is that each provider's data is different, which adds to the complexity and also the confusion that investors face when attempting to use the information provided.

The variations can be due to variations in the area being measured, the way in which different types of dwellings are categorised and the method of analysis. For example, the geographic boundaries of Sydney can be defined in various ways so that different areas are being measured by each.

Sales results are provided for houses or units, so that townhouses, villas and duplexes must be slotted into one category or the other, or as in the case of CoreLogic, a composite 'dwelling' index is produced which lumps all types of properties into one category.

In addition, each provider has a different way of measuring the actual changes in price that have occurred, such as repeat sales (measuring the change in price for the same properties) median sale price (measuring the change in price for all property sales), median value (measuring the change in price for all properties), hedonic value (measuring the change in price for similar types of properties), weighted median (measuring the change in price weighted by number of sales), stratified median (measuring the change in price for different sale price ranges) and so on.

These variations result in the same suburbs having different median sale prices and also having different historical price changes. It is not a question of who is right and who is wrong, as each measures the market in a different way. The way to deal with this problem is to always ensure

that your data source is from a recognised data provider such as CoreLogic or Australian Property Monitors and always use the same source.

You can even use these variations to your own advantage by understanding what the different methods of data analysis tell you – for example, the median sale price is the middle point of all sales in an area over a given period of time. A reduction in the median sale price in a suburb even though the number of sales is rising could mean that prices are about to shoot upwards, which I call the 'slingshot' effect.

This occurs because the 'cheapies' and bargains in a potential growth area are invariably cherry picked first, so that the median price falls even as the number of sales are rising.

## **Beware of the misleading median**

In suburbs where the types of properties which are on the market or have recently been sold vary from the attributes of the most common types of properties in that suburb, the median asking and median sale price can move up or down very quickly and dramatically, giving the impression that price growth or price falls are taking place. In reality, such variations can simply be due to changes in the type of dwellings that have recently been built and sold.

The most common situations where this can occur is in suburbs near universities, teaching hospitals or other educational institutions with a proliferation of loft, studio and single bedroom developments designed for student accommodation. Examples are Carlton in Melbourne and Ultimo in Sydney. Because these new dwellings are usually very much smaller than older dwellings in the suburbs, they lead to highly misleading median sale price, rent and yield data being produced.

Another example of the misleading median is in suburbs where there has been rapid growth in the number of units marketed for retirement living. This leads to a decrease in median asking sale prices, which is likely to result in lower sale prices in future as these dwellings are sold.

The other end of the misleading median scale occurs in well-established suburbs and towns consisting mainly of older, modest three-bedroom homes where developers offer new four bedroom houses with ensuites and double garages, sometimes on acreage, which are priced well above the current median price for the older houses.

This rise in sale price gives the impression of overall growth in the local housing market which is actually caused by the new homes being so much bigger and better. There may be no rise in the median price of the existing homes at all, but this is hidden by the misleading median.

## **Always check for overdevelopment potential**

While many investors might view further development in an area as a good outcome, leading to improved amenities and facilities and generating higher prices, the reality is that high density unit development or new land or house and land subdivisions can have very different outcomes. It depends on who these dwellings are marketed to as well as their comparative price and quality compared to existing stock in the area.

New developments marketed to owner/occupiers can lead to the rejuvenation of entire localities if the new stock is substantially superior to existing stock, such as in the refurbishment of older inner suburbs in major cities. On the other hand, they can cause a degradation of prices if the new stock is inferior, such as loft and studio apartments in inner urban areas, or single bed retirement villas in coastal resorts.

New developments marketed off the plan to investors can lead to oversupplies of rental properties if they are marketed to investors and the rate of new rental stock on the market exceeds the rate of demand. This may not become apparent where and while rental guarantees are provided by the project marketers, but once the rental oversupply emerges it leads to the potential for both rent and price falls as frustrated and even desperate investors try to sell, often many at the same time.

You need to ascertain the numbers to see whether there is any possibility of an oversupply occurring due to the sheer weight of new stock numbers, which can easily occur because developers often work without the benefit of reliable predictive demand data for housing and so tend to rely on past performance to select the best areas for new housing and use recent price and rent growth to promote their developments to investors.

It takes housing developers years to work their way through the various development stages such as project assessments, budgets, finance approvals, development applications, environment impact statements, tenders and contracts, rental demand in a mining town or dormitory town may be falling just as a supply of new housing comes on the market. Many of these developments are sold off the plan, before work has been completed or even commenced, so that the properties may not actually be occupied for several years after they have been purchased.

Many of these developments are project marketed to investors with 'sweeteners' such as rent guarantees built into the sale price, the oversupply may not become apparent for some time, but when it does the possibility of lower rents and prices becomes very real. Examples such as the collapse of the Gold Coast high density unit market from 2008 onwards show us that while it is essential to analyse and estimate potential demand, forecasting future supply is equally important.

Because of the above, you should ensure that your selected suburb is not a candidate for overdevelopment by checking its development potential for land subdivision, house and land sales and medium or high-rise unit development using these three research techniques:

Firstly, drive or walk around the suburb to check whether there are large vacant unused land areas, roads ending abruptly which are obviously intended to go further in the future, vacant shopping strips on main roads with no to let signs or blocks or groups of vacant, even derelict terraces or houses in an area with medium to high rise units. These are all signs that developers own the land.

Secondly, check a listing site for new or off the plan house or unit listings. What often initially appears as one listing on the real estate listing site may reveal a potential development of several hundred units or land subdivision. Go to the developer's or project marketer's site to see their

plans for future development of the project, including the number and type of dwellings proposed and the timeline for both sales and occupation.

Thirdly, check with the local council for any development applications in the area, the number and type of dwellings proposed and the timeline for both sales and occupation. If there are significant numbers of new developments underway or proposed in a suburb or locality, you need to check the developer's and project marketer's websites to see who they are being marketed to (overseas investors, local investors or owner/occupiers)

Lastly, you should also compare the quality of the new stock to existing stock (compare listings for new stock to those for existing stock of similar types of housing) and also the asking price of these dwellings compared to existing stock in the area. This will help you to determine the likely effect of the new stock on demand for purchase and rentals of existing stock.

This analysis will enable you to make a much more informed decision based on the likely impact of future stock coming onto the market and will also give you a more accurate insight into the prospects for housing price changes based on what you discover as you conduct your own on the ground research.

## 15) How we source our data

### Researching the housing market

We continuously analyse potential changes in the nature and dynamics of the housing market which may be caused or influenced by both government and private sector policies, strategies, plans and initiatives and gratefully acknowledge the following sources:

#### ***Urban Development Institute of Australia***

State of the Land Report, Urban Development Institute of Australia

#### ***Housing Industry Association of Australia***

Housing Forecasts, HIA Economics Group

#### ***Australian Government***

Sustainable Australia, Sustainable Communities, Department of SEWP&C

Our Cities our Future, Department of Infrastructure and Transport

State of Supply Report, National Housing Supply Council

Rainfall and Temperature Deficiencies and Anomalies, Bureau of Meteorology



## Measuring housing market dynamics

We analyse population, demographic, household, housing, finance, economic and resource related data from information provided to the general public by the Housing Industry Association, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics. This data is then adapted and aggregated at suburb level to determine how changes in demand and supply are trending for both rentals and owner-occupied housing. In particular, we acknowledge the following source:

### ***Australian Bureau of Statistics***

House Price Index – Eight Capital Cities 6416.0 Released quarterly

Housing Finance Australia 5609.0 Released monthly

Australian Demographic Statistics 3101.0 Released quarterly

Dwelling Unit Commencements Australia 8750.0 Released monthly

ABS QuickStats – 2011 and 2016 Census data

## 16) **Unauthorised disclosure and disclaimers**

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## 17) Feedback and more information

We value your feedback on this report, and you are welcome to discuss any aspect of it with us. Please email [info@propertypowerpartners.com.au](mailto:info@propertypowerpartners.com.au) to provide any comments or suggestions for improvement.

Wishing you successful investing,

John Lindeman  
Property Power Partners Pty Ltd