

RESIDENTIAL RESEARCH



FOCUS ON PERTH

RESIDENTIAL GUIDE Q2 2019

LIVING & STUDYING

BUYING PROPERTY

WHY INVEST?

PERTH— THE LIFESTYLE CITY

Contents

1. Perth—The lifestyle city	page 2
2. Living in Perth	page 4
3. Studying in Perth	page 7
4. Housing in Perth	page 10
5. Renting in Perth	page 11
6. Buying in Perth	page 12
7. Buying as a First Home Buyer	page 13
8. Buying as a Foreign Investor	page 14
9. Owning in Perth	page 19
10. Selling in Perth	page 20
Feature: 10 reasons to invest in Perth	page 22

Perth's position along the West Coast offers not only an unrivalled sunset in the modern city for evening joggers, but great potential for investment opportunities being located at the gateway to Asia.

Whilst fortunate to tap into world-class reserves of natural minerals and energy resources, Perth has evolved to grow an equally important highly educated, skilled and productive workforce strengthened by innovation and cultural diversity. This guide focuses on living, studying and buying residential property in Perth.

Liveability

Perth ranked in 12th place of the World's Most Liveable Cities in 2018, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, as shown in Table 1. The index is based on 30 factors spread across five areas: stability, infrastructure, education, health care and environment.

TABLE 1
Most Liveable Cities 2018
Index of 140 global cities based on Stability, Infrastructure, Education, Health Care & Environment

1. Vienna, Austria
2. Melbourne, Australia
3. Osaka, Japan
12. Perth, Australia

Source: Knight Frank Research, Economist Intelligence Unit

City Wealth Index

Perth ranked in the top quintile of the cities that matter to the ultra-wealthy in the Knight Frank City Wealth Index 2018, ranking in 53rd spot.

The best performing category for Perth was 'Future' (56th place), ranking higher than Brisbane (57th), based on the forecast of economic performance.

TABLE 2
Knight Frank City Wealth Index 2018, Perth
314 international cities ranked in each category

	Ranking
Wealth	63
Investment	88
Lifestyle	142
Future	56
OVERALL	53

Source: Knight Frank Research

Perth was also 13 places higher (63rd) than Brisbane for 'wealth'. The two elements that contributed to this category include the number of households earning US\$250,000 in 2017, and the other being how fast this price bracket is expected to grow over the next five years.

'Investment' was the third category with double-digit ranking for Perth, at 88th place. This was based on the annual average private investment into property over the two-year period to the end of 2017 and the average number of nationalities investing. This is likely to increase in the 2018 results given the recent increased investment in WA. The 'lifestyle' category, ranked Perth in 142nd position. This was based on cities with the most top 100 universities, the number of five-star hotels and the highest average spend per overnight visitor. With strong future prospects, and several hotels under construction due by 2020, this will boost tourism opportunities for the city, and Perth's global ranking in future years.

International Visitors

The balmy climate of Perth allows for a laid-back environment with locals soaking up the weather in the many cafés along vibrant shopping strips, down at the beach, bushwalking or riding bikes with the family amongst the native flora and fauna or relaxing in one of the local parklands. Most prominent is Kings Park adjoining the city skyline, with a high vantage point over the Swan River and Perth CBD. Watching unrivalled sunsets is very picturesque, being the only Australian capital city to enjoy the sun setting on the ocean.

Perth accommodates a vast array of restaurants, fashion brands, independent retailers, as well as, shopping malls. In the Perth CBD, Hay Street Mall and Murray Street Mall both comprise pedestrian-only shopping districts, while retail strips and arcades feature a diverse range of traders.

Traditional department stores like Myer and David Jones are also found here. King Street, Perth is known as the 'start of West End', famed for international luxury brands. Many cafés and bars can

be found at the intersection with Murray Street.

One of the largest diamond mines in the world—the Argyle Diamond Mine—is located in the far north-east of Western Australia (WA), close to the border of the Northern Territory. The mine is the largest diamond producer in the world by volume, and is also the only known significant source of the elusive pink diamonds. Due to Perth's proximity to the mine, diamonds are often discounted and abundant in local jewellers.

International visitors to WA increased by 2.1%, to reach 963,800 visitors, in the year ending December 2018.

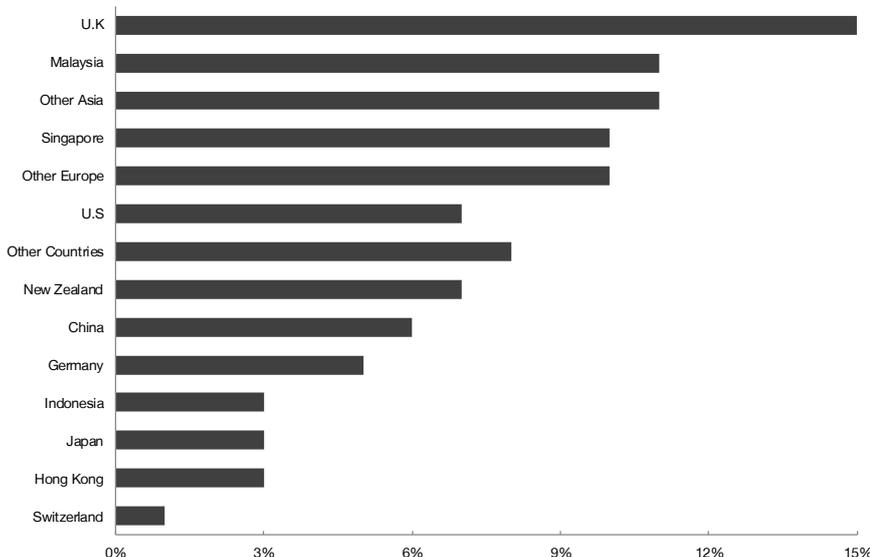
The most number of international visitors came from the United Kingdom (15%), Malaysia (11%), Singapore (10%), United States (7%), New Zealand (7%) and China (6%) as shown in Figure 1.

Looking at the top 10 ranked international markets to WA over this time, there was strong growth in the number of additional visitors from Korea (48.3% or equivalent to 5,100 additional visitors), Ireland (24.5% or 2,800), Italy (21.3% or 2,400), and Switzerland (19.8% or 2,300).

FAST FACTS PERTH

- Perth is the state capital of Western Australia (WA).
- Australia's fourth largest capital city, with approximately 2.04 million residents estimated living in the Greater Perth region in 2017.
- Located on the West Coast, with a geographic area of 6,400 sqm.
- Perth weather in the summer months is a hot, mean maximum temperature of 31°C, while the cooler winters have a mean minimum of 8°C.
- Most daily sunshine is 13 hours in the month of January. Perth generally has more sunny days than other Australian capital cities over the year.
- Perth operates under the Australian Western Standard Time (AWST) time zone at all times of the year. Perth falls into the same time zone as capital cities such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Beijing and Shanghai.
- From Perth, current average flying travel time is approximately four (4) hours to Jakarta, five (5) hours to Singapore, six (6) hours to Kuala Lumpur, eight (8) hours to Hong Kong, nine (9) hours to Shanghai and 10 hours to Beijing.
- Perth is the closest major Australian capital city to Asia, allowing easy connection towards the European continent.

FIGURE 1
International Visitors to Western Australia, by Country of Residence
 % of total, year ending December 2018



Source: Knight Frank Research, Tourism Western Australia

LIVING IN PERTH

PERTH ANNUAL EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

- Perth Chinese New Year Fair
- Perth Cup, Ascot Racecourse
- Hopman Cup
- Australia Day Perth Celebrations

FEBRUARY

- Rottnest Channel Swim
- Perth International Arts Festival

MARCH

- Sculptures by the Sea, Cottesloe
- Mandurah Crab Fest

APRIL

- Perth Comedy Festival
- Fremantle International Street Arts Festival

MAY

- Jazz by the Bay
- Pipeline Challenge
- SunSmart Busselton Festival of Triathlon

JUNE

- Albany Classic Motor Event

JULY

- Revelation Perth International Film Festival
- Manchester United Friendly Game

AUGUST

- Good Food & Wine Show
- Kings Park Festival

SEPTEMBER

- IGA Perth Royal Show
- Perth Fashion Festival

OCTOBER

- Cape to Cape MTB

NOVEMBER

- Perth International Jazz Festival

DECEMBER

- Swan River New Year's Eve Fireworks

Perth's Demographic Profile

Population

Population has been steadily rising in Perth. Over the year to 30 June 2017, an increase in the estimated resident population was recorded at 1.0% to 2.04 million. This is slightly below the overall Australian population growth of 1.6%.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Perth population is projected to grow annually by 2.5% to 3.6 million persons by 2036. This is based on the assumption of a strong depth of mining activity in WA.

Age Distribution

Age distribution in Perth is relatively comparable with the national average—however, the 20-29 age group trends higher at 14.6% against the national average at 13.8%.

Multiculturalism

Perth is a true multicultural city, with 42.7% of residents being born outside of Australia. The most prominent countries of birth include England (8.6%), New Zealand (3.2%), India (2.4%) South Africa (1.8%), and Malaysia (1.5%). Almost 46% of parents of the residents in Perth were born overseas, exceeding the national average of 34.4%. This wide diversity has encouraged many international restaurants, schools and cultural activities established within communities.

Religion

The Catholic religion was practiced by 22% of Perth residents at the time of the Census 2016, this was followed by Anglican at 13.8%, then Christian with 3.4%. No religion was the most common response in Perth with 32.1% of the population.

Language

Other than English, Mandarin (2.3%) was the most common language spoken in a Perth household. Other typical languages include Italian (1.4%), Vietnamese (1.0%), Cantonese (1.0%) and Arabic (0.7%).

Education

Perth is a skilled city. A higher proportion of people are educated at university level (22.9%) compared to the Australian average (22.0%). In Perth, 16.5% of the local student population were studying at university in the 2016 Census, compared to the national average of 16.1%.

Work

The most common occupation of Perth's residents are in professional services—at 22.2%—on par with the national average. Technicians and trades workers (15.6%), clerical and administrative workers (13.6%) and managers (11.5%) were the next most common occupations.

Despite WA being known as a mining state—the city of Perth is not classified as a 'mining town'. Only 5% of Perth's population in 2016 worked in the mining industry, with most miners living in remote towns closer to the mines and commuting each day.

Of all the employed people in Perth, 3.8% worked in hospitals. Other major industries of employment included cafés and restaurants (2.5%), primary education (2.5%) and supermarket and grocery stores (2.4%).

Travel to Work

In Perth at the time of the Census 2016, the most common methods of travel to work for employed people were by car, as a driver (64.1%) and car, as a passenger (4.6%). Other common responses were worked at home (3.9%), bus (3.7%) and train (2.8%).

On the day, 10.3% of employed people used public transport (train, bus, ferry, tram/light rail) as at least one of their methods of travel to work and 71.3% used car (either as driver or as passenger).

Key Employment Hubs

The distribution of employment opportunities are wide across Perth, although there are key concentrated areas for office and industrial workers.

Commercial

Perth CBD is the largest office market in Perth. The CBD extends the length of St Georges Terrace through Adelaide Terrace to Plain Street in East Perth, bound by Wellington Street to the north, Elder Street to the west and the Swan River to the south.

The CBD is surrounded by open parklands enjoyed by workers at lunchtime including Kings Park, Langley Park, Wellington Square, Queens Gardens, Stirling Gardens, Supreme Court Gardens and the Esplanade Reserve.

The redevelopment of Elizabeth Quay accommodates further office space for the CBD and an array of restaurants and vibrant outdoor spaces overlooking the Swan River. Accessible by: train, ferry, bus and car.

West Perth accommodates the next largest office market bound by Kings Park Road to the south, Thomas Street to the west, Roe Street to the north and George Street to the east.

To the south, the precinct skirts the Parliament of Western Australia, the Old Observatory, Dumus House and Kings Park. Accessible by: bus and car.

Industrial

Industrial areas are more spread across the metropolitan area varying from distribution centres to warehouses and industrial estates.

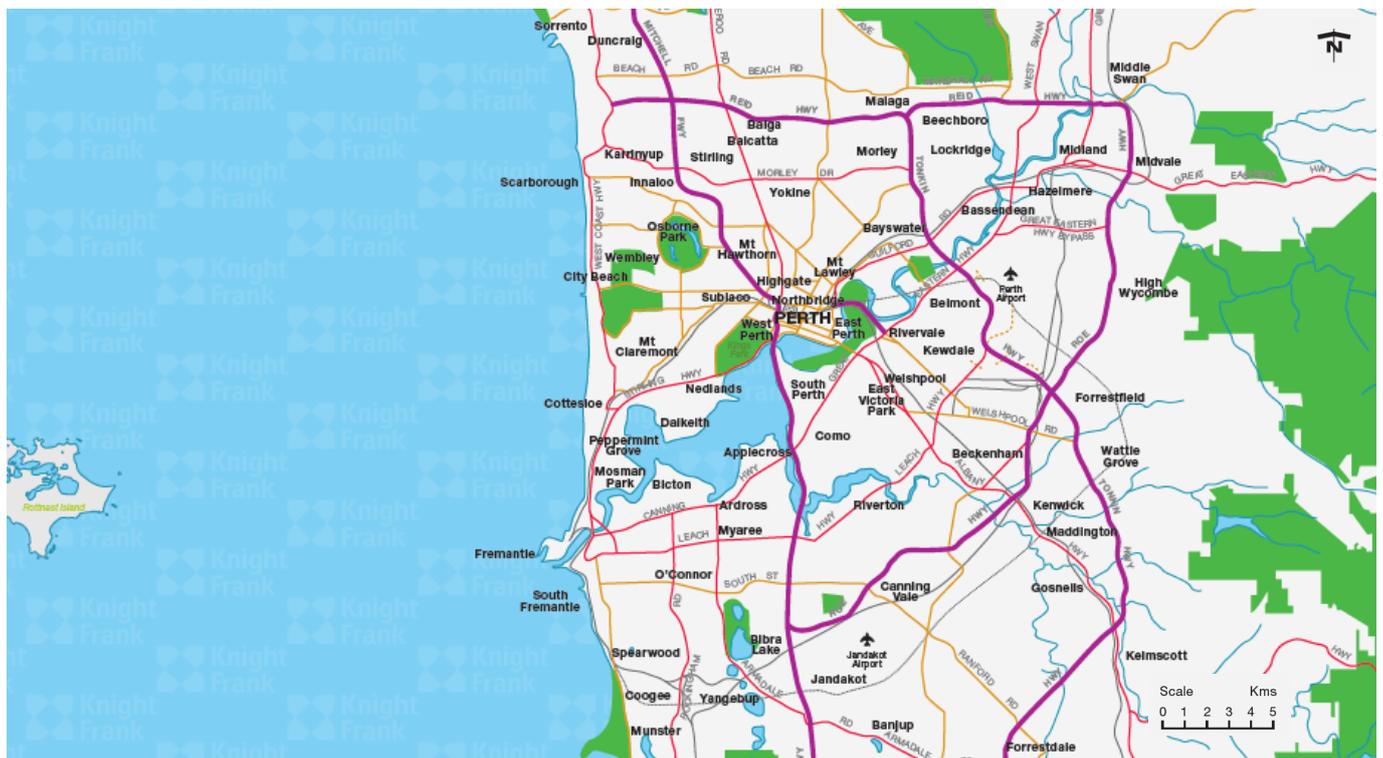
North: Balcatta, Malaga, Osborne Park, Neerabup, Gnangara.

East: Perth Airport, Kenwick, Maddington, Hazelmere, Welshpool, High Wycombe, Kendale, Bassendean, Forrestfield, Belmont, Bayswater, South Guildford, Forrestdale, Beckenham.

South: Jandakot, Canning Vale, Bibra Lake, Yangebup, Kwinana, O'Connor, Henderson, Hope Valley, Fremantle, Rockingham.

Mostly the suburbs are accessible by: bus, truck and car.

MAP 1
Perth
Major infrastructure network



Source: Knight Frank Research



STUDYING IN PERTH

Schools

Schools in Australia generally comprise a mix of local and international students. The education system is broadly divided into **primary (aged 5-12)** and **secondary (aged 13-18)**. There are two main types of public and private schools:

Public Schools

Public schools are financially and administratively operated by the State Government and provide free education to domestic students. First preference is normally given to those living within a particular catchment area from the school. Student visa holders must pay a fixed fee for each year of education, dependent on the type of visa held.

Selective public schools are financially and administratively operated by the State Government. Selective public schools are regarded as more prestigious due to the academic selective nature. Students must sit academic examination and excel in order to be offered a position from the respective school.

Additionally, these selective public schools do not usually limit their intake to catchment areas. Due to their public nature, student visa holders must pay a fee for each year of education.

Private Schools

Independent schools are financially and administratively privately operated. Independent schools therefore hold more control over the quantity and quality of teachers, classroom sizes, amenities and co-curricular activities. Fees for independent schools are usually high, but can be considered to provide an investment for superior education and amenities to students.

Religion-based schools hold faith at the core of their education—however they continue to follow the state government education curriculum. These religion-based schools are usually non-government, and thus often have higher fees than government subsidised schools.

Universities

Most universities have a main campus with several smaller campuses located across multiple states and territories; in CBD, metropolitan and regional areas. This provides a wide range of options when studying in Australia with many universities also setting up campuses based in major international cities.

International Students

Reflecting the good reputation internationally, universities in WA accommodate a large international student base. Enrolments in WA Higher Education had the largest share of international students at 22,200—an increase of 4.6%. While enrolments in Schools were up 1.5%—to represent 870 international students. Across all education sectors, the largest group of international students in Western Australia have enrolled from China (8,450, India (8,070) and Malaysia (3,400). Other high-ranking Asian countries include Taiwan (1,770), Vietnam (1,700), Hong Kong (1,650), South Korea (1,560), Singapore (1,400), Japan (1,140) and Indonesia (1,120).

The application process for international students applying to Australian universities is similar to local students. The length of the application process can often be longer than local students, as more information is required before acceptance. Most universities will require an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) examination conducted, an internationally recognised education qualification and a portfolio of previous work experience where applicable.

The Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF)

The Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF) is designed to make the process of applying for a student visa in Australia simpler to navigate via two subclasses:

Student Visa—Subclass 500 where international students can apply for a

single student visa regardless of their chosen course of study and the **Student Guardian Visa—Subclass 590** where student guardians can apply for the new Student Guardian Visa.

All students and student guardians will generally be required to lodge their visa application online by creating an [ImmiAccount](#).

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

TO SCHOOL

Expression of interest form: must be completed prior to the school year in order to guarantee a position for the student.

Wait for offer: If all requirements are met, the school will offer a formal placement in writing.

Apply for a Student Visa: With the formal school offer, students can then apply for the SSVF online.

TO UNIVERSITY

Apply directly online: through the university website and provide all required evidence. In most instances this is prior education, financial and English language competence.

Wait for Offer: If all requirements are met, the university will offer a formal placement in writing.

Apply for a Student Visa: With the formal university offer, students can then apply for SSVF online.

TABLE 3

Private Schools for International Students, Perth

Sample of private schools registered to accept international students, 2019

Suburb	School	Religion	Gender	Year Levels
Attadale	Santa Maria College	Catholic	Girls	5-12
Beaconsfield	Christ the King School	Catholic	Co-ed	K-7
Beechboro	Beechboro Christian School	Catholic	Co-ed	K-6
Bedford	Chisholm Catholic College	Catholic	Co-ed	7-12
Bull Creek	All Saints' College	Anglican	Co-ed	K-12
Burswood	Perth Montessori School	Montessori	Co-ed	K-12
Carmel	Carmel Adventist College	Seventh Day Adventist	Co-ed	8-12
Churchlands	Newman College	Catholic	Co-ed	K-12
City Beach	International School of Western Australia	Non-denominational	Co-ed	K-13
Claremont	Christ Church Grammar School	Anglican	Boys	pre-K-12
Claremont	Methodist Ladies' College	Methodist	Girls	K-12
Claremont	St Thomas' Primary School	Catholic	Co-ed	K-7
Como	Penrhos College	Uniting	Girls	K-12
Darch	Kingsway Christian College	Protestant	Co-ed	K-12
Duncraig	St Stephen's School (Duncraig)	Uniting	Co-ed	pre-K-12
East Perth	Trinity College [^]	Catholic	Boys	7-12
East Victoria Park	Ursula Frayne Catholic College (Balmoral Street)	Catholic	Co-ed	K-6
Fremantle	CBC	Catholic	Boys	7-12
Guildford	Guildford Grammar School	Anglican	Boys	7-12
Joondalup	Lake Joondalup Baptist College	Christian	Co-ed	pre-K-12
Joondanna	St Denis School	Catholic	Co-ed	K-7
Karrinyup	St Mary's Anglican Girls' School	Anglican	Girls	K-12
Kenwick	Rehboth Christian College	Christian	Co-ed	K-12
Koondoola	Mercy College	Catholic	Co-ed	K-12
Landsdale	Landsdale Gardens Adventist School	Seventh Day Adventist	Co-ed	K-7
Langford	St Jude's Catholic School	Catholic	Co-ed	K-7
Leederville	Aranmore Catholic College	Catholic	Co-ed	7-12
Lesmurdie	St Brigid's College	Catholic	Co-ed	K-12
Mandurah	Mandurah Catholic College	Catholic	Co-ed	K-12
Middle Swan	Swan Christian College	Christian	Co-ed	K-12
Mindarie	Quinns Baptist College	Baptist	Co-ed	K-12
Mosman Park	St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls	Anglican	Girls	K-12
Mount Lawley	Perth College	Anglican	Girls	K-12
Mt Claremont	Moerlina School	Non-denominational	Co-ed	pre-K-7
Murdoch	Kennedy Baptist College	Baptist	Co-ed	7-12
Murdoch	Murdoch College	Non-denominational	Co-ed	7-12
Murdoch	Winthrop Baptist College	Baptist	Co-ed	8-12
Peppermint Grove	Presbyterian Ladies College	Presbyterian	Girls	pre-K-12
Perth	Mercedes College	Catholic	Girls	7-12
Queens Park	St Norbert College	Catholic	Co-ed	7-12
Salter Point	Aquinas College	Catholic	Boys	K-12
Samson	Seton Catholic College	Catholic	Co-ed	8-12
Scarborough	St John's School	Catholic	Co-ed	K-7
South Perth	Wesley College	Methodist	Boys	K-12
Southern River	Thornlie Christian College	Christian	Co-ed	K-12
Swanbourne	Scotch College	Presbyterian	Boys	K-12
Tapping	St Stephen's School (Carramar)	Uniting	Co-ed	K-12
Thornlie	Australian Islamic College	Islamic	Co-ed	K-7
Victoria Park	Riverside Community School	Seventh Day Adventist	Co-ed	K-7
Victoria Park	Ursula Frayne Catholic College (Duncan Street)	Catholic	Co-ed	K-12
Wembley Downs	Hale School	Anglican	Boys	1-12
Wilson	Rehboth Christian College	Christian	Co-ed	K-7

TABLE 4

Universities, Western Australia

Universities accepting international students

University Name	World Ranking 2017	Australian Ranking 2017	Adjusted Graduate Salary	Number of International Students	International Students % of Total Students	Annual Average International Student Fees
University of Western Australia	128	26	\$58,809	5,207	20%	\$34,000
Curtin University	294	20	\$48,383	15,205	31%	\$29,000
Murdoch University	601	32	\$47,855	9,961	43%	\$27,000
Edith Cowan University	807	25	\$47,572	4,009	16%	\$25,000
Central Queensland University	861	26	\$53,112	4,437	25%	\$23,000
University of Notre Dame	1,826	17	\$53,662	320	3%	NA

Definitions

World Ranking is calculated by averaging the ranking produced by QS World University Ranking, the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities and Webometrics web publishing rankings.

Australian Ranking is calculated from the combined score for World Ranking (reputation), Graduate Satisfaction (ratings) and Adjusted Graduate Salary (results).

Adjusted Graduate Salary is a measure of how well students are doing in the job market some months after graduating based on graduate salaries, rates of unemployment and the proportion of students who go onto further study.

Annual International Student Fees are an estimate only. It is highly recommended to engage directly with the Australian university for information on the course and fees applicable. Further information is available at univeristyreviews.com.au

Source: Knight Frank Research, University Reviews



HOUSING IN PERTH

Across Greater Perth, the ‘Great Australian Dream’ - a house standing on a ‘quarter acre block’, is still relatively affordable and within close proximity to the city.

Although with our fast-paced lives, many are now choosing low maintenance living and opting for apartments in complexes with high amenity. This is becoming particularly popular with downsizing households. This reflects the changing demand across the metropolitan area for public parklands and shared facilities.

Dwelling Types

Standalone houses (also known as landed) continue to be the most dominant dwelling type in Perth, representing 77% of all dwellings. This is trending higher than the national average of 73% given the greater volume of lower density property in Perth.

Following suit, semi-detached, row or terrace houses and townhouses, with a compact backyard, comprised a 16% share; trending above the national share of 12.7%.

Although more people are moving towards higher density living, there still remains a little under 7% of all dwellings are flats or apartments, compared to the national share of 13.1%.

Ownership

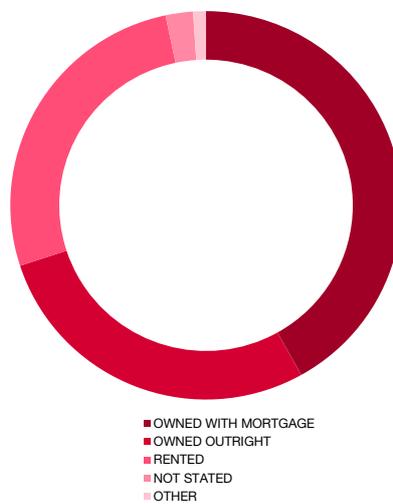
In Australia, most residential dwellings are purchased as freehold property, that is, the land and building are owned outright, in perpetuity, under the Torrens Title system.

The same exists for Strata Title, although ownership allows individual ownership of part of a property (or ‘lot’), combined with shared ownership in the remainder, or common property, through a legal entity called the owners corporation (see further information on page 19).

On the night of the Census 2016, 28% of Perth residential private properties being

lived in were owned outright, whilst 42% were owned with a mortgage. The remainder (27%) were being rented from a landlord.

FIGURE 2
Distribution of Tenure, Perth
% of private dwellings



Source: Knight Frank Research, ABS (2016)

Growth precincts

The WA government has identified key locations across Perth suitable for rejuvenation with new homes and jobs.

The Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA) is transforming places in and around five redevelopment areas:

Central Perth

- Claisebrook Village
- East Perth Power Station
- Elizabeth Quay
- New Northbridge
- Perth City Link
- Perth Cultural Centre
- Riverside

Subiaco

- Subi Centro
- Subi East

Midland

- Midland

Armadale

- Armadale
- Wungong Urban

Scarborough

- Scarborough

Further metropolitan planning initiatives by the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage have been established.

These include:

- Bentley-Curtin Specialised Activity Centre structure plan project
- Canning Bridge precinct vision
- Cockburn coast district structure plan
- East Parade urban regeneration
- East Wanneroo District Structure Plan
- Future planning for Mandogalup area
- Kwinana intermodal terminal
- Murdoch Specialised Activity Centre
- Stirling city centre structure plan
- Swan Valley

Prime properties

Prime properties, considered the top 5% of the residential market by value, are mostly close to, or dotted around, the Swan River. Well-respected private schools located in these prestige suburbs attract many local and international families alike.

Areas in the Western Suburbs can command some of the most picturesque river or ocean views. South of the River, South Perth across to Applecross capture uninterrupted city skyline views in the one frame.

Peppermint Grove is considered the most expensive suburb by value, according to the Real Estate Institute of WA (REIWA) for those suburbs with more than 20 transactions. This is followed by Dalkeith, Cottesloe, City Beach, Applecross, Nedlands, Swanbourne, Churchlands, Claremont and Mt Claremont.

RENTING IN PERTH

The process of renting (also known as leasing or letting) a residential property can vary in each state, but generally the main factors for a tenant to consider are outlined below.

Tenancy Agreement

A tenancy agreement (property lease) is a contract where one party conveys property to another for a specified period of time, in return for a regular payment. When leasing out a property, the owner receives an income, but there are maintenance costs and responsibilities for the landlord.

Before signing a tenancy agreement, a tenancy application must be submitted to the real estate agency (property manager) with proof of identity, ability to meet rental payments and good references.

Rent

As stipulated in the tenancy agreement, the tenant agrees to regularly pay rent to the landlord (most times this is conducted via a property manager and rent can be paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly).

Any future increases will be stated within the tenancy agreement. The rent can be increased every six (6) months, even during the fixed term lease.

Term

The length of a tenancy agreement can vary, however the standard term is usually six (6) or twelve (12) months for the initial agreement although alternate periods may be negotiable dependant on the requirements of the landlord and/or tenant.

Once a tenancy agreement expires, the tenant can request a new fixed term, or alternatively the tenant can stay in the premises at the same rent and conditions until advised.

Bond

A bond is a lump sum payment paid

upfront by the tenants as security before moving into the property. This lump sum—is four (4) weeks rent—is held in trust by the WA Bond Administration.

At the termination of the tenancy agreement, if the property is vacated and left in a suitable condition, the bond will be repaid in full to the tenant.

Utility & Service Charges

Utility usage charges are the responsibility of the tenants and will be detailed in the lease agreement. Service charges and taxes are paid by the owner and cannot be passed onto the tenant.

Inspections & Repairs

Throughout the tenancy, the property will be inspected quarterly by the landlord or property manager. A minimum of seven (7) days notice will be given with the purpose of these inspections being to check the maintenance of the property.

Repairs to the property that are due to the normal wear and tear of the property must be paid for by the landlord. Repairs classified as 'urgent' must be completed as soon as possible, while 'non-urgent' repairs must be taken care of before the 14 days of notification.

Furniture

Generally, residential properties do not come furnished, however it is common for inner city apartments to be fully furnished and equipped. This will be clarified in the tenancy agreement.

Terminating the Tenancy

A tenancy can be terminated at the conclusion of the tenancy agreement. However, both landlord and tenant can request to end the tenancy for a variety of reasons. Certain conditions must be met before it can be terminated, including days of notice, number of notices and reason for termination.

For further information, contact [WA Dept. of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety](#).



BUYING IN PERTH

The Process

The process to purchase a residential property can vary widely but the most common steps are outlined below. For further information and clarity, consult with your legal representative.

Finance Representation

Before starting the journey to purchase a residential property, carry out due diligence of the subject property and surrounding area to ensure the price expectation can be achieved with the allocated budget.

The lending environment has become challenging in recent years, when seeking a loan from a financial institution. Many local banks will only lend if 20% of the purchase price has been saved and there is good evidence the property loan can be repaid regularly with the property loan based on market value. Shop around as mortgages and deposits can vary significantly between providers.

Legal Representation

Engaging a solicitor or conveyancer prior to purchasing the property is highly recommended so they can review the contract before signing, and then stay engaged throughout the process until the property settles (when the property officially changes ownership).

Buying Established Property

Search for a property priced to match requirements for location, proximity to transport, work and education and the quality, size and age of the dwelling. Staying abreast of comparable sales will assist in the negotiation process.

Inspect the property at an open house or by private appointment. Request a copy of **the contract** and have solicitor (or conveyancer) read over the document.

Gain **pre-approval** for loan from lender and confirm qualification from FIRB if required. Arrange a **pest and building**

inspection to guarantee the quality of the building and be aware of maintenance required.

Negotiate by private treaty the highest price willing to be paid for the property with the vendors (via the selling agent) or alternatively **bid at public auction**.

A deposit is required for a private treaty until formal finance is approved; at this time the full deposit (say, 10%) is paid. If bid was accepted at auction, the **full deposit** is payable at this time (say, 10%). The deposit is generally paid by cheque or electronic transfer (private treaty only).

Contracts are signed and exchanged by both parties and it's time the solicitor (or conveyancer) finalises the formal paperwork with the lender. Loan documents are signed.

Settlement occurs when the property officially changes ownership, following one final inspection on the day and the locks are changed.

Buying Off-The-Plan

In most cases, buying off-the-plan (OTP) is the commitment to buy a property that's not yet built.

An OTP property can be better priced than established stock as developers are keen to secure sales in the project so lenders will provide funding and construction can commence. There is also the potential flexibility at this time to make design changes to an apartment or house prior to turning sod.

In most cases a deposit, typically 10%, is paid to the developer and the remaining is paid on settlement of the property, allowing more time to save throughout the construction period. Through this time, market forces may push market values up, at an advantage to the buyer, at the same time consideration must be made should the market slow over this time. It's wise for this type of investment,

especially with smaller and unknown developers, that contracts are reviewed by legal representation and the 'sunset clause' explained, which places a deadline for the registration of Title.

This ensures construction is completed within a timeframe. Should a development not proceed, deposits will be returned. But could be at (rarely) the expense of missed interest.

There can also be more tax depreciation available on new properties, meaning maximising benefits and improving after-tax cash flow for investment properties.

General Costs

When buying property in Australia, there are both federal and state taxes and a range of fees that are implemented.

Transfer Duty

Transfer duty (also known as Stamp Duty) is levied by the state government on the purchase of property.

Legal Fees

Legal fees will vary between legal firms and may be dependent on property value. Generally fees range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 plus GST.

Land Transfer Fee

When a property changes ownership, a document known as a Land Transfer is lodged and registered with the WA Office of State Revenue, and a fee is charged. It is this document that records the change of ownership. The cost to register the title varies in each state of Australia. A solicitor or conveyancer will perform this task on your behalf.

Mortgage Application Fee

A fee charged by the state government for the registration of a mortgage. A lender will perform this task on your behalf.

BUYING AS A FIRST HOME BUYER IN PERTH

Both the Australian and state governments provide incentives for Australian first home buyers.

Incentives for First Home Buyers in Australia

First Home Super Scheme

The Australian Government, from 1 July 2017, has allowed individuals to make voluntary concessional (before-tax) and non-concessional (after-tax) contributions into superannuation funds to fast-track the time taken to purchase a new home under the First Home Super Scheme (FHSS).

TABLE 5
First Home Super Scheme Eligibility Criteria, Australia
First Home Super Scheme (FHSS)

Conditions
First home buyer – never owned property in Australia – this includes an investment property, vacant land, commercial property, a lease of land in Australia or a company title interest in land in Australia;
Must live in the premises you are buying, or intend to as soon as practicable;
Must intend to live in the property for at least six months of the first 12 months you own it, after it is practical to move in;
Superannuation contributions can be from any age but persons must be a minimum age of 18 years to request for funds to be released;
Not previously requested the Commissioner to issue a FHSS release authority;
Eligibility is assessed on an individual basis – so multiple persons can access their own FHSS contributions to purchase the same property;
If any persons have previously owned a home, it will not stop any other persons being eligible to apply;
Don't sign contract to purchase or construct the home until money is released or there may be FHSS tax liability; this may take up to 25 days.

Source: Australian Taxation Office

Since 1 July 2018, individuals can apply to release these voluntary contributions, along with associated earnings, to assist in purchasing their first home.

The scheme allows Australians to make voluntary contributions of up to \$15,000 in any one financial year, to a maximum \$30,000 across all years. This includes undeducted (non-concessional) personal contributions, deducted (concessional) personal contributions and salary sacrifice contributions. These contributions, which are taxed at 15%, along with deemed earnings, can then be withdrawn for a deposit if the eligibility criteria is met.

Concessional contributions and earnings that are withdrawn will be taxed at marginal rates less a 30% offset. Contributions made under this scheme are not a new type of contribution. They are voluntary contributions made to your superannuation fund. As a result, a separate special account doesn't need to be established nor does the fund need to be notified.

For further information, contact the [Australian Taxation Office](#).

Incentives for First Home Buyers in Western Australia

First Home Owner Grant

The First Home Owner Grant (FHOG) is currently available in WA once an eligibility criteria is met.

TABLE 6
First Home Owner Grant Available
First Home Owner Grant (FHOG)

Western Australia; including Perth	
Grant	
One-off	\$10,000

Source: WA Office of State Revenue

TABLE 7
First Home Owner Grant Eligibility Criteria

First Home Owner Grant (FHOG)	
Western Australia; including Perth	
Threshold (the property must valued less than)	
Located south of the 26th parallel	\$750,000
Located north of the 26th parallel	\$1,000,00
Conditions	
Dwelling must be new, unless specified;	
Persons must be a minimum age of 18 years;	
At least one applicant is a natural person;	
At least one applicant is an Australian permanent resident or citizen;	
The contract date must be on or after 1 July 2017;	
No persons to have held a relevant interest in any residential property in Australia prior to 1 July 2000; on or after 1 July 2000 and occupied that property as a place of residence before 1 July 2004; on or after 1 July 2004 for a continuous period of at least six months;	
Must live in new home as principal place of residence continuously for at least 6 months within the first 12 months of settlement.	

Source: WA Office of State Revenue

Stamp Duty Concessions

A first home owner concessional rate on transfer duty (stamp duty) is available if the first home is valued at less than \$530,000 in WA.

The transfer duty will be exempt if the first home is valued below \$430,000.

For vacant land in WA, if valued at less than \$400,000, a concessional transfer duty is available.

Transfer duty will be exempt if the vacant land is valued below \$300,000.

For further information, contact the [WA Office of State Revenue](#).

Current regulations for foreign investors purchasing residential property in Perth

For further information:

Foreign Investment Review Board [FIRB]

firb.gov.au

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

border.gov.au

- Must apply and gain approval from the FIRB prior to purchasing property in Australia.
- Applications are generally approved if the property purchased adds to the housing stock, including new dwellings that are yet to be occupied or sold, off-the-plan properties under construction or yet to be built. This includes vacant land for residential development where ongoing construction begins within 24 months.
- Non-permanent residents are forbidden to purchase established dwellings as investment properties or as homes. Although there could be an exception if the established dwelling is being redeveloped into multiple dwellings, and as a result, there is an increase in the dwelling count. Over the development period, the house must remain unoccupied.
- Foreign buyers can purchase an off-the-plan dwelling, when another buyer has failed to reach settlement—reverting to its previous status as a new dwelling. An apartment or house that has just been built, or is still under construction and for which the title has never changed hands, is not considered an established dwelling.

Non-Permanent Resident (Foreign Investor)

- A temporary resident is a person who is residing in Australia and holds a temporary residency visa which permits them to stay in Australia for a continuous period of more than 12 months (regardless of how long remains on the visa); or has submitted an application for permanent residency and holds a bridging visa which permits them to stay in Australia until that application has been finalised.
- Are required to notify FIRB prior to purchasing property in Australia, including an established dwelling, a new dwelling that has been purchased directly from the developer and has not been previously occupied for more than 12 months in total and vacant land for residential development where ongoing construction begins with 24 months. Temporary residents are not permitted to buy established dwellings as investment properties.
- May acquire one established dwelling only and it must be used as their main residence (home) in Australia. Such proposals normally meet with no foreign investment objections subject to conditions; such as, that the temporary resident sells the property when it ceases to be their main residence.

Temporary Resident (Temporary Residency Visa)

BUYING A PERTH RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AS A FOREIGN INVESTOR

The Australian Government welcomes foreign investment into Australia's residential property market. The current rules around foreign investment in residential property aim to direct investment into new housing, increasing the housing supply and support local economic activity.

- Acquiring second-hand dwellings for the purpose of providing housing for their Australian-based staff normally meet with no objections subject to the conditions set by FIRB.
- The company must sell the property if it is expected to remain vacant for six months or more. In remote and rural locations foreign companies may rent out dwellings acquired under this category only where they are unable to sell the property.
- Whether a company is eligible, and the number of properties it may acquire under this category, will depend upon the scope of the foreign company's operations and assets in Australia.
- Foreign companies would not be eligible under this category where the property would represent a significant proportion of its Australian assets.

Foreign Company with Australian Business

- Investment migrants under this scheme are required to invest at least AUD\$5 million into complying investments in Australia for a minimum of four years before becoming eligible for permanent residency.
- The SIV scheme is intended to target the migration of high net-worth individuals to Australia with the longer-term aim of transferring wealth of international businesses and individuals to benefit Australian businesses and the broader economy.
- The SIV scheme was introduced on 24 November 2012 and is operated by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

Significant Investor Visa (SIV)

- Investment migrants under this scheme are required to invest at least AUD\$15 million into complying investments in Australia for a minimum of 12 months before becoming eligible for permanent residency; a more expeditious pathway than the SIV.
- The PIV scheme is aimed at attracting applicants with business and entrepreneurial skills and capital to enhance investment into innovative Australian businesses and the commercialisation of Australian ideas, research and development.
- The PIV scheme was introduced on 1 July 2015 and is operated by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

Premium Investor Visa (PIV)

Investment Migrants (High Net Worth Individuals)

“Before purchasing a residential property in Australia, all foreign investors must apply to the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB).”

“A fee is payable before their foreign investment application will be processed.”

“Seeking approval from the FIRB is property-specific; therefore one application per property.”

“The fee on application does not provide any assurance of securing the property.”

Additional Costs for Foreign Buyers

All foreign persons — that is, temporary residents and non-residents — can apply to purchase vacant residential land for development and newly constructed dwellings in Australia.

Non-resident foreign persons are generally prohibited from purchasing established dwellings in Australia. However, temporary residents can apply to purchase one established dwelling to use as their residence while they live in Australia, although on the condition the property is sold when it ceases to be their principal place of residence.

Once a property has been identified to purchase, an application must be made to the Australian Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB).

It is highly recommended that an application is submitted prior to the advance of any transaction—to ensure complete legality of the purchase. Additionally, approval from FIRB is property-specific— one application per property.

When the application is submitted, the government investigates to ensure that the purchase of the property will be in the country’s best interest.

A decision on the application is made within 30 days—unless complications or alterations occur, in which it may take up to 90 days.

Foreign Investor Application Fee

All foreign investors must pay a fee before their foreign investment application will be processed.

Foreign investors are required to pay \$5,600 to purchase a new property if valued under \$1 million, with additional fees payable per million in the value of the property.

This fee does not provide any assurance of securing the property and strict penalties are applied for those who breach the rules.

TABLE 8
Fees payable by Foreign Investors, Residential property
Based on Property Value, AUD

\$0 - \$1,000,000	\$5,600
\$1,000,001 - \$1,999,999	\$11,300
\$2,000,000 - \$2,999,999	\$22,700
\$3,000,000 - \$3,999,999	\$34,000
\$4,000,000 - \$4,999,999	\$45,400
\$5,000,000 - \$5,999,999	\$56,700
\$6,000,000 - \$6,999,999	\$68,100
\$7,000,000 - \$7,999,999	\$79,500
\$8,000,000 - \$8,999,999	\$90,900
\$9,000,000 - \$9,999,999	\$102,300
\$10,000,000 or more	tiered per million

An interactive on-line fee estimator is available at firb.gov.au

Source: FIRB

The FIRB provides an interactive [fee estimator](#).

Duty Surcharge

The Western Australian state government imposes a duty surcharge for foreign investors, payable in addition to general state-based transfer duties.

Since 1 January 2019, foreign purchasers are required to pay an additional 7% of the sale price.

Other states with foreign investor duties include New South Wales (8%) as of 1 July 2017, Victoria (7%) as of 1 July 2016 and Queensland (7%) as of 1 July 2018.

TABLE 9
Duties payable by Foreign Investors, Residential property
Based on Property Value, AUD, Payable in addition to general state-based transfer duties

Western Australia; including Perth	
Duty Surcharge on Purchase Price	7%

Source: WA Office of State Revenue

CASE STUDY: COST TO BUY A NEW RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IN PERTH

TABLE 10

Estimated Property Purchase Costs, Perth

All costs represented in AUD, As at 1 April 2019

Purchase Price	350,000	500,000	750,000	1,000,000	1,250,000	1,500,000
Transfer Duty	10,740	17,770	29,740	42,620	55,500	68,370
Land Transfer Fee	250	270	330	370	430	470
Legal Fee (includes GST payable)	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
Mortgage Application Fee	180	180	180	180	180	180
General: Estimated Total Costs	12,670	19,720	31,750	45,170	71,020	71,020
Foreign Investor Application Fee*	5,600	5,600	5,600	5,600	11,300	11,300
Foreign Investor Duty Surcharge @7%	24,500	35,000	52,500	70,000	87,500	105,000
Foreign Investor: Estimated Total Costs	42,770	60,320	89,850	120,770	156,910	187,320

*The FIRB application must be made prior to the advance of any transaction to ensure complete legality of the purchase. Seeking approval from the FIRB is property-specific; therefore one application per property. The fee on application does not provide any assurance of securing the property. An interactive on-line fee estimator available at www.firb.gov.au

Important Notice: The above worked examples are an estimate only based on the NAB stamp duty calculator. It is highly recommended to engage a solicitor or conveyancer during the entire process of a property purchase.

Source: WA Office of State Revenue, Foreign Investment Review Board

TABLE 11

Estimated Property Purchase Costs, Perth

All costs represented in AUD, As at 1 April 2019

Purchase Price	1,750,000	2,000,000	2,250,000	2,500,000	5,000,000	7,500,000
Transfer Duty	81,250	94,200	107,000	119,900	248,620	377,370
Land Transfer Fee	530	570	630	670	1,170	1,670
Legal Fee (includes GST payable)	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Mortgage Application Fee	180	180	180	180	180	180
General: Estimated Total Costs	84,960	97,950	110,810	123,750	252,970	382,220
Foreign Investor Application Fee*	11,300	22,700	22,700	22,700	56,700	79,500
Foreign Investor Duty Surcharge @7%	122,500	140,000	157,500	175,000	350,000	525,000
Foreign Investor: Estimated Total Costs	218,760	260,650	291,010	321,450	659,670	986,720

*The FIRB application must be made prior to the advance of any transaction to ensure complete legality of the purchase. Seeking approval from the FIRB is property-specific; therefore one application per property. The fee on application does not provide any assurance of securing the property. An interactive on-line fee estimator available at www.firb.gov.au

Important Notice: The above worked examples are an estimate only based on the NAB stamp duty calculator as at 1 October 2018. It is highly recommended to engage a solicitor or conveyancer during the entire process of a property purchase.

Source: WA Office of State Revenue, Foreign Investment Review Board



OWNING IN PERTH

In Perth, costs and taxes associated with the ownership of a property can vary dependent on the services the building provides.

General Costs

Land Tax

Land tax is an annual state tax that is calculated based on the aggregated taxable value of all land owned (or jointly owned) by an individual. Land Tax is not applied if the property is your principal residence.

Council Rates

This varies across the states and local government areas. This is the tax the council charges owners for the services to the property—generally paid quarterly or annually.

Income Tax

Income tax is payable on gross rental income, less any allowable deductions incurred in earning that income. As there are a number of potential allowable deductions, it is recommended that an Australian Tax advisor is consulted.

Owners Corporation

If the purchased property is Strata Titled (a building with common areas and facilities for the use of all occupants of the building), an owners corporation will be established for the building. A regular fee (strata levy) must be paid to the Owners Corporation to maintain these common areas. This can include elevators, foyers, swimming pools and spa, gymnasiums, plants and foliage, lighting, staircases, fences, visitor car parks and security.

A group of elected people manage the operations and decision-making of the common area of the property.

In most states, the owners corporation comprises of an executive committee (generally individual owners of the apartments) who make decisions on the behalf of their owners.

Additional Costs as a Landlord

Property Management Fees

Letting Fees are usually equivalent to two (2) weeks rent paid to the agent as a fee for finding and securing a tenant.

Management Fees cover any costs associated with managing the property, typically 8.5% plus GST.

Utility and Service Charges

The owner must pay for the use of utilities (electricity, gas, oil and water supply). Although if the owner leases the property to a tenant, some of these can be passed on but this must be stipulated within the tenancy agreement. However, the owner must pay for the actual installation and initial connection costs.

Landlord Insurance

Landlord insurance is designed specifically to cover rental properties. Depending on the insurance provider, it protects the home from damage, theft, severe weather or rent default in some cases. To decrease risk, landlord insurance is highly recommended.

Additional Costs for Foreign Owners

Foreign-Owned Vacant Residential Property Levy

The Australian government charges an annual levy for foreign-owned vacant residential property (ghost tax). The levy is equivalent to the FIRB application fee imposed at the time the property was purchased if they fail to occupy or lease for at least six (6) months of the year.

Land Tax Surcharge

A land surcharge is currently imposed on foreign owners in NSW (2%), Victoria (1.5%) and Queensland (1.5%). The WA government has not followed suit, so a foreign owner is only required to pay general land tax for their property.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN OWNERS CORPORATION?

The rights and responsibilities of both the owners corporation and its members is different in each state but generally comprise:

- Maintain and repair the common property of the strata scheme;
- Manage the finances of the strata scheme;
- Maintain required insurances including public liability and building insurance where applicable;
- Keep records of all details of notices given under the relevant state strata management legislation;
- A strata register must be established and maintained, detailing the owner's name or agent's name and address for each lot within the strata scheme;
- Administration of any by-laws for the strata scheme;
- To provide a grievance register.

SELLING IN PERTH

There are costs and taxes to consider when selling residential property in Australia.

General Costs

Legal Fees

Legal fees include, but are not limited to, the costs for preparing a contract for sale. The solicitor or conveyancer fee could be dependent on value of property, and may vary between state and territory as well as the particular solicitor chosen. The cost may range between \$2,000 and \$4,000, plus GST.

Real Estate Agent Fees

An agent fee is the commission paid by the owner, to the agent, for selling the property—either tiered rate or a fixed rate. Do ensure you understand the breakdown of the fee structure as commissions will vary between states, and price point. Fees often range between 2% and 3% of the value of the property sold.

Marketing Costs

When an agent is selected to sell the property, the fee breakdown will often stipulate the budget associated to the marketing and advertising of the property. Additionally, there may be a period allocated to marketing with multiple open house inspections over several weeks. Budgets for marketing, media, as well as length of advertising should all be discussed with the agent to ensure maximum advertising potential.

Capital Gains Tax

Capital gains tax (CGT) is a federal tax levied on the gain or loss upon the sale of an investment property.

The tax is implemented on the difference between the cost of acquiring the property, and the value when sold. The difference is then added to the income tax for the individual or company for that financial year, and taxed accordingly with those rates.

Additional Costs for Foreign Owners

Capital Gains Tax Clearance Certificate

Foreign and temporary tax residents are no longer entitled to access the CGT main residence exemption from 7.30PM (AEST) on 9 May 2017.

Although, existing properties held prior to this date will be grandfathered until 30 June 2019.

A CGT withholding rate for foreign investors is applicable for all contracts with a market value over \$750,000 when signed on or after the 1st July 2017.

This requires 12.5% of the purchase price to be withheld by the purchaser and remitted to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) unless a clearance certificate has been provided by the vendor. The money withheld is a portion (not in addition to) from the agreed sale price.

If a purchase price negotiated between a purchaser and vendor is on an 'arm's length basis', then the purchase price may be used as a proxy for market value.

The ATO can only grant a clearance certificate to a vendor who is considered to be an Australian resident.

Do note a residency status for tax purposes is not necessarily the same as that for immigration purposes; or for the FIRB. It is recommended to seek professional legal advice to further clarify the residency definition for this legislation.

The foreign resident CGT regime for withholding tax applies to taxable Australian property including vacant land, buildings, residential and commercial property, leaseholds and strata title schemes.

For further information, contact the [Australian Taxation Office](#).

DOWNSIZER INCENTIVE

Downsizers (aged 65+ years) can make a non-concessional (after-tax) contribution into their Superannuation account of up to \$300,000 from the sale of their family home.

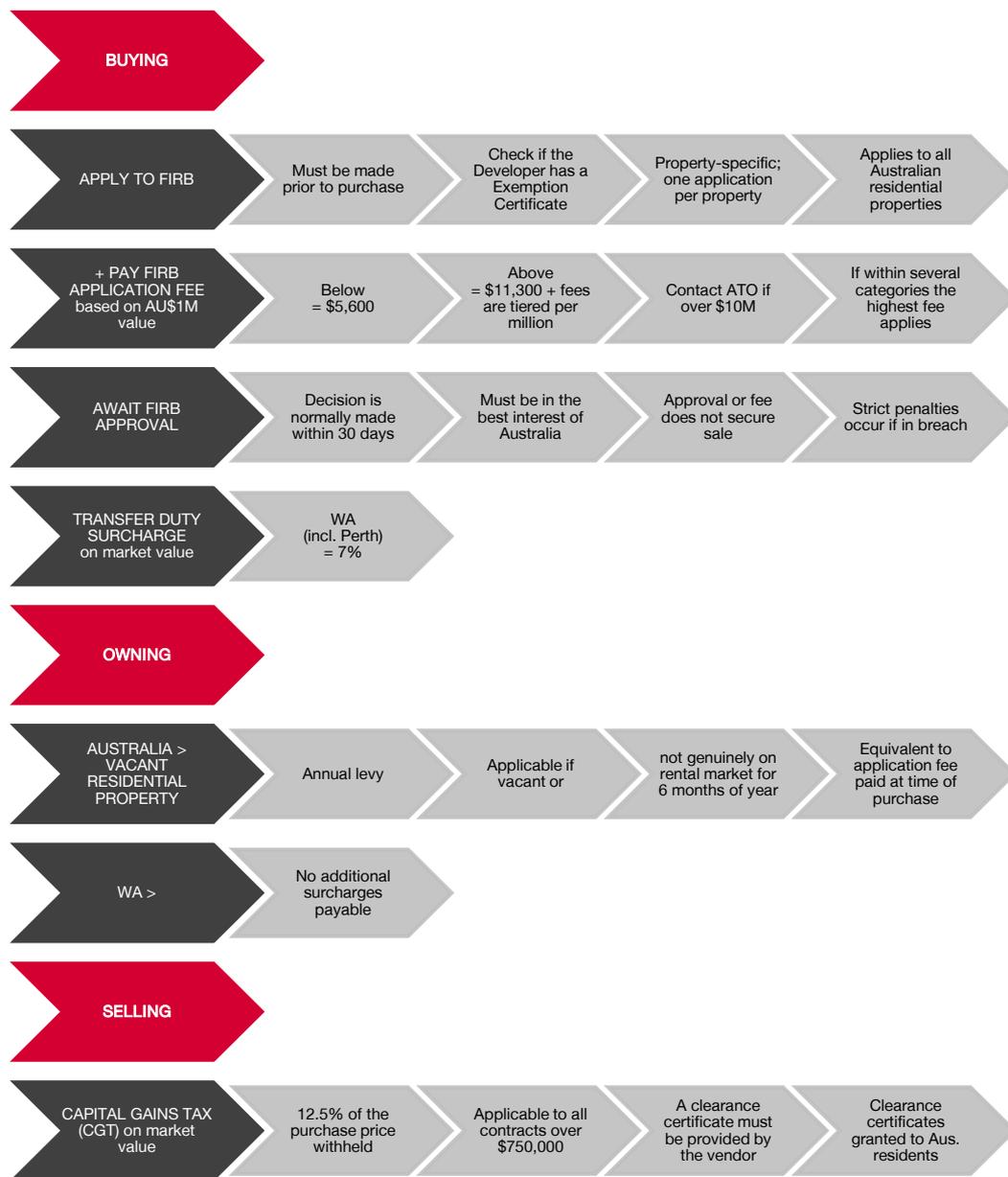
Introduced from 1 July 2018, the legislation states the property sold must be the person's home (main residence and be eligible for the main residence exemption for capital gains tax) and held for at least the past 10 years.

This will increase their tax-free fund limits. Couples will be able to contribute up to \$300,000 each, giving a total contribution per couple of up to \$600,000.

SUMMARY: INVESTING IN A PERTH RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AS A FOREIGN INVESTOR

In recent years, the federal and state governments have introduced foreign investor fees, tax surcharges and levies. Below is a summary of the current process for foreign buyers when purchasing, owning and selling Australian residential property.

FIGURE 3
The Process for Foreign Buyers when Purchasing, Owning and Selling Residential Property, Perth
 As at 1 April 2019



Source: Knight Frank Research, Commonwealth Government, WA Office of State Revenue

FEATURE: 10 REASONS TO INVEST IN PERTH



HIGH RANKING LIVEABILITY.

Perth places high for liveability when measured against other cities around the world. In 2018, the Economist's Intelligence Unit ranked Perth in 12th position from 140 global cities based on stability, infrastructure, education, health care and environment. Mercer placed Perth in equal 21st position, with Montreal, from 231 cities in their Quality of Life index 2019. At the last Census, the ABS ranked Perth's Cottesloe and Peppermint Grove in the top five Australian advantaged local government areas according to the relative socio-economic conditions of people and households.



GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT.

After a period of protracted decline, WA's domestic economy (GSP) which includes exports, is projected to grow to 2.5% in 2017-18 and 3.3% in 2018-19 according to the WA State Budget, following the first annual contraction on record (-2.7%) in 2016-17. The major short term drivers being the export of LNG, iron ore, gold and lithium; while the medium term drivers are household consumption on the back of improving consumer confidence, population growth and a strengthened labour market. The Government is spending \$4.2 billion to build new road infrastructure across the metropolitan area and regional WA.



WEALTH FLOWS.

The number of high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) in Perth continues to rise. According to GlobalData WealthInsight, the number of HNWIs – those with a net worth of more than US\$1 million, excluding their primary residence – is expected to grow by 22% from 2018 to 2023, to reach a total of 42,100 in Perth. Over the past five years two millionaires were created every day in Perth, this is expected to rise to four millionaires per day over the next five years. In 2018, the number of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) grew by 4%, to 318, and projected to rise another 21% over the next five years.



ON THE ITINERARY FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS.

Perth is the closest major Australian capital city to Asia, allowing easy connection to the European continent, and falls into the same time zone as capital cities such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Beijing and Shanghai. International departure capacity at Perth Airport expanded by 24.7% between 2012 and 2017 as reported by OAG Schedules Analyser. Each year since 2012, Tourism Australia has calculated international visitors to Perth has grown on average by 5.1%. This is expected to grow further now Qantas has raised the benchmark to become the first direct airline operating a regular passenger service between Perth and London Heathrow – the second longest flight in the world at 14,498km.



GROWTH IN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

The number of international students enrolled to study in higher education facilities in WA grew 7.2% in the quarter ending December 2018 according to the Department of Education and Training. Higher Education students grew 4.6% while school-aged international students rose 4.6%. The SSVF has made the process of applying for a student visa in Australia easier to navigate. While more recently, the WA Government released a new pathway for permanent residency via the Graduate Occupation List (GOL). It's designed for students who have studied for at least two years at a WA university and have a full-time job offer for more than 12 months (from the GOL) and can prove 'proficient English'.

FEATURE: 10 REASONS TO INVEST IN PERTH



RELATIVE MAINSTREAM VALUE TO OTHER MAJOR CAPITAL CITIES.

Perth houses and apartments are relatively well placed for value in Australia. The median value for an apartment in March 2019 was \$347,600 in Perth, whilst Sydney was \$696,900, and Melbourne \$466,900 according to APM. This was similar for houses in Perth with the median value being \$530,000; significantly lower than Sydney (\$1.03 million) and Melbourne (\$809,500). Those now priced out of these Australian East Coast cities have Perth back on their radar.



RENTAL YIELDS REBOUNDING.

Perth's gross rental yields have rebounded to grow 40 bps over the year ending March 2019 to stand at a median 4.90% for apartments, and up 10 bps to 4.40% for houses. Over the past five years, Perth has recorded an average rental yield of 4.68% for apartments—outstripping the national average of 4.45%. Perth houses, at 4.33%, was closer to the 4.39% national average over this time.



LOWERED VACANCY.

Total vacancy has lowered to 2.5% at the end of March 2019, as reported by REIWA. Over the medium term, as the population grows, less apartments are built and the economy strengthens, additional apartments will be required to meet the changing demand for low maintenance, high-density living. Lifting the share of this type of product in Perth closer to the national average, will sustain the maturing global city.



RISE IN SIGNED RESIDENTIAL TENANCY AGREEMENTS.

Across Perth, signed residential rental agreements in Q1 2019 increased by 131%, compared to Q1 2018, for the Knight Frank Residential Property Management team. More people are moving from interstate and signing rental agreements with an increase recorded from 14% of all leases in Q1 2018, to 19% of all leases in Q1 2019. Tenants signing new leases worked in two main sectors being 'resources', growing from a 17% share in Q1 2018, to 31% in Q1 2019, and 'finance', up from 10%, to 13%, in the same period.



RELATIVE PRIME VALUE TO OTHER GLOBAL CITIES.

Perth prime property prices grew 1.8% in the year ending March 2019 as wealth creation continues. Knight Frank considers prime property to be the most desirable and most expensive property in a given location, generally defined as the top 5% of each market by value. The other factor to consider is the global value proposition. In Perth, at the end of 2018, US\$1m could buy 117 sqm of prime property, compared to 52 sqm in Sydney, while in Monaco, only 16 sqm could be purchased. At the same time, 22 sqm in Hong Kong and 31 sqm in both London and New York.



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