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New**Homes**PLUS

Welcome to the fifth edition of the monthly New Homes Plus, a sister product to New Homes and proudly sponsored by BGC Residential.

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Townhouse

66

All the economic indicators suggest the Western Australian economy will improve in 2018.



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MICHAEL MCLEAN Master Builders Executive Directo

Western Australian car number plates used to have 'the state of excitement' written on them.

In those days, we were experiencing 'the good times', and our population and economy were growing quickly, largely as a result of our royalties from mining exports.

How would you describe Western Australia today? A state on the move? A state in recovery mode? A state yet to peak? A state trying to diversify? A resilient state with potential?





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Will WA witness a reversal of economic fortune in 2018?



However you might describe our state, the facts are that we recently experienced a huge growth in our economy (also known as a boom) and are now experiencing nore subdued economic conditions (which some may describe as a slump or bust).

So, what can we anticipate and look forward to in 2018? Before I dust off my crystal ball, here's what we know.

Interest rates have been stable for the last 18 months at historically low levels, and are expected to remain low during the coming year.

Housing affordability has improved due to 26-year high rental vacancies and attractive new home deals.

Business investment is increasing and government infrastructure expenditure on Metronet-related projects will grow.

The labour market is expected to tighten

through modest jobs growth which is likely to stimulate wage increases.

The \$10,000 First Home Owner Grant, stamp duty concessions to first home buyers and Keystart criteria are likely to prevail

Although the value of work in building houses is falling compared to multi-unit dwellings, WA's 26 per cent figure is much lower than New South Wales' (57 per cent) and Canberra's (71 per cent).

The Housing Industry Forecasting Group expects new dwelling commencements in WA to increase gently over the next three vears.

WA's population is growing at less than one per cent, but is forecast to increase to 1.8 per cent in four years.

The McGowan Government is reviewing almost everything with a view to

improving performance and rationalising costs. Regulatory change is imminent as a result.

Industrial relations are stable which provides confidence to investors. especially in the non-residential sector.

State and federal governments are both keen to make housing more affordable.

Australia is becoming more attractive to overseas investors who envy our standard of living.

The list goes on. So, how would you describe WA now? 'A great state to live in' sums it up for me. As for what we can look forward to in 2018, well that's very much in your control.

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