Your Ultimate Investment Property Cheat Sheet

So, you're on the hunt for the ultimate investment property! We use this checklist to help filter through properties to find the ones likely to provide the strongest financial returns. Keep this Cheat Sheet handy, to make knowing what to cross off the list next easy...



LOCATION/LIFESTYLE FACTORS

- Reasonable distance to capital cities
- (Not in a fire/flood zone
- Access to employment hubs, amenities (schools, shops, nearby healthcare, and transport options)
- (Future development plans
- Presence of unique features e.g. beach, parks

*TIP: IF POSSIBLE, WE RECOMMEND DRIVING AROUND AND HAVING A CHAT WITH LOCALS AND NEARBY REAL ESTATE AGENTS/PROPERTY MANAGERS TO GET A FEEL FOR THE AREA!

DEMOGRAPHICS

- (5) Low vacancy rate
- Predominantly owner-occupied area
- (5) Increasing local population
- (5) Median wage growth

*TIP: WE CAN HELP PROVIDE THESE STATISTICS IF YOU NEED!

PURCHASE PRICE

- (②) Within budget
- Matches the property value, or is undervalued
- Below or close to median price for that suburb

*TIP: FINDING OUT
WHY THE VENDOR IS
SELLING AND HOW LONG
THE PROPERTY HAS
BEEN ON MARKET MAY
ALSO HELP WITH PRICE
NEGOTIATION.

CASH FLOW	PROPERTY TITLE	BUILDING INSPECTION
Adequate rental income (we prefer neutral or positively geared properties, but you may opt for negative gearing depending on your goals) Reasonable cost of council/ strata fees so as to not impact yield	 Nil significant encumbrances (e.g. easements, or covenants, hidden in the contract, or other issues Land size and zoning enables subdivision/ development Good and happy neighbours with no major concerns regarding the land 	No major structural defects or pest concerns Floor plan has a good layout and flow Opportunity for cosmetic renovations to increase equity Presence of unique features e.g. art deco style, fireplaces, views

If you're not purchasing a free-standing property, e.g. if you're looking at purchasing an apartment, these are some additional factors to consider:

	WHAT TO THINK ABOUT?	WHY?
Property factors	High land-to-building ratio	Land appreciates whilst buildings depreciate. Low-rise apartments will have higher land ratios compared to high-rise apartments. *TIP: LOW-RISE APARTMENTS CAN BE MORE APPEALING FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.
	Limited common facilities (e.g. gym, pools, and lifts)	These provide lifestyle benefits but generally correlate with much higher maintenance costs/strata fees.
	Adequate security features (e.g. concierge, fob/swipe entry, good locks, cameras, other security)	Human traffic flow is generally higher in these types of properties. Apartments with many short-stay rentals pose potential noise and security concerns.
	Structural integrity, good apartment flow and layout	Significant renovations will typically require body corporate approval.
	Adequate car parks and additional storage space	These can be valuable real estate!

	WHAT TO THINK ABOUT?	WHY?
Body corporate	Compatible with our needs	As these entities have the legal power to enforce rules on things like noise and use of common areas.
	Is proactive	Ideally problems are sorted before they arise or shortly after.
		*TIP: HAVE A CHAT WITH THE NEIGHBOURS AND AGENT!
	Presence of a maintenance fund (aka sinking fund)	This ensures a deposit of money is reserved for major building repairs/maintenance.
		*TIP: REQUEST MINIMUM OF TWO BODY CORPORATE MINUTES. THIS WILL PROVIDE SOME INSIGHT INTO THE BODY CORPORATE AND REVEAL ANY MAJOR STRUCTURAL ISSUES.



Does the property you're looking at check most of these boxes? Let us know if you need a hand, you're always going to be stronger when you have help.