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Welcome to the Summer 2016 issue of The Study, incorporating the Pam Golding Residential Property Index

Making sound property investment decisions when purchasing a home during a housing boom tends to be relatively straightforward - most regions, price bands and housing categories typically register healthy price increases when economic activity is brisk, new employment opportunities are plentiful and household finances are improving.

However, during an economic downturn or financial shock, the housing market comes under pressure — activity levels decline and house price inflation slows.

It is nonetheless still possible to make sound property investment decisions in this environment because — even as the overall housing market slows — the divergent performances of various metros, as well as shifting demographic trends and individuals lifestyle choices, ensure that there will still be sections of the housing market that continue to flourish.

Identifying these opportunities requires an understanding of the prevailing housing market conditions. We trust that the latest issue of The Study provides homeowners and potential buyers with a greater insight into current trends in the local housing market.