

Video transcript – Housing market

Housing construction is a very important part of the economy.

When it's rising, it provides lots of jobs for your trades people, your brickies, your sparkies, your carpenters.

All those sorts of things, plus of course all the roads and schools that need to go in with new housing developments.

We expect new housing starts to be about 19,000 in WA this financial year.

That's a long way down from 32,000 just three years ago.

But starts needed to fall quite a bit because of much slower population growth.

What it does mean however, is that there is a lot less new houses out there that have to be fitted out with household goods, which is an important part of the economy, of course.

Perth house prices have been largely unchanged in the past year, but they are about 7% down on their peak in 2014.

That's good news for affordability because the median house price in Perth is less than half what it is in Sydney.

Back in 2006, we were almost as expensive as the Harbour City.

So it's a big improvement, particularly for first home buyers.