

Investors return to property

Richard Finnilla

RESEARCH shows that a record one in three new mortgages was sold to property investors last month.

The latest AFG Mortgage Index showed 32.9 per cent of all new mortgages were sold to investors, the highest figure in the four years AFG has been running the index.

The rapid increase in confidence has been largely driven by a resurgent NSW, where 34 per cent of new mortgages were for investors.

This figure complements the already strong property investment markets in Queensland, where 31 per cent of new mortgages were sold to investors. In booming Western Australian market, 46 per cent of all new mortgages were for investment purposes.

AFG's sales and operations general manager Mark Hewitt said confidence had remained strong in Queensland as investors continued to find value for money.

"If the overall trend continues over the next few months, we could be in the golden scenario where property markets, coast to coast, are powering forward," Mr Hewitt said.

The mortgage index also showed the average new Queensland mortgage now stands at \$289,000, still significantly more affordable than the highs of \$370,000 for NSW and \$345,000 for WA.