

10-Point Property-Specific Checklist

10 Things to Check Before You Buy an Investment Property

Use this checklist before you even think about making an offer.

1. Property Layout & Functionality

- [] Does the property have enough bedrooms to appeal to owner-occupiers who want to live in this area with each bedroom a functional size and shape?
- [] Is the floorplan practical (e.g., no walkthrough bedrooms, no wasted corridors)?

2. Land Size & Usability

• [] Is the land large enough - and regular enough in shape - to meet what owner-occupiers in this suburb typically want (e.g., is the backyard usable for kids to play)?

3. Orientation & Natural Light

- [] Is the living area or backyard well lit?
- [] Does the property avoid dark, boxed-in rooms or over-reliance on artificial light?

4. Proximity to Noise or Nuisance Factors

- [] Is the property not directly on a busy road, roundabout, or intersection?
- [] Is it away from major flight paths and noise from trains?

5. Positioning on the Street

• [] Does the property avoid being directly opposite a school, cemetery, or industrial site?

6. Flood, Bushfire, or Environmental Risk

- [] Is the property not in a flood-affected zone (including "overland flow")?
- [] Is it outside bushfire-prone zoning?

7. Visual Appeal and Street Presence

• [] Does the property have good curb appeal (e.g., tidy frontage, no obvious eyesores)?

• [] Are the surrounding houses well maintained and in good condition? Anything that might suggest troublesome neighbours?

8. Structural Soundness

- [] Are there no obvious signs of structural issues (cracks, uneven floors, sagging)?
- [] Have all renovations or extensions been approved by council?

9. Ongoing Maintenance Risk

- [] Does the property avoid high-maintenance features (like swimming pools, large timber decks, etc.)?
- [] Are fixtures, fittings, and appliances in solid, rentable condition?

10. Neighbourhood Tenancy Mix

- [] Is the immediate street mostly owner-occupied or low-density rental?
- [] Is the housing commission rate in the immediate vicinity under 20%?

Bonus 11. Power Line Proximity

• [] Is the property not close to major power lines or substations?

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