

# New data shows western corridor is top choice for buyers chasing affordable properties

Hannah Trotman and Dan Kinnersley decided to buy their first home in the popular suburb of Springfield Lakes because of its affordability. Picture: Mark Cranitch *Source: News Limited*

**THE dream of the affordable home lives on in Queensland with new data showing value-for-money suburbs not only still exist, but are becoming more popular.**

A new report by St George Bank and the Real Estate Institute of Queensland has shown which suburbs with a median price of less than \$450,000 have become the first choice for buyers looking to pick up affordable houses.

North Lakes, just outside of Brisbane, topped the list for the state with 377 house sales in the 12 months leading up to September last year and a median price of \$431,750.

Forest Lake was close behind with 365 sales in the same time frame and a median price of \$380,000.

St George Bank Queensland head of retail Ross Gillam said suburbs leading out from Brisbane to Ipswich were particularly popular with buyers looking in a lower price bracket.

“We’re seeing home loan applications up by 20 per cent across the western corridor, so it is no surprise that Forest Lake has been one of the most popular choices for first home buyers,” he said.

“The region has huge potential for growth, with concentrations of employment, retail services, infrastructure and transport links.”

Neighbouring suburbs Algester, Inala and Springfield Lakes were also named as affordable hot spots in the report.

Springfield Lakes resident Hannah Trotman said the suburb had been the ideal place to build her first home.

“We were attracted to the region because it was quite affordable to not only build our own home but build the home we really wanted,” she said.

“The location was also a big factor because you are driving distance to the city with plenty of facilities like schools and hospitals nearby.

“This region is just perfect for anyone chasing affordability and value for money.”

On the Gold Coast Upper Coomera topped the list for the region while Tewantin and Mount Sheridan were the best performers on the Sunshine Coast and Cairns respectively.