Letter to the editor of the Sydney Morning Herald

The latest Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey (Sydney house prices ‘severely unaffordable’, 22/1/13) is a flawed survey which doesn’t reflect Sydney’s wide housing choice.

It is based on the median prices for houses. These are traditionally far more expensive than multi-unit dwellings, which represent the majority of Sydney’s new housing.

Sydney’s housing market, more so than many other Australian and international cities, supports well-located apartments close to services and infrastructure.

The NSW Government seeks to offer housing choice to suit different needs and this study selected to only include one type of housing, which is typically more expensive.

It also doesn’t reflect some of the recent good news for housing in Sydney, including an increase in both approvals and building activity.

This month, the Property Council of Australia-ANZ Property Industry Confidence Survey showed confidence in the sector in NSW is higher than the national average and higher than Victoria.

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