



Building Newsflash

BUILDING APPROVAL INFORMATION FOR THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Purpose

To inform building certifiers of the need to ensure all mandatory information required by Part B of the Development Application form (Form 1) is provided.

Background

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects building approval data from local governments and publishes the statistics each month. The information includes data from building approval documentation lodged by private certifiers. The ABS has contacted the Department advising they are having problems obtaining some of the data from local governments. Specifically, the total value of building work is not always being shown on the documentation.

Under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA), all applications for development approval lodged with building certifiers (including private certifiers) must be made on the approved form (Form 1). If the application involves assessment against the *Building Act 1975*, Part B of Form 1 must also be completed. The completion of all relevant questions on Part B is mandatory and question 5 specifically requests details of the total value of the building work.

Following previous concerns raised in relation to the irregularities in building approval statistics being provided by local governments, changes to the legislation which commenced on 14 November 2003, included a new section 26(4) in the Standard Building Regulation 1993 (SBR), that makes it mandatory for a private certifier to ensure that the approved form for the application is completed before giving the approval documents to the assessment manager.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the SBR breaches the Code of Conduct for building certifiers and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Building Services Authority.

The information collected by the ABS is widely used by government, research organisations and business in decision-making, as it is a leading indicator of activity in the construction industry. Please ensure all mandatory information is provided on building approval documentation including approved forms.

Contact Officer

For further information, please contact Mr Bill Gowland on (07) 32371712 or email William.Gowland@dlgp.qld.gov.au