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PUBLICATION OF BUILDING APPROVALS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Department has been advised of irregularities in statistics being provided to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Statistical information collected by local governments provides essential data upon which governments, infrastructure providers and the building industry can make sound social and economic decisions.

This information is collected by the ABS which administers Commonwealth legislation. This legislation requires local governments to provide the ABS with details of building approvals issued within their area of jurisdiction.

Local governments have responsibility for collating all building work records in their area of jurisdiction. This role includes maintaining complete records of building activity, irrespective of whether approval is given by the local government or by a private certifier.

The IDAS application Form 1A requires all statistical information required by the ABS to be provided as mandatory information.

Delays and the under-reporting of approvals, combined with the submission of poor quality information has an adverse effect on the credibility of all published data, with flow-on consequences for the whole of the construction industry in Queensland.

The Department therefore urges all building certifiers to ensure that applicants provide accurate and complete statutory information on the IDAS application form, and that Councils ensure this information is forwarded to the ABS.

