



Building Newsflash

Building Approval Data

Purpose

To advise local governments of the requirement of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for building approval data, and remind private building certifiers of their archiving responsibilities with local government.

Background

Building approval data published by the ABS in *Building Approvals – Australia (Cat 8731.0)* provides a basis for making informed and potentially wide ranging decisions about development in each local government area. The reliability of the data is vitally important as it affects wide-ranging decisions including regional planning and public sector service delivery.

Two processes support ABS data collection.

1. Collation of Local Government Registers for Building Approvals

The *Integrated Planning Act 1997 (Ch 5, Pt 7, Div 2)* provides for a register of building approvals in each local government area. The register includes applications made to local governments as well as copies of approvals granted by private certifiers.

The *Building Act 1975 (s.86)* requires private building certifiers to archive approval documents for building development applications with local governments within 5 business days of the approval.

2. Local Government Returns of Building Approval Data to the ABS

Local governments are required to provide data periodically from building approvals registers to the ABS by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

ABS returns must record the details of approvals granted by both local governments and by private building certifiers. Removal houses approved by local governments and private certifiers should be included also.

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