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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) since the introduction of private certification. 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.

This practice has not been affected by the recent introduction of the Integrated Planning Act or amendments to the Building Act. For example, the new IDAS application Form 1A requires all of the statistical information required by the ABS to be provided as mandatory information.

This new legislation maintains the role of local governments as the source of 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.

