

Media Release

Building approvals show weak market

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New Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show the residential construction housing market is still weakening nationally, with total new dwelling approvals falling by 8.4 per cent during December.

The market for apartments and units continues to struggle, according to Master Builders Housing Director Jason Robertson, recording a drop of 18.6 per cent. New apartment approvals have not been this low since July 2012.

“The continued faltering of new home building activity nationally has been occurring against the backdrop of falling house prices, the Royal Commission into the financial services sector and uncertainty about what national housing policy will look like after the upcoming federal election,” Mr Robertson said.

“One of the defining topics of the election will be housing affordability and the strength of the building sector, which has a huge impact on the economy.

“A bright spot for WA is total housing approvals increased by 1.1 per cent in December, with only WA, Northern Territory and South Australia yielding positive figures.

“The road to recovery, as long predicted, will be slow and subdued. When planning policy, the WA government needs to be aware of the difficulties facing the sector and the effect of uncertain international economic conditions.”

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