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**Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction**

## **ABS confirms dwelling approvals continue to rise**

Building approvals in Tasmania continue to increase according to today's Australian Bureau of Statistics Building Approvals data release.

The number of dwelling approvals in June 2018 is 13 per cent higher in trend terms than in June 2017, while the total number of building approvals in the year to June 2018 is 27 per cent higher than the previous year.

At the same time, the total value of building approvals in the year to June 2018 grew a massive 35 per cent, which was the highest annual growth rate in Australia.

Significantly, the total number of public housing approvals over the year increased 213 per cent compared to the previous year, with private sector housing approvals up by 24 per cent over the same period.

These figures again confirm the Hodgman Liberal Government is working to increase the number of houses in Tasmania, with the market responding accordingly and building the dwellings that Tasmanians need.

This is supported by other recent economic figures which show that Tasmania is leading the nation in the number of houses being built, with the annual growth in dwelling starts ten times higher than the national average.

This great result in the building and construction sector not only helps address Tasmania's housing shortage, but is also creating jobs and further strengthening the State's economy.