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**Housing approvals join retail trade decline**

On the same day ABS figures reveal that retail trade in the Territory has failed to recover from its three month decline there is further evidence that the Territory’s economy is still patchy with more ABS data revealing Territory building approvals have continued their three month decline.

“Building approvals have declined steadily since August and today’s November figures show a further decline,” CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

Since August the trend for new unit dwellings has been -1.5% (August); -5.4% (September); -8.9% (October) and -13.4% (November).

“While ABS had not provided trend figures for private Housing the ABS figures show a drop off in this area as well,” Mr Mills said.

“Housing numbers approved over the same period are August 60; September 62; October 44 and November 28.

“It seems the slowing in the industry across the nation has finally caught up with the Territory and demand is softening.”

Ends