

# Coast construction worst in SEQ

Tracey McBean | March 24th, 2011

THE latest report card on the Gold Coast's construction and development sector puts the city at the bottom of the class.

Queensland's Urban Development Institute of Australia, which compiled the update, said the Coast was the worst performing region of eight in southeast Queensland when it came to dwelling approvals.

Gold Coast Logan UDIA president Steve Harrison said he knew of just one apartment tower project starting on the Coast with most major private projects nearing completion and several developments on the backburner.

Underscoring that assessment, the UDIA's March 2011 Development and Construction Industry Performance Report finds that housing and unit approvals on the Coast have continued a steady decline since May last year.

The report, based on the latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, reveals that approvals of houses and units are down almost 70 per cent on the average recorded in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years.

It says the city's rate of dwelling approval is not keeping pace with growth expectations.

"Total house and unit approvals for the past 12 months are 2900, well short of the South East Queensland Regional Plan target of just over 5700 per year for the region," the report states.

Monthly figures show the city approved half as many houses and units in January than were given the tick a year ago.