



## Illawarra Regional Information Service

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# Media Release

### Illawarra job outlook improves

The volume of job advertisements has increased for the first time since December 2007, according to the latest edition of the IRIS *Profile Illawarra*. The Illawarra Mercury published 1,404 job advertisements in the three months to June, which represents an increase of 20.8%. The number of full time positions advertised grew 25.4% to 918, and the number of part time positions was up 8.5% to 486.

Illawarra's volume of property sales recorded mixed results over the year to June 2009. In the WSD, the volume of house and land lot sales declined 2.2% and 17.2% respectively. However, the volume of medium density property sales increased 4.4% to 1,507.

Dwelling approvals in the Illawarra have improved in the June quarter. There was growth of 93.3% in total dwelling approvals, comprising of a 300.0% increase in unit approvals and a 73.8% increase in house approvals.

Meanwhile, the value of non-residential building approvals continued its upward trend. The value of commercial investment in the Illawarra rose to \$117.6 Million, an increase of 68.3% on the March quarter result of \$69.9 Million.

Accommodation revenue from tourist establishments in the Illawarra region improved to \$76.3 Million over the year to June. This is despite overall tourist expenditure decreasing by 7.7% over the same period, largely due to a decline in day trippers' expenditure.

In the year to June, Southern Mines coal production deteriorated by 3.2% to 12.7 Million tonnes. In the same period, Port Kembla's trade activity decreased overall, despite stronger export levels.

**Further comment:**

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