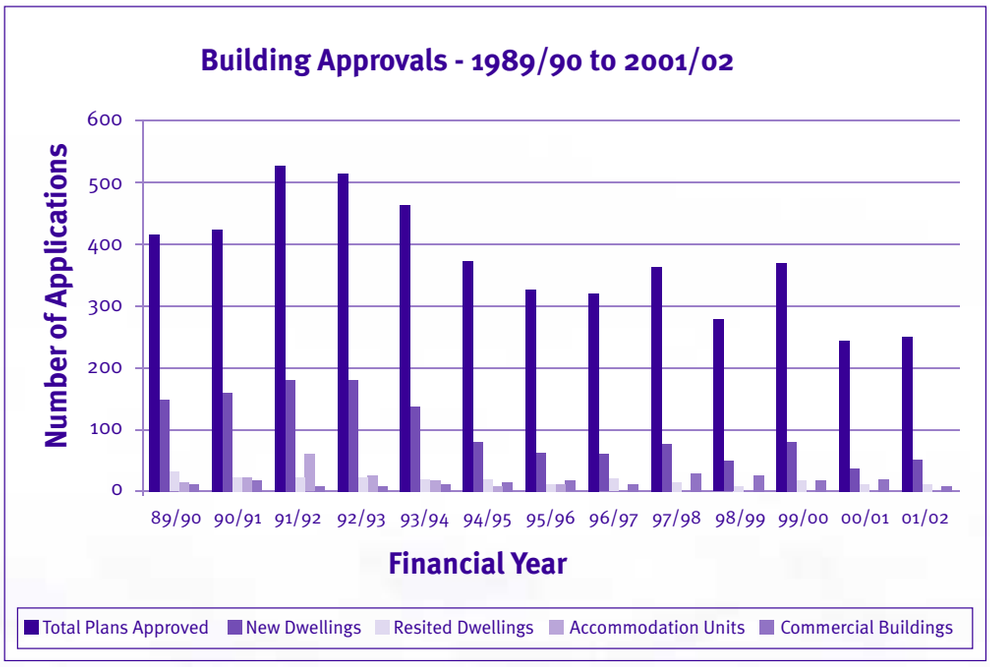building statistical information