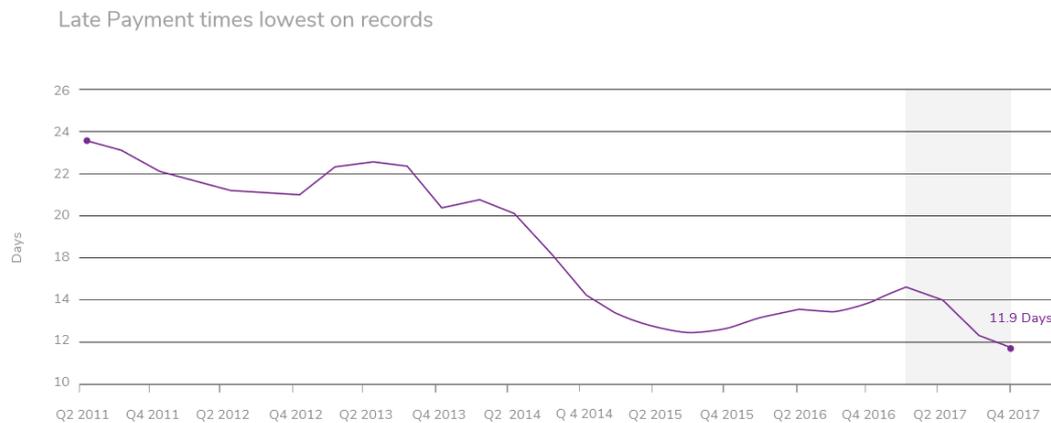


## Media Release

### Business payments fastest on record

**19 February, 2018** – Late payment times for Australian businesses dropped to their lowest level on record in the final quarter of 2017, according to the latest report from data and analytics company, illion (formerly Dun and Bradstreet).

The report shows that the percentage of businesses paying their bills on time rose from 60 percent to 68 percent during December quarter. The average late payment time for an Australian business was 11.9 days, down 17.5 percent on the same period in 2016.



illion CEO Simon Bligh said the data showed many businesses were capitalising on the current positive economic trading conditions.

“During 2017 a combination of regulatory pressure, cashed up businesses, and fintech developments in invoicing and transaction clearing resulted in historically low late payment times across all industries,” he said.

“Late payment times have almost halved in less than five years, from around 22 days in 2013 to just 11.9 days in the latest reading for the December quarter”, he added. “The low interest rate environment, coupled with healthy cash flow and weak wage growth has freed a lot of smaller businesses from having to choose whether to settle wages, utility bills or credit card payments on time.”

The illion Late Payments Report also highlighted that:

- across all sectors, late payments remained the highest in the ACT, and the lowest in Tasmania,
- firms with 6-19 people employed have the lowest level of late payments, while firms with 500 + employees have the highest,
- the agriculture sector has the lowest level of late payments, while the mining, retail, utilities and manufacturing sectors have the highest level of late payments.

illion’s Late Payments Survey provides a quarterly report with a breakdown according to sector, size, age and location of entities. It analyses trade information from illion’s Commercial Bureau, the largest database of business-to-business payment information in Australia, capturing more than one million entities.



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**Notes to editors**

Late Payments provides a quarterly report with a breakdown according to sector, size, age and location of entities. Late Payments analyses trade information from illion's Commercial Bureau, the largest database of business-to-business payment information in Australia, capturing more than one million entities. Monthly trade transaction files are collated and advanced analytics is used to provide a summary of how late entities pay for goods and services after payment is due.

Business-to-business payment information reveals how an organisation is paying its existing obligations. It is a highly predictive data set and a critical element in credit risk scores and business failures forecasting. The predictive nature of trade data combined with its monthly availability enables businesses to properly assess credit risk with real time information.