

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION NO. 2 OF 2019  
BY  
AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**RELEASE OF LISTS OF AGRICULTURAL FARM BUSINESSES FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS  
AND SCIENCES**

In accordance with the requirements of Section 14 of the *Census and Statistics (Information Release and Access) Determination 2018*, made under Section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released a list of business characteristics, the details of which are as follows.

The ABS has disclosed to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) a list of de-identified farm businesses taken from the Australian Business Register (ABR) based ABS Business Register, and will subsequently disclose contact details for a selection of those farm businesses.

The lists will be used by ABARES in respect to its 2019 farm surveys program. The list of de-identified farm businesses from the ABR-based ABS Business Register will be used to design and select samples for ABARES surveys relating to the agricultural industry; including:

- the agricultural and grazing industries;
- vegetable growers;
- irrigation including water resource management and water markets; and
- horticulture.

Information released:

- a measure of size, based on estimated value of agricultural operations where available or a Business Activity Statement derived size identifier;
- one or more geographic codes including Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) down to Statistical Area Level 1 and latitude and longitude (including shire and property name);
- an industry classification code using the Australian and New Zealand Industrial Classification (ANZSIC); and
- a secondary activity indicator, where available.

The ABS also provided a unique identifying number (as well as a concordance of unique identifying numbers in previous years) for each farm business for the purposes of sampling methodology. The identities of the businesses linked to these numbers are only known to the ABS.

For each farm business selected by ABARES for inclusion in their agricultural industry survey program, the ABS will subsequently provide the name, address and telephone number contact information. It is anticipated that these contact details will be provided for approximately 14,000 farm businesses, however not all farm businesses selected will actually

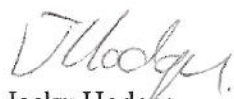
be surveyed. This is based upon ABARES' sampling methodology which includes potential replacements for each selection (as participation is voluntary).

This service has been provided to ABARES since 2010. Before this, the service was made available to the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) each year from 1988 to 2009 and to the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics for a similar purpose in 1985, 1986 and 1987. Access to ABS lists has improved the accuracy of ABARES' surveys, eliminated the need for ABARES to develop an independent register, and improved the comparability of the statistics derived from these surveys with those produced by the ABS.

ABARES has provided the ABS with a written undertaking that they will:

1. use the lists specified in the Schedule to the undertaking only for the purpose of conducting the surveys and activities listed in the Schedule, which do not involve the enforcing of any obligation or liability applicable under any enactment;
2. not release the lists or any part of the lists, either directly or indirectly, to another person outside of ABARES other than to a contractor who may require access to the lists for the purposes of providing services to ABARES;
3. appoint a contact officer who will manage the processes for individuals within ABARES to request access to the lists; and will circulate information to individuals within ABARES who are granted approval by the ABS to access the list;
4. maintain a register of all officers of ABARES who have access to the lists and provide a copy of that register to the ABS on request;
5. if it is necessary for a contractor to have access to the lists for the purposes of providing services to ABARES, ABARES will ensure that the contractor and every person employed by the contractor who has access to the lists, provide the Statistician with a relevant undertaking prior to accessing the lists;
6. advise respondents in writing that the survey:
  - a. is conducted by ABARES from a list of names and addresses obtained from the ABS in accordance with legislative guidelines;
  - b. is not covered by the ABS guarantee of confidentiality; and
  - c. is voluntary (not compulsory).
7. clear any relevant explanatory material for the survey with the ABS prior to despatch;
8. provide a copy of the survey results and any information relevant to the maintenance of ABS registers if so requested by the ABS;
9. for the purpose of conducting a compliance audit concerning observance of the terms and conditions under which the list is disclosed, allow ABS officers access to necessary documents and information; and

10. destroy all copies of the list to the ABS as soon as the surveys and activities have been completed.



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21 May 2019