

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)**PROPOSAL NO. 4 OF 2021
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS****AGRICULTURAL CENSUS**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of informing decision making in relation to the agricultural industry and water use associated with the production of agricultural commodities.

The information will be collected:

- commencing July 2021 and collected on a five-yearly basis;
- from businesses undertaking agricultural activity identified from the Australian Business Register (ABR) based ABS Business Register;
- as a census of approximately 105,000 agricultural businesses;
- by self-enumeration (mail-out/mail-back or electronic form);
- across all States and Territories of Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- business information, including name, address and Australian Business Number (ABN);
- land use;
- livestock numbers;
- horticulture crops by area sown and production;
- nurseries, cut flowers and cultivated turf by area grown;
- broad acre crops by area sown and production;
- water used for irrigation by source of water and volumes applied to crops; and
- respondent contact details, including provider name, telephone number and email address, in the event the ABS need to contact the provider to resolve any queries.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of *Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 2020-21* (cat. no. 7121.0); *Water Use on Australian Farms* (cat. no. 4618.0); *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia* (cat. no. 7503.0); and in the compilation of the Australian National Accounts.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available within twelve months of the end of the reference period.

The principal users of the information the ABS produces will be:

- the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (including the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences);
- state and territory government departments of primary industry; and
- industry bodies including Research and Development Corporations.

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden consistent with the Government's Regulator Performance Framework, the ABS:

- has considered what existing information is available;

- has consulted with the principal users of the data (as listed above);
- undertaken targeted consultation with key stakeholders to ensure user perspectives are considered in the review of content for the 2020-21 Agricultural Census; and
- prioritised and reduced survey content to minimise respondent burden.

This collection was last conducted for the 2015-16 financial year and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal 4 of 2016.

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