

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)**

**PROPOSAL NO. 4 OF 2015**

**BY**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**RURAL ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES SURVEY**

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

The information will be collected:

- from June to October 2015, continuing on an annual basis;
- from a sample of approximately 35,000 businesses undertaking agricultural activity identified from the Australian Business Register based ABS Business Register.
- by self - enumeration (mail-out/mail-back or electronic form); and
- across all states and territories of Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- broad acre crops;
- livestock;
- horticulture crops;
- land use;
- water for agricultural production and irrigation expenditure;
- farm management;
- crop and pasture management;
- soil management;
- fertiliser use; and
- business information, including name, address and Australian Business Number (ABN).

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of *Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 2014-15* (cat no. 7121.0) 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 from the end of the reference period.

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

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

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden the ABS has:

- considered what existing information is available;
- consulted with principal users of the data (as listed above);
- conducted field testing to ensure the required data are readily available and that provider load will be minimised; and
- cleared the collection through the Statistical Clearing House as approval number 02301-02.

This collection was last conducted in 2013-14 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No.7 of 2013.

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