

CENSUS AND STATISTICS ACT 1905 - section 13

STATEMENT NO. 02 OF 2013

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS (ABS)

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

In accordance with the provisions of Clause 6 of the Statistics Determination 1983 made under Section 13 of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 I intend to disclose to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) a list of approximately 175,000 unidentified farm businesses taken from the Australian Business Register based Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register; and subsequently, a list of names and addresses of up to 30,000 farm businesses selected from the 175,000 farm businesses.

The lists will be used by ABARES in respect to its 2013 farm surveys program. The list of unidentified farms from the Australian Business Register-based Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register will be used to select samples for ABARES surveys relating to: the agricultural and grazing industries; the dairy industry; vegetable growers; honey producers; beef cattle herd composition; rice growers; irrigation including water markets and resource management; resource management issues in general; the cost of production; the apple and pear industry; other horticultural surveys; regional surveys including a focus on social issues; assessment of government programs; pest management on farms; natural resource management incentives; and labour shortage in the agricultural industry.

The information to be provided in the list in respect of the 175,000 farm businesses will be:

- one measure of size for each unit, based on estimated value of agricultural operations where available or a Business Activity Statement derived size identifier;
- a geographic code (Australian Statistical Geography Standard) down to Statistical Area Level 1;
- an industry classification code; and
- a secondary activity indicator, where available.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will also provide two identifiers (the old and the new unit IDs) for each farm business for the purposes of sampling. The identities of the businesses linked to these numbers are only known to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

For each farm business subsequently selected by ABARES, the Australian Bureau of Statistics will provide name and address information. Not all farm businesses selected will actually be surveyed. This is based upon the ABARES' sampling strategy which includes potential replacements for each selection (as participation is voluntary).

This service has been made available to Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics each year from 1988 to 2009 and to the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics for a similar purpose in 1985, 1986 and 1987. Since 2010 the service has been provided to ABARES. Such access to Australian Bureau of Statistics lists will improve the accuracy of ABARES surveys; eliminate the need for ABARES to develop an independent register; and improve the compatibility of the statistics derived from these surveys with those produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

ABARES has provided me with a written Undertaking that it will

- a. use the list only for the purpose of conducting the surveys listed in the Schedule to the Undertaking, none of which involve the enforcing of any obligation or liability applicable under any enactment
- b. not release the list or any part of the list, either directly or indirectly, to another person outside of ABARES other than to a contractor who may require access to the list for the purposes of providing services to ABARES for the purposes of the surveys covered by this approval;
- c. maintain a register of all officers of ABARES who have access to the list and provide a copy of that register to the Australian Bureau of Statistics on request;
- d. if it is necessary for a contractor to have access to the list for the purposes of providing services to ABARES, ensure that the contractor and every person employed by the contractor who has access to the list provide the Statistician with a relevant undertaking prior to accessing the list;
- e. advise respondents in writing that the survey is conducted by ABARES from a list of names and addresses obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics in accordance with legislative guidelines; is not covered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics guarantee of confidentiality; and is not compulsory;
- f. clear any relevant explanatory material for the survey with the Australian Bureau of Statistics prior to despatch;
- g. provide a copy of the survey results and any information relevant to the maintenance of Australian Bureau of Statistics registers if so requested by the Australian Bureau of Statistics;
- h. for the purpose of conducting a compliance audit concerning observance of the terms and conditions under which the list is disclosed allow Australian Bureau of Statistics officers access to necessary documents and information; and

- i. ensure a new undertaking with the Australian Bureau of Statistics is signed within three months if the Executive Director changes, or all copies of the list are returned to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Trevor Sutton
Acting Australian Statistician
March 2013