

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

PROPOSAL NO. 34 OF 2013

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

SURVEY OF MOTOR VEHICLE USE

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct a Survey of Motor Vehicle Use for the period 1 November 2013 to 31 October 2014.

The survey will be conducted by mail and e-forms from a total sample of 24,000 registered private and commercial road vehicles nationally. The survey will be conducted over three four-month periods.

Information will be collected from a primary sample of 16,000 vehicles on a range of indicators including:

- make, model and other characteristics of the vehicle;
- type of fuel used and average fuel consumption;
- distance travelled by region and purpose;
- type of freight and loads carried;
- trailer use; and
- driver characteristics including age, sex and age when first obtained specified driver's licence.

Further information about road freight movements will be collected on a one week period from 16,000 freight vehicles.

The primary purpose of the Survey of Motor Vehicle Use is to assist in:

- the understanding and processing of the allocation of funds for road development;
- the design and construction of highways;
- modelling Australia's transport industry at Australia, state and regional levels;
- the regulation of road transport operators;
- accident exposure; and
- energy use analysis.

Data also provides the broad context for project evaluation and measurement of growth rates in road use, mobility and traffic congestion. Other uses include information to assist with decisions on road user charges, predicting likely future vehicle use and road transport demand and assessing future road infrastructure investment needs.

The principal users of the survey will be Commonwealth and state government agencies including:

- State and Commonwealth Departments of Transport;
- National Transport Commission; and
- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics.

The survey has been extensively field tested to ensure that the required data are readily available and that provider load has been minimised. There has been a high level of respondent cooperation and no significant adverse respondent reaction is expected.

Results from the survey are expected to be released from late 2015.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects to conduct the survey biennially on a continuing basis (with the exception of the road freight movement component which is a one-off addition to the survey).

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