

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

PROPOSAL NO. 1 OF 2013

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

TOPIC TO BE INCLUDED AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE MONTHLY  
POPULATION SURVEY: WATER USE AND CONSERVATION SURVEY 2013

In March 2013, the Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct a survey to collect information on households' water use and conservation practices, as part of the Monthly Population Survey program. This survey will collect information by either personal or telephone interview from approximately 17,000 households throughout Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of indicators including

- whether the household is connected to mains water supply;
- the use of rainwater tanks and bores as sources of water;
- maintenance of rainwater tanks;
- number of toilets, showers and bathtubs;
- prevalence of water efficient shower heads and dual flush toilets;
- whether the household reuses water;
- type of household water saving behaviours;
- main source of water used in the garden; and
- whether the household has a pool and if so, a pool cover.

The information collected will be used for economic and social analysis, and will assist in the development, implementation and evaluation of a range of government policies and initiatives. The information will be used by a number of government agencies including the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and their state and territory counterparts; as well as community organisations and researchers.

The survey questions have been tested to ensure that the required data are readily available and that provider load has been minimised. In previous surveys 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 published in October 2013.

The ABS expects to conduct further surveys on this topic in the future.

Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

January 2013