

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 24 OF 2013**

**BY**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS SURVEY**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct an Environment Indicators Survey for the 2012-13 reference period, commencing September 2013.

The survey will be collected by mail and/or e-forms, from a sample of approximately 5,500 businesses nationally.

Information will be collected on a range of indicators including:

- expenses relevant to water, energy and waste products;
- volumes of water received and self-sourced;
- volumes of electricity and natural gas received from energy providers; and
- consumption of fuels.

The primary purpose of the survey will be to assist in understanding the nature of energy, waste and water use in the Australian economy.

The survey has been developed in consultation with principal users, including:

- Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education;
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities;
- The Treasury; and
- state and territory energy and water regulatory authorities or sustainability management agencies.

Results from the survey will be used to:

- assist in understanding the nature of energy, waste and water use in the Australian economy in both physical (i.e. volume) and monetary terms;
- provide data for economic planning and performance analysis; and
- compile the suite of Australian Environmental Accounts, (*Energy Account, Australia; Water Account, Australia; and Waste Account, Australia, Experimental Estimate*).

The survey questions have been extensively field tested to ensure that the required data are readily available and that provider load has been minimised. No significant adverse respondent reaction is expected.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects to conduct this survey two out of every three years on a continuing basis.

Results from the survey are expected to be released in late 2014.

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