

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

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BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

RURAL ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES SURVEY
2012-13

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct a Rural Environment and Agricultural Commodities Survey for the 2012-13 financial year.

The survey will be conducted from June 2013 from a sample of approximately 35,000 agricultural businesses across Australia, using both paper forms and internet based forms.

The purpose of the collection is to provide information on land management practices undertaken by agricultural businesses and on the production of core agricultural commodities across Australia.

The survey will collect information on a range of land management practices and agricultural commodities including:

- crop and pasture management;
- soil management;
- fertiliser use;
- organic and bio-dynamic certification;
- water for agricultural production and irrigation expenditure;
- wetlands, rivers and creeks management;
- farm management;
- land use;
- livestock;
- horticulture crops; and
- broad acre crops.

The survey data will be published at national, state and regional levels.

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

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities;
- state and territory government departments of primary industry; and
- industry bodies.

The data will contribute to informed decision-making in relation to the agriculture industry and in relation to environmental issues associated with the production of agricultural commodities. It will also be used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in the compilation of the Australian National Accounts

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.

Final results from the survey are expected to be published in mid-2014.

The survey forms part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' historical annual program of agricultural surveys and Australian Bureau of Statistics expects to conduct the survey annually into the future.

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