

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

PROPOSAL NO. 5 OF 2013

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

AGRICULTURAL LAND AND WATER OWNERSHIP SURVEY 2013

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct a Survey of Agricultural Land and Water Ownership for the reference period June 2013.

The survey will be conducted from August 2013 from a sample of approximately 11,000 agricultural businesses across Australia, using a paper form. The purpose of the collection is to provide information on the level of foreign ownership of agricultural businesses, agricultural land, and water entitlements for agricultural purposes in Australia.

The survey will collect information on a range of indicators including

- ownership of agricultural businesses (number wholly Australian owned, and number with some level of foreign ownership, by level (percentage));
- ownership of agricultural land (area of land wholly Australian owned, and area with some level of foreign ownership, by level (percentage)); and
- ownership of water entitlements used for agricultural purposes (volume of water wholly Australian owned, and volume of water with some level of foreign ownership, by level (percentage)).

The survey data will be published at national and state levels

The survey has been developed in consultation with major stakeholders including:

- Department of Treasury and Finance;
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities;
- State and territory government departments of primary industry; and
- Industry bodies.

Data from the survey will be used to inform policy and decision making by government, industry bodies and the wider community.

The survey has been extensively field tested to ensure that the required data is 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 Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey has been run once previously in respect of December 2010. Future surveys will be run in 2018 and as supplementary collections to the Agricultural Census in 2015-16 and 2020-21.

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