

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

PROPOSAL NO. 4 OF 2012

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

BUSINESS SURVEY OF RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to conduct a business survey of residential electricity distribution for the period 2009-10 to 2012-13.

The survey will be conducted from May 2012 from a census of utility businesses who provide electricity distribution services to Australian residential customers.

The primary purpose of the survey will be to provide statistics about regional residential electricity consumption. The results will assist in the development, implementation and evaluation of government policies and initiatives. They will inform governments and communities about the different energy consumption and behaviour patterns of Australian households by region. The ABS will also use the results in the compilation of its energy related collections.

The information to be collected on residential electricity connections includes:

- national metering identifier numbers;
- geographic location indicators;
- electricity volume readings for specified time periods; and
- connection history indicators.

The survey requirements have been determined through discussions with the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, and relevant state government departments. Key industry groups such as the Energy Networks Australia and the Australian Energy Market Operator have also been consulted.

The principal users of the information will be the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, other government agencies, industry groups, and research organisations interested in the assessment of electricity consumption levels over time.

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

First results from the Business Survey of Residential Electricity Distribution are expected to be released in 2013.

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

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

March 2012