

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 25 OF 2016**

**BY**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**BUSINESS CHARACTERISTICS SURVEY- MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES MODULE 2015-16**

For the first time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of understanding management practices of Australian businesses and their impact on areas such as firm productivity.

The information will be collected:

- from October 2016 to March 2016;
- from Australian businesses;
- from a sample of approximately 15,000 businesses;
- by electronic forms;
- across Australia.

Content for the survey was developed in consultation with the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. Information will be collected on a range of business characteristics including:

- Key Performance Indicators
- Use of data in decision making
- Innovation
- Strategic planning
- Skills used in core business activities and shortages
- Supply Chain Management
- Environmental management
- Digital business
- Demographic information on Principal Managers

The survey was developed in order to meet the Department of Industry, Innovation, and Science information requirements. The Business Characteristics Survey Management Capability Module is fully funded by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the department will be the principle user of the data. The data will be added to the Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database to facilitate policy and productivity analysis.

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden the ABS:

- has considered what existing information is available
- completed rigorous field testing during the development of the survey including conceptual, cognitive and observational testing to ensure provider load has been minimised
- has cleared the collection through the Statistical Clearing House as approval number 01634-11

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available in August, 2017 via the ABS website.

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