

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

PROPOSAL NO. 7 OF 2017

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

RURAL ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES SURVEY 2016-17

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information for the purpose of informing decision making in relation to agricultural industry and natural resource management issues associated with the production of agricultural commodities.

The information will be collected:

- from June to October 2017 and continuing on an annual basis
- from a sample of approximately 30,000 businesses undertaking agricultural activity identified from the Australian Business Register (ABR) based Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Business Register
- by self-enumeration (mail-out/mail-back or electronic web form)
- across all States and Territories of Australia

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- broad acre crops
- livestock
- horticulture crops
- land use
- water for agricultural production and irrigation expenditure
- farm management
- crop and pasture management
- soil management
- fertiliser use
- business information, including name, address and Australian Business Number (ABN)

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of *Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 2016-17* (cat. no. 7121.0); *Water Use on Australian Farms* (cat. no. 4618.0); *Land Management and Farming in Australia* (cat. no. 4627.0); and in the compilation of the Australian National Accounts.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available within twelve months of the end of the reference period.

The principal users of the information the ABS produces will be:

- Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (including the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences)
- Department of Environment
- state and territory government departments of primary industry
- industry bodies

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
- has consulted with principal users of the data (as listed above)
- has conducted field testing to ensure the required data are readily available and that provider load will be minimised
- has cleared the collection through the Statistical Clearing House

This collection was last conducted in 2014-15 and previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 4 of 2015.

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