

CENSUS AND STATISTICS ACT 1905- section 13

STATEMENT NO. 1 OF 2012

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

LISTS OF AGRICULTURAL FARM BUSINESSES FOR THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS AND SCIENCES

1 In accordance with the provisions of Clause 6 of the *Statistics Determination 1983* made under Section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, I intend to disclose to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) a list of approximately 175,000 unidentified farm businesses taken from the Australian Business Register (ABR) based ABS Business Register, and subsequently, a list of names and addresses of up to 30,000 farm businesses selected from the 175,000 farm businesses.

2 The lists will be used by ABARES in connection with its 2012 round farm surveys. The list of unidentified farms from the ABR-based ABS Business Register will be used to select samples for ABARES surveys relating to the agricultural and grazing industries; the dairy industry; vegetable growers; honey producers; beef cattle herd composition; live cattle; rice growers; irrigation including water markets and resource management; resource management issues in general; the cost of production; the apple and pear industry; other horticultural surveys; regional surveys including a focus on social issues; assessment of government programs; pest management on farms; natural resource management incentives; and labour shortage in the agricultural industry.

3 The information to be released in respect of the 175,000 farm businesses will be:

- a measure of size, based on estimated value of agricultural operations where available or a BAS derived size identifier,
- two geographic codes,
- an industry classification code, and
- a secondary activity indicator, where available.

4 The ABS will also provide two identifiers for each farm business for the purposes of sampling. The identities of the businesses linked to these numbers are only known to the ABS.

5 For each farm business subsequently selected by ABARES, the ABS will provide name and address information. Not all farm businesses selected will be surveyed. This is based upon the ABARES's sampling strategy which includes potential replacements for each selection (as participation is voluntary).

6 This service has been made available to the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics each year from 1988 to 2009 and to the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics for a similar purpose in 1985, 1986 and 1987. Since 2010 the service has been provided to the newly amalgamated ABARES. Such access to ABS lists has improved the accuracy of ABARES surveys, eliminated the need for ABARES to develop an independent register and improved the compatibility of the statistics derived from these surveys with those produced by the ABS.

7 ABARES has provided me with a written undertaking that it will:

- Use the list specified in the Schedule to this undertaking only for the purpose of conducting the surveys listed in that Schedule, none of which involve the enforcing of any obligation or liability applicable under any enactment.
- Not release the list, or any part of the list, either directly or indirectly, to another person outside of ABARES, other than to a contractor who may require access to the list for the purposes of providing services to ABARES in relation to the surveys covered by this approval.
- If it is necessary for a contractor to have access to the list for the purposes of providing services to ABARES, ensure that the contractor and every person employed by the contractor who has access to the list, provide the Statistician with a relevant undertaking prior to accessing the list.
- Maintain a register of all ABARES officers and contractors who have access to the list and provide a copy of that register to the ABS on request, and on return of the list to the ABS.
- Advise respondents in writing that the survey is:
 - i. conducted by ABARES from a list of names and addresses obtained from the ABS in accordance with legislative guidelines,
 - ii. not covered by the ABS guarantee of confidentiality, and
 - iii. not compulsory.
- Clear any relevant explanatory material for the survey with the ABS prior to dispatch.
- Provide a copy of the survey results and any information relevant to the maintenance of ABS registers if so requested by the ABS.
- Allow ABS officers access to necessary documents and information for the purpose of conducting a compliance audit concerning observance of the terms and conditions under which the list is disclosed.
- Ensure that if the Executive Director changes, a new undertaking with the ABS is signed within three months.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

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