

CENSUS AND STATISTICS ACT 1905- section 13

STATEMENT NO. 2 OF 2014

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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

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 146,000 unidentified farm businesses taken from the Australian Business Register (ABR) based Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register, and subsequently to ABARES using the list above to determine a sampling method, a list of names and addresses of up to 30,000 farm businesses selected from the 146,000 farm businesses.

The lists will be used by ABARES in respect to its 2014 farm surveys program. The list of unidentified farms from the ABR-based Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register will be used to select samples for ABARES surveys relating to the agricultural industry, including:

- dairy;
- vegetable growers;
- resource management issues;
- honey producers;
- irrigation including water resource management and water markets;
- regional surveys including a focus on social issues;
- assessment of government programs;
- pest management on Australian farms;
- natural resource management incentives;
- labour shortage in the agriculture industry;
- beef cattle herd composition;
- cost of production;
- apple and pear industry;
- other horticulture; and
- sugar.

The information to be released in respect of the 146,000 farm businesses will be:

- a measure of size, based on estimated value of agricultural operations where available or a Business Activity Statement derived size identifier;
- one or more geographic codes using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard down to Statistical Area level 1;

- an industry classification code using the Australian and New Zealand Industrial Classification; and
- a secondary area of activity indicator, where available.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will also provide a unique identifying number for each farm business for the purposes of sampling methodology. The identities of the businesses linked to these numbers are only known to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

For each farm business subsequently selected by ABARES, the Australian Bureau of Statistics will provide name and address information. Not all farm businesses selected will actually be surveyed. This is based upon ABARES' sampling method which includes potential replacements for each selection (as participation is voluntary).

This service has previously been provided to ABARES since 2010. Before this the service was made available to the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) each year from 1988 to 2009, and to the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 1985, 1986 and 1987. Such access to Australian Bureau of Statistics lists has improved the accuracy of ABARES' surveys, eliminated the need for ABARES to develop an independent register, and improved the comparability of the statistics derived from these surveys with those produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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

- a. use the list only for the purpose of conducting the surveys and activities listed in the Schedule to the Undertaking, none of which involve the enforcing of any obligation or liability applicable under any enactment;
- b. 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;
- c. appoint a contact officer who will manage the processes for individuals within ABARES to request access to the list release; and will circulate information to individuals within ABARES who are granted approval by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to access the list;
- d. maintain a register of all officers of ABARES who have access to the list and provide a copy of that register to the Australian Bureau of Statistics on request and on return of the list to the ABS;
- e. if it is necessary for a contractor to have access to the list for the purposes of providing services to ABARES, ABARES will ensure that the contractor and every person employed by the contractor who has access to the list provide the Australian Statistician with a relevant undertaking prior to accessing the list;
- f. advise respondents in writing that the survey is:

- i. conducted by ABARES from a list of names and addresses obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics in accordance with legislative guidelines;
  - ii. is not covered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics guarantee of confidentiality; and
  - iii. is not compulsory.
- g. clear any relevant explanatory material for the survey with the Australian Bureau of Statistics prior to despatch;
- h. provide a copy of the survey results and any information relevant to the maintenance of the Australian Bureau of Statistics registers if so requested by the Australian Bureau of Statistics;
- i. for the purpose of conducting a compliance audit concerning observance of the terms and conditions under which the list is disclosed allow Australian Bureau of Statistics officers access to necessary documents and information;
- j. destroy or return all copies of the list to the Australian Bureau of Statistics as soon as the surveys and activities have been completed.

Jonathan Palmer  
Acting Australian Statistician

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