

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 12 OF 2016**

**BY**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND AND WATER OWNERSHIP SURVEY (ALWOS) 2016**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information on the level of foreign ownership of agricultural land, and water entitlements used for agricultural purposes in Australia. The ALWOS has previously been run twice, in December 2010 and August 2013. It was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal 2 of 2013.

The information will be collected:

- in the last quarter of 2016
- from a sample of approximately 11,000 businesses identified from the ABS Business Register, administrative data collected from the 2016 Agricultural Census survey (to identify Foreign Ownership) and existing ABS data
- by self - enumeration (via mail-out/mail-back or electronic form), and
- from businesses in all Australian States and Territories.

Information will be collected on the level of foreign ownership of businesses undertaking agricultural activity in Australia for the year ended June 2016 including information about land and water entitlements used for agricultural purposes in Australia.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of the Agricultural Land & Water Ownership June 2016 report.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available in June 2017.

The ALWOS outputs will be subject to standard ABS confidentiality provisions.

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

- Government and Industry.

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden, consistent with the Government's Regulator Performance Framework, the ABS:

- has considered what existing information is available
- has consulted with Australian Tax Office, The Treasury and the Department of Agriculture & Water Resources, including the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES)
- will conduct field testing to ensure the required data is readily available and that provider load will be minimised, and
- will perform all activities required to receive Statistical Clearing House approval.

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