

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

2021 MOTOR VEHICLES DATA COLLECTION

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information from the National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS) for the purpose of enhancing the 2021 Census of Population and Housing dataset by adding new information on motor vehicles.

The information will be collected:

- as a national snapshot of person level motor vehicles data from the NEVDIS database
- for the reference period in relation to the 2021 Census night (i.e. as of August 2021)
- from Austroads
- before December 2024
- electronically via a secure digital transfer mechanism.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- vehicle type
- fuel type
- age of motor vehicle
- location of motor vehicle
- personal information, used to match NEVDIS data to the Census.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the analysis of vehicles ownership and usage on an enriched 2021 Census dataset. Currently the Census captures a single question on this topic – number of motor vehicles garaged. Enriching the Census with new information captured in NEVDIS data, such as the type and characteristics of vehicles owned, will greatly increase its value for research and statistics.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available in:

- a Census research article which will include aggregate statistics produced from an enhanced 2021 Census dataset
- 2021 Census TableBuilder, depending on feasibility and the associated quality of the data.

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

- government for informing policy, program, and funding/allocations
- the public sector for informing service delivery and infrastructure decisions
- the private sector for understanding markets and informing investment decisions and
- demographers and economic/environment/social researchers for answering questions of public interest.

If the exercise is successful, the ABS would seek to obtain a similar snapshot of data to enhance the 2026 Census dataset.

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 and consulted with Austroads to ensure the required data are readily available.

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