

## Potential Changes to Scope of Agricultural Surveys and Censuses in the Australian Context

Allan Nicholls

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Belconnen, Australia

Email: [allan.nicholls@abs.gov.au](mailto:allan.nicholls@abs.gov.au)

**Abstract:** This paper describes the traditional scope of Agricultural Censuses and Surveys in Australia and the origins of that scope definition. Increasing demands for information related to agriculture are examined, including the need for data on natural resource management, sustainability, farm families, farm finances and organic and GM production. Implications for the scope of agricultural collections are then discussed, including the population of interest and the type and size of farms to be included within scope. Options for meeting these needs, including choice of appropriate collection vehicles and population frames are then discussed. Finally, the paper discusses strategies being adopted in Australia to satisfy some of these data needs.