



The Hon Michael McCormack MP
Minister for Small Business
Federal Member for Riverina

Ref: ABS-MC17-000063

Mayor David O'Loughlin
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor ^{David} O'Loughlin

Thank you for your correspondence of 16 August 2017 concerning the accessibility of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data at the Local Government Area (LGA) level.

The availability of high quality data is an essential requirement for effective policy-making in all levels of Government. The ABS provides official statistics to support important decision-making across Government, including the decisions of Local Governments through the publication of LGA specific data.

LGA data is freely available in a variety of useful formats on the ABS website: www.abs.gov.au. For example, the ABS provides a summary of Census data for LGA in Australia through its QuickStats tool and through the series of community profiles which are provided in Excel spreadsheets for each LGA.

In addition, the ABS has published its TableBuilder program. TableBuilder is an interactive data application which allows the public and policy-makers to create their own tables from the comprehensive Census dataset.

On 23 October 2017, the second round of data from the 2016 Census of Population and Housing was released. A free seminar about the release was held on 24 October and is now available to watch on the ABS website.

Detailed data on the volume and gross value of agricultural production at a regional level are also available directly from the following agricultural publications:

- Agricultural Commodities Australia (cat. no. 7121.0)
- Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia (cat. no. 7503.0)

National and regional agricultural data for 2015-16 is available now and the ABS will publish LGA-level data by the end of the year.

The National Information and Referral Service can assist users to access Census and other ABS data sets. Your members can contact this service on: 1300 135 070.

If your members have suggestions to improve Local Government access to ABS data, please contact Lisa Conolly, Director, Regional Statistics, at: lisa.conolly@abs.gov.au. The ABS would welcome engagement with the Australian Local Government Association.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael McCormack". The signature is written in a cursive style.

MICHAEL McCORMACK

25/10 /2017