



# Census

## 2026 Census topic consultation: Submission form

This document can be used to help draft a collaborative submission or if you prefer you can email your response back to us.

**On completion, please check and submit your form via:**

**Email:** [census.content@abs.gov.au](mailto:census.content@abs.gov.au)

**Post:** 2026 Census Topic Consultation  
Locked Bag 10  
Belconnen ACT 2616

**Online:** Please visit the [ABS Consultation Hub](#)

### Collection Notice

The 2026 Census Topic Consultation Collection Notice is available at [2026 Census Topic Consultation Collection Notice](#)

### Consent to Publish

If you consent, the ABS will publish your submitted information (including attachments), without your name or contributors' names and contact details, on the ABS Consultation Hub so that others can see it. If you prefer, organisation names will also be removed from your submission before it is published.

If your submission lists other persons or organisations as contributors to your submission, you must obtain their consent before agreeing for the ABS to publish your submission.

The ABS reserves the right to remove defamatory material, to de-identify personal or sensitive information, and to publish or not publish submissions at our discretion.

1. Do you give permission for the ABS to publish your submission after the consultation closes? (Select one) **(Required)**

***By selecting 'Yes, publish without my name, contributors' names and email addresses':***

*You give permission for the ABS to publish your responses, including information in attachments, about the data you want us to collect as well as which organisation(s) you are representing. Contact name(s) for you and any other individual(s) listed in the submission and your email address will not be published.*

***By selecting 'Yes, publish without my name, contributors' names and email addresses, and organisation details':***

*You give permission for the ABS to publish your responses, including information in attachments, about the data you want us to collect. The organisation(s) you are representing, contact name(s) for you and any other individual(s) listed in the submission and email address will not be published.*

***By selecting 'No':***

*No part of your submission will be published.*

- Yes, publish without my name, contributors' names and email addresses
- Yes, publish without my name, contributors' names and email addresses, and organisation details
- No

## Contact details

2. **Please provide details of the best contact for this submission. These details will be used if we have any follow-up questions.**

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS will handle any personal information that you provide to us.

**Contact name**

Hazel Easthope

**Organisation (if applicable)**

City Futures Research Centre, University of New South Wales Sydney

**Email address**

[hazel.easthope@unsw.edu.au](mailto:hazel.easthope@unsw.edu.au)

3. **Do you wish to receive email updates on the outcomes of this consultation and at key points in the 2026 Census topic selection process?**

Yes

No

4. **Select the category that best describes you or the organisation you represent (Select one)**

Individual

Academia/educational institution

Australian government

Business

Community organisation

Industry body/association

Local government

Non-government organisation

State/territory government

Other (please specify)

5. **Has this submission been prepared in collaboration with any other individual(s) or organisation(s)?**

We will not automatically send updates directly to these individuals or organisations. If they wish to receive email updates on the 2026 Census topic consultation process, they can subscribe to our [Mailing list](#).

Yes – please list name, organisation (if applicable) and email address in the section below.

No

**Additional individual(s) or organisation(s)**

**Strata Community Association, Shaun Brockman, National Policy and Advocacy Manager,  
[shaun.brockman@strata.community](mailto:shaun.brockman@strata.community)**

**Owners Corporation Network of Australia, Karen Stiles, Executive Director, [karen.stiles@ocn.org.au](mailto:karen.stiles@ocn.org.au)**

**Australian College of Strata Lawyers, Tim Graham, President, [president@acsl.net.au](mailto:president@acsl.net.au)**

**City of Sydney, Melinda Dewsnap, Manager Sustainability Programs,  
[mdewsnap@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mdewsnap@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)**

## What information would you like the ABS to collect and produce statistics on?

If you have multiple topics and data needs, please complete a separate submission for each.

### 6. Please provide a brief summary of the information you would like the ABS to collect and produce statistics on.

Data on property title (strata title, community title, unit title) in the 2026 Census.

The Census currently allows for accurate capture of information about private apartment residents. While most private apartments will be strata titled, not all are. More importantly, many strata titled properties are not apartments. While there are just over 2.5 million private apartment residents in Australia according to the last Census, by our estimates there are more than 1.3 million additional strata residents living in other dwelling types.

We propose the addition of one question to the 2026 Census:

*'Is this dwelling part of a strata title, community title or unit title development (with a body corporate or owners corporation)?'*

Yes

No

Unsure

The ability to accurately capture this information would allow governments, researchers and industry and community organisations to match demographic data to strata properties, providing a clearer picture of the strata sector in Australia and support the delivery of targeted outcomes.

### 7. What topic does this information most relate to? (Select one)

You can find more information about Census topics in our [Census dictionary](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Cultural diversity

Health, disability, unpaid work and care

Household and families

Housing and homelessness

Income, work, education and training

Location and transport

Population, including sex and gender

Other (please specify)

8. **To help us assess your submission, tell us why it is important that the ABS should collect and produce this information, including how you would use the data.**

*Please do not include any information which could identify you or another person.*

**Assessment criteria:**

*The ABS uses a range of criteria to assess whether it includes topics in the Census or surveys. This includes the need for the data, the ability and willingness of the public to respond and how easy it is to collect the information. Your response to this question will help with our assessment regarding the need for the data. The specific criteria we will be looking for you to address in your submission are:*

- a. The topic is of current national importance.*
- b. There is a need for data at the national level, and either the local level or for small population groups.*
- c. There is likely to be a continuing need for data on the topic following the Census.*

**The topic is of current national importance.** Strata properties form a large and growing proportion of housing stock in Australia. In 2020, there were approximately 2.5 million residential strata properties in the country<sup>1</sup>.

Since 2018, the peak body for the strata sector in Australia, Strata Community Association, have funded the City Futures Research Centre at UNSW to collate land titles data from all states and territories, standardise and clean this data, and report on the scale of strata properties nationally. A copy of the most recent report can be viewed here: <https://cityfutures.ada.unsw.edu.au/research/projects/2020-australasian-strata-insights/>. This report is widely used by government, industry and community associations to raise the profile of the strata sector, and advocate for the needs of strata residents. However, major limitations of the report are that it is not possible to accurately link property titling information with demographic information, and that the information is not freely available at a local level.

**There is a need for data at the national level and the local level.** It is currently not possible to seamlessly link titling information with demographic characteristics. The value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census. A more accurate picture of who lives in strata title would be achieved by cross tabulating our proposed question with collected household characteristics data. Local level information is essential for planning local service provision and programs to meet the needs of strata residents.

**There will be a continuing need for data on the topic following the Census.** This continuing need is evidenced by funding of the Australasian Strata Insights Report by the Strata Community Association over multiple years (2018, 2020, 2022). Providing information via the Census would be a more accurate and straightforward solution to this data need. Considering the growth in strata titled properties in Australia, the data collected will have enduring value.

**Alternative data sources on property title are increasingly difficult to deliver.** The Strata Insights Reports need to utilise multiple data sources that have different degrees of reliability and cannot be directly compared. Inclusion of a question on strata title in the Census would allow for accurate linking of titling and demographic information at a local level.

Since the delivery of the 2020 Strata Insights report, it has also become difficult and expensive to negotiate access to the land titles data from land titles agencies in the states on NSW, WA and SA, where land title data holdings have been privatised.

**Data on the topic can be collected efficiently.** We are proposing the addition of a single question, which can efficiently collect data on different types of property title and allow for enhanced use of the existing Census:

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<sup>1</sup> 2020 Australasian Strata Insights Report, p. 65. Available at: <https://cityfutures.ada.unsw.edu.au/research/projects/2020-australasian-strata-insights/>

*'Is this dwelling part of a strata title, community title or unit title development (with a body corporate or owners corporation)?'*

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

The design of this question has regard to a similar question asked in the United States National Housing Survey ('Is this XXXX part of a condominium?')<sup>2</sup>

**A representative of the household would be willing and able to answer questions on the topic.**

Property owners will be aware that their property is owned under strata title. Renters should have been provided with strata by-laws and the contact details of a strata manager (if one is employed) and therefore should be aware. The question includes all terms used to define/describe strata title across states and territories (strata, community and unit title). We have also recommended the inclusion of "(with a body corporate or owners corporation)" to further clarify the meaning of the question for residents. We have proposed that an 'unsure' option be provided in the question for people who remain unsure. Information on the number of people who respond 'unsure' will also be of value to the strata sector in understanding the level of community literacy on strata title and its implications.

**9. For what purpose(s) will you use the data? (Select all that apply)**

- Resource allocation for programs and policies
- Planning, development, monitoring and evaluation related to programs, policies and service delivery
- Research
- Journalism/media
- Other (please specify)

**10. What is the smallest area or geography required to effectively use this data? (Select one)**

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<sup>2</sup> 2021 American Housing Survey Instrument Items, p. 44. Available at: <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/2021/2021%20AHS%20Items%20Booklet.pdf>



**Common geographies or area boundaries:**

- *Mesh Block (Residential block/rural area)*
- *Statistical Area Level 1 (Neighbourhood/rural district)*
- *Statistical Area Level 2 (Suburb or locality)*
- *Statistical Area Level 3 (Part of region)*
- *Statistical Area Level 4 (Region)*
- *Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (Capital city broad regions)*
- *Significant Urban Areas (Large urbanised areas)*
- *Urban Centres and Localities (Cities and towns)*
- *Indigenous Locations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities)*
- *Remoteness Areas (Remoteness Classification)*
- *Local Government Areas*
- *State Electoral Divisions*
- *Commonwealth Electoral Divisions*

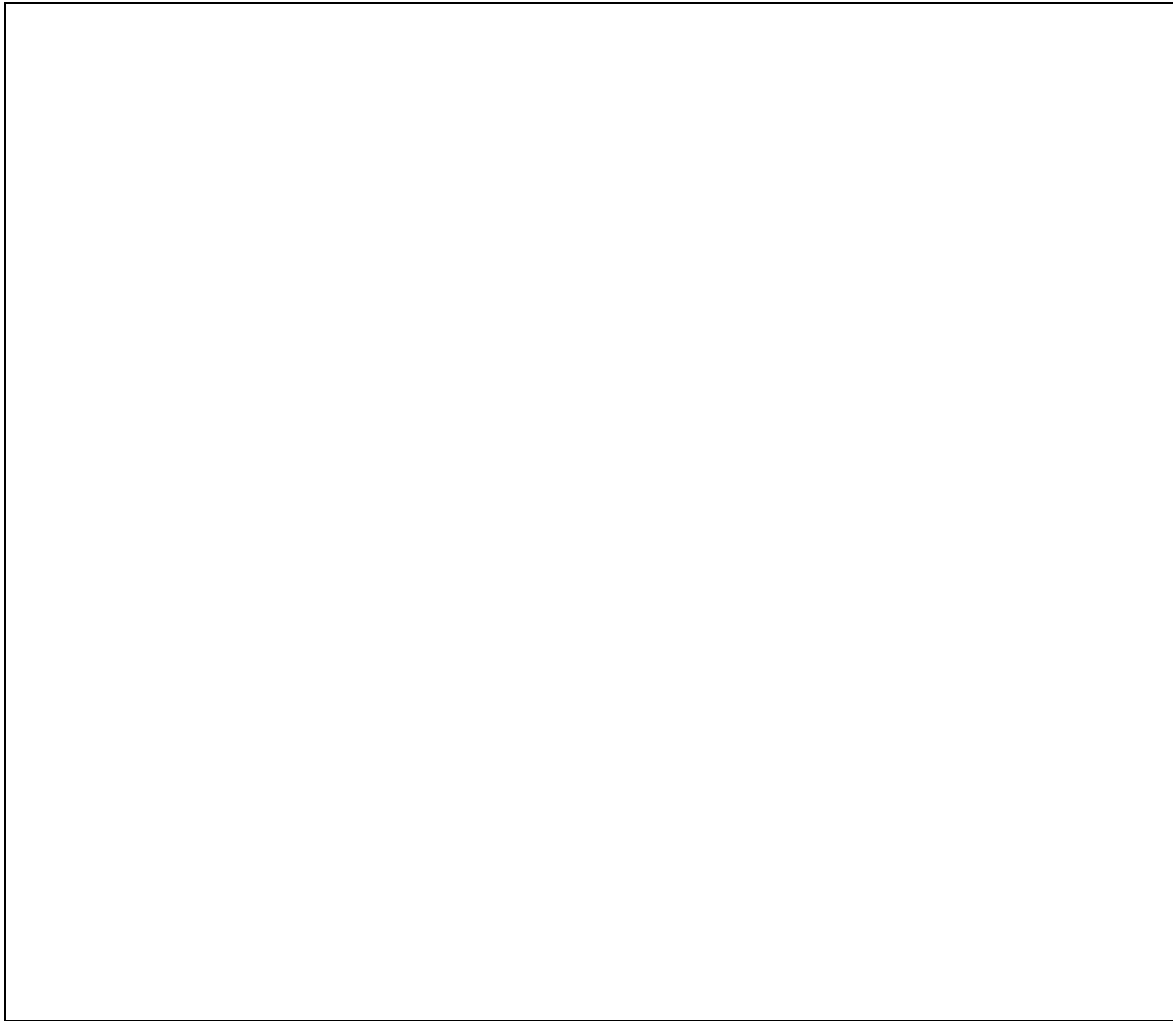
More information is available on the [Census geography glossary](#) page.

- National
- State/territory
- Statistical Area Level 2 (suburb or locality)
- Statistical Area Level 1 (neighbourhood/rural district)
- Local Government Area
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

## Additional information

**11. Would you like to tell us anything else about your submission?**

*Please do not include any information which could identify you or another person.*



*You can also attach documentation to support your submission. Please make sure your file is under 25MB.*

*Please note if you have provided consent for the ABS to publish your submitted information, this includes information provided in attachments.*

## Thank you...

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