

Plain Language Statement

School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences



Project: Incorporation of values in community engagement practice

Information for participants in community engagement with DELWP

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following pages provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to, and your contributions to the regional planning process will not form part of this research. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

What is this research about?

This research looks at how values of the public are incorporated in community engagement.

What will I be asked to do?

DELWP has asked you to be a part of their community engagement activity. This process is expected to involve one meeting that lasts 2-3 hours. University of Melbourne researchers will be present at the meeting to observe DELWP staff and the process as they pilot their community engagement activity(ies). Researchers will make notes on the process, outcomes, discussion, and their observations at the meeting. The community engagement activity will be audio-recorded in order to capture the process that DELWP staff undertake.

What are the possible benefits?

Government agencies seek effective ways to incorporate social data about values of the public into community engagement practice. Observing how values are incorporated these practices and supporting the development of a community engagement process, will help in identifying effective approaches and barriers to incorporating values, and will ultimately contribute to engagement that is transparently in the public interest.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You are able to withdraw at any time. We will only include contributions to the community engagement activities where the contributor has explicitly consented to take part in this research. However, if you consent to participate, you retain the right to decline access to the researchers of any email or document that you feel may be inappropriate to share.

If you do not want to take part, or if you do want to take part and there are particular contributions that you wish not to be included in the research, please inform the researchers of this. As far as is possible, they will exclude the relevant contributions to the planning process from the research.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

Results from this research can be requested from the researchers.

What will happen to the information collected?

Information collected will be analysed to understand the community engagement process as a whole. Individuals will not be named in reports, though in some cases it may be necessary to report the role of a person. After the research project ends, data will be retained for five years following any publications from this research, and will then be destroyed.

Who is funding this project?

This project is funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning under the Integrated Forest Ecosystem Research (IFER) Program.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researcher, Andrea Rawluk; ph: (03) 8344 7487; email andrea.rawluk@unimelb.edu.au

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.