

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Economic Benefits of a More Reliable Water Supply for Tamworth

This project is being undertaken in partnership with the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) and CSIRO. It will model and analyse primary and secondary data to understand the impacts of drought on business and industry in the Tamworth Regional Local Government Area for the period 2017 to 2020.

The project will identify the impact of the drought and associated water restrictions on the broader livability of the Tamworth region, and the subsequent impacts on population growth. There is also a desire to gain an understanding of the impacts of how the drought is perceived in and outside of the region, particularly in terms of attraction and investment.

Finally, the project will consider the potential future impacts of the drought, and associated water supply levels and water restrictions if drought conditions persisted in the Tamworth region. This includes the impacts of:

- Continued enforced reduction in business water use
- Enforced reduction in hours of operation for businesses due to the lack of water, and
- The closure of businesses on the local economy.

What is involved?

You are invited to participate a survey for the project. The survey will ask you to share your experiences, thoughts and ideas about the impacts of drought and the associated water restrictions on the Tamworth Regional Local Government Area for the period 2017 to 2020. The information will be used in modelling, analysis and reporting for the Economic Benefits of a More Reliable Water Supply for Tamworth project.

Participation and withdrawal

Participation in this activity is completely voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time. If you decide to withdraw, simply notify a researcher on the contact details below. The information collected during the interview will be treated sensitively and individual contributions will not be reported beyond the research team. We will only use information that you give us permission to include, however once your responses have been combined with others for analysis, it may not be possible to remove your contribution.

Risks and Confidentiality

We are mindful that the information and feedback that you provide us is sensitive. All information collected will be treated confidentially and the syntheses process will endeavour to capture the themes and impacts of the drought on business, community and government.

If you have any concerns about any aspects of the study, please contact Katherine Bassett (see below for contact details).

How will my information be used?

In some instances the interviewer will request audio recording the interview to aid with transcription of the interview. If you agree to be recorded, the file will be securely stored on the interviewer's computer.

Other information, including the interview transcription will be stored on a secure RAI filing system and retained.

The information you provide to CSIRO and RAI will included in modelling, analysis and reporting for the Economic Benefits of a More Reliable Water Supply for Tamworth. You will not be identifiable at any stage of the synthesis writing process.

How will my privacy be protected by CSIRO?

Your personal information is protected by the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act) and CSIRO will handle your personal information in accordance with this Act and the NH&MRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007, updated 2018).

CSIRO will collect your personal information, including your name, contact information, organisation and your opinions (including your professional opinions) during the interviews for the purpose of understanding the impacts of drought on business and industry in the Tamworth Regional Local Government Area.

During the interviews please do not provide the personal information of any other individual unless you have obtained consent to do so.

With your consent, an audio recording of the interview will be made.

CSIRO may disclose this information to third parties, including RAI for the purposes set out above. Although TRC will not receive personal information, they may be able to identify individual's information presented in the reports (e.g. quotes) noting that some participants have a relationship with TRC.

All information collected by CSIRO will be de-identified prior to the development of any reports. CSIRO employees and RAI employees may be able to re-identify the information as they were present at the interviews, however, no attempts will be made to do so.

Your personal information may be disclosed overseas as the interviews may be conducted using WebEx or Microsoft Teams who utilise servers based outside of Australia. By participating in this project, you agree to the transfer of your personal information, to Webex and/or Microsoft Teams servers located in outside of Australia. You acknowledge that this information will not be subject to the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

CSIRO's Privacy Policy available at <https://www.csiro.au/en/about/policies/privacy> outlines how your personal information will be handled, including details about how you can seek access or correction of the personal information we hold about you, how you can lodge a complaint about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and how CSIRO will deal with the complaint. If you require further information on how your personal information will be handled, please contact privacy@csiro.au.

How can I find out more about the study?

If you would like to receive a summary of the findings of the study please feel free to contact us on the contact details provided below.

Ethical clearance and Contacts

This study has been cleared in accordance with the ethical review processes of CSIRO and follows the guidelines set out in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007). If you have any questions concerning your participation in the study feel free to contact the researchers involved. Alternatively, any concerns or complaints about the study can be raised with CSIRO's Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee by email at csshrec@csiro.au or by contacting Cathy Pitkin, Manager of Social Responsibility and Ethics on +61-7-3833 5693.

Thank you for your participation in this research.

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