



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET – Homeowner Interviews

PROJECT TITLE: The Maintenance of Bushfire Protection Measures

The bushfire events of the past few years have raised questions regarding whether people are maintaining bushfire protection measures around their property and how much additional protection people would have if they maintained bushfire protection measures.

If you are 18 years or over and own your own home, I invite you to participate in this research about the maintenance of bushfire protection measures. I would like to learn about any barriers you may have experienced in maintaining bushfire protection around your home and anything which you think may help you to better protect your home.

The research team:

My name is Catherine Ryland and I am a PhD research student within the Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires at the University of Wollongong. I am supported by my supervisors, Associate Professor Owen Price and Dr Tasmin Lara-Dilworth.

You can contact me to let me know whether you would like to take part in the research using the following contact details:

cjr130@uowmail.edu.au

Telephone: 0487271079

What would you have to do to take part?

I would like to conduct an interview with you at your home. The interview will be semi-structured, which means it will be more like a focussed conversation, and should take no more than 45 minutes of your time. If you are uncomfortable being interviewed within your home but would still like to take part in the research, we can arrange for the interview to take place at a mutually convenient location either in-person or via videoconferencing (using Zoom, Microsoft Teams or WebEx). Please note that the interview will be recorded in audio only, video will not be recorded. I can help you if you don't feel very confident using videoconferencing. We will arrange for the time of the interview to be mutually convenient to both you and myself.

I will ask you to tell me a little about yourself, your property and your local community. You will have the opportunity to tell me about your knowledge of bushfire risk and the bushfire protection measures you currently use.

Who is funding this research?

This study is being funded by the University of Wollongong and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (www.bnhcrc.com).

Why should I take part?

This research is a chance to share your perspectives, the research aims to inform strategies to improve the maintenance of bushfire protection measures for individual properties.

During the interview, I will provide you with relevant advice regarding bushfire preparedness and following the interview, I will provide an advice sheet with useful information on preparing your property for bushfire protection.



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Are there any reasons I should not take part?

Sharing your experiences about bushfires might be uncomfortable. You will not be pressured for details you feel uncomfortable talking about. If you are affected by any of the questions or answers within the interview you can speak to one of the researchers or ring Lifeline on 13 11 14. A list of additional support services is available if required.

Do I have to take part?

No. You do not have to take part. Your decision will not affect your relationship with the University of Wollongong or the Bushfire & Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre.

What will happen to the information?

All interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed, then de-identified for analysis and reporting. Findings from the study will be written up in a report and published in journals or conference presentations. Information about these findings may be published on the University of Wollongong website. However, don't worry, we won't use anything that could identify you individually. *The confidentiality of interview participants is ensured* (personal details, such as names and addresses, will not be disclosed). If you decide before we finish the research that you don't want to be involved, you can tell us and we can remove your records from our files. If you would like to withdraw any data that you have provided you can do so by contacting the researcher within 6 weeks of your interview.

What if I am not happy about the research or have a complaint?

This research has been approved by the University of Wollongong Human Research Ethics Committee, reference (2022/285). If you have any concerns or complaints please contact the University of Wollongong Ethics Officer on +61 2 4239 2191 or email uow-humanethics@uow.edu.au.

Thank you for your interest in this study. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange an interview, or if you have any further questions.

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