

## Tools for Managing Bushfire Risk Social Perceptions Survey

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### PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT

**This survey forms part of a larger research project (Landholder, community and stakeholder perceptions of nature-based climate action and resilience) overseen by The University of Melbourne.**

**Project Supervisor:** Dr Rachel Morgain

Tel: +61 419 710 770 Email: [rachel.morgain@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:rachel.morgain@unimelb.edu.au)

**Additional Researchers:**

- Sarah Hoyal [sarah@nrmregionsaustralia.com.au](mailto:sarah@nrmregionsaustralia.com.au), National Program Lead, Nature-led Resilience, NRM Regions Australia – National research project co-lead;
- Dr Bek Christensen [bek@nrmregionsaustralia.com.au](mailto:bek@nrmregionsaustralia.com.au), Knowledge Broker, Nature-led Resilience, NRM Regions Australia – National research project knowledge broker;
- Linda Metz [lmetz@southwestnrm.org.au](mailto:lmetz@southwestnrm.org.au) Sustainability and Environment Lead, South West NRM – Living Firebreaks project lead;
- Kristy Hitchens [khitchens@southwestnrm.org.au](mailto:khitchens@southwestnrm.org.au) Communications Manager, South West NRM

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following information will 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. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

### **What is this research about?**

The purpose of this research is to investigate knowledge, values and outcomes from nature-led and landscape-based resilience strategies for fire, flood and other climate extremes, such as Living Firebreaks.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

Should you agree to participate you will be asked to answer a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions in a survey (approx. 10-15 mins).

### **What are the possible benefits?**

You may benefit directly from being supported to share and reflect on your insights on nature-led resilience approaches and what you have learnt from your involvement in these initiatives. Your insights may inform future programs, including the possibility of improvements or further work in your local region or community.

### **What are the possible risks?**

This research is anticipated to be low risk. Occasionally, our conversations may touch on issues you find sensitive or challenging, such as your past experiences of extreme events or disasters. You may choose what you wish to talk about or decline to answer if you'd prefer not to discuss any particular issues. A trigger warning will be provided ahead of survey questions which directly address past experiences of extreme events or disasters and you will have the opportunity to skip these questions. You may also stop providing survey responses at any time. If participation in this research does trigger any overwhelming feels, please contact:

Lifeline: 13 11 14 or SMS 0477 13 11 14

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 46 36

### **Do I have to take part?**

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You are able to withdraw at any time during completion of the survey. Survey data collected anonymously cannot be withdrawn once submitted.

### **Will I hear about the results of this project?**

Results may be published on our project website and will be shared with participants through email and through local and national Natural Resource Management (NRM) newsletter and communication channels.

### **What will happen to information about me?**

Survey data is collected anonymously and will be stored on a secure drive for analysis. Raw and analysed data will be retained on a secure drive on the University of Melbourne data system for at least 5 years after publication and may be used in other research related to nature-led resilience, unless you specify otherwise.

### **Is there any potential conflict of interest?**

This research team includes members of the regional natural resource management organisation (South West NRM), which receives funding to undertake resilience works. These organisations are committed to understanding both the strengths and limitations of specific nature-led resilience strategies, in order to adopt effective practices and adapt solutions to be effective and fit-for-purpose. Participants are strongly encouraged to share insights that are true to your experience, in order to create an accurate assessment. Analysis will be overseen by the project supervisor in order to manage any potential conflict of interest arising.

### **Who is funding this project?**

This research has been funded by Minderoo as part of the Nature-Led Resilience project managed through NRM Regions Australia.

### **Where can I get further information?**

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researchers;  
Dr Rachel Morgain, 0419 710 770, [rachel.morgain@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:rachel.morgain@unimelb.edu.au)  
Linda Metz, 0438 904 050, [lmetz@southwestnrm.org.au](mailto:lmetz@southwestnrm.org.au)

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

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne (Project ID 33227). 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 Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 1376 or Email: [research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au). All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence, please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.