

Research study: Identifying socially relevant indicators for native forest management



What is this study about?

Native forests in Victoria are valued by people for many reasons, such as for water, biodiversity, recreation, forest products, and their beauty. The aim of this research is to investigate these different ways people value forests and how these relate to aspects of the forest that can be measured. Results from the study will be used to develop indicators to describe forests and their management in ways that reflect how forests are valued by the public. We hope such indicators can help guide future forest policy and management.

This study is being conducted by Ass/Professor Kathryn Williams (Principal Researcher), Dr. Rebecca Ford and Nerida Anderson from the Department of Resource Management and Geography. Funding for the project is provided by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and industry partner the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI).

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate in this study we would like you to take part in an interview lasting approximately one hour. During the interview you will be asked to describe what you think is important about forests and what you value about native forests. With your consent the interview will be digitally recorded and transcribed for later reference.

How will your confidentiality be protected?

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee. Your participation in the study is entirely voluntary; you do not have to participate if you do not wish to. You are free to withdraw your consent at any time, and withdraw any unprocessed data previously supplied. Your anonymity will be protected by the removal of any identifying details (names, location etc) from the transcriptions of the interviews. No identifying details will be used in future publications; however as the number of people involved in the interviews is very small it may not be possible to guarantee anonymity. The confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations. Transcripts of the interviews will be stored securely for five years from the date of publication before being destroyed. All computer files will be password protected.

A summary of the findings of this research will be available by contacting the researchers at the Department of Resource Management and Geography, The University of Melbourne.

Contact details:

If you would like more information about the project, or have any concerns about the conduct of the research, please contact the researchers or the Human Research Ethics Committee:

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University Ethics Research ID. 1340877

Title: *Identifying socially relevant indicators for native forest management*

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