



**Bushfire and Natural Hazards
CRC and AFAC with
the University of Tasmania**

**Project Information Sheet for
Survey: Assessing capability in
research utilisation
(17th August 2020)**

Dear reader,

The University of Tasmania (UTAS), in partnership with the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC), are working to assist agencies to utilise research to support evidence-informed practice. The aim of this project to better understand what enables and constrains practitioners to utilise research findings.

We are seeking the views of end-users engaged in adopting research findings, on how your organisation uses research to inform evidence-based practice and to assess and track the impacts of research utilisation from both the Bushfire CRC and Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC research outcomes.

The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

We hope that, through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRD and AFAC, this information will inform future research utilisation initiatives to strengthen evidence-informed practice in the industry and thus add to the benefit of research adoption and innovation for the industry. These benefits will only be achieved with your participation.

The details below outline how the data collected with this survey will be managed and stored and the measures in place to protect your confidentiality.

Who is responsible for the project?

Chief Investigator:

Associate Professor Christine Owen, Research Fellow, University of Tasmania

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Other investigators:

Associate Professor Ben Brooks, College of Sciences and Engineering, University of Tasmania

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You can contact any of the investigators if you have any queries about the project.

What is the purpose of the study?

This survey is part of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC's [Improving decision making in complex, multi-team environments](#) project.

The survey aims to:

- assist individual agencies to give feedback of their current situation with regard to research utilisation.

- collectively inform further research utilisation program development.
- provide a measure on current agency uptake for comparison purposes.

Why have end-users been chosen as potential participants in this research?

As a member of the fire and emergency services industry and one engaged in better understanding the application of research findings, we are keen to learn how you and your agency are using research products and what might enable to constrain embedding those research products into everyday practice.

What are the likely benefits of the research for participants and others?

We hope that the insights gained from this project will be of benefit in informing future research utilisation initiatives to strengthen the development of a learning culture in the industry. Participation is entirely voluntary, but we would hope you can see the benefits and will feel comfortable about participating.

What are participants being asked to do?

As a key stakeholder involved in utilising research to support practice in your organisation you are being invited to participate by completing the survey. The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes. All questions are voluntary. If you do not wish to answer a question, please feel free to skip over it.

We are particularly interested in the issues that help or hinder effective utilisation of the research findings. Participation is entirely voluntary.

Please contact one of the researchers if you have any queries about the survey.

Are there any potential risks or discomforts to me?

We have thought carefully about possible risks to you and have identified the following. We have also thought carefully about how we may protect you from those risks. The risks and the strategies we have developed to mitigate those risks are outlined below.

Psychological/social risk

You may feel scrutinised or coerced into taking part in the survey and there is a potential social risk if we were to fail to fully protect your identity.

How will this possible risk be minimised?

Completion of the survey is entirely voluntary. By submitting your survey online, no-one from your agency, the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC or from AFAC will know if you have completed the survey. We have identified ways to protect your identity, please see below.

Will I be identified?

Only data that has been aggregated will be made available for publication and review. Data aggregations will be made on an agency/group level only if aggregations of 9 or more responses can be collated in order to ensure individuals within groups are not identified.

How private is the information I give?

When you respond to the survey you will be entering your data into a secure website in the US with which we have an agreement to provide online survey services. Once the survey distribution time has been completed (one month following initial advertising of the survey) we will download the responses and delete the information from that web-site. The downloaded data will have any internet protocol addresses removed so that no link can be made to survey responses.

We are ethically required to store de-identified survey data for a minimum period of five years. All data will be stored in locked filing cabinets or as password protected files in a secure (locked) room at the University of Tasmania. When your data is no longer needed, electronic files will be erased and printed material shredded.

Can I withdraw if I wish?

Participation is entirely voluntary; you decide whether you wish to complete the survey. However, once you have submitted the survey you will not be able to withdraw it from the data set, as we will have no way of knowing which survey is yours.

Has the research been approved by an ethics committee?

This study has been approved by the Tasmania Social Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study, you can contact the Executive Officer of the

HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 2975 or email ss.ethics@utas.edu.au The Executive Officer is the person nominated to receive complaints from research participants. You will need to quote H0018588.

How can I access the research results?

A summary report will also be available on the BNHCR and the AFAC Website. We will also present the data at the industry Conferences and will seek to publish the results in scholarly journals.

What should I do now?

If you feel comfortable, please complete the survey by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WC2XJHT>

Please note, submission of the survey will be taken as indicating your informed consent to participate.