

## ONLINE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Stakeholders, utilities, contractors, end-users  
Understanding impacts and opportunities for beneficial reuse of biosolids via land application.  
Dr. Ruth Fisher

### 1. What is the research study about?

Researchers at UNSW and UWA, as part of ARC Training Centre for the Transformation of Australia's Biosolids Resource ([transformingbiosolids.org.au/](https://transformingbiosolids.org.au/)), are conducting a project on biosolids land application methods and management practices in Australia. This project is part of Project 3A – Linking Stability, Odour and Production route ([transformingbiosolids.org.au/3a-linking-stability-odour-and-production-route/](https://transformingbiosolids.org.au/3a-linking-stability-odour-and-production-route/)), which addresses the knowledge gaps in the fundamental science on how biosolids odours are formed and emitted. Odour emissions remain one of the major challenges for beneficial reuse of biosolids, thus, this project aims to compile data on biosolids applied to land in Australia and the following survey has been prepared for **stakeholders, utilities, contractors, end-users**. The survey results will be used to understand the current biosolids land application methods and management practiced in Australia, by compiling data on biosolids applied to land and comparing land application methods with local standards and global practices.

You have been invited because you are a **stakeholder, utility, contractor, end-user** involved in biosolids management and land application and your contact details were obtained from the ARC Training Centre network.

### 2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers: Dr. Ruth Fisher, Prof. Richard Stuetz, Thais Nunes Guerrero, Water Research Centre, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UNSW; and Dr. Liah Xinyi Coggins, School of Engineering, UWA.

**Research Funder:** This research is being funded by ARC Training Centre for the Transformation of Australia's Biosolids Resource.

### 3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. The research study is looking recruit people who meet the following criteria:

- **Stakeholders, utilities, contractors, end-user** involved in biosolids management and land application.

### 4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in any research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary);
- Complete the online questionnaire.

### 5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you decide to take part in the research study, we will ask you to complete an online questionnaire.

The questionnaire will ask you questions about biosolids process, production, transportation, and land application practices. It should take approximately **15 minutes** to complete.

There are no reimbursements for participation.

### 6. What are the possible benefits to participation?

We hope to use information we get from this research study to benefit the biosolids industry by compiling data from biosolids applied to land in Australia and comparing with local standards and global practices.

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#### 7. What will happen to information about me?

Submission of the online questionnaire is an indication of your consent. By clicking the 'I agree to participate' button you are providing your permission for the research team to collect and use information about you for the research study.

The research team will store the data collected from you for this research project for:

- A minimum of 7 years after the completion of the research;

The information about you will be stored in a:

- Non-identifiable format where your identify will be unknown.

You will be asked to provide your consent for the research team to share or use the information collected from you in future research that:

- Will be specific to the aims of this research;
- Will be an extension of, or closely related to, the original project; or is in the same general area of research;
- Will be used in any future research.

Your information will only be shared in a format that will not identify you.

#### 8. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

The research team intend to publish and report the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you.

If you would like to receive a copy of the results you can let the research team know by inserting your email or mailing address in the consent form.

#### 9. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do this by closing the questionnaire. If you withdraw from the research, we will destroy any information that has already been collected. Once you have submitted the questionnaire however, we will not be able to withdraw your responses as the questionnaire is anonymous.

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

#### 10. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Water Research Centre  
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
ARC Training Centre for the Transformation of Australia's Biosolids  
Resource



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**Research Team Contact**

<b>Name</b>	Dr. Ruth Fisher
<b>Position</b>	Lecturer
<b>Telephone</b>	+61 2 9385 5073
<b>Email</b>	ruth.fisher@unsw.edu.au

**What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?**

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

**Complaints Contact**

<b>Position</b>	Human Research Ethics Coordinator
<b>Telephone</b>	+ 61 2 9385 6222
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:humanethics@unsw.edu.au">humanethics@unsw.edu.au</a>
<b>HC Reference Number</b>	HC230185