



Participant Information And Consent Form

Rail Tram & Bus Union (Victorian Branch)

Title	Climate Impacts at Work Survey
Principal Investigator	Prof. Lauren Rickards (RMIT)
Associate Investigators	Dr. Todd Denham (RMIT) Anna Langford (Friends of the Earth)
Ethics Approval Number:	25035

What does my participation involve?

1 Introduction

You are invited to take part in this research project, which is called the Climate Impacts at Work Survey. You have been invited by the Rail Tram & Bus Union (Victorian Branch) as someone who works in a sector that may have been impacted by climate change. Your contact details were obtained from the Rail Tram & Bus Union (Victorian Branch) or you may have seen a flyer for this project at your workplace.

This Participant Information And Consent Form tells you about the research project. It explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative or friend.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to.

If you decide you want to take part in the research project, you will be asked to provide your consent by selecting clicking 'yes' below to provide acknowledgement and consent. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the research project

You can save a copy of this Participant Information and Consent Form to keep.

2 What is the purpose of this research?

Friends of the Earth, with support from RMIT researchers, is targeting this survey to unions representing a diversity of indoor and outdoor workers who fall outside the category of energy sector workers. Historically, climate policy discourse involving workers has largely focused on fossil fuel industry workers. This has resulted in a narrow understanding of which workers are relevant to discussions about climate change, and a silence around other workers that has created a gap in literature and policy.

Previous research conducted by Friends of the Earth has confirmed this gap in understanding among communities. The *People's Climate Strategy for Victoria* project engaged over 1,000 people around Victoria to take surveys in which they told us the climate impacts they are observing, and their ideas for climate solutions that would improve their communities.

This research is being conducted by Friends of the Earth in conjunction with six unions: Hospo Voice, the Australian Services Union, the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, the Retail and Fast Food Workers Union, the Community and Public Sector Union and the Health and Community Services Union.

3 What does participation in this research involve?

If you decide to take part in the research project, you will be required to complete an online survey regarding your experiences of climate change impacts. The survey is expected to take between 5 and 20 minutes to complete, depending on your experiences and how many questions you want to answer. You will also be asked to provide consent to participate.

There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid.

4 Other relevant information about the research project

The survey is being distributed by six unions, with the expectation that there will be at least 250 responses from each of the unions and therefore more than 1,500 responses in total. In addition to the six unions participating in the research, listed above, the project is also being carried out by Friends of the Earth and RMIT University.

5 Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage.

If you do decide to take part, you will be given this Participant Information and Consent Form to sign and you will be given a copy to keep.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the researchers or with RMIT University.

Submitting your completed questionnaire is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw your responses any time before you have submitted the questionnaire. Once you have submitted it, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they are non-identifiable and therefore, we will not be able to tell which one is yours.

6 What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this research; however, you may appreciate contributing to knowledge. Possible benefits may include helping your industry to and improve workplace allowances in response to climate change.

7 What are the risks and disadvantages of taking part?

You may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately. If you become upset or distressed because of your participation in the research project, members of the research team will be able to discuss appropriate support for you.

This project will use an external site to create, collect and analyse data collected in a survey format. No personal information will be collected in the survey so none will be stored as data. Once we have completed our data collection and analysis, the data will be transferred to RMIT University for analysis, where it will be stored securely for five years. The data on the host server will then be deleted and expunged.

8 What if I withdraw from this research project?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time.

You have the right to have any unprocessed data withdrawn and destroyed, providing it can be reliably identified.

9 What happens when the research project ends?

When the research project ends, a report on the survey results will be distributed by your union. It is expected that the report will be completed early in 2022.

How is the research project being conducted?

10 What will happen to information about me?

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information from you for the research project. Any information obtained in connection with

this research project will be collected and stored in a way that means you will not be identifiable.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, as the survey data will only be presented in aggregated form.

11 Who is organising and funding the research?

This research project is being conducted by Anna Langford of Friends of the Earth, along with Professor Lauren Rickards and Dr. Todd Denham of RMIT University.

12 Who has reviewed the research project?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This research project has been approved by the RMIT University HREC.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

13 Further information and who to contact

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact Anna Langford on 0478 031 771 or anna.langford@foe.org.au. You can also contact:

Research contact person

Name	Todd Denham
Position	Investigator
Email	todd.denham@rmit.edu.au

14 Complaints

Should you have any concerns or questions about this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers listed in this document, then you may contact:

Reviewing HREC name	RMIT University
HREC Secretary	Vivienne Moyle

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