

## College of Engineering

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Canterbury

Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha

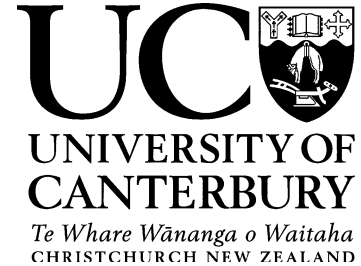
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16 February 2010

Dear Sir / Madam

### **Victorian bushfire clean-up – post-event community questionnaire**

I am a PhD student at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand and I am endeavouring to complete a thesis on disaster waste management. You are invited to take part in my research project.

The aim of my research is to gain an understanding of current disaster waste management processes and how disaster waste impacts on the disaster recovery cycle. The output of the research will be a decision-making guide to assist disaster waste managers in the future to minimise the impact of disasters on communities and to positively contribute to the overall recovery.

An important aspect of disaster waste management is how disaster waste and debris impacts on the disaster affected community. I would very much appreciate it if you could take the time to participate in my research project by sharing your experiences following the 2009 Victorian Bushfires by completing a questionnaire. The questionnaire should take approximately half an hour.

The results of the research may be published but you may be assured of complete confidentiality of data gathered in this investigation: the identity of participants will not be made public without their consent. To ensure confidentiality your name will not be stored with any written or electronic files relating to your interview. All physical and electronic documents will be held in locked and password protected places respectively.

Recall of traumatic events may cause mental and/or emotional stress. Should you feel distressed at any stage during or after completing the questionnaire, please either let me know, or please contact Vicki Moritz at the Marysville and Triangle Development Group (Ph 03 98070947) so we can try to alleviate any distress caused by the questionnaire.

Please note that this proposal has been reviewed and approved by the University of Canterbury Human Ethics Committee. If you wish to find out any more about the research, please do not hesitate to contact me or my supervisor Associate Professor Mark Milke.

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Mark Milke  
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Ph: 0064 3 364 2248

I appreciate what a difficult time this is for you. It is hoped that by sharing your experiences together we can help other disaster affected communities in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Charlotte Brown  
PhD student

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**UNIVERSITY OF  
CANTERBURY**

*Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha*  
CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

**Victorian bushfire clean-up – post-event community questionnaire**

**Researcher contact:**

Charlotte Brown

Department of Civil & Natural Resources Engineering

University of Canterbury

Private Bag 4800

Christchurch, NZ

cob15@student.canterbury.ac.nz

Ph: 0064 21 1425 420

16 February 2010

**Participant Declaration:**

I have read and understand the description of the above project. On this basis I agree to participate in the above project and I consent to publication of results of the project with the understanding that anonymity will be preserved.

I understand I can withdraw my participation, including withdrawal of any information I have provided, at any stage without negative consequences.

I note that the project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Canterbury Human Ethics Committee.

Name:.....

(please print)

Signature:..... Date:.....