



Charles Sturt  
University



CYBER SECURITY  
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# Participant Information Sheet

## Project: Cyber Security in Australian Agriculture

### Project Team:

Professor Mark Morrison (Project Leader), Charles Sturt University  
Associate Professor Yeslam Al-Saggaf, Charles Sturt University  
Dr Jenni Greig Charles Sturt University  
Dr Marthie Grobler, Data61, CSIRO  
Karen Hargreave, Queensland University of Technology  
Dr Ryan Ip, Charles Sturt University  
Dr Arif Khan, Charles Sturt University  
Dr Kirsty Mackenzie, Charles Sturt University  
Dr Amber Marshall, Queensland University of Technology  
Dr Leonie Simpson, Queensland University of Technology

### What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of the study is to investigate cybersecurity in the Australian Agricultural sector from the perspective of people working in the sector. We are interested in people's experiences and opinions on what is currently working well and challenges facing the sector as farming businesses incorporate digital technologies into their practices.

### Why have I been invited to participate in this study?

We are seeking the input of farmers and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector in Australia to provide their insights about their digital technology and cyber practices. We are interested in the insights of those working at different scales of farming, using different production systems from all around Australia, and farming businesses using different amounts and types of technology, as well as a range of organisations involved in providing services to Australian farmers and other primary producers. We want to gain an understanding of how best to support the Australian farming sector through future cyber security research and other initiatives.

### What does this study involve?

The study will involve participation in an interview. Farmers and other primary producers will be asked about their business, farming practices, and use of a range of technology, including aspects of privacy and security. Other stakeholders will be asked about their perceptions of farmer's use of technology. The interview will take about 60 to 90 minutes and can be conducted either on the phone or via Zoom (or a similar video conferencing platform).

With your permission, the interview will be audio-recorded and transcribed. You will be given the opportunity to review your transcript once it is completed and will have one week from when the transcript is emailed to you to change, retract, or offer additional comments to the original interview.

**What are the risks and benefits of participating in the study?**

Aside from giving up your time, there are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in this study. Your participation will increase our understanding of people's experiences and opinions on what is currently working well and challenges facing the sector as farming businesses incorporate digital technologies into their practices. Participants will be provided with a \$100 gift voucher for participating in the study.

**Who is funding this study?**

The research is funded by the Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre (CSCRC) with in kind contributions from Charles Sturt University, CSIRO's Data61 and Queensland University.

**What if I don't want to take part in this study?**

Participation is voluntary. You do not have to take part in the study. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the participating organisations. If you decide to participate, you can change your mind at any stage before or during the interview. If any topic is raised during the interview that you prefer not to discuss, you only need to tell the interviewer and the topic will not be pursued. There will be no negative consequences if you decide not to participate, withdraw your consent, or refuse to answer questions.

**What if I wish to withdraw my data after the interview?**

As mentioned above, you will have the opportunity to review and amend your transcript after the interview. After this point, your transcript will be deidentified and added to a pool of data. We will not be able to remove your data after this point.

**How will my confidentiality be protected?**

All information provided by you will be treated confidentially. Your name, workplace or any other personal information will not be included in any publications resulting from the study. All data collected in this study will be reported in such a way that responses will not be able to be linked to any individuals. Although interviews may be recorded and analysed by a researcher, the recordings will only be available to our research team. De-identified, non-sensitive data collected by the project may be shared with other researchers for the purposes of verifying published results or advancing other research on this topic. Any quotes we use from your interview as part of our presentation of results will be completely de-identified. Any data collected as part of this study will be securely stored as per CSIRO's Recordkeeping Procedure.

**What will happen to the information that I give you?**

The information collected will be analysed to produce a report for the CSCRC and one or more academic papers. We will give you the option of receiving a summary of the study results after the project has been completed.

**What should I do if I want to discuss this study further before I decide?**

If you would like to discuss the study or further information, contact Professor Mark Morrison ([mmorrison@csu.edu.au](mailto:mmorrison@csu.edu.au), ph 02 6338 4253).

**Who should I contact if I have concerns about the conduct of this study?**

This study has been approved by CSIRO's Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (Updated 2018). If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study can be raised with the Executive Manager of Social Responsibility and Ethics on +61 7 3833 5693 or by email at [csshrec@csiro.au](mailto:csshrec@csiro.au).

**Thank you for considering this invitation. This information sheet is for you to keep.**



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# Research Participant Consent Form

## Project: Cyber Security in Australian Agriculture

Dear Participant

Please review the information below and sign if you agree to participate in this research project

I \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge that:

- I have agreed to participate in the above project being **conducted jointly by researchers** from the Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre (CSCRC) with in kind contributions from Charles Sturt University, CSIRO's Data61 and Queensland University.
- I have been **provided with information** about the project and had any questions regarding my participation and any associated risks and benefits answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand my participation in the research will involve a **60 to 90 minute interview**.
- I understand that the interviews will be conducted either **by phone or via a video conferencing platform**.
- I have been provided with **contact details** of the research project leader and understand that I can contact them at any point during the study. I have also been provided with the contact details of an independent ethics officer at CSIRO should I wish to raise any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the research.
- I understand that my participation in the project is entirely **voluntary** and that I am **free to withdraw** my participation at any time and without having to provide a reason for my withdrawal.
- I understand that I may also ask for part or all of the information provided by me to be removed from the study **up until one week after I received the interview transcript** without penalty or explanation.
- I understand that the interview will be **recorded** for transcription and reference purposes to help ensure accuracy of the data.
- I understand that the **information I provide** for this research will be used for the **following purposes**:
  - to produce reports, scientific papers and conference presentations
  - to inform industry and policy makers' future decisions and activities
  - to provide input into future CSIRO research on community perspectives about cyber security impacts in the Australian agriculture context
- I understand the information will be treated **confidentially** and I will **not be identified** in any publications resulting from the study. Information provided by me will be **stored securely** by the CSIRO.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We thank you for your agreement to participate in this research.