

Appendix 1

## Participant Information Copy

PROJECT TITLE: WHAT ARE MY NATIVE BEES DOING?

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The below copy (or similar) will be published on our citizen science project website to provide future participants (registrants) sufficient information about how to register and how the data they collect will be used.

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Thank you for considering participating in this project. With over 1650 described bee species, the bees of Australia are more diverse than the birds and mammals combined. Through their pollination services, native bees are vital to the functioning of terrestrial ecosystems. Some native bee species also have important roles in crop pollination. But there is still so much we don't know about our native bees!

### **You can help!**

With your consent, your contribution in the project will involve regular observations of a native bee hive/nest to collect data on their interesting behaviours. We will provide you with all the resources on what to look out for, and how to submit your data. We encourage you to sample regularly. Over time, you will be helping us understand *what our native bees are doing* throughout the year.

### **What are the risks to me of participating?**

Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary and you are free to withdraw from participating at any time. Your identity and the identify of your school will be kept confidential and no identifying information about you or your data will be released. You can also confidentially request to be removed from the identifiable participant list at any time during the study, with no consequences. If you choose to withdraw, all identifiable data collected up to that point will be excluded and deleted.

### **How will the data be managed and used?**

Your registration data is used so that we may communicate with you throughout the project. Your data is collected by Vision6 during registration, then stored in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet hosted on a Microsoft Teams account. Both these digital applications are held by The University of Queensland, with password-only access and multi-factor authentication.

When you begin collecting data about your bee hives, this information is collected by Google Forms when you submit your data, then stored in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet hosted on a Microsoft Teams account.

Again, both these digital applications are held by The University of Queensland, with password-only access and multi-factor authentication. The scientific data that you collect does not include and is not associated with any identifiable information about you or your school. You will not be asked to identify yourself as part of the data collection process and we will not be able to identify you. These data will be managed and held as strictly confidential, and any potentially identifiable information (e.g., names of schools or departments) will be removed from any data that are released.

We will ask for extended consent to use the data. This means we are asking to use the data you collect in any later projects that are related to this project.

Results of the research project will be published in peer-reviewed journals or conference proceedings which will be communicated to you via email later.

### **How do I get started?**

This citizen science project is open to school groups and the general public (adults only). You should register your hive/nest(s) using the instructions provided on our project website. Teachers should register on behalf of their schools. You will be required to upload a completed consent form during registration. Once we receive and process your registration, we will mail out a starter pack to you, which includes your unique hive identifier sticker!

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with project staff (contactable on 3102 4486), if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinators on 617 3365 3924 / 617 3443 1656 or email [humanethics@research.uq.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@research.uq.edu.au).