

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project ID: 28387

Project Title: Visualising the Effect of COVID on the Electricity Market

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You are invited to take part in this survey. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the email addresses listed above.

What does the research involve?

This study has one key goal involving end users – to evaluate the effectiveness of visual communication methods in conveying information about the effects of COVID on the electricity grid in Victoria, Australia.

This evaluation will be used as feedback to improve on design of the communication tool and identify over or underperforming aspects of the tool.

Participants will be asked to navigate a website containing multiple visuals in the form of a data story. Upon completion they will be presented with an optional task to provide feedback through a survey link.

The data story should take no more than 10 minutes and the feedback form no more than 5 minutes.

Why were you chosen for this research?

You have been chosen as someone who has viewed the data story, while it is likely you are either from Victoria, Australia or are involved in the energy industry in some capacity this is not a requirement.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Your participation in this user study is voluntary and you can withdraw from further participation at any stage without any implication. A copy of this explanatory statement and consent form will be presented to you before the survey. You will be asked for your consent if you wish to proceed. As the responses are anonymous, your responses cannot be withdrawn once you have completed the questionnaire.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

You will benefit by learning more about the effects COVID has had on the electricity grid. This should be an educational experience that should be interesting for anyone in Victoria, or interesting in the energy sector. Your participation will contribute to the understanding of the effectiveness of certain visual communication methods.

This is a low-risk study that can be completed entirely remotely with no face-to-face interaction. Participants may leave the website, or survey at any time on their own terms. The information contained on the website is not controversial or sensitive in nature.

Confidentiality

All data collected will be anonymous and non-identifiable. The research will be reported as a master's thesis. No personal information will be used in any academic publications that may use the results of this study.

Storage of data

Survey responses will be stored for the duration of research, and for five additional years beyond that. If they are no longer required after this period, they will be deleted.

Responses will be stored in a Monash Google Drive folder with access limited only to project staff.

Results

The results will be evaluated in the master's thesis and conference/journal article. Resulting publications will be linked on the data story website when available. Contact information is available on the website for anyone who is interested in obtaining further unpublished results.

Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer

Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)

Room 111, Chancellery Building D,

26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus

Research Office

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Thank you,



Sarah Goodwin