

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

Software users
Energy System Modelling Software Choice Study
Anna Bruce

1. What is the research study about?

This research study aims to investigate the use and development of energy systems modelling software in order to better inform the development of open-source energy system modelling tools. Of particular interest are the factors influencing how end-users choose energy system modelling software and how developers perceive the factors influencing these decisions. The study adopts a broad definition of energy system modelling, which includes modelling of any energy system or sub-system including physical, market or financial components.

2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers: Nicholas Gorman, Iain MacGill and Anna Bruce from the Collaboration on Energy and Environmental Markets, School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications and School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering at UNSW Sydney.

Research Funder: No external funding

3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. The research study is looking recruit people who meet the following criteria:

1. 18 years of age or older
2. In the last 12 months have worked on studying/modelling the Australia National Electricity Market using energy system modelling software

Participants who meet the following criteria will be excluded from the study:

1. Under the age of 18 years

4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want 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 study at any stage.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary);
- Sign and return the consent form if you decide to participate in the study;
- Take a copy of this form with you to keep.

5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you agree to participate you will be asked to complete the following research procedures.

Interview: An online video interview, you will be asked questions about the energy system modelling software that you use, how you choose energy system modelling software and general background questions about your work. The interview will take place on zoom and will take approximately 30 to 60 min. With your permission the research team would like to audio record the interview. If you do not wish to be recorded but you would like to participate you can advise the research team and written notes will be taken. You will receive an initial reminder and one follow up reminder.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

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Harms and Discomforts: It is anticipated that there is a very low risk of discomfort, in the form of anxiety, from answering the interview questions.

Additional Costs and Reimbursement: There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid.

6. What will happen to information about me?

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you for the research study.

The research team will store the data collected from you for this research project for:

- A minimum of 7 years after the completion of the research

The information about you will be stored in an:

- Identifiable format, where your identity will be known.
- Information collected from you in an electronic format stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators.
- Audio recordings will be stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

7. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

The research team intend to publish and/ report the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you.

If you would like to receive a copy of the results you can let the research team know by inserting your email or mailing address in the consent form. We will only use these details to send you the results of the research.

8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do so by completing the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form' which is provided at the end of this document or you can ring the research team and tell them you no longer want to participate. Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with UNSW Sydney. If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. You can request that any identifiable information about you be withdrawn from the research project.

9. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

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If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

Complaints Contact

Position	UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
HC Reference Number	HC210169

10. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact Details

Name	Nicholas Gorman
Position	PhD Candidate
Telephone	N/A
Email	n.gorman@unsw.edu.au

Chief Investigator

Name	Anna Bruce
Position	Senior Lecturer
Telephone	+61 (2) 9065 9462
Email	a.bruce@unsw.edu.au

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

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Consent Form – Participant providing own consent

Declaration by the participant

- ☐ I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study;
- ☐ I have read the Participant Information Sheet, or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand;
- ☐ I understand the purposes, study tasks and risks of the research described in the study;
- ☐ Recordings: I understand that the research team will audio record the interviews; I agree to be recorded for this purpose.
- ☐ I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study only.
- ☐ I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received;
- ☐ I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;
- ☐ I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.
- ☐ I would like to receive a copy of the study results via email or post, I have provided my details below and ask that they be used for this purpose only.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Participant Signature

Name of Participant (please print)	
Signature of Research Participant	
Date	

Declaration by Researcher*

- ☐ I have given a verbal explanation of the research study; its study activities and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Researcher Signature*

Name of Researcher (please print)	
Signature of Researcher	
Date	

***An appropriately qualified member of the research team must provide the explanation of, and information concerning the research study.**

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.

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Software users
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Form for Withdrawal of Participation

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in this research study described above and understand that such withdrawal **WILL NOT** affect my relationship with The University of New South Wales.

- ☐ I am withdrawing my consent and I would like any identifiable information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research study withdrawn.
- ☐ I am withdrawing my consent and I understand that any information already published and/or not linked to my identity cannot be withdrawn from the research.

Participant Name

Name of Participant (please type)	
Date	

The section for Withdrawal of Participation should be forwarded to:

CI Name:	Anna Bruce
Email:	a.bruce@unsw.edu.au
Phone:	+61 (2) 9065 9462
Postal Address:	First Floor, Tyree Energy Technologies Building, UNSW School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering, Sydney NSW 2052 Australia