

Huon Valley community mapping: Documenting places of value and places at risk

Project Overview and Research Purpose

This study seeks to map places that you find significant in the Huon Valley region of Tasmania and to better understand why these places are important to you. Information will be collected through a participatory mapping survey followed by a questionnaire that asks you to identify why you are attached to specific places in the Huon Valley and what risks you think those places are likely to face. This information will inform environmental management and policy development that aims to protect the places in the region that the community values most.

What Does Participation Involve?

Participation in this study will involve partaking in an online survey that will take approximately 45 to 60 minutes. The survey will include a mapping segment where you will be asked to drop 'value icons' over places of personal significance within the Huon Valley council region. Following each dropped value icon, you will also be prompted with the option to tell us in more detail why this place is special to you. This segment will be followed by a second, similarly structured mapping section. In this latter section, you will be asked to identify places you believe are vulnerable or at risk from various environmental issues such as biodiversity loss, flooding, etc. Finally, you will be asked to rate your level of agreement with a number of statements related to your place attachment, perceptions of future risk, and feelings around change.

Project Team

This project is a component of a PhD thesis being conducted by Mr. Malcolm Johnson from the School of Geography and Spatial Sciences at the University of Tasmania (UTas). The project team consists of Mr. Johnson and his three academic supervisors, Dr. Vanessa Adams (School of Geography and Spatial Sciences, UTas), Dr. Rebecca Harris (School of Geography and Spatial Sciences, UTas) and Professor Jason Byrne (School of Geography and Spatial Sciences, UTas).

Participation and Withdrawal

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Should you agree to participate, you may choose to withdraw from the survey at any point by closing the website page; your responses will not be saved in our database. If you wish to withdraw your responses after they have been submitted, you may do so by sending us an e-mail (provided below or accessible via the 'Contact us' button) and providing your unique ID. Your unique ID will be available on the screen as you progress through the survey. Please record this ID before submitting and closing the survey.

Benefits and Risks

Aside from giving up your time, there are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in this study. Please note, as part of this survey, you will be asked map your 'place of residence' this can be your home, shack, or place of business. We understand that this may be considered sensitive information. However, we have implemented a mapping scale limit of 2 kilometres. Thus, all data points you map will be at a 2km resolution and we will not receive an exact location. That is, only a rough neighbourhood level data point will be collected. This information is important for data quality control purposes and will be confidential and non-identifiable as with all information you provide.

We do not expect direct benefits for participants in this study. However, this study will advance our knowledge of local place values and their role as a driver or constraint to environmental action. Your

responses can help shape regional environmental action and thus enhance the socioeconomic well-being of the local community.

Reimbursement

By participating in this survey, you will receive a \$10 flexible gift voucher. This is a digital gift voucher that is redeemable in store or online and can be used at a wide range of stores and brands. In order to receive a gift voucher, please provide us with your e-mail address at the end of the survey. Your e-mail will only be accessible to the research team and will only be used to provide you with your voucher.

Confidentiality

ALL information you provide will be treated confidentially and will only be accessible to the research team. In reporting the results of this research, no specific participant will be attributed to any statement or finding. Your e-mail address (should you provide it), residential information and any other personal information you provide will not be included in any publications or other outputs resulting from this study. All data collected in this study will be coded in a non-identifiable manner and subsequently analysed and reported in such a way that responses cannot be linked to any individuals.

Responses will be stored in a secure database that contains every response we receive (located in the Geography and Spatial Sciences building, Sandy Bay Campus, UTas). De-identified data will be archived via the University of Tasmania Research Data Portal.

How will my information be used?

It is anticipated that the de-identified data obtained through this survey will be used to produce landscape values and risk perception maps in the case study region. The mapping data and analysed survey data will be used strictly for research purposes and may be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. This includes journal publications and conference presentations. This information will also be submitted to the University of Tasmania in mid-2023 as part of Mr. Johnson's PhD thesis.

Future Surveys

We anticipate future parts of this study will potentially involve follow-up surveys and focus group workshops. If you are interested in taking part in future parts of this study, please provide us with an e-mail address at the end of the survey. The e-mail address you provide for this purpose will only be accessible to the research team and will only be used to invite you to participate in future parts of this study or for any other purpose *you consent to* at the end of the survey.

How can I find out more about this study?

If you would like to find out more about the study, either before or after completion, please contact the research team leaders (use the 'Contact Us' button on survey screen or see contact details below). If you are interested in the results of this study, please provide your e-mail at the end of the survey. Once this study is complete, we will provide you with a project summary and you will have the opportunity to provide opinions about the results. The e-mail address you provide for this purpose will only be accessible to the research team and will only be used to send you the study results or for any other purpose *you consent to* at the end of the survey.

Ethical clearance and contacts

This study has been approved by the Tasmania Social Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study, you can contact **the Executive Officer of the HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 2975 or email ss.ethics@utas.edu.au** The

Executive Officer is the person nominate to receive complaints from research participants. You will need to quote the approval no: H0023617.

[How can I agree to be involved?](#)

If you would like to proceed, please read the statement of consent below, and click on 'agree'. **You must be 18 years or older to participate.**

Thank you for considering participation in this research,

Vanessa Adams, Rebecca Harris, Jason Byrne, and Malcolm Johnson

Malcolm Johnson | E: malcolm.johnson@utas.edu.au

Vanessa Adams | E: vm.adams@utas.edu.au

PARTICIPANT CONSENT STATEMENT

By continuing with this survey, I confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet and in particular:

- I have agreed to participate in the above project being **conducted by the University of Tasmania (UTas)**.
- 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 that my involvement in this research will include **an online survey** that will take **approximately 45 to 60 minutes**, with the potential for a **follow-up survey** should I express interest in participating in future parts of this study.
- I have been provided with **contact details** of the investigating officers 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 research integrity advisory at UTas 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** from the study at any time and without having to provide a reason for my withdrawal.
- I understand that I may ask for part or all of the information provided by me to be **removed** from the study **without penalty or explanation**.
- I understand that the **information I provide** for this research will be treated **confidentially** and used for the following purposes: To produce scientific papers, reports, conference presentations and general media. I understand that the **approximate** place of residence information I provide will be **confidential**, that I or my residence will **not be individually identifiable**, and that this information will only be used for the following purposes: Determining spatial representativeness of population sample; and ensuring data quality
- I will **not be personally identified** in any publications resulting from the study.
- I understand that the information I provide will only be accessed by members of the research team and used for the purposes outlined above. The data will be stored securely in University of Tasmania premises by the research team, analysed and then archived.
- I understand that I will not be compensated if fraudulent behaviour is detected such as completing the survey multiple times or indicating you qualify for participation (such as living in the region) fraudulently.
- I understand the information provided will stay **anonymous and coded** so that I will not be identified as a participant.

☐ I am 18 years or older and freely consent to participate in this study.