



*Please read the following information carefully before proceeding with the survey.*

**Project Title: Assessing attitudes and cognitive styles of participants involved in the Australia 2050 focus group**

The purpose of this survey is to better understand 1) what motivates participants in the Australia 2050 focus groups and 2) how they compare with a sample of the Australia population on a number of measures regarding worldviews, cognitive styles and attitudes towards science, complexity and the environment. This survey was also carried out online with a sample of the Australia population.

You will be asked questions regarding your worldviews, your cognitive styles and your attitudes towards science, complexity and the environment.

**Researchers and organizations involved**

This survey is funded by the CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Division. Analysis of the information from this survey will be performed by the CSIRO.

**What is involved in this survey?**

The questionnaire consists of a series of questions. You will be asked to read and understand some information before answering a number of questions. The information is not long and the survey should take you between 20-30 minutes to complete.

**Participation and withdrawal**

Participation in this survey is completely voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time. Your responses and personal information will be kept confidential. No external individual or organisation will have access to any of your personal information.

**Risks**

Participation in this survey should involve no physical or mental discomfort, and no risks beyond those of everyday life. If, however, you should find any question or procedure to be invasive or offensive, you are free to omit answering that question. If you have any concerns about any aspects of the study, please contact Dr Beth Fulton (Tel 03 6232 5018 or Email [Beth.Fulton@csiro.au](mailto:Beth.Fulton@csiro.au)).

**Confidentiality**

All information collected in this study will be confidential. The data will only be seen by members of our research team and will be stored in a secured area that is not accessible to any individuals other than the research team.

**How will my information be used?**

The information you provide to us via the questionnaire will be used to write a scientific report on the Australian public's attitude towards our future. The information will also be used to prepare manuscripts for academic publication. Your personal information will not be identifiable at any stage of the writing process.

**Ethical clearance and contacts**

This study has received ethical approval from the CSIRO Human Research Ethics Committee. We do not foresee any personal risks to you by taking part in this survey, however, if you have any questions, concerns or complaints, please contact Dr Beth Fulton (Tel 03 6232 5018) or the CSIRO Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee on [CSSHREC@csiro.au](mailto:CSSHREC@csiro.au).

Thank you for your help with this very important research

# CONSENT FORM

## **Project Title: Assessing attitudes and cognitive styles of participants involved in the Australia 2050 focus group**

Your involvement in this study is highly valued. Please review the information below in order to decide whether you wish to participate in the study.

I acknowledge that:

- I have agreed to participate in the project.
- I will not be identified personally at any stage of the project and all data will be kept confidential and only seen by researchers involved in the research project.
- Questions in regards to my participation have been answered to my satisfaction and I can obtain further information from the research team at any time during the project.
- I understand that this study has been cleared in accordance with the ethical review processes of the CSIRO. If I have any questions concerning my participation in the study I should feel free to contact the researchers involved. I understand that I can also speak to someone at the CSIRO not involved in the study, by contacting the CSIRO Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee on [CSSHREC@csiro.au](mailto:CSSHREC@csiro.au). I have been provided with the contact details of the investigating officers.
- I understand that I am able to stop taking part in this study at any time without penalty and without giving an explanation for my withdrawal.
- I understand that I may ask that part or all of my data be removed from the study without penalty or explanation. Data that is removed from the study will be deleted and not included in any of the further investigations.

### **Do you consent to take part in this survey?**

- Yes
- No

### 1. Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Disagree Strongly   2 = Disagree Moderately   3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree   4 = Agree Moderately   5 = Agree Strongly

1. I don't like situations that are uncertain
2. I dislike questions which could be answered in many different ways
3. I find that a well ordered life with regular hours suits my temperament
4. I feel uncomfortable when I don't understand the reason why an event occurred in my life
5. I feel irritated when one person disagrees with what everyone else in a group believes
6. I don't like to go into a situation without knowing what I can expect from it
7. When I have made a decision, I feel relieved
8. When I am confronted with a problem, I'm dying to reach a solution very quickly
9. I would quickly become impatient and irritated if I would not find a solution to a problem immediately
10. I don't like to be with people who are capable of unexpected actions
11. I dislike it when a person's statement could mean many different things
12. I find that establishing a consistent routine enables me to enjoy life more
13. I enjoy having a clear and structured mode of life
14. I do not usually consult many different opinions before forming my own view
15. I dislike unpredictable situations

### 2. Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Disagree Strongly   2 = Disagree Moderately   3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree   4 = Agree Moderately   5 = Agree Strongly

1. I would prefer complex to simple problems
2. I don't like to have the responsibility of handling a situation that requires a lot of thinking
3. Thinking is not my idea of fun
4. I would rather do something that requires little thought than something that is sure to challenge my thinking abilities
5. I find little satisfaction in deliberating hard and for long hours
6. I try to anticipate and avoid situations where there is a likely chance I will have to think in depth about something
7. I only think as hard as I have to
8. I prefer to think about small, daily projects to long-term ones

### 3. Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Disagree Strongly   2 = Disagree Moderately   3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree   4 = Agree Moderately   5 = Agree Strongly

1. Safety first
2. I do not take risks with my health
3. I prefer to avoid risks
4. I take risks regularly
5. I really dislike not knowing what is going to happen
6. I usually view risks as a challenge
7. I view myself as a risk seeker

#### 4. Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Disagree Strongly   2 = Disagree Moderately   3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree   4 = Agree Moderately   5 = Agree Strongly

1. I believe it is important for us to challenge our beliefs
2. If I do not understand something, I find out about it
3. I like to experiment with new ideas, even if they turn out later to be a total waste of time
4. I enjoy spending time discovering new things
5. I like to find out why things happen
6. I often put myself in situations in which I can learn something new
7. I enjoy thinking about ideas that challenge my views of the world

#### 5. Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Disagree Strongly   2 = Disagree Moderately   3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree   4 = Agree Moderately   5 = Agree Strongly

1. I only act to satisfy immediate concerns, figuring the future will take care of itself
2. My behaviour is only influenced by the immediate (i.e., a matter of days or weeks) outcomes of my actions
3. I think it is important to take warnings about negative outcomes seriously even if the negative outcome will not occur for many years
4. I generally ignore warnings about possible future problems because I think the problems will be resolved before they reach crisis level
5. I think that sacrificing now is usually unnecessary since future outcomes can be dealt with at a later time
6. I only act to satisfy immediate concerns, figuring that I will take care of future problems that may occur at a later date
7. Since my day to day work has specific outcomes, it is more important to me than behaviour that has distant outcomes

#### 6. Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Disagree Strongly   2 = Disagree Moderately   3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree   4 = Agree Moderately   5 = Agree Strongly

1. The natural environment is capable of recovering from any damage humans may cause
2. Human industry and technology has not caused significant damage to the natural environment
3. Individuals should have freedom of choice regardless of the environmental impacts
4. Ultimately, there's nothing individuals can do to manage or change the natural environment;
5. Humans can't control what happens in the natural environment
6. There's no point wasting time, energy and resources on trying to manage the natural environment
7. The natural environment will become unstable if humans exceed the limits identified by experts
8. When pushed beyond the limits identified by experts the natural environment will not recover
9. The natural environment can be managed if there are clear rules about what is allowed
10. If the balance of the natural environment is upset the whole system will collapse
11. Conservation and protection is the most rational strategy for managing the natural environment
12. We all have a moral obligation to protect the environment and consume fewer resources

#### 7. Do you consider yourself an environmentalist?

No, not at all    No, not much    A little    Yes    Yes, definitely

**8. Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows**

**1 = Disagree Strongly   2 = Disagree Moderately   3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree   4 = Agree Moderately   5 = Agree Strongly**

1. In setting priorities, we must consider all groups
2. Group equality should be our ideal
3. Superior groups should dominate inferior groups
4. We should not push for equality between groups
5. Our customs and national heritage are the things that have made us great, and certain people should be made to show greater respect for them
6. Our prisons are a shocking disgrace. Criminals are unfortunate people who deserve much better care, instead of so much punishment
7. Obedience and respect for authority are the most important virtues children should learn
8. Organisations like the army have a pretty unhealthy effect upon men because they require strict obedience of commands from supervisors
9. The courts are right in being easy on drug offenders. Punishment would not do any good in cases like these
10. Being kind to bludgers or criminals will only encourage them to take advantage of your weakness, so it is best to use a firm, tough hand when dealing with them

**9. On the following scale, please indicate how you identify your political views**

Very Liberal       Fairly Liberal       Neither liberal nor conservative       Fairly Conservative       Very Conservative

**10. Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows**

**1 = Disagree Strongly   2 = Disagree Moderately   3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree   4 = Agree Moderately   5 = Agree Strongly**

1. I strongly believe in science
2. I believe science can provide solutions to environmental problems
3. I do not believe science can provide solutions to social problems
4. Science has caused more problems than it has resolved
5. I am reluctant to use technology (including computers and models) to address complex natural and social problems

**11. How much do you think humans contribute to climate change?**

0%    15%    30%    45%    60%    75%    90%    100%

## 12. What best describes your thoughts about climate change?

- I don't think that climate change is happening
- I have no idea whether climate change is happening or not
- I think that climate change is happening, but it's a natural fluctuation in Earth's temperatures
- I think that climate change is happening, and I think that humans are largely causing it

## 13. Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = A lot    2 = Reasonably well    3 = I am not sure    4 = Not much    5 = Not at all

How much do you trust the information provided by:

- Scientists
- Environmental organisations
- Federal Government
- Local Government
- Family and friends
- Your doctor
- People from your community
- Television, Newspapers & Internet

## 14. Read each statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement as follows

1 = Disagree Strongly    2 = Disagree Moderately    3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree    4 = Agree Moderately    5 = Agree Strongly

1. I am personally committed to preventing environmental problems
2. I am personally committed to actively address environmental problems and make improvements
3. Environmental problems are not as important as many other problems facing the world today
4. I am concerned about environmental problems because of the potential consequences on:

My lifestyle     My health     My community     The World

**15. What are the 5 issues which concern you the most about the future Australia in 2050?**


**16. What 5 words or phrases would you use to describe Australia in an ideal 2050?**


**17. What 5 words or phrases would you use to describe Australia in the worst imaginable 2050?**


**18. What decisions and actions are we making now that may create a worse future for Australians in 2050?**

Empty response box for question 18.

**19. What decisions and actions are we making now that may create a better future for Australians in 2050?**

Empty response box for question 19.

**How safe do you think Australia will be in 2050?**

Much less safe than now [ ]  
Less safe than now [ ]  
More or less as safe as now [ ]  
Safer than now [ ]  
Much safer than now [ ]

**How honest do you think Australia will be in 2050?**

Much less honest than now [ ]  
Less honest than now [ ]  
More or less as honest as now [ ]  
More honest than now [ ]  
Much more honest than now [ ]

**How friendly do you think Australia will be in 2050?**

Much less friendly than now [ ]  
Less friendly than now [ ]  
More or less as friendly as now [ ]  
More friendly than now [ ]  
Much more friendly than now [ ]

**How skilled do you think Australia will be in 2050?**

Much less skilled than now [ ]  
Less skilled than now [ ]  
More or less as skilled as now [ ]  
More skilled than now [ ]  
Much more skilled than now [ ]

**How do you think the standards of living in Australia will be in 2050?**

Much lower than now [ ]  
Lower than now [ ]  
More or less as now [ ]  
Higher than now [ ]  
Much higher than now [ ]

**20. Please indicate your age**

18-30 [ ] 31-45 [ ] 46-60 [ ] 61-75 [ ] >75 [ ]

**21. What is your gender?**

Male [ ] Female [ ]

**22. What is the highest level of education you have achieved?**

Primary School [ ] High School [ ] Trade/TAFE [ ] Tertiary Undergraduate [ ] Tertiary Postgraduate [ ]

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your participation.