

Participant Information Sheet

Research Title: *Charting farmers experience of tariff switching and understanding of electricity tariffs*

Researcher(s): *Stephen Snow, Research Fellow, School of ITEE, University of Queensland. Carolina Clerc, Queensland Farmers Federation. Archie Chapman, Senior Lecturer, School of ITEE, University of Queensland.*

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. Please read the following information so you can decide whether you would like to take part in this research. Please feel free to ask any questions you might have about our involvement in the project.

If you decide to participate in this research, please keep in mind that your participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to stop at any time, and you would not need to give any explanation for your decision. If you choose to stop participating, your data will not be used in the research.

You will be given the Participant Information and Consent Form to sign, and you will be given a copy to keep. Your decision whether you take part, or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the University of Queensland.

What is this research about?

This research project aims to understand the process through which operations in the agricultural sector navigate the electricity sector including choice of electricity retailers (if this choice exists) and electricity tariff selection. The primary aims of this study are to:

- Identify the factors affecting energy efficiency in the agriculture sector and role of tariffs in decision making over energy.
- Understand reasonings behind choices of electricity retailer or tariff selection.
- Build a case for specific advocacy for agricultural electricity consumers.

What will I need to do?

This study involves an interview of approximately 30-40 minutes over the phone or Zoom at a convenient time and potentially follow-up questions afterwards. All interviewees will receive a \$40 gift voucher as thanks for their participation and will go into a draw run by Queensland Farmers Federation to win one of two \$500 paid off their electricity bill.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The research forms the basis for better advocacy for farmers around tariff design and energy market participation. By understanding the barriers to electricity and cost savings due to electricity tariffs we aim to better target resources to assist in agricultural energy efficiency.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?

N/A

What will happen to the information about me?

All information collected about you will remain confidential.

All information that is obtained will be strictly confidential and will only be accessed by the researchers. All data will be held securely by UQ researchers on password protected laptops or the UQ Research Data Manager (UQRDM).

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forms. Any data that is used in research publications or shared beyond the research team will be de-identified. Only de-identified information may be shared beyond the research team, except with your expressed permission.

What will happen if I decide to withdraw?

Your participation in this research is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the research anytime without needing to provide any explanation, and you would not receive any penalty or bias as a result of your withdrawal. Should you decide to withdraw, all the information collected from/about you will be destroyed and will not be used in the research.

Can I hear about the results of this research?

Published findings from the research can be shared with participants on request.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

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 the researcher contactable on s.snow@uq.edu.au if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinator on +617 3365 3924 / +617 3443 1656 or email humanethics@research.uq.edu.au

This research Ethics ID number: CC01130

Consent form

Research Title: *Charting farmers' experience of tariff switching and understanding of electricity tariffs*

Researcher(s): *Stephen Snow, Research Fellow, School of ITEE, University of Queensland. Carolina Clerc Castro, Queensland Farmers Federation. Archie Chapman, Senior Lecturer, School of ITEE, University of Queensland*

Name of the participant: -----

I consent to participate in this research project. It has been explained to me that the purpose of this research is to investigate farmers' experience of tariff switching and understanding of electricity tariffs. I have also been provided with a written project information sheet in a language that I can understand.

The possible risks of participating in this research have been explained to my satisfaction. I understand that in this research I will be required to take part in a phone or online interview regarding tariff and retailer selection and energy efficiency. I understand that my interviews will be audio recorded and that I will receive a \$40 gift card as thanks for my participation and can choose to enter a draw run by Queensland Farmers' Federation to receive one of two \$500 towards a power bill.

I understand that my participation is voluntary, and I am free to withdraw from this research anytime without needing to provide any explanation, and I would not receive any penalty or bias as a result of my withdrawal. Should I decide to withdraw, I understand that my data will be destroyed and will not be used in the research.

I understand that data collected for this research will be stored on password protected computers and will be completely de-identified. Only the research team will have access to the data and only de-identified data will be shared in research publications.

I understand that this research adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. I have been provided with contact details of the researcher, as well as UQ Ethics Coordinator.

Participant signature ----- Date -----

Ethics ID number: CC01130