**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **HREC Project Number:** | HRE2019-0414 |
| **Project Title:** | *Combating the demise of canopy cover in the climate of urban consolidation: A case study of the City of Bayswater, Perth* |
| **Chief Investigator:** | Dr Mohammud Shahidul Hasan Swapan*, Lecturer*  |
| **Student researcher:** | *Marshall Farrell*  |
| **Version Number:** | 1 |
| **Version Date:** | 4/06/2019 |

**What is the Project About?**

The loss of private canopy cover as a result of urban consolidation practices has been widely recognised through study throughout the world. In order combat this trending loss of canopy cover, research and strategy has aimed to reinforce the requirement for private vegetation within the public realm. The role of private properties in providing canopy cover has been largely overlooked as consensus on whose responsibility it falls under; planners or the community. Therefore, this research looks to identify the contributing factors to the demise of canopy cover during urban consolidation and present possible paths of resolution. In doing so, this research looks to ensure that current and future communities can acquire the crucial benefits provided by canopy cover.

**Who is doing the Research?**

The project is being conducted by Marshall Farrell, under supervision by Dr Mohammud Swapan. The results of this research project will be used by Marshall Farrell to obtain an honours title for Urban and Regional Planning at Curtin University. There will be no costs to you and you will not be paid for participating in this project.

**Why am I being asked to take part and what will I have to do?**

You have been asked to participate in this research as you are located within the case study are; the City of Bayswater. The study will take place in the comfort of your own home as the survey is being administered online and through posted letters. The survey consists of questions regarding your perception and value of private urban vegetation. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. There is no cost to you for taking part and you will not be paid for taking part.

**Are there any benefits’ to being in the research project?**

There may be no direct benefit to you from participating in this research. Sometimes, people appreciate the opportunity to discuss their opinions on urban consolidation practices. It is hoped that this project establishes possible paths to be taken by local government to ensure the retention and enhancement of private canopy cover as urban consolidation practises are implemented.

**Are there any risks, side-effects, discomforts or inconveniences from being in the research project?**

Apart from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or inconveniences associated with taking part in this study.

**Who will have access to my information?**

The information collected in this research will be non-identifiable (anonymous). This means that we do not need to collect individual names or information is anonymous and will not include a code number or name. No one, not even the research team will be able to identify your information. Any information we collect and use during this research will be treated as confidential. The following people will have access to the information we collect in this research: the research team and, in the event of an audit or investigation, staff from the Curtin University Office of Research and Development. The data will be stored on electrical data that will be password protected and hard copy data will be in locked storage. The information we collect in this study will be kept under secure conditions at Curtin University for 7 years after the research has ended and then it will be kept indefinitely.

**Do I have to take part in the research project?**

Taking part in a research project is voluntary. It is your choice to take part or not. You do not have to agree if you do not want to. If you decide to take part and then change your mind, that is okay, you can withdraw from the project. You do not have to give us a reason; just tell us that you want to stop. If you choose not to take part or start and then stop the study, it will not affect your relationship with the University, staff or colleagues.

**What happens next and who can I contact about the research?**

Please contact Dr Mohammud Swapan, lecturer, on +61 8 9266 1999 about the research. If you decide to take part in this research, we will ask you to give consent. By agreeing, it is telling us that you understand what you have read, and you agree to be in the research project. Please take your time and ask any questions you have before you decide what to do.

If you decide to take part in this research, you will be asked to select ‘Yes’ to question 1; asking if you are OK with completing the questionnaire. By signing it is telling us that you understand what you have read and what has been discussed. Signing the consent indicates that you agree to be in the research project. Please take your time and ask any questions you have before you decide what to do. You will be given a copy of this information and the consent form to keep.

**The following statement must be included in every information sheet:**

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HREC number 2019-0414). Should you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular, any matters concerning the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, or you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the Ethics Officer on (08) 9266 9223 or the Manager, Research Integrity on (08) 9266 7093 or email hrec@curtin.edu.au.