

Queensland

Respondent characteristics

 Number of responses: 723

 Male:female ratio: 1:0.8

 % water sector experience: 58%

 % regional: 18%

 % rural: 8%

Water shortage concern



33% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in region

67% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in state

76% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in Australia

Water attitudes

Fifty-one per cent of Queensland respondents strongly agree or agree that their household is active in saving water and has made significant changes, compared to national average of 46%, and 65% would like to monitor water consumption in real time, more than the national average of 62%.

Water impacts

In Queensland the top three concerns were drought (76% concerned or very concerned), population growth (66%) and climate change (63%). The level of concern about the impacts of drought was higher than the national average (nationally 74% were concerned or very concerned). Queensland respondents were less concerned than the rest of Australia about the impact of climate change, with 35% not concerned or only somewhat concerned (compared to 31% nationally) and 63% concerned or very concerned (compared to 68%). Fifty-nine per cent of Queensland respondents were very concerned or concerned about the impacts on water from unconventional gases (coal seam, shale and tight), similar to the national average of 60%.

Private sector involvement

Fifty-five per cent of Queenslanders did not think the private sector owned any water supply infrastructure,

which is above national average of 48%. In Queensland there was an equal proportion for and against more private sector involvement (34% each), whereas the national average is against more private sector involvement (24% for, 36% against).

Water prices

More Queensland respondents believed the price of water is much too high (14%) or a little high (37%) compared to the national average (10% and 28% respectively), and only 5% thought it was a little low compared to 12% nationally. Fifty-three per cent disagree or strongly disagree that water should be priced higher so people use less (compared to 43% nationally). Queensland respondents agree or strongly agree (47%) that households should only pay for what they use compared to the national average of 40%, and 52% agree or strongly agree that the price of water makes you careful about how much you use, above the national result of 47%.

Alternative water sources

When looking at alternative water sources, 61% of Queensland respondents strongly agree or agree that stormwater can be treated and managed for safe drinking, higher than the national average of 56%. The Queensland results, like the overall survey results, support the use of recycled water (72% compared to 69% nationally) and desalinated water (83% compared to 82%) for non-drinking use.

Over half of the respondents (56%) strongly agree or agree that there is scope for more dams in the north of Australia, higher than national average of 46%. Over a third of Queensland respondents believed there was scope for dams in the south of Australia, with 36% strongly agreeing or agreeing (compared to national average of 33%).