




## Western Australia

### Respondent characteristics

 Number of responses: 474

 Male:female ratio: 1:1.2

 % water sector experience: 56%

 % regional: 8%

 % rural: 4%

### Water shortage concern



56% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in region

75% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in state

74% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in Australia

### Water attitudes

When asked if water shortages are just a short term thing, 93% of WA respondents strongly disagree or disagree (national average 82%). WA respondents seemed more focused on water efficiency in their home with 67% strongly agreeing or agreeing that they were willing to spend more on their home to make it water efficient (national average 66%). Half of the respondents (50%) thought their household had made sacrifices to save water, above the national average (44%).

### Water impacts

The top concerns for the impact on water for WA respondents are climate change (76% concerned or very concerned), drought (73% concerned or very concerned) and population growth (72% concerned or very concerned). WA respondents were significantly more concerned than all other respondents for climate change (national average 68%) and population growth (national average 66%). WA respondents were significantly less concerned about natural disasters (42% concerned or very concerned compared to 54% national average).

### Private sector involvement

Most WA respondents identified quality of service (84%), impact on price (72%), environmental responsibility (79%) and reliability of service (78%) as the most important factors when considering private sector involvement.

### Water prices

Only 24% of WA respondents described the price of water as much too high or a little high, compared to 38% nationally, and 32% said it was a little low or much too low (18% nationally). Interestingly 37% disagree or strongly disagree that the price of water makes you careful about how much you use (27% nationally), and 45% thought water should be priced higher so people use less (much higher than the national proportion of 30%). A higher proportion of respondents disagree or strongly disagree that households should only pay for what they use (59%) compared to the national average (47%).

### Alternative water sources

WA respondents were more supportive of alternative water sources than other respondents, as regarded by higher proportion of responses in favour of using alternative water for drinking purposes. Recycled water (77% agree or strongly agree), urban stormwater (62%) and desalinated water (89%) were all higher response rates than the national average (69%, 56% and 82% respectively).

WA respondents were less supportive for more dams in the north of Australia with only 42% strongly agreeing or agreeing there was further scope (compared to 47%) and 22% strongly disagreeing or disagreeing (compared to 18% nationally).