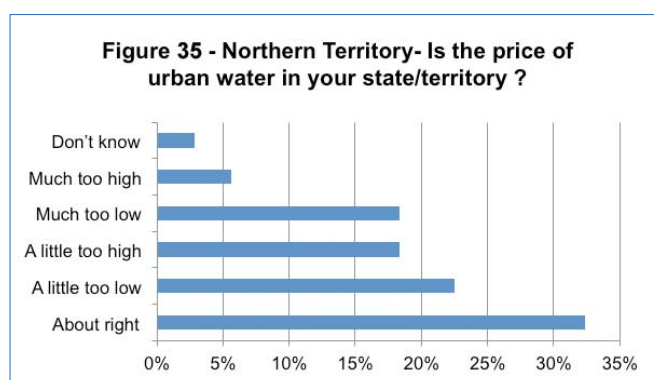




Northern Territory

The price of water

Consistent with national trends, water sector professionals in the NT believed the prices of both urban and rural water in their jurisdiction were too low rather than too high. Thirty-two per cent of respondents said the price of urban water in the NT was about right. Forty-one per cent said the price of water was much too low or a little too low, while 24% thought it was much too high or a little too high.



More NT respondents answered 'don't know' when commenting on rural prices in their jurisdiction (25%) compared to only 3% for urban prices. Of those who expressed an opinion about the price of rural water in the NT, 15% of respondents believed it was about right, while 51% thought it was a little too low or much too low and 9% thought it was a little too high or much too high.

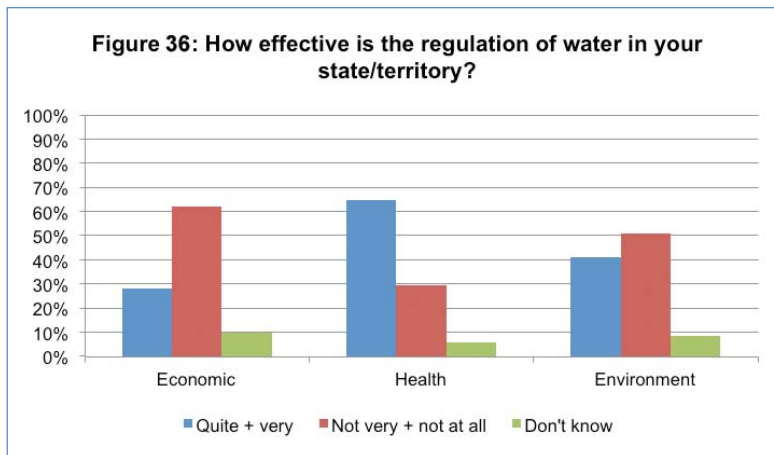
Table 15: Is the price of rural (irrigation and bulk) water in your state/territory...	Count	Percentage
Don't know	18	25%
About right	11	15%
A little too low	14	20%
Much too low	22	31%
A little too high	4	6%
Much too high	2	3%





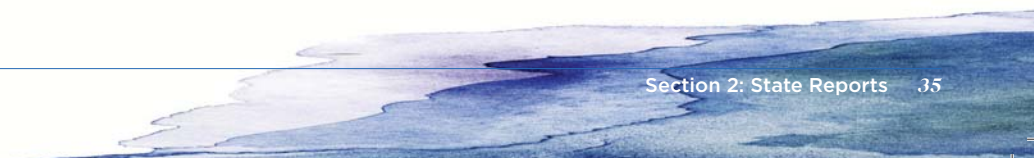
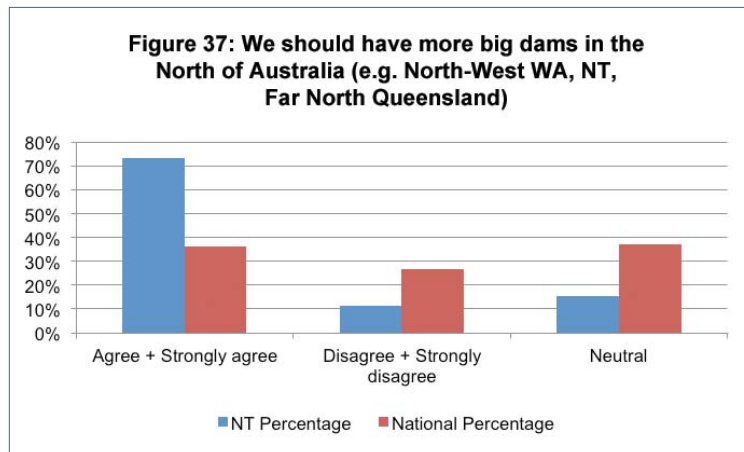
Water regulation

Participants were asked to rate the effectiveness of the economic, health and environment regulation of water in their jurisdiction. NT results varied significantly from the national average, with regulation rated as less effective by NT respondents). Most NT respondents (62%) said economic regulation of water was not very or not at all effective. Only 28% of NT respondents said economic regulation was quite or very effective, compared to the national average of 55% (Figure 36). Sixty-five per cent of NT respondents said the health regulation of water in their jurisdiction was quite or very effective, compared to 83% nationally. The NT was the only jurisdiction in which respondents rated the environment regulation of water in their jurisdiction as not very or not at all effective (51%), higher than quite or very effective 41%.



Water security and supply

Respondents were asked if they believed we should have more big dams in the north of Australia (e.g. north-west WA, NT, Far North Queensland). Seventy-three per cent of NT respondents agreed or strongly agreed that we should have more dams in the north of Australia, much higher than the national average of 54%.





Respondents were asked if they believed there is potential to develop existing aquifers in Northern Australia for irrigation and drought-proofing. NT and WA both had a significantly higher percentage of respondents who thought there was potential for this (Table 16).

Table 16: Do you believe there is potential to develop existing aquifers in Northern Australia for irrigation and drought-proofing?	NT Percentage	WA Percentage	QLD Percentage	National Percentage
Yes	60.56%	63.56%	48.40%	48.33%
Don't know	12.68%	24.58%	32.42%	33.50%
No	26.76%	11.86%	19.18%	18.17%

Industry consolidation and restructure

Private sector involvement

Sixty-five per cent of NT respondents believed there was opportunity for more private sector involvement in the water sector. When asked which entities/assets/functions (if any) they thought should be candidates for private sector investment the three highest rated responses in NT were wastewater treatment plants, retail functions and water treatment plants. Interestingly, WA and ACT were the only jurisdictions in which desalination plants did not feature in the top three entities/assets/functions as candidates.

When asked if they thought the price of water would increase if entities were privatised 77% of NT respondents said yes (national average 58%), 10% said no and 13% did not know.

When asked if they thought cost savings would be found if entities were privatised 42% of NT respondents said yes (national average 52%), 46% said no and 11% did not know

