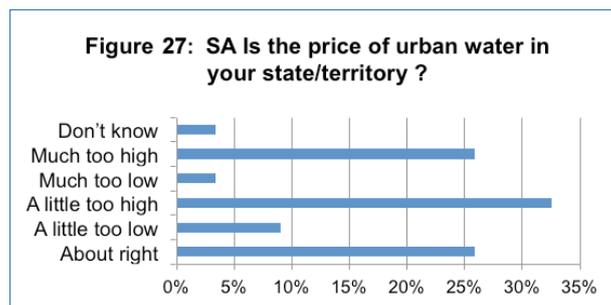




## South Australia

### The price of water

While in most other jurisdictions (except for WA) the most common response was that urban water prices in their jurisdictions were about right, in SA the highest-rated response was that urban prices were a little too high (33%), followed by much too high (26%) and about right (26%) (Figure 27). Only 12% said the price of water was much too low or a little too low.

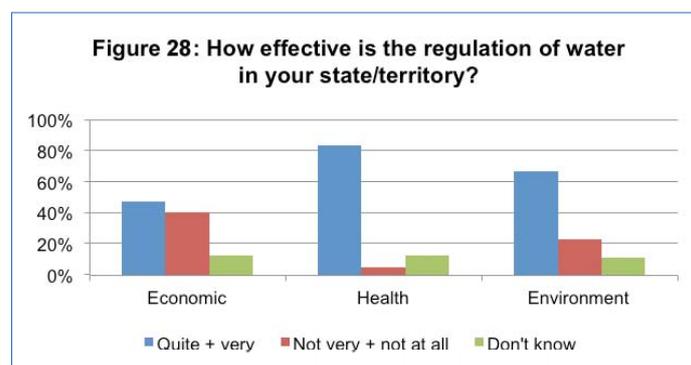


More respondents answered 'don't know' when commenting on rural prices (30%), compared to only 3% for urban prices. Of the SA respondents who expressed an opinion about the price of rural water, 34% of respondents believed it was about right, while 17% thought it was a little too low or much too low and 17% thought it was a little too high or much too high.

Table 11: Is the price of rural (irrigation and bulk) water in your state/territory...	Count	Percentage
Don't know	27	30%
About right	30	34%
A little too low	12	13%
Much too low	4	4%
A little too high	12	13%
Much too high	4	4%

### Water regulation

Participants were asked to rate the effectiveness of the economic, health and environment regulation of water in their jurisdiction. Only 47% of SA respondents said the economic regulation in their jurisdiction was quite or very effective, less than the national average of 55%, with 40% saying it was not very or not at all effective. However, 83% of SA respondents said the regulation of health was quite or very effective, and 66% said environment regulation in SA was quite or very effective. In both cases this is the same amount as the national average (Figure 28).

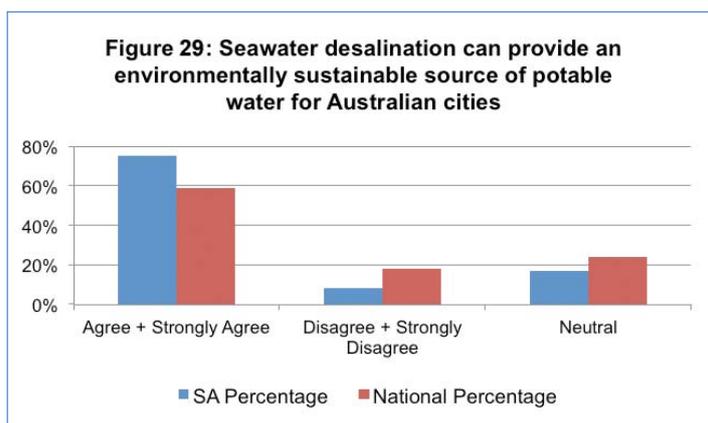




## Water security and supply

### Sources of water

Significantly more SA respondents (75%) agreed or strongly agreed that seawater desalination can provide an environmentally sustainable source of potable water for Australian cities than the national average (59%) (Figure 29).



## Industry consolidation and restructure

### Private sector involvement

Eighty-two per cent of SA 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 SA were desalination plants, wastewater treatment plants and water treatment plants.

When asked if they thought the price of water would increase if entities were privatised, 46% of SA respondents said yes. This is much lower than the national average of 58%.

When asked if they thought cost savings would be found if entities were privatised, 61% of SA respondents said yes, 27% said no and 12% did not know.

