


Australian Capital Territory

Respondent characteristics

 Number of responses: 120

 Male:female ratio: 1:1.7

 % water sector experience: 43%

 % regional: 3%

 % rural: 0%

Water shortage concern



35% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in region

42% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in state

72% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in Australia

Water attitudes

A higher proportion of ACT residents would like to monitor water consumption in real time compared to national average (70% compared to 62%), and 75% are willing to spend money to make their homes more efficient compared to 66% nationally. Given the high awareness of water, it is interesting 52% believe the authorities are taking firm action to make sure we have enough water, well above the national average of 34%, and 39% are confident there will be enough water in the future compared to 30% nationally.

Water impacts

Compared to national averages, ACT respondents were more concerned about climate change (72% compared to 68%) and natural disasters (60% compared to 54%), and less concerned about unconventional gases (46% compared to 60%), intensive agriculture (41% compared to 56%) and mining (39% compared to 58%).

Private sector involvement

There is slightly lower support for more private sector involvement in water supply and services (40% against or strongly against, compared to 36% nationally), but overall the responses were in line with the national average.

Water prices

More than half of the ACT respondents think water pricing is about right (55%, compared to 38% nationally), and 57% think the price of water makes you careful about how much you use (compared to 47% nationally).

Alternative water sources

Fewer ACT respondents strongly agree (39%) that recycled is a sustainable source of non-drinking water (compared to the national average of 56%); similarly there was less strong support for urban stormwater (32% strongly agree compared to 48% nationally). However overall support (agree or strongly agree) for stormwater was similarly high between the ACT (81%) and rest of Australia (82%). This trend continued for desalinated water where strong support was lower (18% compared to 29%) but overall support was more in-line with the national result (54% compared to 59% nationally).

A greater proportion of ACT residents were unsure about the scope for more dams in northern Australia compared to the national findings (29% unsure compared to 21% nationally). On balance fewer respondents thought there was scope for more dams in the south of Australia (37% disagree or strongly disagree, compared to 28% nationally).