

# New South Wales

## Respondent characteristics

 Number of responses: 1016

 Male:female ratio: 1:0.92

 % water sector experience: 43%

 % regional: 21%

 % rural: 9%

## Water shortage concern



33% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in region

63% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in state

80% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in Australia

## Water attitudes

As with all states there is an escalation of concern about water shortages as we move from a local region, to the state region and then to a nationwide level.

NSW respondents were less supportive of the statement that authorities are taking firm action to ensure that we have enough water in the long term. Twenty-six per cent strongly agree or agree with the statement (national average 34%) while 37% strongly disagree or disagree (national average 34%).

NSW respondents said they were willing to spend money on their home to make it more water efficient in line with the national average (66%) but were less likely to agree that they were active in saving water (41% agree or strongly agree, compared to 46% nationally).

## Water impacts

65% of respondents in NSW were very concerned or concerned with the impact of unconventional gas on water supplies; this is higher than the national average of 60%.

NSW respondents were also more concerned about drought (77% very concerned or concerned) than the national average of 74%.

## Private sector involvement

Forty per cent of NSW respondents did not think the private sector owned any water infrastructure in their local area, compared to 48% nationally. Nearly the same proportion (38%) were unsure, more than the national average (32%).

## Water prices

Compared to the national average of 38%, only 28% of NSW respondents describe the price of water as much too high or a little high, with 43% comfortable that the price is about right (38% national average).

NSW is slightly (42%) above the national average (39%) when asked whether households should only pay for what they use and 40% disagree or strongly disagree that water should be priced higher so people use less (compared to 43% nationally).

## Alternative water sources

Overall, NSW respondents strongly agree or agree that the use of recycled water (89%), urban stormwater (80%) and desalination (56%) provided a sustainable source for non-drinking water, broadly in line with though slightly less than, national responses (90%, 82% and 59%).