

# Northern Territory

## Respondent characteristics

 Number of responses: 115

 Male:female ratio: 1:1.3

 % water sector experience: 43%

 % regional: 12%

 % rural: 16%

## Water shortage concern



29% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in region

47% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in state

84% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in Australia

## Water attitudes

Forty-six per cent of NT respondents strongly disagree that water shortages are just short term compared to 37% nationally. In light of this, only 18% believe authorities are taking firm action to make sure there's enough water in the longer term (34% nationally) while 54% do not believe this is the case (34% nationally). Only 18% are confident there will be enough water for the future, which is more pessimistic than the national average of 30%.

## Water impacts

NT respondents were most concerned about unconventional gas (72% very concerned or concerned), mining and extractive industries (70% concerned or very concerned) and climate change (67% concerned or very concerned). NT respondents were, relative to the national average, more concerned about unconventional gas (72% v 60% national average) and mining and extractive industries (70% v 58% national average). NT respondents were significantly less concerned about drought (49% v 74% nationally).

## Private sector involvement

NT respondents were less supportive of more private sector involvement, with 18% support and 46% against (compared to 24% and 36% nationally). Compared to national results, fewer NT respondents thought there was private ownership in their local area (58% thought no ownership compared to 48% nationally) and private operation and maintenance of water assets in their local area (53% thought no operation or maintenance compared to 36% nationally).

Forty per cent of NT respondents are unsure what type of regulators are involved in water sector (compared to 32% nationally) and only 36% identified pricing and economic regulators (57% nationally), 52% public health regulators (65% nationally) and 47% environmental regulators (64% nationally).

## Water prices

Fifty-four per cent of NT respondents believed the price of water was much too high or a little high, well above the national average of 38%. Fifty-five per cent agree or strongly agree that the price of water makes you careful how much you use, again above the national result of 47%.

## Alternative water sources

NT respondents were supportive of recycled water (88% agree or strongly agree), urban stormwater (75%) and desalinated water (46%) as sustainable source of non-drinking water, though less positive than the rest of Australia. NT respondents were supportive of dams in the north of Australia, with 63% agreeing or strongly agreeing with the scope for more dams in the north of Australia (compared to national average of 46%).