

## South Australia

### Respondent characteristics

 Number of responses: 261

 Male:female ratio: 1:0.9

 % water sector experience: 57%

 % regional: 9%

 % rural: 6%

### Water shortage concern



39% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in region

66% concerned or very concerned about water shortage in state

76% concerned about water shortage in Australia

### Water Attitudes

Half of the respondents in SA said they had made sacrifices to save water but some things were hard to give up or difficult to change, compared to 44% nationally. More SA respondents (45%) think the authorities are taking action to make sure there is enough water in the longer term than the national result of 34%, and 37% agree or strongly agree with the statement that “I feel confident we will have enough water for the future”, compared to 30% nationally.

### Water impacts

The top concerns which could impact on water in SA were drought (77% concerned or very concerned), climate change (67% concerned or very concerned) and intensive agriculture (57% concerned or very concerned). SA respondents were significantly less concerned about mining and extractive industries than the national average, with 50% being concerned or very concerned about this (national average 58%). Similar results were found for population impacts (54% compared to 66% nationally) and unconventional gas (49% compared to 60% nationally).

### Private sector involvement

SA respondents were similar to Queensland in showing an equal divide of respondents for and against more private sector involvement (32%), which was above the national average for more private sector involvement (24%). Over half the SA respondents (51%) believe the private sector operates or maintains water infrastructure in their local area, well above the national average of 30%.

SA respondents had higher recognition of regulators than other states. SA respondents recognised pricing and economic regulators (69% compared to 57% nationally), public health regulators (70% compared to 65% nationally) and environmental regulators (66% compared to 64% nationally).

### Water prices

More than half of SA respondents believe prices are much too high (21%) or a little high (34%), above the national average of 10% and 28% respectively. Fifty-six per cent of SA respondents think the price of water makes you careful about how much you use (47% nationally).

### Alternative water sources

SA has higher support for the three alternative water sources for non-drinking uses compared to the national average: recycled water (92% compared to 90%), urban stormwater (89% compared to 82%) and desalination water (67% compared to 59%). In each case the ‘strongly agree’ response was also much higher than the national average. Thirty-nine per cent strongly disagree or disagree that there was scope for more dams in the south of Australia, higher than the national average of 28%.