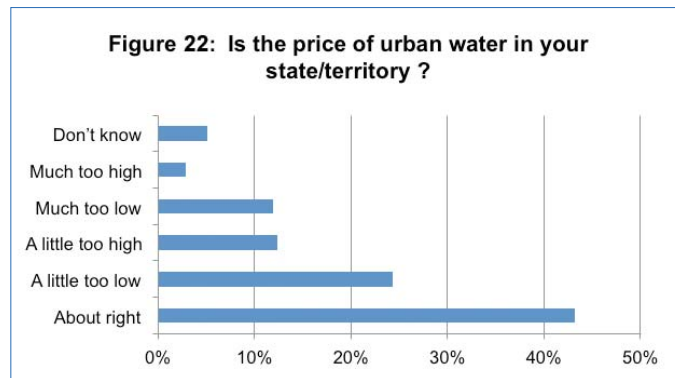


# SECTION 2: STATE REPORTS

## *New South Wales*

### Private sector investment

Consistent with the national view, more water sector professionals in NSW believed the prices of both urban and rural water were too low rather than too high. While 43% of respondents said the price of urban water in NSW was about right, 36% said the price of water was much too low or a little too low, and 15% thought it was much too high or a little too high (Figure 22).



More respondents (48%) answered 'don't know' when commenting on rural prices in NSW compared to only 5% for urban prices. Of those who expressed an opinion, 20% of respondents believed it was about right, while 23% thought it was a little too low or much too low and 9% thought it was a little too high or much too high.

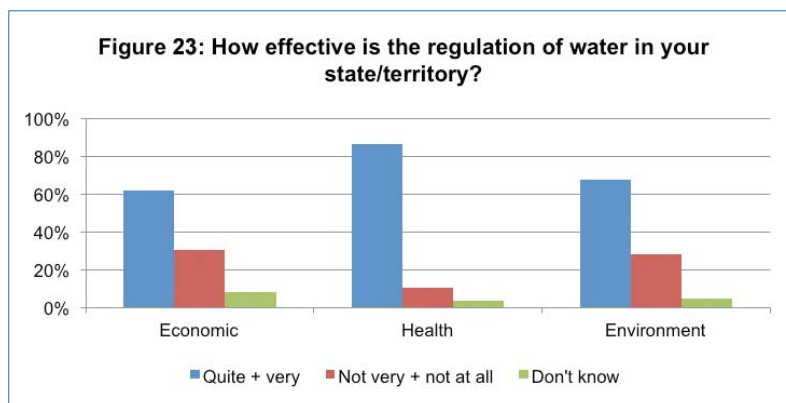
Table 8: Question 4.7 Is the price of rural (irrigation and bulk) water in your state/territory?

	Count	Percentage
Don't know	133	48%
About right	54	20%
A little too low	30	11%
Much too low	34	12%
A little too high	19	7%
Much too high	5	2%



## Water regulation

Participants were asked to rate the effectiveness of the economic, health and environmental regulation of water in their jurisdiction. Sixty-two per cent of NSW respondents said economic regulation was quite or very effective, compared to the national average of 55%. Eighty-six per cent of NSW respondents said the regulation of health was quite or very effective, compared to 83% nationally. Sixty-eight per cent said environment regulation was quite or very effective in NSW compared to 66% nationally (Figure 23).



## Water security and supply

Unconventional gas was a key issue for the NSW community in 2015. Responses in NSW were similar to the national average (Table 9), with most respondents (63%) believing that the amount of regulation relevant to unconventional gas to manage water was about right, and 29% thinking there was not enough. Sixty-three per cent of NSW respondents believed water produced from unconventional gas activities can be treated to a suitable quality for irrigation and other purposes, higher than the national average of 55%.

Table 9: Question 2.1 Do you think the level of regulation relevant to unconventional gas to manage water is...	NSW Percentage	National Percentage
About right	63.27%	66.41%
Not enough	28.73%	27.93%
Too much	8.00%	5.66%

## Industry consolidation and restructure

### Private sector involvement

Seventy-five per cent of NSW respondents believed there was opportunity for more private sector involvement in the water sector; this is comparable with the national average (72%). When asked which entities/assets/functions (if any) they thought should be candidates for private sector investment the three highest rated responses in NSW 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 56% of NSW respondents said yes, 35% said no and 9% did not know.

When asked if they thought cost savings would be found if entities were privatised 59% of NSW respondents said yes, 33% said no and 8% did not know.

