

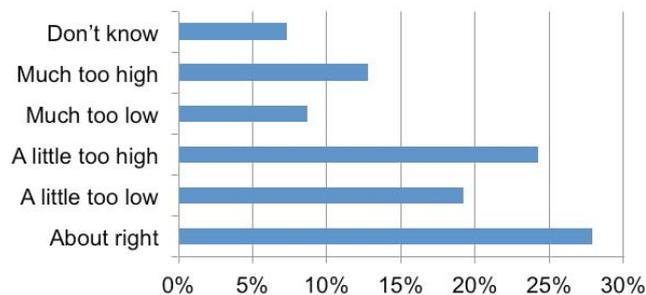


Queensland

The price of water

The most common response from Qld respondents, as consistent with the national view, was that the price of urban water in Queensland was about right (28%). Unlike the national response, more Qld respondents thought urban prices were too high rather than too low, with 36% believing they were much too high or a little too high, while 28% said they were too low or a little too low.

Figure 24: QLD Is the price of urban water in your state/territory ?

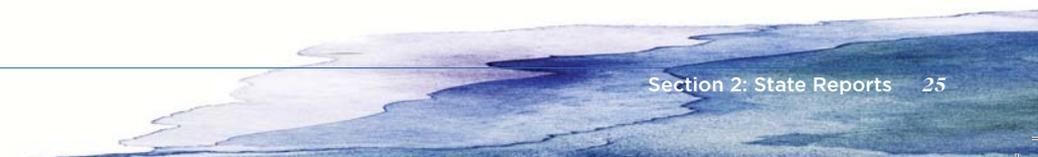


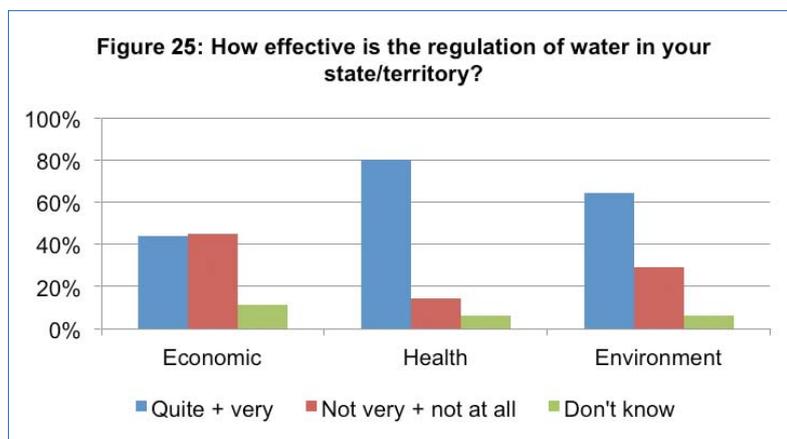
Forty-four per cent of respondents answered 'don't know' when commenting on rural prices in Queensland, compared to 7% for urban prices. Of the Qld respondents who expressed an opinion about the price of rural water, 15% believed it was about right, 26% thought it was a little too low or much too low, and 15% thought it was a little too high or much too high.

Table 10: Is the price of rural (irrigation and bulk) water in your state/territory...	Count	Percentage
Don't know	96	44%
About right	33	15%
A little too low	31	14%
Much too low	26	12%
A little too high	21	10%
Much too high	12	5%

Water regulation

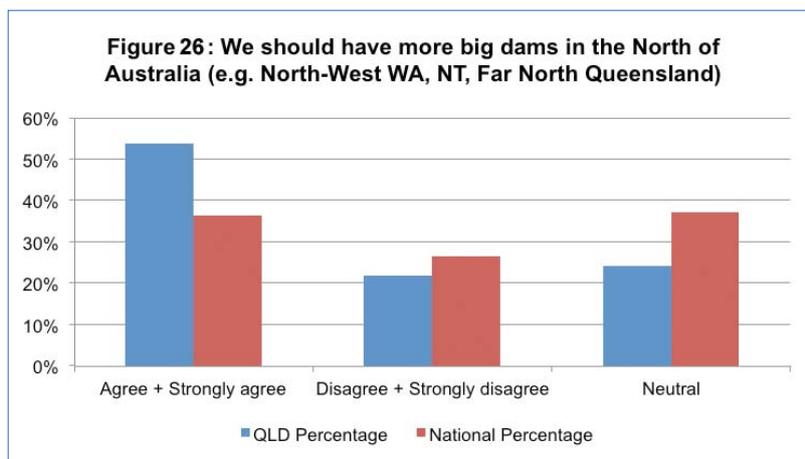
Participants were asked to rate the effectiveness of the economic, health and environmental regulation of water in their jurisdiction. Qld respondents rated all forms of regulation less favourably than their national counterparts. Forty-four per cent of Qld respondents said economic regulation was quite or very effective, less than the national average of 55%. Unlike in other jurisdictions, slightly more Qld respondents rated economic regulation as not very or not at all effective (45%), rather than quite or very effective (44%). Eighty per cent of Qld respondents said the regulation of health was quite or very effective, compared to 83% nationally. Sixty-four per cent said environment regulation in Queensland is quite or very effective, compared to 66% nationally (Figure 25).





Water security and supply

Qld respondents were more supportive of building dams in Northern Australia than the national average, with 54% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that we should have more big dams in that region (Figure 26). Interestingly, when all Northern Australia jurisdictions are compared, 54% of Qld respondents agree or strongly agree, compared to 25% of WA and 73% of NT respondents.



Unconventional gas was a key issue in Queensland in 2015. Most respondents believe the amount of regulation relevant to unconventional gas to manage water in their jurisdiction was about right (71%). Sixty-seven per cent of Queensland respondents believed produced water from unconventional gas activities can be treated to a suitable quality for irrigation and other purposes, higher than the national average of 55%.

Industry consolidation and restructure

Private sector involvement

Seventy-three per cent of Qld respondents believed there was opportunity for more private sector involvement in the water sector. When asked which entities/assets/functions (if any) they thought should be candidates for private sector investment, the three highest rated responses in Queensland were desalination plants, water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants.

When asked if they thought the price of water would increase if entities were privatised, 61% of Qld respondents said yes, 28% said no and 11% did not know.

When asked if they thought cost savings would be found if entities were privatised, 59% of Qld respondents said yes, 31% said no and 11% did not know.

