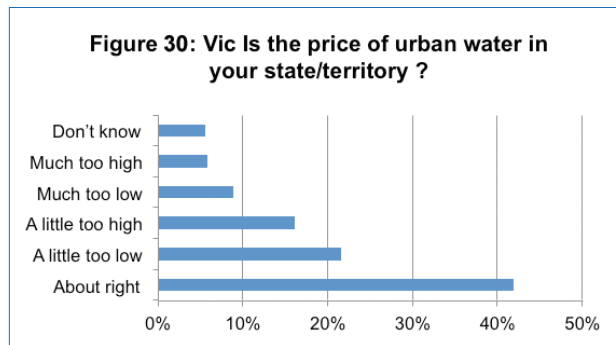




Victoria

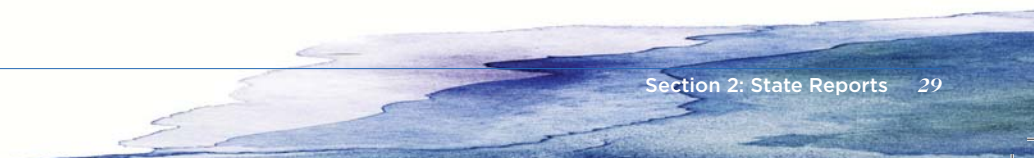
The price of water

Consistent with national trends, water sector professionals in Victoria believed the prices of both urban and rural water in their jurisdiction were too low rather than too high. Forty-two per cent of respondents said the price of urban water in Victoria was about right. Thirty per cent said the price of water was much too low or a little too low, while 22% thought it was much too high or a little too high (Figure 30).



More Victorian respondents answered 'don't know' when commenting on rural prices in their jurisdiction (46%) compared to only 6% for urban prices. Of those who expressed an opinion about the price of rural water in Victoria, 20% of respondents believed it was about right, while 25% thought it was a little too low or much too low and 10% thought it was a little too high or much too high.

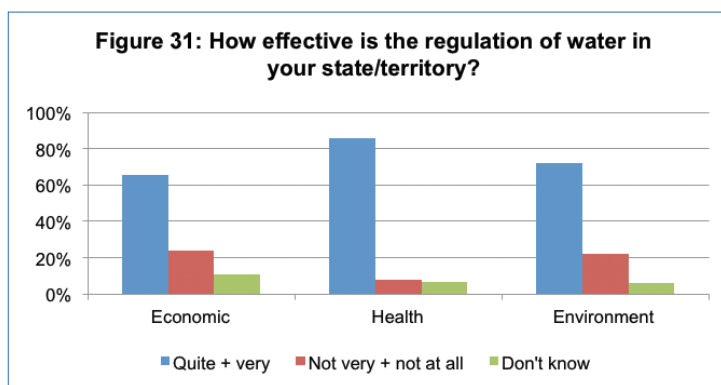
Table 12: Is the price of rural (irrigation and bulk) water in your state/territory?	Percentage
Don't know	46%
About right	20%
A little too low	16%
Much too low	9%
A little too high	7%
Much too high	3%





Water regulation

Participants were asked to rate the effectiveness of the economic, health and environment regulation of water in their jurisdiction. The regulation of water across all these three sectors was rated more highly in Victoria than the national average. Sixty-six per cent of Victorian respondents said the economic regulation of water was quite or very effective, compared to the national average of 55%. Eighty-six per cent of Victorian respondents said the health regulation of water was quite or very effective, compared to 83% nationally. Seventy-two per cent of Victorian respondents said the environment regulation of water in Victoria was quite or very effective compared to 66% nationally (Figure 31).



Water security and supply

The use of urban stormwater for water supply was an important issue in Victoria in 2015. Forty-five per cent of Victorian respondents strongly agreed or agreed that urban stormwater can provide a cost-effective source of potable water for Australian cities, slightly higher than the national average of 43%. Seventy per cent of Victorian respondents agreed or strongly agreed that urban stormwater can provide an environmentally sustainable potable water supply augmentation in some circumstances, slightly higher than the national average of 68%. Sixty-five per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that urban stormwater can be treated and managed to a level that is sufficient for safe potable supply, higher than the national average of 63%.

Some bans and limitations have reduced the opportunity for urban areas to purchase water entitlements from rural areas. Respondents were asked to what extent they thought these bans and limitations were beneficial. A large proportion of respondents answered that they did not know (46%). Thirty-two per cent said they were not very or not at all beneficial and 22% said they were quite or very beneficial.

Industry consolidation and restructure

Private sector involvement

Sixty-nine per cent of Victorian 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 Victoria 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 63% of Victorian respondents said yes, 27% said no and 10% did not know.

When asked if they thought cost savings would be found if entities were privatised 45% of Victorian respondents said yes, 44% said no and 12% did not know.

