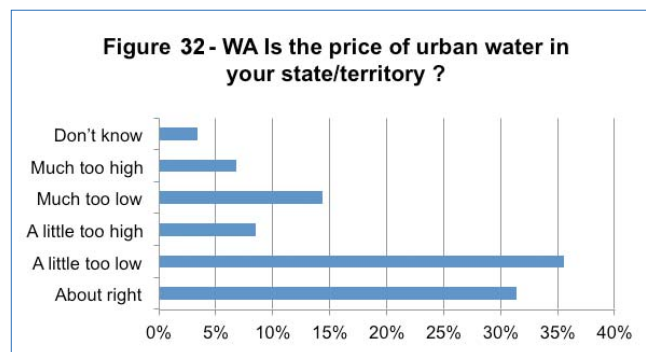




## Western Australia

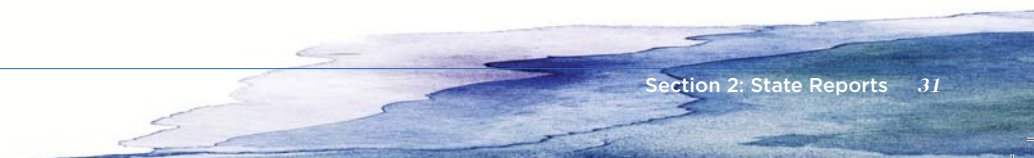
### The price of water

Western Australia was the only jurisdiction in which the most common response from respondents was that the price of urban water in their jurisdiction was a little too low. Fifty per cent said the price of water was much too low or a little too low, while 15% thought it was much too high or a little too high. Thirty-one per cent of WA respondents said the price of urban water in their jurisdiction was about right (Figure 32). In most other jurisdictions the top rated response was that the price of water was about right.



More WA respondents answered 'don't know' when commenting on rural prices in their jurisdiction (29%) compared to only 3% for urban prices. Of those who expressed an opinion about the price of rural water in WA, 22% of respondents believed it was about right, while 44% thought it was a little too low or much too low and 6% thought it was a little too high or much too high (Table 13).

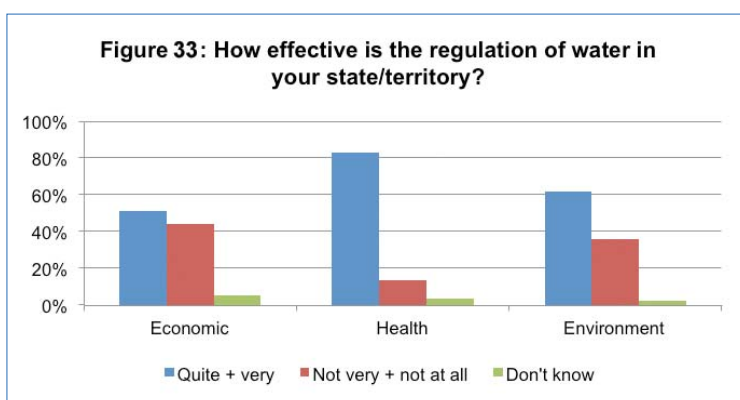
Table 13: Is the price of rural (irrigation and bulk) water in your state/territory...	Count	Percentage
Don't know	34	29%
About right	26	22%
A little too low	26	22%
Much too low	26	22%
A little too high	3	3%
Much too high	3	3%





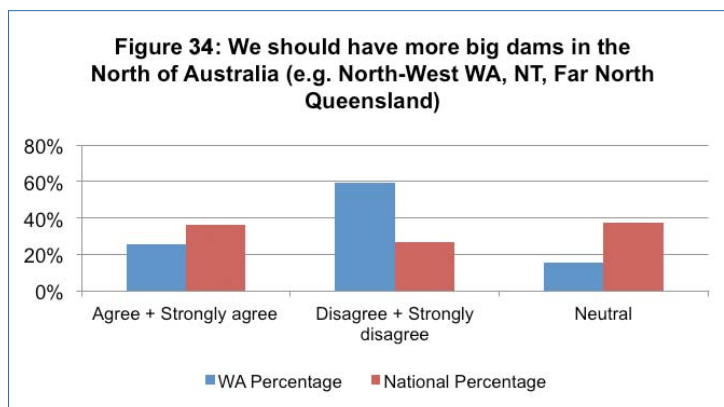
## Water regulation

Participants were asked to rate the effectiveness of the economic, health and environment regulation of water in their jurisdiction. WA results followed a similar pattern to national results. Fifty-one per cent of WA respondents said the economic regulation of water in their jurisdiction was quite or very effective, compared to the national average of 55%. Eighty-three per cent of WA respondents said the health regulation of water in their jurisdiction was quite or very effective, which was the same as the national average. Sixty-two per cent said the environment regulation of water in WA was quite or very effective compared to 66% nationally (Figure 33).



## Water security and supply

Respondents were asked if they believed we should have more big dams in the north of Australia (e.g. north-west WA, NT, Far North Queensland). Unlike the other northern jurisdictions in which most respondents agreed or strongly agreed (54% in Queensland and 73% in the Northern Territory), in Western Australia this figure was just 25%, with 59% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing and 15% remaining neutral.





Respondents were asked if they believed there is potential to develop existing aquifers in Northern Australia for irrigation and drought-proofing. Of the Northern Australian jurisdictions WA had a significantly higher percentage of respondents who thought there was potential for this (Table 14).

Table 14: Do you believe there is potential to develop existing aquifers in Northern Australia for irrigation and drought-proofing?	WA Percentage	NT Percentage	QLD Percentage	National Percentage
Yes	63.56%	60.56%	48.40%	48.33%
Don't know	24.58%	12.68%	32.42%	33.50%
No	11.86%	26.76%	19.18%	18.17%

## Industry consolidation and restructure

### Private sector involvement

Seventy-five per cent of WA 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 WA 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 WA respondents said yes, 29% said no and 15% did not know.

When asked if they thought cost savings would be found if entities were privatised 47% of WA respondents said yes, 39% said no and 14% did not know.

