

Northern Territory Industry

Respondent characteristics



Number of responses: 57



Male:female ratio: 1.59:1



% regional: 12%



% rural: 5%

Water use & efficiency

Only 14% rated community efforts to save water as excellent or good, well below the national average of 54%. Similarly only 13% felt community would be willing to spend a large/moderate amount to become more water efficient compared to 24% nationally, although 58% felt community would spend a small amount (55% nationally).

Forty percent rated the industry's efforts to save water as either excellent or good, which was the second lowest of any State/Territory and well below the national average (62%). However 47% considered it critical to improve the efficiency of operations in the water sector (37% nationally), and a further 46% consider it important (national average of 53%).

Water prices

More NT respondents considered urban water prices a little low (29%) compared to 18% nationally with a further 28% seeing it as about right (43% nationally). Just over one third (35%) felt that prices should be used to reflect the scarcity of water to a large extent (compared to 29% nationally).

Just under half of NT respondents (46%) believed consumer bills had gone up since to last year.

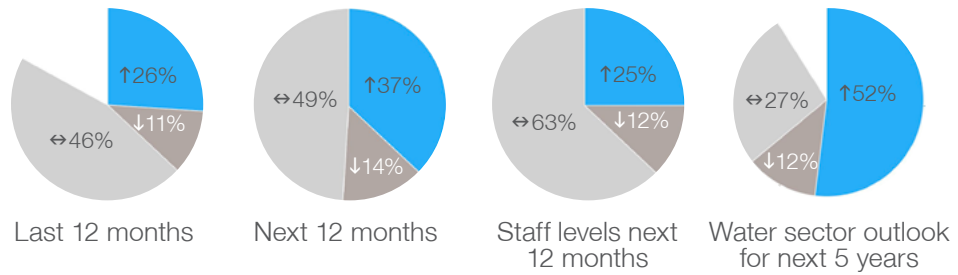
There was a similar result for rural water; 20% of respondents considered the price a little low (12% nationally) and 33% believing it is much too low (11% nationally). Only 5% considered it was too high compared to 14% nationally.

Alternative water sources

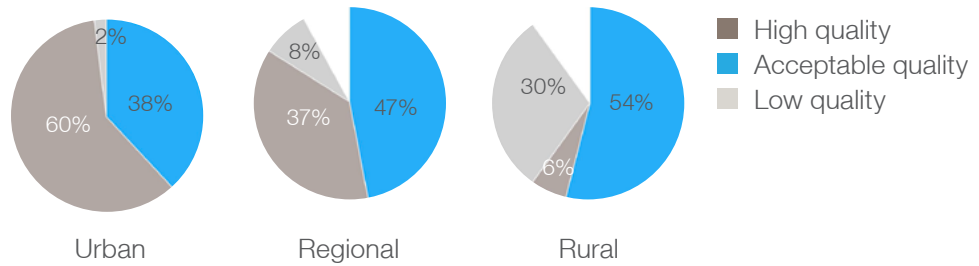
Unlike most other State/Territories, NT placed high importance on ground/bore water and dams and rivers as sources of drinking and non-potable water. NT's complete confidence in many types of water for drinking and non-potable water was slightly lower than the national average, and interestingly they had the equal lowest level of complete confidence in dams and rivers (62%) as a drinking water source compared to 71% nationally.

Seventy percent thought managed aquifer recharge was a high priority compared to 49% nationally, a further 23% consider it a medium priority.

Business Outlook



Water quality by area



Highest impacts on water:



Confidence in water providers and governments

Overall NT had the second lowest level of confidence in the water sector across all seven areas. While 66% were completely/mostly confident the sector would supply high quality water, this was well below that national average of 89%. Forty-five percent were completely/mostly confident the sector provided an overall high quality service which was well below the national average of 63%.

NT confidence in governments across four indicators was generally similar to the national results however 35% were confident governments consider water supply as part of city planning and urban growth (29% nationally), and 28% were confident governments recognise the need for new water infrastructure compared to 24% nationally.

Water security

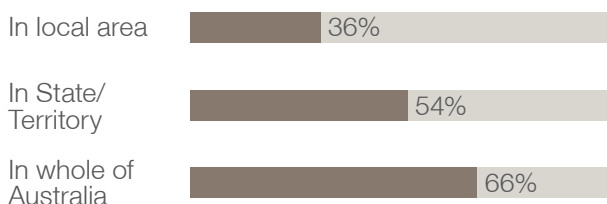
NT had the least confidence that Australia has sufficient water security, with 5% completely confident, 24% mostly confident and 57% somewhat confident compared to 4%, 42% and 38% nationally.

Fifty-seven percent of NT respondents believed there were many opportunities to better coordinate regulation which was the highest of any State or Territory and a further 33% said there were some opportunities (national average of 93%).

Only 10% were completely confident and a further 33% mostly confident that urban infrastructure and systems will provide safe drinking water over the next 20 years – well below the national result of 62%. Confidence was lower for regional (33%) and rural (21%) water infrastructure.

Nearly half of respondents (48%) believed a significant amount of new investment in infrastructure is required to ensure the water supply for the next 20 years (35% nationally), and a further 40% believed a considerable amount is needed. Thirty-six percent do not think procurement processes are maximising private sector involvement in water (below the national average of 46%), with only 13% believing that is the case; the majority of respondents (51%) were not sure.

Extremely/very concerned about water shortages:




Northern Territory Community

Respondent characteristics

 Number of responses: **59**

 Male:female ratio: **1.52:1**

 % regional: **29%**

 % rural: **15%**

Water use & efficiency

Only 5% of NT rated their efforts to save water as excellent, (17% nationally) but 49% rated it as 'good'. Thirty percent place a high priority on saving water (42% nationally) but a further 64% consider it a medium priority. Interestingly 66% reported electricity as their greatest priority to save cost and only 27% treat gas, electricity and water with equal priority (43% nationally).

No Territorians were willing to spend a great amount more to become more water efficient, but 34% would spend a moderate amount and 42% a small amount.

Close to a third (31%) rated their water provider as excellent or good for supporting households to become more water efficient (26% nationally).

Water prices

In line with the national results, a third (33%) considered water prices about right and 12% a little/much too low (9% nationally). Twenty-three percent believed prices had a significant/considerable impact on how much water they use, although 45% said it had a minor or no impact.

Seventy-two percent believed that prices should be used to reflect the scarcity of water to a large /moderate extent, the highest of any State/Territory.

Forty-four percent believed their bills had stayed the same over the last 12 months, the highest of any State/Territory (34% nationally). and only 20% thought they had gone up (29% nationally).

Alternative water sources

NT and national confidence in different sources were similar for most sources, but higher in NT for ground/bore water and dams and river for drinking and non-potable uses.

On average 35% were extremely/very willing to pay more for alternative water sources, ranging from 27% for recycled water to 41% for dams and rivers.

Water shortage concern

Twenty percent believed there are currently moderate water shortages in NT.



Highest impacts on water:



Confidence in water providers and governments

On average, only 55% of NT respondents were very/somewhat confident in their water provider, the second lowest of any State/Territory. Only 40% were confident they adequately plan for future water needs (54% nationally), 45% feel they provide value for money (60% nationally), and just over half (54%) were confident they provide adequate maintenance of water supplies (64% nationally).

Of all State/Territories NT was the least confident in governments (28% confident and 71% not very/not at all confident). Eighty-one percent were not very/at all confident that governments are working together to make the right decisions for Australia’s water resources.

Water security

Only 36% of NT were very/somewhat confident that Australia has sufficient water security (36% nationally) and 60% were not very/not at all confident compared to 62% nationally.

Eighty-five percent saw a need for significant/considerable amount of new investment in infrastructure (76% nationally).

Extremely/very concerned about water shortages:

