

Queensland Industry

Respondent characteristics



Number of responses: 244



Male:female ratio: 2.70:1



% regional: 15%



% rural: 4%

Water use & efficiency

Fifty-three percent rated community efforts to save water as excellent/good. Twenty-three percent felt community would be willing to spend a large/moderate amount to become more water efficient (24% nationally), and 57% a small amount (55% nationally).

Fifty-three percent of QLD respondents rated the industry's efforts to save water as excellent or good, which was slightly below national average of 62%. Thirty-seven percent considered it critical to improve the efficiency of operations in the water sector (37% nationally), and a further 52% considered it important (national average of 53%).

Water prices

QLD respondents considered urban water prices much too high (11%) or a little too high (27%) compared to the national averages of (7% and 19%), with a third believing they were about right (43% nationally).

For rural water 19% considered it either much too high or a little too high compared to the national average of 14%. Three quarters felt that prices should be used to reflect the scarcity of water to a large or moderate extent (compared to 74% nationally).

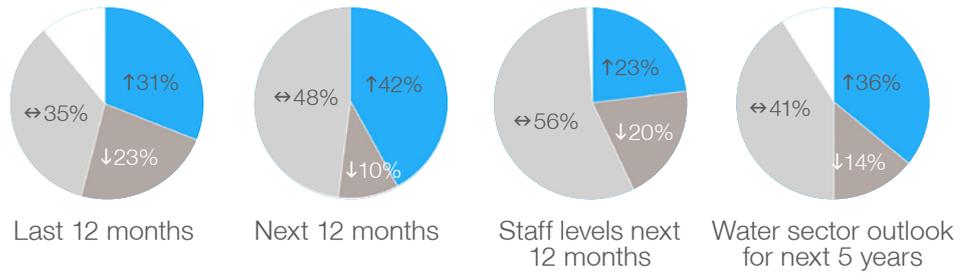
Just under half of QLD respondents (49%) believed community bills have gone up compared to last year, above the national average of 44%, and only 2% thought they had gone down (9% nationally).

Alternative water sources

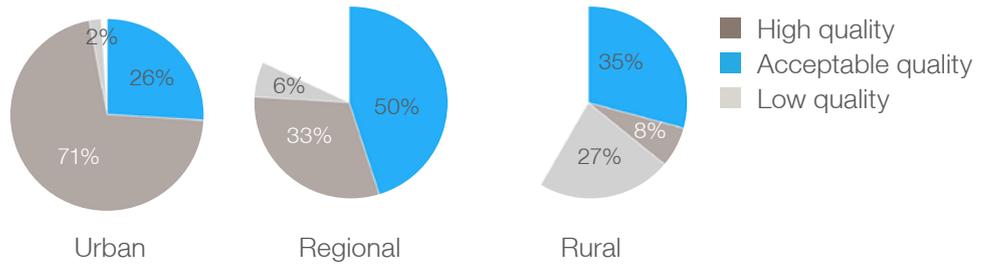
QLD respondents' complete confidence in recycled water and urban stormwater for drinking water were slightly higher than the national average, but on par for all other sources. Eighty-three percent of QLD respondents considered desalinated seawater to have a high cost, the highest of any State/Territory, (78% nationally).

QLD responses on managed aquifer recharge were consistent with the national results, with 49% seeing it as a high priority and a further 35% as a medium priority.

Business Outlook



Water quality by area



Highest impacts on water:

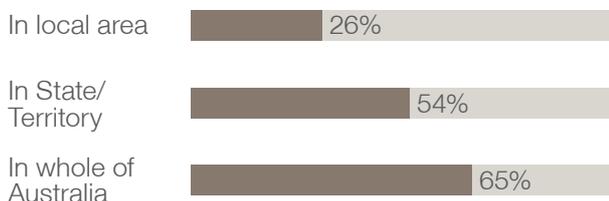


Confidence in water providers and governments

Complete confidence in the water sector was slightly lower than the national average across all seven areas. However, when mostly confident responses were factored in, overall QLD results were consistent with the national average. While 66% were completely/mostly confident the sector would supply high quality water this was well below the national average (89%). Forty-five percent were completely/mostly confident the sector provides an overall high quality service, again well below the national average (63%).

QLD confidence in governments across four key areas were similar to the national results. 29% were completely or mostly confident the government was focused on water security while 38% were not very/ not at all confident. Twenty-two percent were completely or mostly confident governments recognise the need for new water infrastructure (24% nationally).

Extremely/very concerned about water shortages:



Water security

Only 2% were completely confident Australia has sufficient water security and 42% were mostly confident; these results were in line with national average of 4% and 42% respectively.

Only 15% were completely confident and a further 44% mostly confident that urban infrastructure and systems will provide safe drinking water over the next 20 years – which is just below the combined national result of 62%. Only 5% and 2% were completely confident, and a further 30% and 13% mostly confident in regional and rural water infrastructure, compared to the national average of 37% and 21% respectively.

Over one third of respondents (36%) believed a significant amount of new investment in infrastructure is required to ensure water supply in 20 years, with a further 42% believing a considerable amount is needed (compared to 35% and 45% nationally).

Nearly half of QLD respondents (47%) did not think procurement processes are maximising private sector involvement in water, with only 18% believing that is the case.

Queensland Community

Respondent characteristics



Number of responses: **138**



Male:female ratio: **1.79:1**



% regional: **19%**



% rural: **15%**

Water use & efficiency

Twenty-one percent of QLD respondents rated their efforts to save water as excellent, the highest of any State/Territory, with a further 47% rating it as 'good'. Forty-nine percent placed a high priority on saving water, again the highest of any State/Territory, (42% nationally) and a further 39% considered it a medium priority. Thirty-two percent were willing to spend a great/moderate amount more to become more water efficient (36% nationally).

A quarter (25%) 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 but only 4% saw them as a little/much too low (9% nationally). While 28% believed prices had a significant/considerable impact on how much water they use, nearly half (49%) said it had a minor or no impact.

Sixty-six percent believed prices should be used to reflect the scarcity of water to a large /moderate extent (68% nationally).

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

QLD respondents' confidence in different water sources was slightly above the national average for drinking water sources and close to the national results for non-potable use. On average 35% were extremely/very willing to pay more for alternative water sources (33% nationally), ranging from 25% for recycled water to 36% for urban stormwater.

Water shortage concern

Fifteen percent of respondents believed there are currently extreme/moderate water shortages in QLD.



Highest impacts on water:



Confidence in water providers and governments

On average, 67% were very/somewhat confident in their water provider, slightly above the national average (65%). Eighty-six percent believed they supply high quality water, and 71% were very/somewhat confident they provide adequate maintenance of water supplies.

QLD had more confidence in governments (38% very/somewhat confident) compared to the national average (35%). Forty-three percent were confident governments are focused on water security (38% nationally) and 45% thought governments are considering water supply as a part of city planning and urban growth.

Water security

Only 29% of QLD respondents were very/somewhat confident that Australia has sufficient water security (36% nationally) and 68% were ‘not very/not at all’ confident compared to 62% nationally.

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

Extremely/very concerned about water shortages:

