

South Australia Industry

Respondent characteristics



Number of responses: **104**



Male:female ratio: **2.81:1**



% regional: **7%**



% rural: **9%**

Water use & efficiency

Fifty-eight percent of SA respondents believed community efforts to save water were excellent or good, in line with the national results. Twenty-nine percent felt the community would not be willing to spend any more to become more water efficient; this was the highest of any State/Territory and compares to 19% nationally.

SA respondents rated the industry's efforts to save water as 63% excellent or good (62% national average). Thirty-four percent considered it critical to improve the efficiency of operations in the water sector (37% nationally), and a further 54% considered it important (national average of 53%).

Water prices

More SA respondents than any other State/Territory considered urban water prices much too high (17%) or a little too high (30%) compared to the national averages of (7% and 19%), with 38% believing they are about right (43% nationally). Two thirds (67%) felt that prices should be used to reflect the scarcity of water to a large or moderate extent (compared to 74% nationally), with 24% supporting a small extent only (18% nationally). For rural water, 9% considered it much too high compared to the national average of 4%, and 28% about right (19% nationally).

SA was one of the lower ranking States with only 36% believing community bills have gone up compared to last year, (national average of 44%), while 16% thought they had gone down (9% nationally).

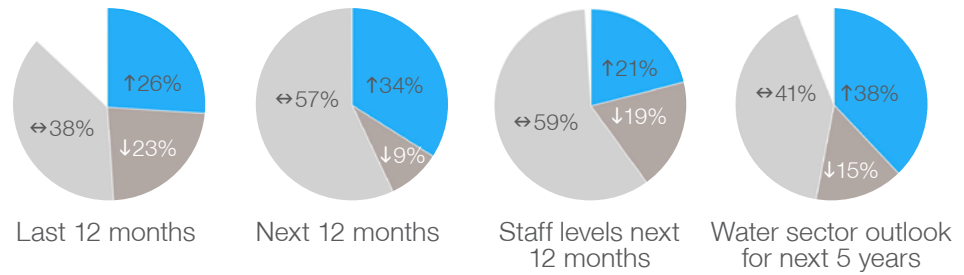
Alternative water sources

SA had the second highest level of complete confidence in desalinated water for drinking water (80%) when compared to the national average of 66%. All other sources, for both drinking and non-potable, were on par with national results.

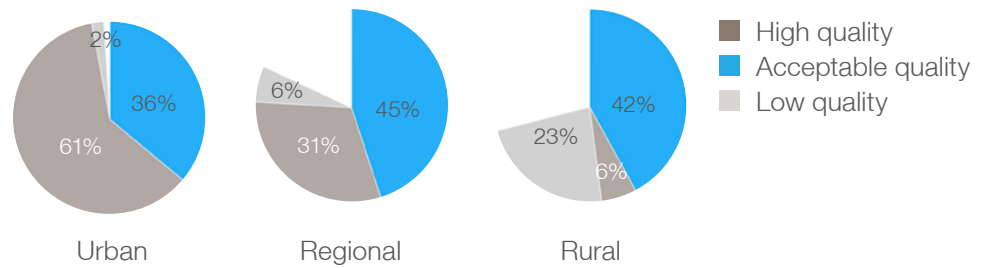
Only 30% of SA considered recycled water to have a high cost, the lowest of any State/Territory (national average 42%), with a further 47% describing it as medium cost (compared to 39% nationally).

SA responses on the importance of managed aquifer recharge were similar to the national results (49% and 35% respectively), with 51% considering it as a high priority and a further 44% as a medium priority.

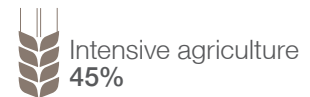
Business Outlook



Water quality by area



Highest impacts on water:



Confidence in water providers and governments

Compared to the national average, SA were less confident that the water sector provided value for money and adequate maintenance of water supplies. Fifty-three percent were confident (completely and mostly) the sector provided overall high quality service, compared to 63% nationally. However, 53% had confidence the sector adequately plans for the future water needs above the national average of 48%.

SA confidence in governments across four key areas was lower than the national results, most noticeably with 12% confidence that governments recognise the need for new water infrastructure compared to 24% nationally.

Water security

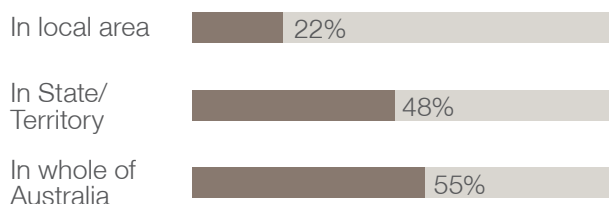
Four percent of SA respondents were completely confident that Australia has sufficient water security to meet its needs, and 41% felt they were mostly confident (in line with national average of 4% and 42% respectively).

Sixty-two percent were completely /mostly confident urban infrastructure and systems provide safe drinking water over the next 20 years – the same as the national result of 62%. Only 6% and 3% were completely confident, and a further 33% and 24% mostly confident, in regional and rural water infrastructure, compared to the combined national average of 37% and 21% respectively.

Just under one third of respondents (32%) believed a significant amount of new investment in infrastructure is required to ensure water supply for the next 20 years, with a further 42% believing a considerable amount is needed (compared to 35% and 45% nationally).

Half the SA respondents (50%) did not think procurement processes were maximising private sector involvement in water, with only 16% believing that is the case.

Extremely/very concerned about water shortages:




South Australia Community

Respondent characteristics

 Number of responses: **138**

 Male:female ratio: **1.38:1**

 % regional: **17%**

 % rural: **17%**

Water use & efficiency

Twenty percent rated their efforts to save water as excellent, the second highest of any State/Territory, with a further 45% rating it as 'good'. 46% place a high priority on saving water, again the second highest of any State/Territory (42% nationally) and a further 43% consider it a medium priority. 25% were willing to spend a great/moderate amount more to become more water efficient (36% nationally).

Twenty-one percent rated their water provider as excellent or good for supporting households to become more water efficient (26% nationally).

Water prices

More SA respondents thought the price of water was too high compared to all other State/Territories. Only 21% considered water prices were 'about right' (33% nationally) while 39% thought they were a little high and 28% much too high (compared to 26% and 13% nationally). Forty-two percent believed prices had a significant/considerable impact on how much water they used compared to 26% nationally.

Sixty-one percent believed that prices should be used to reflect the scarcity of water to a large/moderate extent (68% nationally), the lowest of any State/Territory.

Thirty-seven percent believed their bills had stayed the same over the last 12 months (34% nationally), and the 37% thought they had gone up (29% nationally).

Alternative water sources

SA had the highest level of awareness of water sources of any State/Territory, with 78% aware of all types listed. SA was the least willing to pay more for alternative water sources, with only 21% extremely/very willing (33% nationally), ranging from 15% for ground/bore water to 25% for dams and rivers.

Water shortage concern

Seventeen percent believed there are currently extreme/moderate water shortages in SA.



Highest impacts on water:



Confidence in water providers and governments

SA had the lowest confidence in their water providers of any State/Territory with only 51% very/somewhat confident compared to 65% nationally. This included 42% confidence providers respond to faults quickly (63% nationally), 40% confident they provide value for money (60% nationally), and 57% confident they provided an overall high quality service (compared to 74% nationally). However 83% believed water providers supply high quality water.

Overall SA had more confidence in governments (41% very/somewhat confident) compared to the national average (35%). Fifty percent were confident governments are focused on water security (38% nationally) and 51% thought governments considered water supply as a part of city planning and urban growth.

Water security

Only 36% of SA were very/somewhat confident that Australia has sufficient water security (36% nationally).

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

Extremely/very concerned about water shortages:

