

# Western Australia Industry

## Respondent characteristics



Number of responses: **158**



Male:female ratio: **1.43:1**



% regional: **8%**



% rural: **5%**

## Water use & efficiency

Nearly half (47%) of WA rated the community's efforts to save water as either excellent 7% or 40% good (compared to 9% and 45% nationally). Nearly one quarter (22%) of WA respondents were willing to spend a large or moderate amount more to become more water efficient, in line with the national result.

WA rated the industry's efforts to save water as above national average with 68% of responses excellent or good compared to the national average of 62%. Nearly half (48%) consider it critical to improve the efficiency of operations in the water sector, which was the highest of any State/Territory (37% nationally).

## Water prices

Seventy-six percent of WA respondents felt prices should reflect the scarcity of water to a large or moderate extent, similar to the 74% nationally.

For rural water prices, 7% considered them a little/much too high (half the national average of 14%) while 45% were not sure.

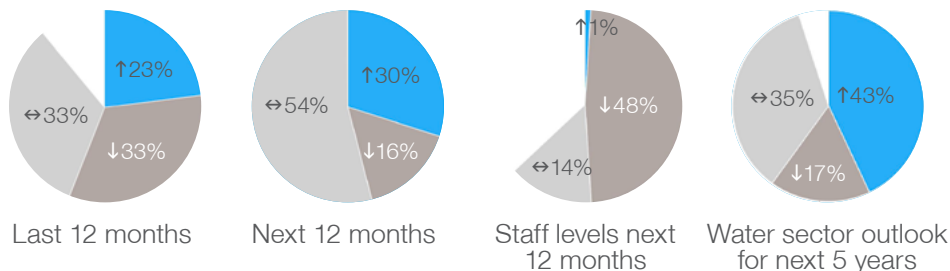
WA had the strongest belief that the community's bills had gone up compared to last year (64% compared to the national average of 44%), while only 1% felt they had gone down (9% nationally).

## Alternative water sources

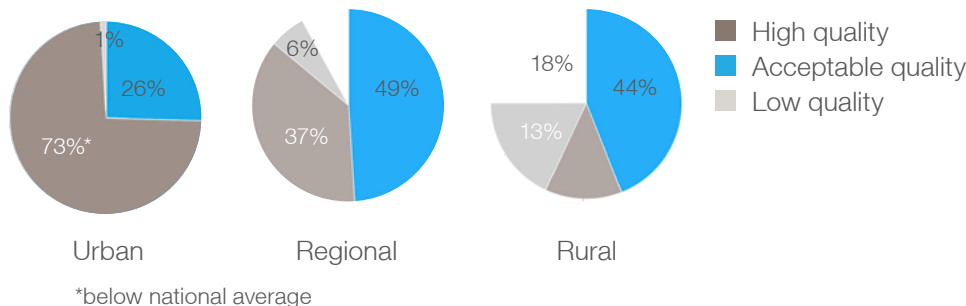
WA was the most confident in all sources for drinking and non-potable of any State/Territory. This included 85% completely confident in desalinated water (66% nationally), 75% confidence in ground/bore (54% nationally) and 59% confidence in recycled water (39% nationally) as sources of drinking water.

Significantly above all other States/Territories, the vast majority of all WA respondents consider managed aquifer recharge a high priority (86% compared to 49% nationally), with another 9% considering it as a medium priority.

### Business Outlook



### Water quality by area



### Highest impacts on water:



### Confidence in water providers and governments

WA was more confident, compared to the national average, in the water sector’s ability across the seven areas, and 76% were very confident that water sector provides an overall high quality service. Around one quarter were completely confident in the sector’s ability to provide value for money, adequately plan for future water needs and be environmentally responsible. WA also had more confidence in governments’ actions compared to the national results, across four key areas.

Twenty-one percent were completely confident, and 40% mostly confident, urban infrastructure and systems will provide safe drinking water over the next 20 years – in line with the national average of 62%. Confidence dropped for regional (40% completely/mostly confident) and rural water infrastructure (26% completely/mostly confident), again in line with the national average of 37% and 21% respectively.

### Water security

Only 4% of WA respondents were completely confident that Australia has sufficient water security while 43% felt they were mostly confident.

WA strongly identified (42%) the need for a significant amount of new investment in infrastructure to ensure water supply in 20 years, with a further 44% believing a considerable amount is needed (compared to 35% and 45% nationally).

Thirty-six percent of WA respondents do not think procurement processes are maximising private sector involvement in water, with only 22% believing that is the case and 41% were not sure.

### Extremely/very concerned about water shortages:



# Western Australia Community

## Respondent characteristics

 Number of responses: **117**

 Male:female ratio: **1.45:1**

 % regional: **10%**

 % rural: **8%**

## Water use & efficiency

Twelve percent of WA respondents rated their efforts to save water as excellent, with a further 50% rating it as 'good'. Forty-three percent place a high priority on saving water, (42% nationally) and a further 47% consider it a medium priority. Forty-four percent were willing to spend a great/moderate amount more to become more water efficient (36% nationally), the highest of any State/Territory. Thirteen percent placed the highest priority on water in terms of household efficiency and cost savings, the highest of any State/Territory (6% nationally), although 44% place equal importance on water, gas and electricity.

Thirty-one percent rated their water provider as excellent or good for supporting households to become more water efficient (26% nationally) – equal highest of any State/Territory.

## Water prices

A third of WA respondents (33%) thought the price of water was 'about right' and 39% considered prices too high (39% nationally).

26% believed price had a significant/considerable impact on how much water they use (26% nationally), while 39% said price had a minor or no impact at all. Seventy percent believed prices should reflect the scarcity of water to a large/moderate extent (68% nationally).

Thirty-six percent believed their bills had gone up over the last 12 months (29% nationally), while 31% thought it had stayed the same (34% nationally).

## Alternative water sources

WA was the most confident State/Territory in using each alternative water source for drinking and non-portable purposes. WA was also the most willing of any State/Territory to pay more for alternative water sources with 41% extremely/very willing (33% nationally).

## Water shortage concern

Sixty percent believed there are currently extreme (17%) or moderate (43%) water shortages in their local area, significantly higher than in any other State/Territory.



**Highest impacts on water:**



Drought  
93%



Climate change  
87%



Population growth  
76%



Unconventional gases  
76%

**Confidence in water providers and governments**

Sixty-eight percent of WA respondents had confidence in their water providers overall (65% nationally). This included 88% confident water providers supply high quality water and 74% confident they provide overall high quality service, although only 52% were confident they adequately plan for future water needs (54% nationally).

In WA, only 35% had confidence in governments' actions on water which was in line with the national average (35%). Thirty-nine percent thought government consider water supply as part of city planning and 35% thought governments are focused on water security but only 26% were confident governments are working together to make the right decisions for Australia's water resources (26% nationally).

**Water security**

Thirty-two percent of WA respondents were very/somewhat confident that Australia has sufficient water security (36% nationally).

Fifty-two percent saw a need for a significant amount of new investment in infrastructure, by far the most of any state, and a further 37% stated a considerable amount was needed (compared to 76% nationally for the combined amount).

**Extremely/very concerned about water shortages:**

