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Branding Water

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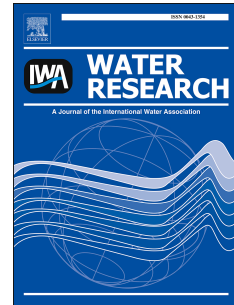
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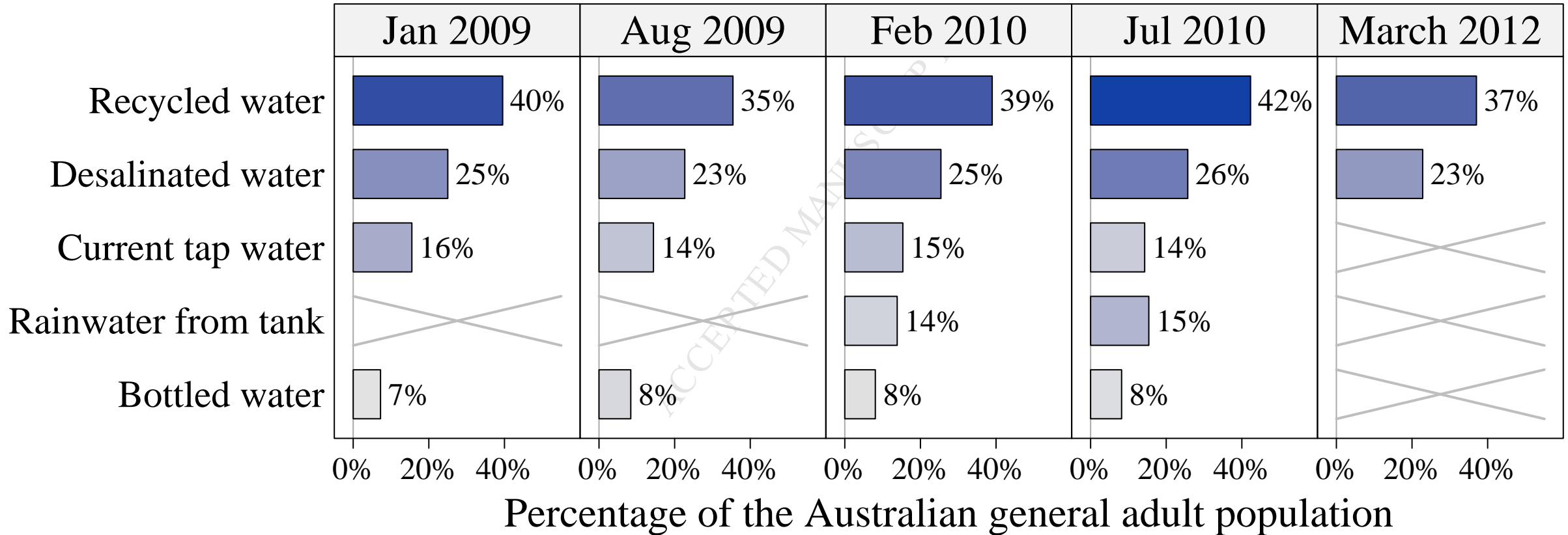
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People's stated perception for "Is disgusting"



1 **Branding Water**

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Branding Water

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Abstract

25 Branding is a key strategy widely used in commercial marketing to make products
26 more attractive to consumers. With the exception of bottled water, branding has
27 largely not been adopted in the water context although public acceptance is
28 critical to the implementation of water augmentation projects. Based on responses
29 from 6247 study participants collected between 2009 and 2012, this study shows
30 that (1) different kinds of water – specifically recycled water, desalinated water,
31 tap water and rainwater from personal rainwater tanks – are each perceived very
32 differently by the public, (2) external events out of the control of water managers,
33 such as serious droughts or floods, have a minimal effect on people's perceptions
34 of water, (3) perceptions of water are remarkably stable over time, and (4) certain
35 water attributes are more effective to use in public communication campaigns
36 aiming at increasing public acceptance for drinking purposes. The results from
37 this study can be used by a diverse range of water stakeholders to increase public
38 acceptance and adoption of water from alternative sources.

39 **Keywords:** public acceptance, branding water, positioning water, perceptions of
40 water, attitudes towards water, communicating about water

41

42

43 **1 Introduction**

44 In theory, the problem of water supply shortage is solved: a range of engineering solutions
45 exist which can augment existing water supplies using wastewater, seawater, or water from
46 difficult to procure locations. However, these engineering solutions are insufficient alone to
47 ensure successful implementation. Consideration is needed of the often significant economic,
48 social and environmental costs of such water augmentation projects. In many instances public
49 opposition (perceived or real) to alternative water sources has prevented the implementation
50 of alternative water sources. This opposition can be based on many components including
51 philosophic opposition to augmentation rather than demand management, concern for the
52 siting of such infrastructure, and opposition to the use (particularly potable use) of the
53 alternative water source.

54 Public support or rejection of alternative water sources is influenced by people's images of
55 different sources of water. Many practical cases are known where people's negative image of
56 recycled water led to the abandonment of plans for such projects, which were to be critical
57 components of the future water supply of the respective regions. Negative images can be
58 actively reinforced by people opposed to water augmentation projects. For example, a
59 community group opposed to the development of a potable water recycling plant in
60 Toowoomba (Australia) heavily communicated what they perceived to be the dangers of
61 recycled water in a successful attempt to prevent the construction of a recycling plant at a
62 public referendum (van Vuuren, 2009; Hurlimann and Dolnicar, 2010; Price et al. 2012).

63 The case of Toowoomba demonstrates that the image of water matters. The importance of
64 image is well understood in commercial market research, where billions of dollars are spent
65 each year trying to understand brand images of products and developing advertising
66 campaigns to modify or reinforce brand images. Branding is successfully used in the bottled
67 water market, where over 200 billion litres of bottled water were sold worldwide in 2008

68 (Gleick and Cooley 2011). Wilk (2006) argues that cultural branding has been successful in
69 turning water into a consumer good. Despite having a clean, cheap and safe supply of water
70 delivered to their homes, many people in developed nations are willing to spend significant
71 amounts of money buying bottled water (Wilk 2006). This is in contrast to several cities in
72 developing nations where demand for bottled water is driven by the fact that centralised
73 supplies, if provided at all, fail to meet basic criteria for drinking water quality (UNESCO
74 2006).

75 Despite the importance of water to supporting human life, the image of water has not been
76 extensively studied (one exception is the study by Dolnicar and Schäfer (2009) which reports
77 – based on a one-off cross sectional survey study – on perceptions the Australian population
78 holds about four kinds of water: recycled water, desalinated water, tap water and bottled
79 water). What is lacking is knowledge of the images people hold of a range of water sources,
80 how these images differ between sources, and across a comprehensive range of potentially
81 perceived water attributes. Additionally, knowledge relating to how these perceptions may
82 vary over time and in relation to significant water events is limited.

83 The reason for the lack of study of water images may be that water is predominantly supplied
84 to consumers in cities of developed nations in a centralised monopoly commodity situation.
85 Thus, there may be little need for public policy makers or water companies to invest in
86 understanding the public image of water and developing branding and positioning approaches
87 to improve the image of a specific type of water. Or, if they do conduct such studies, they
88 may not be making them publicly available. There are limited examples of branding
89 campaigns conducted by authorities responsible for centralised water supplies. Examples
90 include “TapTM” (Sydney Water 2014) which highlights the environmental benefits of tap
91 water, and asks members of the public to ‘pledge’ to drink tap. Another notable example is
92 the marketing of NEWater in Singapore – with the introduction of recycled water into the

93 nation's supply, including for drinking purposes (PUB 2014). This was associated with the
94 distribution of bottles of NEWater to the public when launched, and a visitor centre. The
95 majority of such examples provide little publically available information of the factors
96 motivating these activities, of the research undertaken to inform them, or of any critical
97 analysis of their success or otherwise.

98 The lack of publically available information about the image of drinking water means its
99 image is not well understood, and there is little on which to base systematic communication
100 with people to either reinforce (positive) or modify (negative) images. Additionally, it means
101 there is limited information on which to base decisions and communications regarding the
102 use of alternative water sources, which has and will continue to be an increasing imperative
103 in the future, given the predicted impacts of climate change on water resources in many
104 locations across the globe (Bates et al. 2008).

105 The present study builds on the work by Dolnicar and Schäfer (2009) and investigates the
106 following research questions: Which attributes of water are seen by the public as desirable
107 and undesirable (Research Question #1)? What image does the public have of different
108 water sources (specifically tap water, bottled water, recycled water, desalinated water, and
109 water from one's own rainwater tank), and are they different from one another (Research
110 Question #2)? Do water images remain stable over time (Research Question #3)? Which
111 water attributes are most powerful for branding or (re)positioning campaigns (Research
112 Question #4)?

113 Throughout this paper Keller's (1993, p.2) definition of the term "image" is adopted: "the set
114 of associations linked to the brand that consumers hold in memory". The term "brand" is
115 used to refer to the different sources of water studied.

116 The study is based in Australia, which allows for an interesting case study of water. Major
117 cities have traditionally been supplied water through centralised supply systems aided by

118 dams to capture rain runoff and conveyed to the population through pipes (Dingle and
119 Rasmussen, 1991). Locations across the country have periodically experienced drought, most
120 recently for many major urban settlements in the country during the 2000s. For many of these
121 locations, the drought ended with devastating floods. As a consequence, water was a major
122 topic of public debate and most states initiated water augmentation projects to secure future
123 water supply given the projected shortfall between demand and supply.

124 Findings from this study can be used by water authorities, public policy makers and water
125 retailers to develop and maintain more positive water brand images.

126 **2 Sources of water**

127 The source of water which a population draws upon for consumptive use differs across the
128 globe, depending on a location's physical and geological characteristics and the consideration
129 of economic and environmental efficiency. However, the water source used can change over
130 time, influenced by change to factors such as environmental and climatic conditions,
131 population size and economic circumstances. These are important considerations, because an
132 ample supply of water has historically been a key determination of a population's ability to
133 grow (Mumford, 1989).

134 In developed nations, water supplies predominantly take the form of centralised systems. In
135 many locations, water has traditionally been drawn from surface and ground water storages
136 (World Resources Institute et al., 2002). Until recently, energy intensive sources of water
137 such as seawater desalination, were limited to arid countries largely located in the Middle
138 East (Lattemann et al., 2010), and planned potable reuse seldom occurred. However, the use
139 of alternative water sources such as desalinated seawater and the planned use of recycled
140 water to augment traditional supplies has rapidly increased since the 1990s due to the

141 decreasing cost of technology, the increasing cost of freshwater treatment and marginal water
142 source removal (Lattemann et al., 2010), and the increasing total demand for water.

143 In many locations there is not simply one source of water, but a suite of sources drawn upon
144 to meet demand. The exact environmental and economic cost of each source of water varies
145 depending on a location's physical characteristics. However, some alternative sources of
146 water, such as desalination, have been acknowledged to have high environmental and
147 economic impacts due to treatment processes and by-products, and high energy use (Morton
148 et al., 1996; Schiffler, 2004). Other sources such as recycled water, have given rise to
149 significant public and institutional opposition (Committee on the Assessment of Water Reuse
150 as an Approach to Meeting Future Water Supply Needs and National Research Council,
151 2012; Hurlimann and Dolnicar, 2010).

152 However, in developing nations, centralisation is not as wide spread, and the reliability of
153 such systems (when they do exist) is poor at times. Many households in such settings seek
154 alternative sources of water for reasons of availability, shortage, negative pressure,
155 contamination and unplanned settlement patterns (Dutta et al., 2005; Pattanayak et al., 2005).
156 In such circumstances, perceptions about poor quality of centralised supplies have led some
157 consumers to boil water, buy bottled water or install filters (Um et al., 2002). More recently -
158 in countries such as Australia - substitution with alternative water sources has been found to
159 occur with a significant proportion of the population, driven by water shortage and
160 restrictions. Hurlimann (2011) found that, in 2008, 74 per cent of the Victorian population
161 connected to a centralised water supply, sometimes or always used an alternative source of
162 water for the purpose of garden watering. Specifically, 25 per cent substituted rainwater from
163 personal tanks for garden watering, 12 per cent for car washing, and 9 per cent for drinking.
164 The context outlined above indicates that water sources drawn upon by utilities are likely to

165 change in the future, yet there is little information for utilities and public officials to draw
166 upon with regards to understanding public responses to these changes.

167 In the Australian context a number of specific factors need to be considered: in 2010/11 the
168 predominant source of water for consumptive purposes was surface water (92 per cent),
169 providing 6,532GL, followed by ground water with 454GL. Recycled water provided
170 351GL, and desalination plants provided 121GL (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012). The
171 use of recycled water and desalinated water had increased since the previous water account;
172 however their overall consumption remains a small fraction of the nation's total (ABS, 2012).

173 In Australia, The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (NHMRC and NRMCC, 2013)
174 define "safe, good quality water, how it can be achieved and how it can be assured" (p.1)
175 from both a public safety and aesthetic quality standpoint. These guidelines apply to all
176 sources of water intended for drinking except bottled or packaged water, which are subject
177 instead to the *Food Standards Code* (Food Standards Australian New Zealand, 2011). The
178 consumption of bottled water has a long history, but its use in countries with a safe supply of
179 centralised drinking water is filled with controversy (Gleick and Cooley, 2009; Parag and
180 Roberts, 2009). While the industry enjoyed a period of strong growth, this slowed a little, and
181 is said to be attributable to factors in the USA, including the slowing economy and increasing
182 awareness of environmental impacts of bottled water (Hein, 2008).

183 Rainwater from personal tanks is used for potable purposes in 13 per cent of households in
184 Australia (Australian Government, 2004). Consumption of rainwater is high in the state of
185 South Australia, where 42 per cent of households use it for drinking (Heyworth et al., 1998),
186 with higher use in rural areas compared to urban. This high use of rainwater is attributed to
187 poor aesthetic quality of mains water and fear of chemical content (Heyworth et al., 1998),
188 hence demonstrating the importance of water image. However, as noted in the Australian
189 Government's (2004) *Guidance on the use of Rainwater Tanks*, the general public perceive

190 rainwater is safe to drink. It is also acknowledged in this guidance that while the risk from
191 consuming rainwater is low in most areas of Australia, water from such tanks is not as well
192 managed and treated as the urban supplies. Thus, this represents a potential gap in aesthetic
193 attributes, actual quality, and public image.

194 Major water supply management incidents can have the potential to impact the public image
195 of water. One such example is the Sydney Water Crisis, where the city's water supply
196 (surface water) was contaminated on several occasions between July and September 1998,
197 resulting in boil water alerts – the case is described in detail by Hrudey and Hrudey (2006).
198 A 40 per cent growth in bottled water sales in the following year was attributed to the crisis
199 (Doria, 2006). A study by Sydney Water conducted in 1995 and 1999, found trust in the
200 water authority to 'manage recycled water responsibly' had fallen from 60 per cent in 1995,
201 to 41 per cent in 1999 (Sydney Water, 1999), the year after the incident. Limited publically
202 available research has been conducted on the impact of this incident on the image of
203 Sydney's water supply. On the contrary, Hurd (1994) found that community perceptions and
204 attitudes towards municipal water supply in the USA were relatively stable even after a
205 *Cryptosporidium* outbreak.

206 **3 Prior work on water image**

207 Research into consumer beliefs regarding various aspects of drinking water has a long
208 history. Particular attention has been paid to evaluating aesthetic attributes and threshold
209 values for components of the water at which it becomes unacceptable for drinking: for
210 example, research shows that there is a relationship between beliefs of water quality and
211 actual total dissolved solids levels (Australian Research Centre for Water in Society
212 (ARCWS), 1999; Bruvold, 1968; 1970; Syme and Williams, 1993).

213 Doria (2010) conducted a comprehensive review of how people assess drinking water quality.
214 Factors that emerged include risk perception; water chemicals and microbiological properties;
215 contextual indicators; prior experience; impersonal and interpersonal information; trust in the
216 water companies and other groups; perceived control; demographics, cultural background and
217 world views. The review was focused on drinking water quality in general, it did not
218 investigate differences across water sources. It could be assumed that beliefs the public holds
219 about different sources of water are influenced by the above factors, in addition to source
220 specific perceptions.

221 Research has been conducted to understand the reasons people are willing to buy and drink
222 bottled water over water delivered through a central supply. Findings are varied, and relate to
223 perceptions surrounding the relative safety of the water source, healthiness, and taste
224 preference, with some people substituting bottled water for soft drinks and other beverages
225 (Hurd 1994; Mackey et al 2004). Doria (2006) reviewed academic and grey literature on this
226 matter and found that the main factors attributed to this in consumer surveys were aesthetic
227 attributes, and health / risk concerns. Other contributing factors include demographics,
228 perceived quality of the tap water source, and trust in water companies. Additionally, in a
229 large Australian study, Marks et al. (2006) found that while most respondents did not
230 perceive a health risk associated with their supply, those that did, were very likely to change
231 their source of drinking water.

232 Research into public acceptance of recycled water also has a long history, but has rapidly
233 intensified over the past decade as interest in recycled water increased internationally. Early
234 work found that people distinguish between purposes of water use, with close to body uses
235 such as drinking being less accepted than public uses such as landscape irrigation (Bruvold,
236 1972; Bruvold and Ward, 1970). These findings have been confirmed in many studies since
237 (including Marks et al., 2006; Dolnicar and Schäfer, 2009; Lohman and Milliken, 1985).

238 Research has also focused on understanding who is most likely to support the use of recycled
239 water and why, with various demographic and attitudinal factors found to contribute
240 (Hurlimann, Dolnicar and Meyer, 2009; Dolnicar, Hurlimann & Grün, 2011).

241 More recent research has attempted to understand these preferences further. Hurlimann and
242 McKay (2007) investigated an Australian community's preferences for various attributes of
243 recycled water for various uses. Their results indicate that the importance placed on aesthetic
244 attributes varies depending on the use of recycled water. For garden watering, having 'low
245 salt levels' was the most important attribute studied, for clothes washing 'colourless,' and for
246 toilet flushing a 'low price.' At the time of Hurlimann and McKay's study, the community
247 were not using recycled water. However a follow-up survey was conducted in 2007, when
248 recycled water had been used for a period of time through a dual pipe system. Hurlimann
249 (2009) found that 28 per cent of respondents perceived the recycled water to have an odour,
250 and 49 per cent perceived a colour. This reflects findings by Marks et al. (2002) in New
251 Haven (Adelaide, Australia): users of recycled water – for toilet flushing only – reported an
252 occasional odour, murky colour and the presence of sediment. Only 35 per cent of study
253 participants had connected a tap to the recycled water system. Similarly a Danish study
254 (Albrechtsen, 2002) compared the microbial water quality of seven rainwater systems, four
255 graywater systems and eight traditional systems, reporting several consumer complaints
256 relating to bad smells associated with the graywater systems. In one case this led to the
257 shutdown of the plant.

258 Few studies have compared beliefs the public holds about different water sources. Most
259 comparisons are limited to the investigation of tap water and bottled water discussed earlier.
260 Additionally, many comparisons focus likelihood of use, with less work conducted on the
261 exploration of beliefs. In a review of recycled water research, Dolnicar and Saunders (2006)
262 identified the need for research into different sources of water and messages supporting

263 adoption of recycled water including branding research. Such research has been conducted
264 recently, particularly comparing desalinated and recycled water.

265 Dolnicar and Schäfer (2009) compared Australians' beliefs about recycled, desalinated, tap
266 and bottled water across thirty characteristics concluding that bottled water was perceived as
267 the most irresponsible source of water on environmental terms, followed by desalinated, tap
268 then recycled water. Desalination was acknowledged to use a 'lot of energy in production,'
269 followed by bottled, recycled then tap water. With regards to health issues, recycled water
270 was seen as the unhealthiest, followed by desalinated, then tap and bottled water. Tap water
271 was associated with a number of negative characteristics compared to desalinated and bottled
272 water (e.g. was more likely to be perceived as having a colour and odour), hence providing
273 potential marketing advantages for alternative water sources. To the best of the authors'
274 knowledge this was the first and only study to date which has studied beliefs the general
275 population holds about four sources of water. The limitations of this study are that they asked
276 respondents whether they perceived each water source had certain attributes, they did not
277 assess how desirable or undesirable each attribute was. Additionally, the analysis was based
278 on one single cross-sectional data set. These limitations are addressed in the present study,
279 thus moving from a description of water images towards the analysis of ideal water images,
280 which are more useful to water stakeholders in terms of developing promising
281 communication messages.

282 **4 Methodology**

283 Data was collected in five cross-sectional online survey studies using nationally
284 representative samples of the adult Australian population commencing in January 2009 (1495
285 respondents), July 2009 (1750 respondents), January 2010 (1003 respondents), July 2010
286 (1000 respondents), and March 2012 (999 respondents). Data was collected using

287 professional research-only online panel companies (Research NOW and Survey Sampling
288 International). Respondents registered on the panel were invited to participate in the survey
289 via email and received a compensation of four Australian Dollars for their participation; this
290 amount is in line with the fieldwork companies' standard compensations for survey
291 participation which is dependent on the length of the survey and ranges from \$1 to \$5.
292 Invitations were sent out to a representative sample of the adult Australian population. The
293 number of invitations sent out was based on the sample size requirement for each wave,
294 typically 1000 validly completed questionnaires, and the known panel response rate of
295 between 15 and 20 percent. In addition, quotas were set to avoid over-representation of
296 certain subsets of the population.

297 Respondents were asked about their perceived image of various water sources, water-related
298 behaviours, and personal characteristics. Each source of water was assessed by respondents
299 along a set of attributes which were developed in collaboration with water experts and first
300 used in Dolnicar and Schäfer's (2009) study; the full list of items is shown in Table 3. The
301 complete questionnaire is provided in the online supplementary materials. Survey
302 respondents ticked "yes" if they felt that an attribute applied to a specific source of water or
303 "no" otherwise. This format is known as forced choice binary format or the binary with
304 inferred threshold measure and has been shown to lead to the most reliable results in terms of
305 test-retest reliability in brand image measurement (Dolnicar and Grün, 2013; Dolnicar,
306 Rossiter and Grün, 2012; Dolnicar and Leisch, 2012; Rossiter, Dolnicar and Grün, in press).
307 Finally, it should be noted that, during data collection, many locations across Australia were
308 experiencing a very serious drought. In parts of Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales,
309 the drought ended with significant rainfalls in 2011, associated with devastating floods which
310 caused significant loss of property and life. As a consequence, the water situation during the
311 last survey wave in March 2012 was substantially different from that in previous survey

312 stages: by this time the water supply levels in many Australian capital cities had replenished
313 to levels which were no longer of an emergency situation. For example, Melbourne's dam
314 level was at 33 per cent in January 2009; 27 per cent in July 2009; 36 per cent in January
315 2010; 36 per cent in July 2010; and 65 per cent in March 2012.

316 **5 Results**

317 **5.1 Sample characteristics**

318 Table 1 provides an overview of the characteristics of the sample across all survey waves for:
319 state of residence, age, and gender. Statistical analysis reveals that there were no significant
320 differences in demographic characteristics across survey waves except for age, which was
321 significantly higher in wave 5 (χ^2 test for gender: $\chi^2 = 0.33$, $df = 4$, p -value = 0.99; χ^2 test for
322 state: $\chi^2 = 7.1$, $df = 28$, p -value = 1.00; ANOVA for age: $F = 5.5$, $df_1 = 4$, $df_2 = 6242$, p -value
323 < 0.001). Gender and state of residence closely matched the ABS profiles, and age was higher
324 – this is reflective of the fact that only adults were sampled, and the survey company was
325 asked to recruit a sample representative of ABS age categories.

326

327 ----- Please insert Table 1 here -----

328

329 Table 2 contains information about a number of variables collected, including: respondents'
330 previous use and self-assessed level of knowledge for each source of water; effort made to
331 learn about water; and water preference for drinking.

332

333

----- Please insert Table 2 here -----

334

335 **5.2 Research Question #1: Which attributes of water are seen by the public as**
336 **desirable and undesirable?**

337 Water attributes included in the online survey are provided in Table 3 and are ordered by the
338 percentage of respondents who state that these attributes are desirable to them in the survey
339 data collected in July 2009. Specifically, respondents were asked the following question:
340 “Please indicate for each water attribute listed below whether it is desirable or not for your
341 household water to have this attribute”.

342

343 ----- Please insert Table 3 here -----

344

345 As can be seen, being healthy emerges as most desired attribute, followed by being safe for
346 human consumption, being odourless, looking absolutely clear, being the most responsible
347 source of water from a public health perspective, and water providers being trustworthy. All
348 of these attributes were rated desirable by at least 94 per cent of respondents. Eighty per cent
349 of respondents indicate that they want their water to have all of these six characteristics.

350

351 **5.3 Research Question #2: What images does the public have of different sources of**
352 **water and are they different from one another?**

353 Data collected in January 2010 was used to provide the benchmark image of different sources
354 of water because it was the first to contain questions about all the sources of water of interest.
355 The images of different sources of water for the survey data from January 2010 are provided
356 in Table 4 for desirable attributes, and in Table 5 for undesirable attributes.

357

358 ----- Please insert Table 4 here -----

359

----- Please insert Table 5 here -----

360

361 Differences between the average evaluations of the five water sources are significant for each
362 attribute.

363

364 **5.4 Research Questions #3: Do water images change over time?**

365 To determine whether water images change over time, all five available data sets were
366 analysed. Note that not all water sources were included in all survey waves: for recycled and
367 desalinated water measurements across five points in time are available, for bottled water and
368 tap water, four measurements are available and for rainwater from personal rainwater tanks,
369 only two measurements are available. Changes of water images are shown in Table 6 for
370 desirable attributes and in Table 7 for undesirable attributes. Given the data indicated that a
371 large change or trend in change did not occur, the observed variation in agreement levels was
372 decomposed for each attribute into (1) the variation which can be attributed to the water
373 source, (2) the variation which can be attributed to the survey wave and (3) residual variation.
374 The proportion of variation explained by the water source is in all cases at least 93%,
375 confirming that time has not affected water images much.

376

377

----- Please insert Table 6 here -----

378

----- Please insert Table 7 here -----

379

380 Additionally, the variation was decomposed separately for each water type into (1) the
381 variation which can be attributed to the different attributes, (2) the variation which can be
382 attributed to the survey wave and (3) residual variation. Again for each water type the

383 proportion of variation explained by attribute alone is high with at least 94% over all waves
384 available. A specific comparison of the last two waves including only recycled water and
385 desalinated water indicates that the variation due to attribute is 92% for recycled water and
386 98% for desalinated water.

387

388 **5.5 Research Question #4: Which water attributes are most powerful for branding or**
389 **(re)positioning campaigns?**

390 The importance of attributes was assessed by using the respondents' ranking of the five water
391 types for drinking water preference as the dependent variable. The evaluation of the same
392 water types on the different attributes as well as the water types themselves were used as
393 explanatory variables. Only data from the survey waves collected in January and July 2010
394 (where all five water types were ranked) were used. The different overall preferences of the
395 five water types were accounted for in the analysis. A binomial logit model was fitted by
396 reformulating the first and second choice as the result of a pair wise comparison, i.e., where
397 the most preferred water type was compared to the second water type. The differences in
398 evaluation between the two water types on the attributes and the water types compared were
399 used as explanatory variables. The relevant attributes for predicting preference for drinking
400 were selected using the LASSO (least angle shrinkage and selection operator) approach
401 (Tibshirani, 1996; Friedman, Hastie and Tibshirani, 2010). Then, a standard binomial logit
402 model was fitted using as explanatory variables only the attributes and water types that have a
403 non-zero coefficient in the LASSO model with the "best" penalty. The "best" penalty was
404 selected using cross-validation where the penalty corresponds to the smallest model with a
405 performance within one standard deviation of the model with best performance. As
406 performance criterion binomial deviance was used.

407

408

409

410 Figure 1 contains only the water types and attributes which are strongly associated with
411 people's stated willingness to drink water of a certain kind, i.e., are selected by the LASSO
412 procedure. The bars indicate the extent to which they either positively or negatively influence
413 willingness to drink.

414

415 **6 Discussion**

416 As can be seen in Tables 4 and 5, the brand images of water differ significantly for each
417 attribute. Bottled and tap water are seen to be safe for human consumption and healthy, in
418 contrast to both desalinated and recycled water which were not given positive health ratings.
419 This image of bottled water is interesting, given as discussed earlier in the paper, in Australia
420 bottled water is not subject to the same guidelines as drinking water from other sources.
421 Recycled water is perceived as safe for human consumption by the smallest proportion of
422 respondents.

423 Bottled water performs best on the physical appearance criteria of being absolutely clear and
424 odourless. This image is consistent with previous research which has found that some
425 consumers use bottled water in preference to tap water for aesthetic reasons (Um et al., 2002;
426 Doria, 2006). Rainwater outperforms tap water on absence of odour and recycled water is
427 perceived as odourless by only 54 per cent of respondents. Rainwater from the tank is
428 perceived as absolutely clear by only 58 per cent of respondents, followed by recycled water
429 (63 per cent).

430 Tap water and rainwater from tanks are perceived as the most responsible water source in
431 terms of public health. Bottled, desalinated and recycled water are perceived in this way by
432 only about 40 per cent of respondents. This image of rainwater from tanks is important for
433 water managers to understand, given the acknowledged potential for contamination in the
434 Australian Government's (2004) *Guidance on the use of Rainwater Tanks*.

435 Rainwater from tanks and recycled water are perceived as most environmentally responsible:
436 90 per cent of Australians believe that rainwater from one's own tank and 84 per cent believe
437 that recycled water is the most environmentally responsible source of water; only 25 per cent
438 believe that bottled water is. This awareness of the environmental impact of bottled water is
439 one of the reasons attributed to a recent decrease in bottled water sales in the USA (Hein,
440 2008).

441 Desalinated water is seen by a substantial proportion of respondents as environmentally
442 responsible. This may relate to the low level of knowledge about water reported indicated in
443 Table 2, and in a 2008 Australian study (Dolnicar and Hurlimann, 2009). Approximately 80
444 per cent of respondents believe that desalinated water, recycled water and rainwater from
445 people's own tanks increase the availability of freshwater. Consistent with these responses,
446 the vast majority of respondents also perceive that those three sources of water have the
447 potential to save Australia from a drought, thus reducing the need for water restrictions.

448 Recycled water is perceived by 63 per cent as reducing contamination of beaches, thus
449 offering a positive side-effect beyond the provision of water.

450 In terms of undesirable attributes (Table 5), recycled water is perceived by the comparatively
451 largest proportion of respondents as disgusting (39 per cent). Only eight per cent of
452 respondents perceive bottled water as disgusting. Similarly, 52 per cent of respondents
453 perceive recycled water does not taste good, 43 per cent say the same about desalinated water
454 and about one third of respondents each about tap and tank water. Eighteen per cent of

455 respondents dislike the taste of bottled water. Previous research has found that preference for
456 water source is influenced by experience – for example the tap water in a location which
457 someone has grown up in is preferred to other sources of water (see Doria, 2010 for a
458 discussion).

459 In terms of a range of health concerns (containing trace elements, industrial chemicals,
460 hormones, human waste), recycled water is consistently perceived as performing worst,
461 followed by desalinated water, tap water, rainwater and bottled water. Only with respect to
462 containing pathogens respondents perceive another source of water as more susceptible of
463 containing them: rainwater from a tank. Not surprisingly, therefore, recycled water is most
464 frequently, by 60 per cent of respondents, perceived as a potential health concern if used for
465 drinking. Forty five per cent of respondents share this concern for rainwater, 36 per cent for
466 desalinated water and 21 per cent for tap water.

467 Concerns about high levels of salt concentration are expressed most frequently with respect
468 to desalinated water (52 per cent of respondents). Recycled water is perceived as staining the
469 washing by more respondents than is the case for other sources of water. This concern about
470 the colour of recycled water is consistent with prior research (Hurlimann and McKay, 2007;
471 Hurlimann, 2009).

472 Finally, in terms of the cost of provision of the different sources of water, 90 per cent of
473 respondents perceive bottled water as expensive, 82 per cent perceive desalinated water to be
474 expensive, 63 per cent recycled water, 38 per cent tap water and only nine per cent water
475 from a rainwater tank.

476 It can be concluded from these results, that residents' images of different sources of water
477 differ significantly and systematically with recycled water being associated most with
478 potential health issues, bottled water and desalinated water with high prices and low
479 environmental responsibility, and rainwater as cheap and most environmentally friendly.

480 From the results presented in Tables 6 and 7 it has to be concluded that water images have
481 not changed substantially over the study period. This is despite the fact that during this time
482 Australia experienced the end of a serious decade-long drought which was accompanied by
483 extensive public debate about water augmentation options to secure Australia's future water
484 supply and drought-breaking devastating floods in 2011. This change of water circumstance
485 was reflected in survey wave 5, but did not appear to have affected the image Australians'
486 have of recycled and desalinated water. As previously discussed, Hurd (1994) found stability
487 of community perceptions and attitudes towards municipal water supply in the USA after a
488 *Cryptosporidium* outbreak.

489 Figure 1 shows which of the desirable and undesirable attributes of water best predict
490 whether or not people express their willingness to drink it. This analysis is of particular
491 importance as it points out to water managers which attributes are most important and thus
492 should be discussed in public information campaigns. The information can also be utilised if
493 positioning and rebranding action is taken.

494 Results provided in Figure 1 indicate that regardless of their brand image evaluations,
495 recycled and desalinated water are less likely to be preferred for drinking, whereas current tap
496 water has a higher likelihood to be the preferred water source for drinking. The attributes of:
497 safety for human consumption, being healthy, looking clear, and responsible in terms of
498 public health, are the most influential attributes. On the negative side, influential attributes
499 include: not tasting good, containing pathogens, appearing disgusting, being a health concern
500 if people would drink it, being prone to technology failure, having a high salt concentration,
501 containing trace elements of health concern, and containing chemicals and using a lot of
502 energy in production.

503 Overall, findings resulting from this study add to the limited body of work on attributes
504 people associate with different kinds of water (ARCWS, 1999; Bruvold, 1968; 1970;

505 Dolnicar and Schäfer 2009; Doria 2010, Hurd 1994; Hurlimann and McKay 2007; Mackey et
506 al 2004; Syme and Williams, 1993). The following key insights emerge: (1) the public has a
507 robust collective perception of which water attributes are desirable and undesirable, (2) the
508 images of different water sources along those attributes differ significantly, (3) the images of
509 different sources of water are stable over time, (4) despite major external changes specifically
510 a major drought phase and the breaking of the drought leading to serious flooding events in
511 many regions in Australia the images of desalinated and recycled water were stable over
512 time. Finally, (4) a list of attributes which can be used for rebranding exercises of water has
513 been identified, including both attributes which significantly increase people's stated
514 willingness to drink it and attributes which significantly decrease this willingness.

515 These findings have major practical implications for public policy makers and developers of
516 water augmentation projects. Firstly, building on the findings of Dolnicar and Schäfer
517 (2009), it is important to recognise the distinctly different images held by the public with
518 respect to different sources of water. Such insight enables water managers and public policy
519 makers to identify the key positive attributes that can be reinforced, and key negative
520 attributes that need to be addressed specifically in public consultation or information
521 processes. This complements existing research which indicates the importance of effective
522 communication (Hurlimann, 2008; Khan and Gerrard, 2006), by suggesting positive and
523 negative communication messages.

524 The present study has revealed a number of image attributes which can proactively be used to
525 argue, in a positive way, in favour of the development of water augmentation projects (for
526 example, recycled water reduces the need for water restrictions, reduces the contamination of
527 beaches, reduces the amount of wastewater discharged to the environment and creates new
528 jobs). At the same time negative attributes have been identified (e.g. that recycled and
529 desalinated water is disgusting, tastes bad, stains washing, contains salt; and health concerns

530 related to all sources of water, but mostly recycled water) which, in the opinion of the
531 authors, cannot be resolved through advertising because they require the public to have a
532 certain level of understanding of how the water is produced. In such cases, a combination of
533 measures is advisable, including information provision (including information on which
534 countries in the world already use these sources of water and have done so without any
535 incidents for many years), opportunities for the public to visit water augmentation plants,
536 opportunities for the public to experience first-hand the sources of water and extensive public
537 consultation. These have been identified as necessary components by other scholars
538 (including: Dishman et al., 1989; Hurlimann, 2008; Khan and Gerrard, 2006; Law, 2003).

539 The comparative data provided in this study is particularly useful for the development of
540 public information and consultation because it reveals clearly that the currently dominant
541 form of water in Australia (tap water originating from dams and purified to a high standard)
542 is not seen as the perfect source of water: for example, it is seen by 46 per cent as prone to
543 technology failures (which may be due to incidents with tap water contamination in Australia,
544 most notably in Sydney, see Hrudey and Hrudey 2006) and 34 per cent state it does not taste
545 good.

546 Another important finding emerging from this study is that water images in Australia did not
547 change substantially over the period January 2009 – March 2012, despite major events, such
548 as droughts and floods. From a public policy perspective this is both an encouraging and
549 discouraging finding. It is discouraging that people appear not to have adjusted their negative
550 images of some sources of water in times where water was so limited that large scale water
551 augmentation in future appeared unavoidable. On the other hand, the sudden availability of
552 water did not lead to the rejection of water alternatives which people saw as viable
553 alternatives before the end of the drought. The findings of the high level of image stability of
554 different sources of water by the general public further highlights the importance of

555 proactively managing water images through a range of channels, because it cannot be assumed
556 that random external events will lead to major attitude changes.

557 The study has a few limitations: the data was collected in Australia only. Australia is an
558 interesting country to study because of its unique water context, and the relatively recent
559 introduction of water augmentation projects. It is likely, however, that countries which have
560 been reusing or desalinating water over a longer period of time will hold different water
561 images. Furthermore, respondents were asked to assess different sources of water in different
562 survey waves. Optimally, measurements for all attributes and all kinds of water would be
563 available for analysis. Finally, stated intentions of use were used as the dependent variable.
564 Future work of this nature collecting data internationally would be extremely interesting as it
565 would allow insight into whether water images reflect local water circumstances or whether
566 they remain stable, as they did in Australia through times of dramatic change in the water
567 circumstances. Most importantly, however, it would be beneficial to replicate the study using
568 actual behavioural dependent variables, rather than reported intention to use water from
569 different sources for different purposes.

570 **7 Conclusions**

571 The study, based on surveys with 6247 respondents undertaken between 2009 and 2012,
572 leads to the following key insights:

573 (1) different sources of water - specifically recycled water, desalinated water, tap water
574 from centralized supply and rainwater from personal rainwater tanks - are each
575 perceived very differently by the public,

576 (2) external effects, which are out of the control of water managers', such as droughts or
577 floods, affect people's perceptions of water to only a small extent,

578 (3) perceptions of water held by the general public are stable over time, and, most
579 importantly,

580 (4) certain attributes of water are more effective to use in public communication
581 campaigns in order to increase public acceptance of particular water sources.

582

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Tables and Figures

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Table 1: Sample characteristics.

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Aggregate	ABS*
Period	2009-01	2009-07	2010-01	2010-07	2012-03		2013
Sample size	1495	1750	1003	1000	999	6247	
Age (in years)							
Mean	43.7	43.5	43.9	42.7	45.8	43.9	38
Standard dev.	15.8	15.6	15.5	15.2	15.6	15.6	
Gender							
Male	50.4%	49.7%	49.3%	50.0%	50.3%	50%	50%
State							
New South Wales	32.6%	32.9%	33.0%	33.2%	31.5%	33%	32%
Victoria	25.4%	24.9%	25.2%	24.7%	26.2%	25%	25%
Queensland	20.0%	20.0%	19.4%	19.3%	19.2%	20%	20%
South Australia	8.2%	8.0%	8.2%	8.6%	8.3%	8%	8%
Western Australia	9.5%	10.1%	10.0%	10.2%	10.0%	10%	10%
Tasmania	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.3%	2.0%	2%	2%
Northern Territory	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.6%	0.9%	1%	1%
Australian Capital Territory	1.3%	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.8%	1%	1%

749 *2013 data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS, 2013)

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Table 2: Respondent experience, knowledge and preference for various water sources

			Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5
% prior knowledge with ...	Desalinated water	No	87%	87%	67%	68%	60%
		Not sure			15%	16%	22%
		Yes	13%	13%	18%	16%	18%
	Recycled water	No	65%	64%	53%	54%	47%
		Not sure			17%	19%	24%
		Yes	35%	36%	30%	26%	30%
	Rainwater from tank	No			13%	13%	
		Not sure			1%	2%	
		Yes			85%	84%	
% who state they have made a ... effort to learn about water	Absolutely no effort		18%	16%			
	A small effort		58%	61%			
	A big effort		21%	20%			
	A huge effort		3%	3%			
% who state that they know a lot about ...	Bottled water				49%	51%	
	Current tap water				49%	51%	
	Desalinated water				31%	34%	36%
	Recycled water				33%	32%	36%
	Rainwater from tank				50%	50%	
First preference	Bottled water				28%	27%	
	Current tap water				45%	44%	
	Desalinated water				1%	3%	
	Recycled water				1%	1%	
	Rainwater from tank				24%	26%	

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Table 3: Water attributes and desirability levels in July 2009

	% respondents who view this attribute as desirable
Is healthy	96%
Is safe for human consumption	95%
Is odourless	95%
Is the most responsible water source to use from a public health perspective	94%
Looks absolutely clear	94%
Providers can be trusted to ensure quality is suitable for the intended usage	94%
Is environmentally responsible	92%
Increases the availability of freshwater	91%
Is the most environmentally responsible water source to use	90%
Can save Australia from drought	90%
Reduces contamination of beaches	87%
Using it reduces the amount of wastewater discharged to the environment	84%
Creates new jobs	84%
Reduces the need for water restrictions	82%
May contain purified domestic wastewater	36%
Contains chemicals, such as chlorine	34%
Requires chemicals to be produced	25%
Quality can be affected by the way it is transported to your home	24%
Producing it could be an environmental concern	22%
May contain purified industrial wastewater	21%
Produces greenhouse emissions	19%
Is expensive for the consumer	17%
Is prone to technology failure	16%
Is expensive to produce	15%
Could be a health concern, for instance if people would drink it	15%
Uses a lot of energy in production	15%
May contain pathogens, such as bacteria or viruses	15%
Is expensive to be delivered to the consumer	14%
Because the water cycle is closed, it contains human waste	13%
May contain substances such as hormones, etc., which can affect human fertility	13%
Does not taste good	12%
May contain industrial chemicals and other man-made chemicals such as solvents	10%
May contain trace elements of health concern, such as boron	10%
May have a high salt concentration	1%
Stains the washing	1%
Is disgusting	1%

Table 4: Perceptions of water by water source – desirable attributes for January 2010

	Bottled water	Current tap water	Desal. Water	Recycled water	Rainwater from tank	Chi-square statistic	Deg. of freedom	<i>p</i> -value
Is safe for human consumption	93%	90%	74%	54%	69%	559.1	4	< 0.001
Looks absolutely clear	94%	71%	73%	63%	58%	361.3	4	< 0.001
Is odourless	87%	61%	62%	54%	69%	284.9	4	< 0.001
Is healthy	82%	75%	58%	44%	67%	379.0	4	< 0.001
Is environmentally responsible	25%	64%	56%	84%	92%	1209.7	4	< 0.001
Increases the availability of freshwater	41%	38%	79%	79%	83%	882.2	4	< 0.001
Providers can be trusted to ensure quality is suitable for the intended usage	69%	69%	60%	53%	67%	84.8	4	< 0.001
Creates new jobs	63%	34%	90%	88%	35%	1262.2	4	< 0.001
Can save Australia from drought	23%	28%	77%	83%	79%	1482.2	4	< 0.001
Reduces the need for water restrictions	23%	23%	77%	83%	84%	1679.9	4	< 0.001
Using it reduces the amount of wastewater discharged to the environment	28%	32%	43%	84%	68%	943.2	4	< 0.001
Is the most responsible water source to use from a public health perspective	43%	66%	38%	35%	62%	311.0	4	< 0.001
Is the most environmentally responsible water source to use	13%	40%	31%	54%	90%	1375.6	4	< 0.001
Reduces contamination of beaches	24%	30%	37%	63%	54%	445.0	4	< 0.001

Table 5: Perceptions of water by water source – undesirable attributes for January 2010

	Bottled water	Current tap water	Desal. Water	Recycled water	Rainwater from tank	Chi-square statistic	Deg. of freedom	⁷⁶⁴ <i>p-value</i>
Is expensive to be delivered to the consumer	90%	38%	82%	63%	9%	1811.2	4	⁷⁶⁵ < 0.001
Uses a lot of energy in production	77%	34%	91%	72%	7%	1970.2	4	< 0.001
Is expensive to produce	80%	33%	89%	69%	9%	1883.7	4	⁷⁶⁶ < 0.001
May contain pathogens, such as bacteria or viruses	26%	54%	44%	70%	73%	591.2	4	< 0.001
Is prone to technology failure	49%	46%	82%	73%	12%	1217.7	4	< 0.001
May contain industrial chemicals and other man-made chemicals such as solvents	30%	43%	49%	68%	25%	478.6	4	< 0.001
May contain trace elements of health concern, such as boron	25%	41%	48%	63%	29%	383.2	4	< 0.001
Does not taste good	18%	34%	43%	52%	35%	281.2	4	< 0.001
Could be a health concern, for instance if people would drink it	12%	21%	36%	60%	45%	645.0	4	< 0.001
May contain substances such as hormones, etc., which can affect human fertility	20%	30%	36%	53%	17%	383.3	4	< 0.001
May have a high salt concentration	24%	23%	52%	38%	15%	402.5	4	< 0.001
Because the water cycle is closed, it contains human waste	10%	20%	28%	52%	10%	652.9	4	< 0.001
Is disgusting	8%	15%	25%	39%	14%	365.7	4	< 0.001
Stains the washing	6%	16%	19%	31%	28%	257.5	4	< 0.001

Table 6: Changes in water images in Australia 2009 to 2012 (desirable attributes), Part 1.

	Water type	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5
Is safe for human consumption	Bottled water	93%	93%	93%	93%	
	Current tap water	91%	91%	9%	92%	
	Desalinated water	74%	77%	74%	76%	75%
	Recycled water	57%	58%	54%	58%	52%
	Rainwater from own tank			69%	71%	
Looks absolutely clear	Bottled water	93%	94%	94%	93%	
	Current tap water	71%	74%	71%	71%	
	Desalinated water	72%	73%	73%	73%	78%
	Recycled water	64%	64%	63%	62%	68%
	Rainwater from own tank			58%	58%	
Is odourless	Bottled water	87%	87%	87%	84%	
	Current tap water	62%	65%	61%	61%	
	Desalinated water	61%	64%	62%	60%	72%
	Recycled water	54%	57%	54%	54%	63%
	Rainwater from own tank			69%	67%	
Is healthy	Bottled water	85%	82%	82%	80	
	Current tap water	80%	80%	75%	76	
	Desalinated water	60%	63%	58%	58	62%
	Recycled water	47%	50%	44%	47	45%
	Rainwater from own tank			67%	70	
Is environmentally responsible	Bottled water	35%	27%	25%	24	
	Current tap water	67%	71%	64%	66	
	Desalinated water	62%	60%	56%	56	55%
	Recycled water	85%	88%	84%	84	78%
	Rainwater from own tank			92%	91	
Increases the availability of freshwater	Bottled water	44%	37%	41%	35%	
	Current tap water	37%	37%	38%	34%	
	Desalinated water	81%	81%	79%	81%	77%
	Recycled water	80%	82%	79%	80%	73%
	Rainwater from own tank			83%	83%	
Providers can be trusted to ensure quality is suitable for the intended usage	Bottled water	72%	68%	69%	72%	
	Current tap water	71%	71%	69%	72%	
	Desalinated water	63%	62%	60%	63%	63%
	Recycled water	59%	58%	53%	56%	54%
	Rainwater from own tank			67%	69%	

Table 6: Changes in water images in Australia 2009 to 2012 (desirable attributes), Part 2.

	Water type	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5
Creates new jobs	Bottled water	62%	62%	63%	64%	
	Current tap water	30%	30%	34%	32%	
	Desalinated water	87%	90%	90%	90%	84%
	Recycled water	83%	87%	88%	87%	78%
	Rainwater from own tank			35%	36%	
Can save Australia from drought	Bottled water	25%	21%	23%	22%	
	Current tap water	29%	27%	28%	28%	
	Desalinated water	77%	78%	77%	76%	70%
	Recycled water	81%	83%	83%	84%	74%
	Rainwater from own tank			79%	80%	
Reduces the need for water restrictions	Bottled water	26%	21%	23%	27%	
	Current tap water	22%	23%	23%	21%	
	Desalinated water	72%	73%	77%	74%	70%
	Recycled water	79%	80%	83%	83%	74%
	Rainwater from own tank			84%	84%	
Using it reduces the amount of wastewater discharged to the environment	Bottled water	35%	29%	28%	27%	
	Current tap water	36%	37%	32%	35%	
	Desalinated water	52%	48%	43%	46%	40%
	Recycled water	86%	87%	84%	85%	79%
	Rainwater from own tank			68%	69%	
Is the most responsible water source to use from a public health perspective	Bottled water	46%	39%	43%	40%	
	Current tap water	68%	69%	66%	65%	
	Desalinated water	42%	44%	38%	36%	47%
	Recycled water	42%	43%	35%	34%	41%
	Rainwater from own tank			62%	61%	
Is the most environmentally responsible water source to use	Bottled water	20%	16%	13%	14%	
	Current tap water	52%	52%	40%	42%	
	Desalinated water	42%	39%	31%	30%	38%
	Recycled water	72%	74%	54%	53%	64%
	Rainwater from own tank			90%	89%	
Reduces contamination of beaches	Bottled water	26%	23%	24%	21%	
	Current tap water	36%	39%	30%	32%	
	Desalinated water	40%	39%	37%	36%	33%
	Recycled water	64%	65%	63%	63%	52%
	Rainwater from own tank			54%	56%	

Table 7: Changes in water images in Australia 2009 to 2012 (undesirable attributes), Part 1.

	Water type	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5
Is expensive to be delivered to the consumer	Bottled water	88%	90%	90%	90%	
	Current tap water	31%	30%	38%	40%	
	Desalinated water	77%	75%	82%	82%	76
	Recycled water	54%	53%	63%	62%	56
	Rainwater from own tank			9%	8%	
Uses a lot of energy in production	Bottled water	70%	74%	77%	75%	
	Current tap water	27%	25%	34%	35%	
	Desalinated water	87%	88%	91%	90%	83%
	Recycled water	64%	64%	72%	72%	52%
	Rainwater from own tank			7%	7%	
Is expensive to produce	Bottled water	78%	81%	80%	82%	
	Current tap water	27%	27%	33%	33%	
	Desalinated water	87%	85%	89%	89%	84%
	Recycled water	62%	60%	69%	68%	55%
	Rainwater from own tank			9%	7%	
May contain pathogens, such as bacteria or viruses	Bottled water	29%	30%	26%	27%	
	Current tap water	55%	55%	54%	55%	
	Desalinated water	50%	46%	44%	45%	40%
	Recycled water	70%	69%	70%	69%	61%
	Rainwater from own tank			73%	68%	
Is prone to technology failure	Bottled water	44%	46%	49%	48%	
	Current tap water	38%	38%	46%	44%	
	Desalinated water	73%	75%	82%	78%	67%
	Recycled water	65%	66%	73%	70%	55%
	Rainwater from own tank			12%	12%	
May contain industrial chemicals and other man-made chemicals such as solvents	Bottled water	28%	30%	30%	32%	
	Current tap water	40%	41%	43%	46%	
	Desalinated water	50%	46%	49%	52%	44%
	Recycled water	67%	65%	68%	70%	61%
	Rainwater from own tank			25%	24%	
May contain trace elements of health concern, such as boron	Bottled water	26%	29%	25%	29%	
	Current tap water	40%	42%	41%	44%	
	Desalinated water	49%	46%	48%	49%	42%
	Recycled water	65%	63%	63%	67%	58%
	Rainwater from own tank			29%	29%	

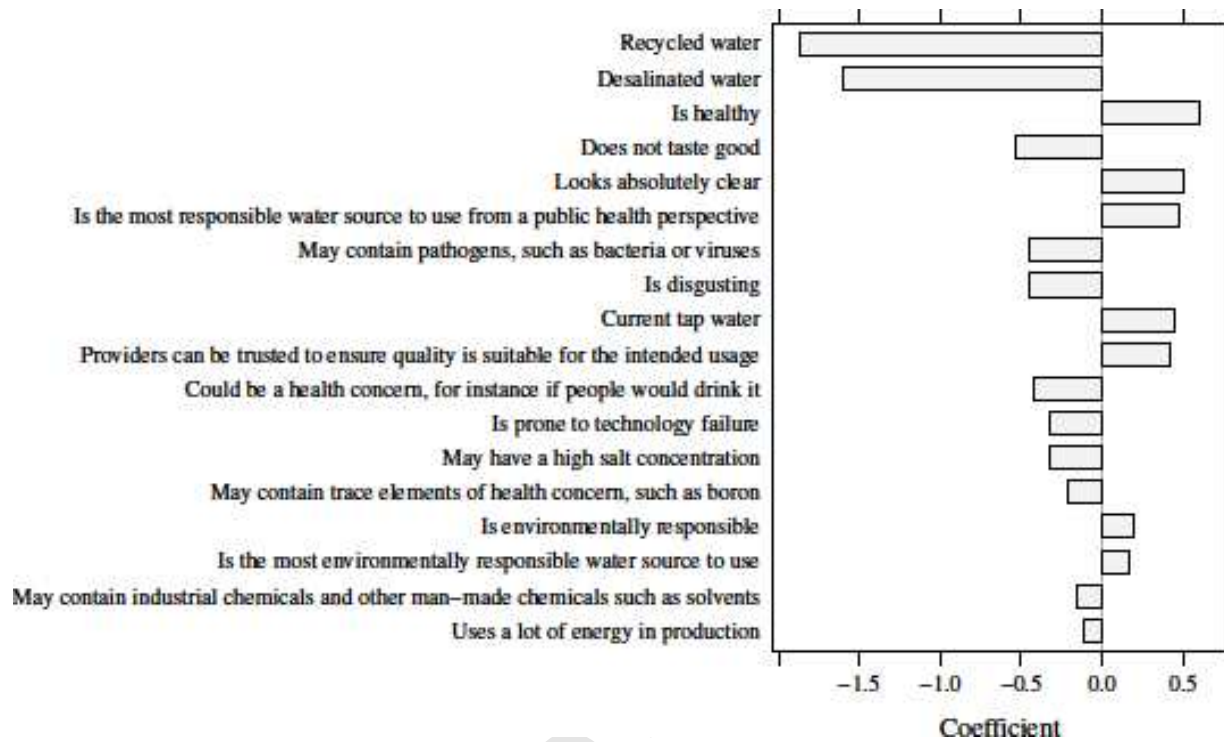
Table 7: Changes in water images in Australia 2009 to 2012 (undesirable attributes), Part 2.

	Water type	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5
Does not taste good	Bottled water	19%	18%	18%	17%	
	Current tap water	31%	31%	34%	32%	
	Desalinated water	42%	40%	43%	44%	35%
	Recycled water	49%	50%	52%	53%	45%
	Rainwater from own tank			35%	33%	
Could be a health concern, for instance if people would drink it	Bottled water	14%	14%	12%	13%	
	Current tap water	20%	18%	21%	20%	
	Desalinated water	38%	36%	36%	37%	32%
	Recycled water	59%	57%	60%	58%	56%
	Rainwater from own tank			45%	43%	
May contain substances such as hormones, etc., which can affect human fertility	Bottled water	20%	22%	20%	23%	
	Current tap water	27%	29%	30%	33%	
	Desalinated water	36%	33%	36%	36%	31%
	Recycled water	54%	53%	53%	55%	52%
	Rainwater from own tank			17%	17%	
May have a high salt concentration	Bottled water	23%	23%	24%	24%	
	Current tap water	22%	22%	23%	22%	
	Desalinated water	54%	51%	52%	54%	45%
	Recycled water	38%	38%	38%	38%	29%
	Rainwater from own tank			15%	14%	
Because the water cycle is closed, it contains human waste	Bottled water	13%	11%	10%	11%	
	Current tap water	21%	21%	20%	20%	
	Desalinated water	29%	26%	28%	26%	22%
	Recycled water	51%	49%	52%	51%	46%
	Rainwater from own tank			10%	10%	
Is disgusting	Bottled water	7%	8%	8%	8%	
	Current tap water	16%	14%	15%	14%	
	Desalinated water	25%	23%	25%	26%	23%
	Recycled water	40%	35%	39%	42%	37%
	Rainwater from own tank			14%	15%	
Stains the washing	Bottled water	7%	5%	6%	5%	
	Current tap water	17%	13%	16%	13%	
	Desalinated water	20%	18%	19%	20%	18%
	Recycled water	28%	29%	31%	30%	26%
	Rainwater from own tank			28%	24%	

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Figure 1: Water attributes influencing willingness to drink

Highlights

- Different sources of water are perceived very differently by the public.
- Droughts or floods have a minimal effect on people's perceptions of water.
- Perceptions of water are stable over time.
- Certain water attributes are more effective in public communication campaigns.

Introduction

Dear Panellist,

This questionnaire is part of an Australian Research Council funded research project conducted by the University of Wollongong and the University of Melbourne. The aim is to better understand environmental attitudes of Australians, particularly with respect to water use.

This is the only way that we can learn how Australians really feel about environmental issues.

The survey will take about 30 minutes to complete and we will credit your account with \$4 on completion of this survey.

It is very important that you answer all questions honestly, even if you feel that a different answer would appear to be more socially desirable.

Should you have any concerns or complaints regarding the way in which the research is or has been conducted, please contact the Secretary of the University of Wollongong Human Research Ethics Committee on (02) 4221 4457.

Thank you very much for helping us with our research!

Please click Next to continue to the first question.

How old are you?

QGender Are you...?

1. Female
2. Male

QAgeband = 14-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-99]

Which, if any of the following states or territories do you reside in?

Australian Capital Territory	1
New South Wales	2
Northern Territory	3
Queensland	4
South Australia	5
Tasmania	6
Victoria	7
Western Australia	8
Other	9

Please select the highest level of education you have attained to date:

[LABEL]	[CODE]	[RADIO BUTTON HERE -X]
Postgraduate Degree or equivalent	1	x
Doctoral Degree Level		
Master Degree Level		
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate or equivalent	2	x
Graduate Diploma Level		
Graduate Certificate Level		
Bachelor Degree or equivalent	3	x
Advanced Diploma/ Diploma or equivalent	4	x
Advanced Diploma and Associate Degree Level		

Diploma Level		
Certificate Level	5	x
Certificate III & IV Level		
Certificate I & II Level		
Secondary Education	6	x
Senior Secondary Education		
Junior Secondary Education		
Primary Education		
Primary Education		
Pre- Primary Education		
Pre-primary Education		
Other Education		
Non-award Courses		
Miscellaneous Education		

The following questions are regarding four different types of water – recycled water, desalinated water, tap water, bottled water and tank water.

Please consider each statement in light of the types of water and state your opinion by either choosing YES or NO. If you are unsure do not worry, your best estimate is fine.

	Recycled water	Desalinated water	Current tap water	Bottled water	Rainwater from own rainwater tank
Is potentially a health risk if I drink it	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
I know a lot about it	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Is of very high quality	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
I have used it before	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Contains chemicals, such as chlorine	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
May contain purified domestic wastewater	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
May contain purified industrial wastewater	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Producing it could be an environmental concern	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Is safe for human consumption	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Using it reduces the amount of wastewater discharged to the environment	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Could be a health concern, for instance if people would drink it	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Quality can be affected by the way it is transported to your home	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Is expensive for the consumer	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)

The following questions are regarding four different types of water – recycled water, desalinated water, tap water, bottled water and tank water.

Please consider each statement in light of the types of water and state your opinion by either choosing YES or NO. If you are unsure do not worry, your best estimate is fine.

	Recycled water	Desalinated water	Current tap water	Bottled water	Rainwater from own rainwater tank
May contain pathogens, such as bacteria or viruses	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Uses a lot of energy in production	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)

May contain substances such as hormones or pharmaceutically active compounds which can affect human fertility	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
May contain industrial chemicals and other man-made chemicals such as solvents	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
May contain trace elements of health concern, such as boron	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
May have a high salt concentration	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Increases the availability of freshwater	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Can save Australia from drought	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Is expensive to produce	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)

The following questions are regarding four different types of water – recycled water, desalinated water, tap water, bottled water and tank water.

Please consider each statement in light of the types of water and state your opinion by either choosing YES or NO. If you are unsure do not worry, your best estimate is fine.

	Recycled water	Desalinated water	Current tap water	Bottled water	Rainwater from own rainwater tank
Is expensive to be delivered to the consumer	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Reduces the need for water restrictions	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Does not taste good	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Requires chemicals to be produced	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Produces greenhouse emissions	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Is environmentally responsible	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Is odourless	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Is the most environmentally responsible water source to use	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Is healthy	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)

The following questions are regarding four different types of water – recycled water, desalinated water, tap water, bottled water and tank water.

Please consider each statement in light of the types of water and state your opinion by either choosing YES or NO. If you are unsure do not worry, your best estimate is fine.

	Recycled water	Desalinated water	Current tap water	Bottled water	Rainwater from own rainwater tank
Is the most responsible water source to use from a public health perspective	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Is prone to technology failure	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Because the water cycle is closed, it contains human waste	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Looks absolutely clear	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Providers of the water source can be trusted to ensure quality is suitable for the intended usage	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Stains the washing	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)

Is disgusting	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Creates new jobs	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)
Reduces contamination of beaches	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)	Yes (1) / No (0)

For the following questions

we will use the term “**recycled water**” to describe “**highly purified wastewater**”.

we will use the term “**desalinated water**” to describe “**highly purified seawater**”

and we will use the term “rainwater” to describe rainwater from a rainwater collection tank on your property (rainwater collected from the roof of your house)

We will also assume that both recycled and desalinated water were treated to the same level of water quality.

Please click “Next” to continue.

Q7a. Have you ever used recycled water? Yes [1] No [0] Not sure [99]

Q7b. Have you ever used desalinated water? Yes [1] No [0] Not sure [99]

Q7c. Have you ever used rainwater? Yes [1] No [0] Not sure [99]

The following section seeks your opinion with regards to RECYCLED WATER. Please answer the following section with RECYCLED WATER in mind.

For the following question, imagine that you live in a town where:

- **Dams supplying household water currently hold 20 % of capacity**
- **Level 5 Mandatory Water Restrictions are in place for the use of tap water (no outside watering of gardens, no watering systems, no refilling swimming pools, no washing vehicles except for windows and headlights)**
- **Recycled water is readily available without restrictions**

Under these circumstances, please indicate how likely you would be to use RECYCLED WATER for the following purposes by placing the slider in the respective position along the line.

Some of these behaviors may not apply to you, e.g. because you do not have a swimming pool. In this case please tick the “not applicable” option.

Please “left-click” to activate the slider button. A change in color from lighter to darker will indicate that the slider button is now activated. Drag towards and release the slider button to the point on the slider which expresses your opinion.

Very Likely  Very unlikely Not Applicable

1. Watering the garden (flowers, trees, shrubs)
2. Washing clothes, doing laundry
3. Cooking
4. Showering / taking a bath
5. Drinking
6. Brushing teeth
7. Bathing the baby
8. Filling up the fish pond or aquarium
9. Toilet flushing
10. Cleaning the house, windows, driveways
11. Watering of garden – vegetables, herbs to be eaten raw
12. Washing the car
13. Refilling / topping up the swimming pool
14. Feeding my pets

The following section seeks your opinion with regards to DESALINATED WATER. Please answer the following section with DESALINATED WATER in mind.


Again, please imagine that you live in a town where:

- Dams supplying household water currently hold 20 % of capacity
- Level 5 Mandatory Water Restrictions are in place for the use of tap water (no outside watering of gardens, no watering systems, no refilling swimming pools, no washing vehicles except for windows and headlights)
- Desalinated water is readily available without restrictions

Under these circumstances, please indicate how likely you would be to use DESALINATED WATER for the following purposes by placing the slider in the respective position along the line.

Some of these behaviors may not apply to you, e.g. because you do not have a swimming pool. In this case please tick the "not applicable" option.

Please "left-click" to activate the slider button. A change in color from lighter to darker will indicate that the slider button is now activated. Drag towards and release the slider button to the point on the slider which expresses your opinion.

Very likely 100%  Very unlikely 0%

1. Watering the garden (flowers, trees, shrubs)
2. Washing clothes, doing laundry
3. Cooking
4. Showering / taking a bath
5. Drinking
6. Brushing teeth
7. Bathing the baby
8. Filling up the fish pond or aquarium
9. Toilet flushing
10. Cleaning the house, windows, driveways
11. Watering of garden – vegetables, herbs to be eaten raw
12. Washing the car
13. Refilling / topping up the swimming pool
14. Feeding my pets

The following section seeks your opinion with regards to RAINWATER FROM YOUR OWN RAINWATER TANK. Please answer the following section with TANK WATER in mind.

Again, please imagine that you live in a town where:

- Dams supplying household water currently hold 20 % of capacity
- Level 5 Mandatory Water Restrictions are in place for the use of tap water (no outside watering of gardens, no watering systems, no refilling swimming pools, no washing vehicles except for windows and headlights)
- Rainwater from a rainwater tank on your property is readily available without restrictions

Under these circumstances, please indicate how likely you would be to use RAINWATER FROM YOUR OWN RAINWATER TANK (if you do not have one, please imagine you do) for the following purposes by placing the slider in the respective position along the line.

Some of these behaviors may not apply to you, e.g. because you do not have a swimming pool. In this case please tick the "not applicable" option.

Please "left-click" to activate the slider button. A change in color from lighter to darker will indicate that the slider button is now activated. Drag towards and release the slider button to the point on the slider which expresses your opinion.

Very likely 100%  Very unlikely 0%

1. Watering the garden (flowers, trees, shrubs)
2. Washing clothes, doing laundry
3. Cooking
4. Showering / taking a bath

5. Drinking
6. Brushing teeth
7. Bathing the baby
8. Filling up the fish pond or aquarium
9. Toilet flushing
10. Cleaning the house, windows, driveways
11. Watering of garden – vegetables, herbs to be eaten raw
12. Washing the car
13. Refilling / topping up the swimming pool
14. Feeding my pets

Please rank the following five kinds of water with respect to [DRINKING/SHOWERING/WATERING YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN/WASHING YOUR CAR].

Please assign a 1 for the water you would use the most for the purpose named above, a 2 for the water you would use 2nd most for the purpose named above...and a 5 for the water you would use the least.

Bottled water	1
Current tap water	2
Recycled water	3
Desalinated water	4
Rainwater from your own rainwater tank	5

A few questions about rainwater tanks

R1. Are you currently connected to a main (centralised) water supply system e.g. water provided to a city or town by a water supply authority?

1. Yes
2. No

R2. Do you currently have a rainwater tank installed at your home?

1. Yes
2. No

R3. What size is it?

1. Less than 2,000L
2. 2,000-3,999L
3. 4,000-6,999L
4. 7,000 or more

R4. In what year did you install your tank?

1. 2010
2. 2009
3. 2008
4. 2007
5. 2006
6. 2005 or earlier

R5a. Did you receive a government rebate for your rainwater tank?

1. Yes
2. No

R5b. What kind of rebate was it?

Select all that are applicable

1. federal government
2. state government
3. local government
98. other (please specify _____)
97. Not sure

R6. What was the MAIN reason you installed your rainwater tank?

1. To reduce my water bill
2. To reduce the impact of water restrictions on my household activities
3. Because of the rebate

4. To help avoid the need for new large-scale water sources to be constructed (dams, desalination plants, recycling plants)
5. To reduce my reliance on mains water supply
6. For environmental reasons
98. Other (please specify_____)

R7. Where do you use your rainwater?

1. Outdoor only
2. Outdoor and indoor

R7_1 For what purposes do you use your rainwater?

1. Watering my garden (not edible plants)
2. Watering my garden (edible plants)
3. Washing my car/boat
4. Washing my pavers/driveway
98. Other (please specify)

R7_2 For what purposes do you use your rainwater?

1. Watering my garden (not edible plants)
2. Watering my garden (edible plants)
3. Washing my car/boat
4. Washing my pavers/driveway
5. Toilet
6. Washing machine
7. Shower
8. Kitchen tap
98. Other (please specify)

IF OUTDOOR only

R8. Why don't you have your rainwater tank connected to your indoor plumbing?

1. Costs too much to connect the plumbing
2. Was not aware this was possible
3. Don't want to use rainwater for these purposes
4. Too much effort
98. Other (please specify)

IF NO

R9. Why not?

1. Too expensive
2. Not enough space
3. Not interested
98. Other

R10. Are you aware that state, federal, and some local governments provide financial rebates up to \$1500 for rainwater tank installation?

1. Yes
2. No

R10. If the government introduced a scheme where they provided you with a water tank for free, but you had to pay the installation costs (e.g. cement block, water pump, plumbing connection to toilet/laundry), would you participate in this scheme?

1. Yes
2. No

R11. If the scheme gave you a free tank AND covered the cost of installation, but you still had to pay for the plumbing to connect the tank for indoor uses, would you participate and pay the additional money for the plumbing?

1. Yes
2. No

R12. If the scheme provided a free tank, covered the cost of installation AND the cost of connection for indoor uses, would you participate in this scheme?

1. Yes
2. No

R13.

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Imagine you had a rainwater tank. Would you still want to purchase water from your water authority (e.g. for drinking etc.)?

You have a rainwater tank. Do you still purchase water from your water authority (e.g. for drinking etc.)?

1. Yes
2. No

R14.

Given that you would, in this situation, use a lot less water supplied to you by your water authority, would you be willing to pay a higher price for this water?

Given that you have to purchase less water (because you have a rainwater tank), would you be willing to pay a higher price for this water?

1. Yes
2. No

R15. How much of a price increase, per kL of water, would you be willing to accept in the above situation? 0-100%
_____ %

A few questions about information you may have received about water issues

W1a. Have you seen or heard any advertising campaigns about water conservation?

1. Yes
2. No

W1b. Where did you see or hear these advertising campaigns about water conservation? Select as many as apply

1. Radio
2. Television
3. Print Media
4. From the water authority with my bill
98. Other (please specify _____)

W2a. Have you seen or heard any advertising campaigns about recycled water?

1. Yes
2. No

W2b. Where did you see or hear these advertising campaigns about recycled water? Select as many as apply

1. Radio
2. Television
3. Print Media
4. From the water authority with my bill
98. Other (please specify _____)

W3a. Have you seen or heard any advertising campaigns about desalinated water?

1. Yes
2. No

W3b. Where did you see or hear these advertising campaigns about desalinated water?

Select as many as apply

1. Radio
2. Television
3. Print Media
4. From the water authority with my bill
98. Other (please specify _____)

W4a. Have you seen or heard any advertising campaigns about rainwater tanks?

1. Yes
2. No

W4b. Where did you see or hear these advertising campaigns about rainwater tanks?

Select as many as apply

1. Radio

2. Television
3. Print Media
4. From the water authority with my bill
5. From vendors
98. Other (please specify_____)

W5. In your opinion, have any advertisements or campaigns influenced your decision to adopt water conservation practices within and around your home?

1. Yes
- 2.No
98. Unsure

W6. Are you aware of any water wise rebates that are currently offered by government bodies?

1. Yes
2. No
3. No, but I would like to find out more about them and how I can make use of them in my home

W7. Where did you hear about water conservation rebates that you may be entitled to?

Select as many as apply

1. Exhibition stand
2. Poster/billboard
3. Television
4. Word of mouth
5. Friends and family
6. Radio
7. Newspaper
8. Conference
9. From the water authority
10. On the internet

W8. Please specify which water conservation rebates you applied for within your home:

Select as many as apply

1. Rainwater Tank Rebate (outdoor)
2. Rainwater Tank Rebate (indoor and outdoor)
3. Washing Machine Rebate
4. Do-It-Yourself Water Saving Kits
5. Toilet Replacement Rebate
6. Showerhead Rebate
98. Other, please specify:_____
99. None

W9. Do you trust your local water authority to deliver safe drinking water?

1. Yes, I trust my local water authority a 100%
2. Yes, I generally trust my local water authority
3. No, I have some concerns
4. No, I do not trust my local water authority at all

A few questions about yourself

To conclude the survey we would like to ask you a few questions about yourself:

QIncome. What is your annual household income?

Under \$20,000	1
\$21,000 to \$40,000	2
\$41,000 to \$60,000	3
\$61,000 to \$80,000	4
\$81,000 to \$100,000	5
Over \$100,000	6
Would rather not say	999

Q20. How large is the town / city you live in?

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

If you are not sure your best guess is fine.

0-5,000	1
5,001-20,000	2
20,001-50,000	3
50,001-100,000	4
100,001-250,000	5
250,001-500,000	6
500,001-1,000,000	7
1,000,001-2,000,000	8
2,000,001-3,000,000	9
3,000,001-4,000,000	10
Greater than 4,000,000	11

Q21. How strong is your feeling of belonging and attachment to the region you live in?

Strong	4
Moderate	3
Weak	2
Non existent	1

NEW QUESTION**Q21_1** Please complete the sentence by ticking one of the answers below: Would you

1. Prefer to stay in the region?
2. Prefer to move out of the region but stay in the country?
3. Prefer to move abroad?
4. Or do you not care where you live?

Q24. What is your ancestry?*You may choose more than one.*

Aboriginal	1
Australian	2
Other Oceanian	3
North West European	4
South East European	5
North African and Middle Eastern	6
South East Asian (e.g. Vietmanese, Filipino, Indonesian)	7
North East Asian (e.g. Chinese)	8
Southern and Central Asian (e.g. Indian)	9
North American	10
South American	11
African	12
Other	98
Prefer not to say	99

Q25. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

No, English Only	1
Yes, Arabic (including Lebanese)	2
Yes, Australian Indigenous Languages	3
Yes, Cantonese	4
Yes, Croatian	5
Yes, Dutch	6
Yes, French	7
Yes, German	8

Yes, Greek	9
Yes, Hebrew	10
Yes, Hindi	11
Yes, Hungarian	12
Yes, Indonesian	13
Yes, Italian	14
Yes, Japanese	15
Yes, Korean	16
Yes, Macedonian	17
Yes, Malay	18
Yes, Maltese	19
Yes, Mandarin	20
Yes, Polish	21
Yes, Portuguese	22
Yes, Russian	23
Yes, Serbian	24
Yes, Spanish	25
Yes, Tagalog (Filipino)	26
Yes, Thai	27
Yes, Turkish	28
Yes, Vietnamese	29
Yes, Auslan (Australian Sign Language)	30
Yes, Other	98

Q26. How Australian do you feel?

0%	0
10%	1
20%	2
30%	3
40%	4
50%	5
60%	6
70%	7
80%	8
90%	9
100%	10

Q27. Have you ever experienced water restrictions?

Yes	1
No	0

Q28. To which extent have you had to change your behavior because of water restrictions?

Not at all	0
Slightly	1
Strongly	2

Q29. To which extent do you feel limited by water restrictions?

Not at all	0
Slightly	1
Strongly	2

Q30. Is religion important in your life?

Yes	1
No	0

I am not sure	2
I would rather not say	3

Q31. On how many days a week do you usually read the news and current affairs section of the newspaper?

Please only count the days on which you read the news and current affairs sections and exclude days on which you only read other sections (e.g. sports, entertainment, etc.).

1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
I read the newspaper on an irregular basis (less than once a week)	998
I don't read the newspaper at all	999

Q32. What is your favorite newspaper?

The Australian	1
The Financial Review	2
The Canberra Times	3
The Daily Telegraph	4
Sydney Morning Herald	5
The Age	6
The Herald Sun	7
The Courier-Mail	8
The Advertiser	9
The West Australian	10
The Mercury	11
The N.T. News	12
A regional daily newspaper	13
A local daily newspaper	14
Other paper	15

Q33. On how many days a week do you usually watch news and current affairs programs on TV?

Please only count the days on which you watch news and current affairs programs and exclude days on which you watch dramas, sports, etc. only.

1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
I watch TV news on an irregular basis (less than once a week)	998
I don't watch TV news at all	999

Q34. What is your favourite television channel?

ABC1	1
ABC2	2
Seven	3
Nine	4
TEN	5
ONE	6

SBS ONE	7
SBS TWO	8
Another channel not listed, which I receive free-to-air	9
Another channel not listed, which I receive from a subscription TV service	10

Q33R. On how many days a week do you usually listen to news programs on the radio?

Please only count the days on which you listen to news on the radio.

1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
I listen to the radio news on an irregular basis (less than once a week)	998
I do not listen to the radio news at all	999

Thank you very much for your help