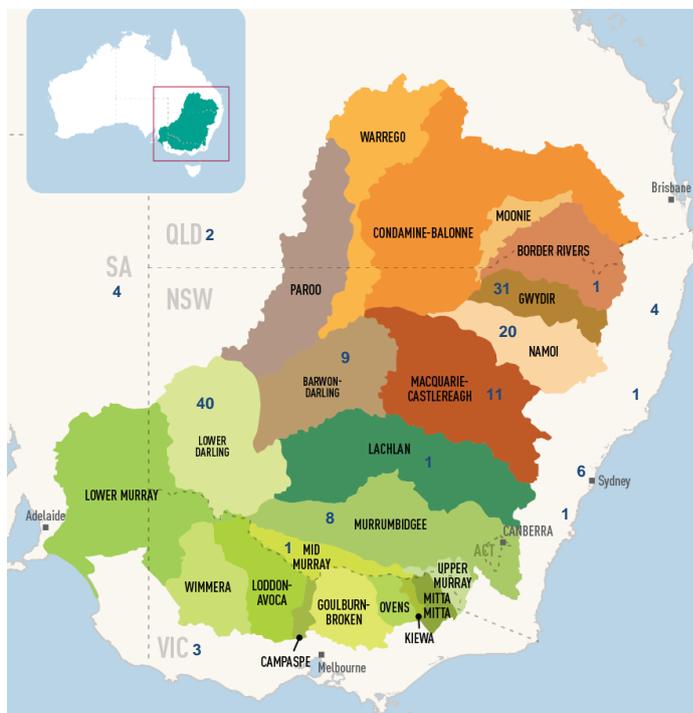
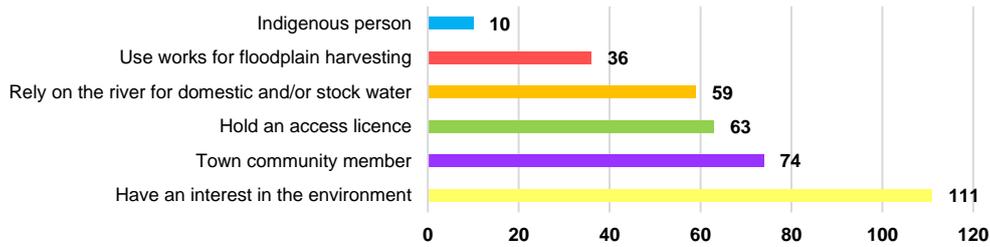


Survey Results *Initial public feedback on how the NSW Government managed the 2020 Northern Basin First Flush Event*

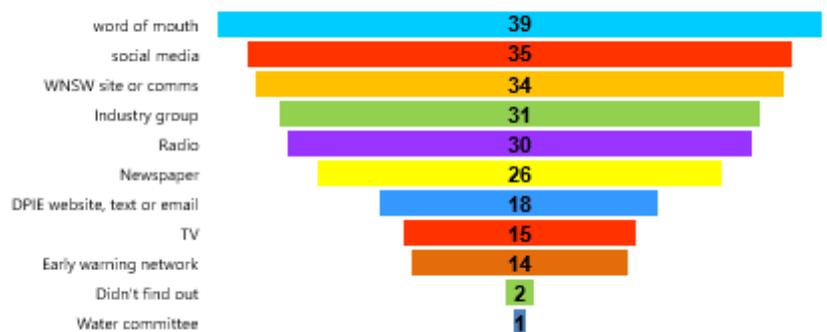
Interests of 144 survey participants



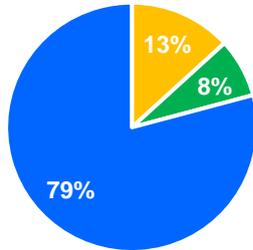
Geographic spread of participants

Area	Total
Lower Darling	40
Gwydir	31
Namoi	20
Macquarie–Castlereagh	11
Barwon-Darling	9
Murrumbidgee	8
Greater Sydney	6
North Coast	4
SA	4
VIC	3
QLD	2
Border Rivers	1
Central Coast	1
Lachlan	1
Mid-Murray	1
South Coast	1
Unknown	1

How participants found out about the restrictions



How well they thought the NSW Government did managing the event



■ Good or very good job ■ Neutral ■ Bad or very bad job

Key criticisms

- Lack of transparency, lack of evidence base for decision making
- Poorly communicated
- Lack of advance planning, advance communications and information after the event

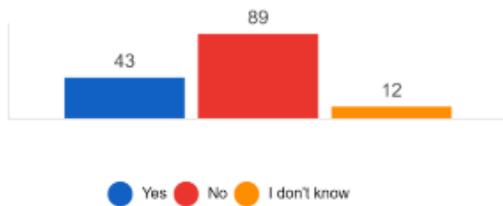
Mistrust in decision-making

- Seemed inconsistent
- Concern/scepticism about floodplain harvesting lifts
- NSW Gov perceived as favouring big irrigation corps
- Perception that priority was given to southern / northern Basin
- Perception that restrictions were in place too long, too short, or were ineffective
- Concerns regarding flow forecasting

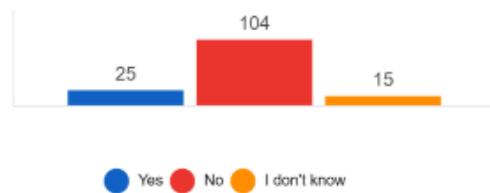
What was done well

- Protected water for towns and the environment
- Restricted floodplain harvesting for the first time
- Restrictions provided a degree of balance

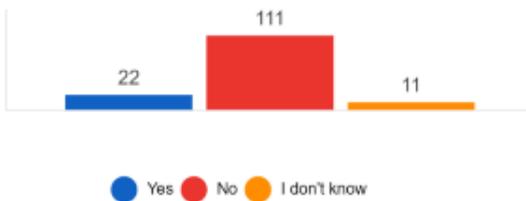
Were restrictions and lifts communicated in a timely manner?



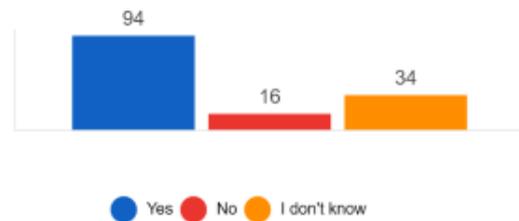
Were restrictions and lifts communicated clearly?



Were the reasons for the restrictions and lifts communicated well?



Were participants concerned about how the restrictions were applied?



The survey questions

Mandatory questions

- On a scale of 1-5, how good a job do you think the NSW Government did in restricting and allowing people to take water during the first flush event (1 being a very bad job and 5 being a very good job)?
- How did you find out about the water restrictions that the NSW Government had imposed and/or lifted?
- Did you find out about the restrictions (or that the restrictions had been lifted) in a timely manner?
- Do you think the restrictions and/or their lifting were communicated clearly?
- Do you think the reasons for why the restrictions were imposed or lifted were communicated clearly?
- Do you have concerns about how the legal framework was applied?

Optional questions

- What do you think should be done differently for future management of first flush events?
- What sort of information do you think should be made public in relation to the management of first flush events in the future?