

2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey data tables

Version1.0, release date 10 September 2021

Explanatory notes and definitions of regions and groups reported

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1. Introduction

This year, our data tables are presented differently to previous years. Instead of reporting several excel files for different regions and groups, we include all reported regions and groups in one excel file. Each measure is reported on a separate tab, with an index tab that can be used to direct you to the measure you are interested in. The data can be sorted in any way that is suitable (for example, by state, or by type of region or group).

This document provides explanatory notes for users of the 2020 RWS Data Tables, and definitions of the regions and groups that are reported in the data tables.

Information about the Regional Wellbeing Survey and the data we collect is available at www.regionalwellbeing.org.au.

2. Explanatory notes

The data in the data table spreadsheet were produced from the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey. The *2020 RWS Data Tables* can be accessed via our website at: <https://www.regionalwellbeing.org.au/the-data-tables/>

2.1 How to use the 2020 data tables

The 2020 RWS Data Tables are presented in an excel spreadsheet, with each measure reported on a separate tab at the bottom of the excel screen. The following tabs are included:

- A cover tab
- A short explanatory notes tab explaining where this document can be found
- A contents tab containing links to each of the different measures reported
- Each measure is then reported on a separate tab

Each data tab includes the region or group being reported, the type of region or group being reported, and the relevant state or territory that the region or groups being reported is from. The measure being reported is described at the top of the sheet, and the results are presented as a mean (average) score as well as a proportion (%) of the total respondents. The total number of responses for each group being reported for each measure is also included.

2.2 Data use and permissions

You may reproduce the data in the 2020 RWS Data Tables spreadsheet for any purpose, providing you acknowledge the data source. Data should be cited as being sourced from the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey data tables, Version 1.0, September 2021.

2.3 Representativeness and reliability of the data

The data presented in the data tables spreadsheet are from a survey of adult residents of Australia. All surveys have some bias in the responses they receive. The 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey data have, except where otherwise noted, been weighted to adjust for differences between demographics observed in the sample and known benchmarks taken from the 2016 Census of Population and Housing. This weighting was done using the iterative proportional fitting (raking) method using the *ipfraking* command. Data were weighted by the following characteristics: (i) gender, (ii) age, (iii) whether the respondent was a farmer or non-farmer, (iv) whether the respondent spoke English at home, and (v) geographic region. While this weighting has addressed key sources of survey response bias, it is likely that some response bias remains. Confidence in the representativeness of data is highest when there are larger sample sizes. Where the number of

people who answered a question is low - particularly where it is below 100 - data should be considered less reliable. The Regional Wellbeing Survey 'Wellbeing, Resilience and Liveability in Regional Australia' report, downloadable from the 'findings – reports' section of our website, includes a more detailed discussion of reliability of the survey data, which should be referred to when interpreting the data in this spreadsheet.

2.4 Reporting survey questions for different regions

Sometimes data are reported for larger regions, but not smaller regions. This is done when the number of responses to a survey question was small, and as a result there are not enough responses to break them down into small regions. This usually occurs for questions that were not asked of all survey participants, or for regions in which a smaller number of survey responses were received. Where this occurs, the number of responses is recorded in the data tables, but no actual data is displayed (cells are blank).

3. About the regions

3.1 Australia

Australia includes all of Australia, including all of the major cities. In total, 22076 people from Australia took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Regional Australia

Regional Australia includes all of Australia except the cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Canberra. In total 17760 people from regional Australia took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Urban Australia

Urban Australia includes the cities and surrounding suburban areas of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Canberra. In total, 4062 people from these cities took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

3.2 States and Territories

The total number of people that participated in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey from each state and territory, as well as the total responses from regional areas and urban areas of each state/territory, are reported for each measure.

New South Wales

New South Wales (NSW) includes all of NSW including the large metropolitan areas of Sydney and surrounding suburban areas. In total, 5981 people from NSW took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Regional New South Wales includes all of NSW except the large metropolitan areas of Sydney and surrounding suburban areas. The Metropolitan areas of Sydney and surrounding suburbs are reported as urban New South Wales. In total, 5143 people who live in regional NSW and 838 who live in urban NSW took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Victoria

Victoria (VIC) includes all of Victoria including the large metropolitan areas of Melbourne and surrounding suburban areas. In total, 7208 people from Victoria took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Regional Victoria includes all of VIC except the large metropolitan areas of Melbourne and surrounding suburban areas. The Metropolitan areas of Melbourne and surrounding suburbs are reported as urban VIC. In total, 6085 people who live in regional VIC and 1123 who live in urban VIC took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Queensland

Queensland (QLD) includes all of QLD including the large metropolitan areas of Brisbane and surrounding suburban areas. In total, 3104 people from QLD took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Regional Queensland includes all of QLD except the large metropolitan areas of Brisbane and surrounding suburban areas. The Metropolitan areas of Brisbane and surrounding suburbs are reported as urban Queensland. In total, 2050 people who live in regional QLD and 1054 who live in urban QLD took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

South Australia

South Australia (SA) includes all of SA including the large metropolitan areas of Adelaide and surrounding suburban areas. In total, 1556 people from SA took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Regional South Australia includes all of SA except the large metropolitan areas of Adelaide and surrounding suburban areas. The Metropolitan areas of Adelaide and surrounding suburbs are reported as urban South Australia. In total, 1204 people who live in regional SA and 352 who live in urban SA took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Western Australia

Western Australia (WA) includes all of WA including the large metropolitan areas of Perth and surrounding suburban areas. In total, 1679 people from WA took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Regional Western Australia includes all of WA except the large metropolitan areas of Perth and surrounding suburban areas. The Metropolitan areas of Perth and surrounding suburbs are reported as urban Western Australia. In total, 1131 people who live in regional WA and 548 who live in urban WA took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Tasmania

Tasmania (TAS) includes all of TAS including the city of Hobart and surrounding suburban areas. In total, 1565 people from TAS took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Northern Territory

Northern Territory (NT) includes all of NT including the city of Darwin and surrounding suburban areas. In total, 577 people from NT took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Australian Capital Territory (ACT) includes all of ACT including the city of Canberra and surrounding rural areas. In total, 148 people from Australian Capital Territory took part in the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

3.3 Remoteness

Five groups of remoteness are reported in the 2020 RWS Data Tables based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASCS) Remoteness Structure. These include:

- Major cities of Australia (4062 RWS survey respondents in 2020)
- Inner regional Australia (10023 RWS survey respondents in 2020)
- Outer regional Australia (6348 RWS survey respondents in 2020)
- Remote Australia (1002 RWS survey respondents in 2020)
- Very remote Australia (387 RWS survey respondents in 2020)
- Remote and very remote Australia (combines those living in Remote and Very remote regions, and thus duplicates the 'Remote Australia' and 'Very remote Australia' data) (1389 RWS survey respondents in 2020)

These classes of remoteness are classified on the bases of relative access to services, measured using the Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) and published by the ABS. For more information see:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/D964E42C5DF5B6D4CA257B03000D7ECB?opendocument..>

3.4 Regional Development Areas (RDAs)

A Regional Development Area is an Australian Government initiative bringing together all levels of government to enhance the development of Australia's regions. A network of RDA committees has been established across Australia to achieve this objective, and are created and maintained by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Several Regional Development Areas (RDAs) are reported in the 2020 RWS Data Tables. These RDA boundaries are based on 2016 definitions, built from the ABS LGA/PSMA 2015 boundary dataset. More information can be found at <https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/rda-2015-16>. Where an RDA name changed between 2016 and 2020, the 2020 name is used.

A description of each of the RDAs reported in the RWS Data Tables can be found in Table 1. Where there were too few responses from an individual RDA, it was grouped with one or more neighbouring RDAs. In total, 36 individual RDAs across Australia were reported, 11 were reported individually as well as part of a larger group, and 5 were reported as part of a larger group only.

Table 1 Regional Development Areas (RDAs)

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2020	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2020 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
Central West	NSW	398	Bathurst Regional, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Weddin
Far South Coast	NSW	951	Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Shoalhaven
Orana	NSW	378	Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle Shire, Western Plains Regional
Far West and Orana (RDAs grouped)	NSW	442	Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Central Darling, Cobar, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Unincorporated NSW, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle Shire, Western Plains Regional
Hunter	NSW	553	Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton, Upper Hunter Shire, part of Mid-Coast
Illawarra	NSW	82	Kiama, Shellharbour, Wollongong
Mid North Coast	NSW	176	Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Part of Mid-Coast
Murray	NSW	446	Albury, Balranald, Berrigan, Edward River, Federation, Greater Hume Shire, Murray River, Wentworth
Northern Inland	NSW	800	Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth Regional, Tenerfield, Uralla, Walcha
Northern Rivers	NSW	196	Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed
Riverina	NSW	794	Bland, Carrathool, Coolamon, Griffith, Gundagai, Hay, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Snowy Valleys, Temora, Wagga Wagga
Southern Inland	NSW	667	Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional, Snowy Monaro Regional, Upper Lachlan Shire, Wingecarribee, Yass Valley
Sydney	NSW	423	Bayside, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Burwood, Camden, Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Inner West, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Liverpool, Mosman, North Beaches, Parramatta, Penrith, Randwick, Ryde, Strathfield, Sutherland Shire, Sydney, The Hills Shire, Waverley, Willoughby, Wollondilly, Woollahra
Barwon South West	VIC	1126	Colac-Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Greater Geelong, Moyne, Queenscliffe, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast, Warrnambool
Gippsland	VIC	1310	Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Wellington
Grampians	VIC	953	Ararat, Ballarat, Golden Plains, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Moorabool, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, West Wimmera, Yarriambiack

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2020	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2020 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
Hume	VIC	1584	Alpine, Benalla, Greater Shepparton, Indigo, Mansfield, Mitchell, Moira, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta, Wodonga
Loddon Mallee	VIC	1216	Buloke, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Mildura, Mount Alexander, Swan Hill
Melbourne	VIC	1019	Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Brimbank, Cardinia, Casey, Darebin, Frankston, Glen Eira, Greater Dandenong, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Kingston, Knox, Manningham, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Melbourne, Melton, Monash, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Wyndham, Yarra, Yarra Ranges
Brisbane City	QLD	285	Brisbane
Central and Western Queensland	QLD	317	Banana, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo, Central Highlands, Diamantina, Gladstone, Livingstone, Longreach, Rockhampton, Winton, Woorabinda
Darling Downs and South West	QLD	692	Balonne, Bulloo, Goondiwindi, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Southern Downs, Toowoomba, Western Downs
Gold Coast	QLD	284	Gold Coast
Ipswich and West Moreton	QLD	126	Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim, Somerset
Logan and Redlands	QLD	133	Logan, Redlands
Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday	QLD	89	Isaac, Mackay, Whitsunday
Moreton Bay	QLD	162	Moreton Bay
Sunshine Coast	QLD	286	Noosa, Sunshine Coast
Townsville and North West	QLD	253	Boulia, Burdekin, Burke, Carpentaria, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, McKinlay, Mornington, Mount Isa, Palm Island, Richmond, Townsville
Tropical North	QLD	195	Aurukun, Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Cook, Croydon, Douglas, Etheridge, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Mareeba, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area, Pormpuraaw, Tablelands, Torres, Torres Strait Island, Weipa, Wujal Wujal, Yarrabah
Wide Bay Burnett	QLD	282	Bundaberg, Cherbourg, Fraser Coast, Gympie, North Burnett, South Burnett

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2020	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2020 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	SA	331	Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla
Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island, Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains	SA	420	Adelaide Hills, Adelaide Plains, Alexandrina, Barossa, Gawler, Kangaroo Island, Light, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla
Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains	SA	89	Barossa, Gawler, Light, Adelaide Plains
Adelaide Metropolitan	SA	326	Adelaide, Burnside, Campbelltown, Charles Sturt, Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, Norwood Payneham and St Peters, Onkaparinga, Playford, Port Adelaide Enfield, Prospect, Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully, Unley, Walkerville, West Torrens
Eyre Peninsula and Far North	SA	143	Anangu Pitjantjatjara, Ceduna, Cleve, Coober Pedy, Elliston, Flinders Ranges, Franklin Harbour, Kimba, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Maralinga Tjarutja, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Roxby Downs, Streaky Bay, Tumbly Bay, Unincorporated SA, Whyalla, Wudinna
Murraylands and Riverland	SA	269	Berri and Barmera, Karoonda East Murray, Loxton Waikerie, Mid Murray, Murray Bridge, Renmark Paringa, Southern Mallee, The Coorong
Limestone Coast	SA	161	Grant, Kingston, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte and Lucindale, Robe, Tatiara, Wattle Range
York and Mid North	SA	237	Barunga West, Clare and Gilbert Valleys, Copper Coast, Goyder, Mount Remarkable, Northern Areas, Orroroo Carrieton, Peterborough, Port Pirie City and Dists, Wakefield, Yorke Peninsula
Goldfields Esperance	WA	91	Coolgardie, Dundas, Esperance, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Laverton, Leonora, Menzies, Ngaanyatjarraku, Ravensthorpe
Great Southern	WA	239	Albany, Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Plantagenet, Woodanilling
Mid-West Gascoyne	WA	138	Asburton, Broome, Carnamah, Carnarvon, Chapman Valley, Coorow, Cue, Exmouth, Greater Geraldton, Irwin, Meekatharra, Mingenew, Morawa, Mount Magnet, Murchison, Northampton, Perenjori, Sandstone, Shark Bay, Three Springs, Upper Gascoyne, Wiluna, Yalgoo
Kimberley, Mid-West Gascoyne and Pilbara	WA	213	Carnamah, Carnarvon, Chapman Valley, Coorow, Cue, Derby-West Kimberley, East Pilbara, Exmouth, Greater Geraldton, Halls Creek, Irwin, Karratha, Meekatharra, Mingenew, Morawa, Mount Magnet

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2020	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2020 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
			Murchison, Northampton, Perenjori, Port Headland, Sandstone, Shark Bay, Three Springs, Upper Gascoyne, Wiluna, Wyndham-East Kimberley, Yalgoo
Peel	WA	164	Boddington, Mandurah, Murray, Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Waroona
Perth	WA	410	Armadale, Bassendean, Bayswater, Belmont, Cambridge, Canning, Claremont, Cockburn, Cottesloe, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Gosnells, Joondalup, Kalamunda, Kwinana, Melville, Mosman Park, Mundaring, Nedlands, Peppermint Cove, Perth, Rockingham, South Perth, Stirling, Subiaco, Swan, Victoria Park, Vincent, Wanneroo
South West	WA	366	Augusta-Margaret River, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Bunbury, Busselton, Capel, Collie, Dardanup, Donnybrook-Balingup, Harvey, Manjimup, Nannup
Wheatbelt	WA	200	Beverley, Brookton, Bruce Rock, Chittering, Corrigin, Cuballing, Cunderdin, Dalwallinu, Dandaragan, Dowerin, Dumbleyung, Gingin, Goomalling, Kellerberrin, Kondinin, Koorda, Kulin, Lake Grace, Merredin, Moora, Mount Marshall, Mukinbudin, Narembeen, Narrogin, Northam, Nungarin, Pingelly, Quairading, Tammin, Toodyay, Trayning, Victoria Plains, Wagin, Wandering, West Arthur, Westonia, Wickelup, Williams, Wongan-Ballidu, Wyalkatchem, Yilgarn, York
RDA Tasmania	TAS	1565	Break O'Day, Brighton, Burnie, Central Coast, Central Highlands, Circular Head, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Devonport, Dorset, Flinders, George Town, Glamorgan/Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kentish, King Island, Kingborough, Latrobe, Launceston, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, Sorell, Southern Midlands, Tasman, Waratah/Wynyard, West Coast, West Tamar
RDA Northern Territory	NT	577	Alice Springs, Barkly, Belyuen, Central Desert, Coomalie, Darwin, East Arnhem, Katherine, Litchfield, MacDonnell, Palmerston, Roper Gulf, Tiwi Islands, Unincorporated NT, Victoria Daly, Wagait, West Arnhem, West Daly
RDA Australian Capital Territory	ACT	148	All suburbs within the ACT including Unincorporated ACT. The state of the ACT is a single LGA.

3.5 Local Government Areas (LGAs)

A Local Government Area (LGA) is an administrative division of a country that a local government is responsible for. In 2020 there were a total of 562 LGAs across Australia, based on the 2020 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) edition of the LGA structure. The 2020 ASGS was current as of June 2020. These ASGS LGAs are an ABS approximation of gazetted LGA boundaries, as defined by each State and Territory Local Government Department.

In the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey we received at least some responses from people residing in 497 of Australia's 562 LGAs. Where there were too few responses from an individual LGA, it was grouped with one or more neighbouring LGAs. We received enough responses from 82 LGAs to report them as individual LGAs. The remaining LGAs are reported as part of a larger group. We report a total of 73 grouped LGA categories (some of which include an LGA that is also reported individually). When LGAs are reported as a group, the individual LGAs that make up that group are included in the name of that group, or exclusions are specified.

3.6 Natural Resource Management regions (NRM regions)

Across Australia, a network of natural resource management (NRM) regions has been established. In each region, an NRM organization has been established to address natural resource management issues that require landscape-scale action. Boundaries of these NRM regions change over time. The 2020 RWS data tables used NRM region definitions contained in the 'Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions (2016)' geospatial dataset available at <https://www.environment.gov.au/fed/catalog/search/resource/details.page?uuid=c7ba56b2-29a1-4239-a1d3-e7ab069725cc>.

Where sufficient responses were achieved from an NRM region, it is reported as part of the data tables. Where there were too few responses from an individual NRM region, it was grouped with one or more neighbouring NRM regions. We received enough responses from 46 NRM regions to report them individually. The remaining NRM regions are reported as part of a larger group (some of which include NRM regions also reported individually).

An interactive map of the locations of NRM regions can be found at <https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/nrm-regions-map/> The number of responses achieved from different NRM regions (individual and grouped) is listed in Table 2.

Table 2 Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions

NRM region	State/ Territory	Location	Total responses in 2020
Central Tablelands	NSW	East NSW	331
Central West	NSW	Central NSW	381
Greater Sydney	NSW	East NSW	476
Hunter	NSW	East NSW	553
Murray	NSW	South NSW	437
North Coast	NSW	North-east NSW	372
North West NSW	NSW	North NSW	472
Northern Tablelands	NSW	North NSW	358
Riverina	NSW	South NSW	777
South East NSW	NSW	South-east NSW	1667

NRM region	State/ Territory	Location	Total responses in 2020
Western	NSW	West NSW	157
Corangamite	VIC	South VIC	930
East Gippsland	VIC	East VIC	382
Glenelg Hopkins	VIC	South-west VIC	578
Goulburn Broken	VIC	North VIC	920
Mallee	VIC	North-west VIC	314
North Central	VIC	North VIC	928
North East	VIC	North VIC	725
Port Phillip and Western Port	VIC	South VIC	1246
West Gippsland	VIC	East VIC	845
Wimmera	VIC	West VIC	340
Southern Queensland Landscapes (Border Rivers Maranoa-Balonne part)	QLD	South QLD	190
Southern Queensland Landscapes (Condamine part)	QLD	South QLD	409
Burdekin (formerly North Queensland Dry Tropics)	QLD	East QLD	200
Burnett Mary	QLD	South-east QLD	326
Cape York, Northern Gulf, Southern Gulf (grouped)	QLD	North QLD	78
Desert Channels	QLD	West QLD	113
Fitzroy Basin	QLD	East QLD	206
Fitzroy Basin and Reef Catchments (Mackay and Whitsunday)	QLD	East QLD	270
South East Queensland (formerly Healthy Land and Water)	QLD	South-east QLD	1308
Wet Tropics (formerly Terrain NRM)	QLD	North-east QLD	182
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	SA	South SA	534
SA Arid Lands and Eyre Peninsula	SA	North-east and South SA	109
Northern and Yorke	SA	South SA	247
Northern and Yorke and Kangaroo Island	SA	South SA	314
South Australian Murray Darling Basin (formerly Murraylands and Riverland)	SA	East SA	424
South East (formerly Limestone Coast)	SA	South-east SA	173
Northern Agricultural	WA	West WA	140
Peel-Harvey	WA	South-west WA	179
Perth	WA	West WA	402
Rangelands	WA	North, North-west and central WA	138
South Coast	WA	South WA	268
South West	WA	South-west WA	394
Wheatbelt	WA	Central-west WA	158
Cradle Coast	Tasmania	West TAS	295
North	Tasmania	North-east TAS	434
South	Tasmania	South-east TAS	836
Northern Territory	NT	All NT	577
ACT	ACT	All ACT	148

3.7 Regional Partnership Regions (Victoria)

In 2016, the Victorian Government established nine 'Regional Partnerships'. Each is made up of a region that includes several local government areas, and in which a partnership of community and business leaders has been established. For more information on Regional Partnership regions, see <https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/partnerships>.

3.8 Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) and Murray Darling Basin (MDB)

The 2020 RWS Data Tables report responses from the Lake Eyre Basin and the Murray Darling Basin.

Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) is a large catchment that crosses parts of north-west NSW, south-west QLD, north-east SA and south-east NT. A map of the LEB can be found at <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/b3973dcf-57f1-47a2-83c0-cc721d852793/files/leb-map.pdf>.

- Two definitions of the LEB are used in the data tables: Lake Eyre Basin area (including towns at/near Basin boundary). This includes the catchment, and also includes towns and settlements located on the boundaries of the Lake Eyre Basin, some of which straddle the boundary. A total of 584 respondents was achieved from this broader LEB region.
- Lake Eyre Basin (catchment). This definition strictly includes only those people located within the catchment, and excludes those who lived in towns that extend outside the boundary while being located on or very close to it. A total of 434 people responded using this narrower definition.

The 2020 RWS Data Tables reports responses from the MDB as a whole, as well as from the northern parts of the MDB (QLD and northern NSW) and the southern parts of the MDB (SA, Victoria and southern parts of NSW). The Northern and Southern Basin were defined based on the *Water resource plan areas for surface water* definitions. Under this definition, the Southern basin contains: New South Wales Murray and Lower Darling, Northern Victoria, Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, Lachlan, Victorian Murray, Wimmera-Mallee (surface water), South Australian Murray Region, South Australian River Murray, Australian Capital Territory (surface water), Murrumbidgee. The Northern Basin contains: Gwydir, Intersecting Streams, Barwon-Darling Watercourse, Condamine-Balonne, Namoi, New South Wales Border Rivers, Macquarie-Castlereagh, Queensland Border Rivers-Moonie, Warrego-Paroo-Nebine catchments.

A total of 7257 people living in the MDB responded to the 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey, including 1737 from northern MDB and 5518 from southern MDB. A map of the MDB, including northern and southern parts of the MDB, can be found at <https://www.mdba.gov.au/importance-murray-darling-basin/where-basin>.

3.9 Primary Health Networks (PHNs)

In 2020, for the first time, the data tables include reporting for Primary Health Networks. There are 31 PHN's across Australia. Data are reported for each PHN as part of the data tables. These PHN's are based on the 2017 boundaries used by the National Recovery and Resilience Agency; the boundary definitions are available at <https://data.gov.au/dataset/ds-dga-ef2d28a4-1ed5-47d0-8e3a-46e25bc4f66b/details?q=phn>. To find out more about PHNs, go to <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PHN-Home>.

3.10 Bushfire impacted regions

The 2019-20 bushfires impacted many regions across Australia. These bushfires are often labelled the Black Summer bushfires, although in many regions extensive bushfires began several months prior to December 2019 and continued for a period of months.

Given the size and extent of these fires, some data from the 2020 RWS have been produced that are classified based on the extent to which either regions or people within them were known to be impacted by fires. As this can be defined multiple ways, the data tables include more than one definition of bushfire impact. The different definitions and how they were arrived at are based on Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements (DRFA) categories.

DRFA declarations

Across Australia, there is a system of declaring an area as disaster affected. This enables LGAs to be declared under one or more of four Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements (DRFA) categories, defined as follows using the DRFA 2018 definitions (Australian Government 2018¹):

- “Category A: assistance to individuals to alleviate personal hardship or distress arising as a direct result of a disaster. Category A assistance is provided automatically by the states without requiring approval from the Australian Government.
- Category B: assistance to the state, and/or local governments for the restoration of essential public assets and certain counter-disaster operations. Category B assistance also covers assistance to small businesses, primary producers, not-for-profit organisations and needy individuals through concessional loans, subsidies or grants. Category B assistance is provided automatically by the states without requiring approval from the Australian Government.
- Category C: assistance for severely affected communities, regions or sectors and includes clean-up and recovery grants for small businesses and primary producers and/or the establishment of a Community Recovery Fund. Category C assistance is only made available when the impact of a disaster is severe. It is intended to be in addition to assistance under Categories A and B and is usually considered once the impacts of the disaster on affected communities have been assessed. Category C assistance is requested from the states and requires agreement from the Prime Minister.
- Category D: exceptional circumstances assistance beyond Categories A, B and C. Category D assistance is generally considered once the impact of the disaster has been assessed and specific recovery gaps identified. Category D assistance is requested from the states and requires agreement from the Prime Minister.”

We report data for groups of LGAs declared as disaster affected using the following combinations of DRFA 2018 categories:

- DRFA categorized (all LGAs). This includes all LGAs declared as disaster affected in 2020, irrespective of whether they were categorized in Category, A, B, C, and/or D
- DRFA category: AB. This includes only those LGAs declared as DRFA Category A and B, but *not* declared as Category C or D.
- DRFA category: ABCD. This includes only those LGAs declared as DRFA Category A, B, C and D.
- Declared affected and >5% accessed relief payments: This group reports finding for people living in LGAs which were (i) declared as disaster affected under one or more of the DRFA categories, and (ii) in which 5% or more of the population accessed either the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Allowance or Disaster Recovery Payment.

¹ This information was drawn from the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs ‘Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018’, URL: <https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Documents/Natural-Disaster-Relief-and-Recovery-Arrangements/drfa-factsheet.PDF> Accessed August 2021

- ATO bushfire affected postcodes: The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) produced a list of postcodes affected by the 2019-20 bushfires. People living in those postcodes were able to have deferral of tax lodgment and payment during 2020. These postcodes were grouped together to produce data for all 'ATO bushfire affected postcodes'. The list of postcodes is available at <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Dealing-with-disasters/In-detail/Specific-disasters/Bushfires/Bushfires-2019-20/>

4. About the groups

4.1 Socio-demographic groups

Several socio-demographic groups are reported in the 2020 RWS Data Tables. Table 3 describes the groups and the responses received for each group.

Table 3 Socio-demographic groups

Socio-demographic group	Description	Total responses in 2020
Female	All 2020 RWS participants who identified as female	12254
Male	All 2020 RWS participants who identified as male	9091
Aged 18-29	All 2020 RWS participants aged 18 to 29 years old	1495
Aged 30-44	All 2020 RWS participants aged 30 to 44 years old	3113
Aged 45-64	All 2020 RWS participants aged 45 to 64 years old	7759
Aged 65+	All 2020 RWS participants aged 65 years and older	9129
Aged 18-29 (Female)	All 2020 RWS participants aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as female	1096
Aged 30-44 (Female)	All 2020 RWS participants aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as female	2146
Aged 45-64 (Female)	All 2020 RWS participants aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as female	4840
Aged 65+ (Female)	All 2020 RWS participants aged 65 years and older who identified as female	4026
Aged 18-29 (Male)	All 2020 RWS participants aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as male	312
Aged 30-44 (Male)	All 2020 RWS participants aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as male	819
Aged 45-64 (Male)	All 2020 RWS participants aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as male	2790
Aged 65+ (Male)	All 2020 RWS participants aged 65 years and older who identified as male	4986
Regional Australia (female)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia who identified as female	9905
Urban Australia (female)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia who identified as female	2275
Regional Australia (male)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia who identified as male	7375
Urban Australia (male)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia who identified as male	1550

Socio-demographic group	Description	Total responses in 2020
Regional Australia (aged 18-29)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 18 to 29 years old	817
Regional Australia (aged 30-44)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 30 to 44 years old	2104
Regional Australia (aged 45-64)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 45 to 64 years old	6584
Regional Australia (aged 65+)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 65 years or older	7811
Urban Australia (aged 18-29)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 18 to 29 years old	652
Urban Australia (aged 30-44)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 30 to 44 years old	989
Urban Australia (aged 45-64)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 45 to 64 years old	1134
Urban Australia (aged 65+)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 65 years or older	1241
Regional Australia (female, 18-29)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as female	625
Regional Australia (female, 30-44)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as female	1551
Regional Australia (female, 45-64)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as female	4153
Regional Australia (female, 65+)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as female	3452
Regional Australia (male, 18-29)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as male	151
Regional Australia (male, 30-44)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as male	493
Regional Australia (male, 45-64)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as male	2344
Regional Australia (male, 65+)	2020 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as male	4282
Urban Australia (female, 18-29)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as female	468
Urban Australia (female, 30-44)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as female	586
Urban Australia (female, 45-64)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as female	666
Urban Australia (female, 65+)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as female	544
Urban Australia (male, 18-29)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as male	139
Urban Australia (male, 30-44)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as male	316
Urban Australia (male, 45-64)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as male	430
Urban Australia (male, 65+)	2020 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as male	660

Socio-demographic group	Description	Total responses in 2020
Australian born	2020 RWS participants born in Australia	17877
Born overseas	2020 RWS participants born overseas	3630
Speaks English at home	2020 RWS participants who primarily speak English at home	1666
Speaks language other than English at home	2020 RWS participants who primarily speak a language other than English at home	19754
Carer (child)	2020 RWS participants who care for one or more children	1132
Carer (other)	2020 RWS participants who cares for someone other than a child	804
Retired	2020 RWS participants who is retired	6254
Employed	2020 RWS participants who is employed	6779
LGBT+	2020 RWS participants who identify as LGBT+	630
Sole person household	2020 RWS participants in a sole person household	3743
Couple only household	2020 RWS participants in a couple only household	7920
Single parent with children	2020 RWS participants who are single parents	759
Couple parent with children	2020 RWS participants who are part of a couple with children	3784
Share or group household	2020 RWS participants in a share or group household	754
Children 0-4 in household	2020 RWS participants who have children aged 0 to 4 in the household	1210
Children 5-17 in household	2020 RWS participants who have children aged 5 to 17 in the household	2910
Dependent children 18+ in household	2020 RWS participants who have children aged 18 or older who are dependent on them	1647
Renting	2020 RWS participants who are renting	2891
Own home with mortgage	2020 RWS participants who own their home with a mortgage	4607
Own home outright	2020 RWS participants who own their home outright	9234
Live freestanding house	2020 RWS participants who live in a freestanding house	15166
Live townhouse	2020 RWS participants who live in a townhouse	520
Live unit/apartment	2020 RWS participants who live in an apartment	1341

4.2 Farmers

Different types of farmers and socio-demographic groups of farmers are reported in the 2020 RWS Data Tables. A person was classified as a farmer if on the 2020 RWS survey form they selected any of the following:

- They own or part-own a farm business
- They manage or co-manage a farm business
- They do administrative work for a farm business

A farmer was classified as an irrigator if they indicated they irrigated all or part of their land from irrigation channels, rivers, lakes or groundwater. A farmer was classified as a dryland farmer if they indicated they are a dryland farmer on part or all of the land they manage.

Error! Reference source not found. describes the groups and the responses received for each group.

Table 4 Farmers

Type of farmer	Description	Total responses in 2020
Farmer	All 2020 RWS participants who were classified as farmers	3506
Irrigator	All 2020 RWS participants who identified as irrigators	688
Dryland farmer	All 2020 RWS participants who identified as dryland farmers	1868
Female farmer	2020 RWS participants who were farmers and identified as female	1422
Male farmer	2020 RWS participants who were farmers and identified as male	2027
Farmer aged 18-39	2020 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 18 to 39 years old	311
Farmer aged 40-54	2020 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 40 to 54 years old	714
Farmer aged 55-64	2020 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 55 to 64 years old	959
Farmer aged 65+	2020 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 65 years or older	1440
NSW farmers	2020 RWS participants who were farmers in NSW	1200
VIC farmers	2020 RWS participants who were farmers in Victoria	1334
QLD farmers	2020 RWS participants who were farmers in Queensland	414
SA farmers	2020 RWS participants who were farmers in South Australia	216
TAS farmers	2020 RWS participants who were farmers in Tasmania	102
Urban farmers	2020 RWS participants who were farmers in urban areas	149
Regional farmers	2020 RWS participants who were farmers in regional areas	3299
Dairy farmers	2020 RWS participants who were classified as dairy farmers (indicated dairy farming was their most important or major farm activity)	215

Type of farmer	Description	Total responses in 2020
Crop growers	2020 RWS participants who were classified as crop growers (indicated crop growing was their most important or a major farm activity, including rice, grain, fodder, sugar or other crops)	1206
Cotton growers	2020 RWS participants who were classified as cotton growers (indicated cotton growing was their most important or a major farm activity)	189
Graziers	2020 RWS participants who were classified as graziers (indicated beef or sheep grazing was their most important or major farm activity)	2198
Fruit, vegetable or winegrape growers	2020 RWS participants who were classified as fruit, vegetable or winegrape growers (indicated fruit, wine grape or vegetable growing was their most important or a major farm activity)	402
Mixed cropping and grazing	2020 RWS participants who were classified as mixed crop growers and graziers (classified as both crop growers <i>and</i> graziers as defined above)	741
Farmer not in MDB	2020 RWS participants who were farmers not residing within the Murray Darling Basin	1737
Farmer in MDB	2020 RWS participants who were farmers residing within the Murray Darling Basin	1769
Farmer in Northern MDB	2020 RWS participants who were farmers residing within northern Murray Darling Basin	565
Farmer in Southern MDB	2020 RWS participants who were farmers residing within southern Murray Darling Basin	1202
Irrigator not in MDB	2020 RWS participants who were irrigators not residing within the Murray Darling Basin	298
Irrigator in MDB	2020 RWS participants who were irrigators residing within the Murray Darling Basin	390
Irrigator in Northern MDB	2020 RWS participants who were irrigators residing within northern Murray Darling Basin	78
Irrigator in Southern MDB	2020 RWS participants who were irrigators residing within southern Murray Darling Basin	312
Dryland farmer not in MDB	2020 RWS participants who were dryland farmers not residing within the Murray Darling Basin	949
Dryland farmer in MDB	2020 RWS participants who were dryland farmers residing within the Murray Darling Basin	919
Dryland farmer in Northern MDB	2020 RWS participants who were dryland farmers residing within northern Murray Darling Basin	295
Dryland farmer in Southern MDB	2020 RWS participants who were dryland farmers residing within southern Murray Darling Basin	624