

2021 Regional Wellbeing Survey Data Tables

Version 1.01, release date January 2026

Explanatory notes and definitions of regions and groups reported

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1. Introduction

This document provides explanatory notes for users of the 2021 Regional Wellbeing Survey (RWS) Data Tables, and definitions of the regions and groups that are reported in the Data Tables.

Each measure is reported on a separate tab, with a ‘contents’ 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).

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 2021 Regional Wellbeing Survey.

The *2021 RWS Data Tables* can be accessed via our website at:

<https://www.regionalwellbeing.org.au/the-data-tables/>.

2.1 How to use the 2021 Data Tables

The 2021 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:

- Cover tab
- Short explanatory notes tab explaining where this document can be found
- Contents tab containing links to each of the different measures reported
- Total respondents tab reports the total number of people who completed the 2021 RWS for each region/group reported. Note that not all questions were asked of each respondent, and not all respondents answered every question presented to them. Total responses for each individual measure reported is therefore different.
- 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 2021 RWS Data Tables spreadsheet for any purpose, providing you acknowledge the data source. Data should be cited as being sourced from the 2021 Regional Wellbeing Survey Data Tables, version 1.01, January 2026.

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 2021 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 and 2021 (where available) Census of Population and Housing. The weighting procedure used was the ‘Rake Weights’ procedures in the IBM SPSS Statistics 27 software package. Data for the general Australian population were weighted by the following characteristics: (i) gender, (ii) age, (iii) whether the respondent was a farmer or non-farmer, and (iv) geographic region. Data for the Australian farming

population were weighted by the following characteristics: (i) gender, (ii) age, (iii) geographic region and (iv) Agricultural industry category.

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.

2.3.1 Caution about small sample sizes

While 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. Responses for groups where less than 50 people responded have been removed.

2.3.2 Confidence Intervals

Data in these Data Tables are presented with 95% confidence intervals. A confidence interval is a measure of how confident we can be in the results. It tells us the boundaries between which the response of a given item would be 95% likely to fall if the survey was repeated multiple times with a similar sample. In general, confidence is higher if there is a large sample size and little deviation in responses.

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, 10648 people from Australia took part in the 2021 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 8946 people from regional Australia took part in the 2021 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, 1135 people from these cities took part in the 2021 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 2021 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, 2956 people from NSW took part in the 2021 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, 2604 people who live in regional NSW and 342 who live in urban NSW took part in the 2021 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, 3325 people from Victoria took part in the 2021 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Regional Victoria includes all of Victoria except the large metropolitan areas of Melbourne and surrounding suburban areas. The Metropolitan areas of Melbourne and surrounding suburbs are reported as urban Victoria. In total, 2964 people who live in regional Victoria and 351 who live in urban VIC took part in the 2021 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Queensland

Queensland (Qld) includes all of Queensland including the large metropolitan areas of Brisbane and surrounding suburban areas. In total, 1186 people from Queensland took part in the 2021 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Regional Queensland includes all of Queensland 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, 986 people who live in regional Queensland and 195 who live in urban Queensland took part in the 2021 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, 918 people from SA took part in the 2021 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, 835 people who live in regional SA and 79 who live in urban SA took part in the 2021 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, 720 people from WA took part in the 2021 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, 639 people who live in regional WA and 77 who live in urban WA took part in the 2021 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

Tasmania

Tasmania (Tas) includes all of Tasmania including the city of Hobart and surrounding suburban areas. In total, 742 people from Tasmania took part in the 2021 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, 180 people from NT took part in the 2021 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, 91 people from ACT took part in the 2021 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 2021 RWS Data Tables based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Structure. These include:

- Major cities of Australia (1135 RWS survey respondents in 2021)
- Inner regional Australia (5091 RWS survey respondents in 2021)
- Outer regional Australia (3310 RWS survey respondents in 2021)
- Remote Australia (374 RWS survey respondents in 2021)
- Very remote Australia (171 RWS survey respondents in 2021)

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 2021 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 2021, the 2021 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, 34 individual RDAs across Australia were reported, 8 were reported individually as well as part of a larger group, and 12 were reported as part of a larger group only.

Table 1 Regional Development Areas (RDAs)

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2021	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2021 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
Central Coast and Hunter (RDAs grouped)	NSW	250	Central Coast, Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton, Upper Hunter Shire, part of Mid-Coast
Central West	NSW	267	Bathurst Regional, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Weddin
Far South Coast	NSW	355	Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Shoalhaven
Far South Coast and Illawarra (RDAs grouped)	NSW	391	Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wollongong
Far West and Orana (RDAs grouped)	NSW	245	Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Central Darling, Cobar, Coonamble, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Unincorporated NSW, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle Shire, Western Plains Regional
Hunter	NSW	215	Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton, Upper Hunter Shire, part of Mid-Coast
Mid North Coast	NSW	164	Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Part of Mid-Coast
Murray	NSW	249	Albury, Balranald, Berrigan, Edward River, Federation, Greater Hume Shire, Murray River, Wentworth
Northern Inland	NSW	400	Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth Regional, Tenterfield, Uralla, Walcha
Northern Rivers	NSW	113	Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed
Orana	NSW	218	Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, Coonamble, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle Shire, Western Plains Regional
Riverina	NSW	454	Bland, Carrathool, Coolamon, Griffith, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional, Hay, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Snowy Valleys, Temora, Wagga Wagga
Southern Inland	NSW	315	Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional, Snowy Monaro Regional, Upper Lachlan Shire, Wingecarribee, Yass Valley
Sydney	NSW	98	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 Sydney, Northern Beaches, Parramatta, Penrith, Randwick, Ryde, Strathfield, Sutherland Shire, Sydney, The Hills Shire, Waverley, Willoughby, Wollondilly, Woollahra

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2021	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2021 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
Barwon South West	Vic	546	Colac-Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Greater Geelong, Moyne, Queenscliffe, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast, Warrnambool
Gippsland	Vic	580	Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Wellington
Grampians	Vic	438	Ararat, Ballarat, Golden Plains, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Moorabool, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, West Wimmera, Yarriambiack
Hume	Vic	784	Alpine, Benalla, Greater Shepparton, Indigo, Mansfield, Mitchell, Moira, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta, Wodonga
Loddon Mallee	Vic	688	Buloke, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Mildura, Mount Alexander, Swan Hill
Melbourne	Vic	279	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
Central and Western Queensland	Qld	125	Banana, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo, Central Highlands, Diamantina, Gladstone, Livingstone, Longreach, Rockhampton, Winton, Woorabinda
Darling Downs and South West	Qld	365	Balonne, Bulloo, Goondiwindi, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Southern Downs, Toowoomba, Western Downs
Ipswich and West Moreton	Qld	65	Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim, Somerset
Ipswich and West Moreton, Moreton Bay, Logan and Redlands (RDAs grouped)	Qld	173	Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Redlands, Scenic Rim, Somerset
Sunshine Coast	Qld	107	Noosa, Sunshine Coast
Townsville and North West	Qld	93	Boulia, Burdekin, Burke, Carpentaria, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, McKinlay, Mornington, Mount Isa, Palm Island, Richmond, Townsville
Townsville and North West and Mackay-	Qld	134	Boulia, Burdekin, Burke, Carpentaria, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, Isaac, Mackay, McKinlay, Mornington, Mount Isa, Palm Island, Richmond, Townsville, Whitsunday

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2021	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2021 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
Isaac-Whitsunday (RDAs grouped)			
Tropical North	Qld	104	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	150	Bundaberg, Cherbourg, Fraser Coast, Gympie, North Burnett, South Burnett
Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	SA	189	Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla
Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island & Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains (RDAs grouped)	SA	258	Adelaide Hills, Adelaide Plains, Alexandrina, Barossa, Gawler, Kangaroo Island, Light, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla
Adelaide Metropolitan	SA	68	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
Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains	SA	69	Barossa, Gawler, Light, Adelaide Plains
Eyre Peninsula and Far North (RDAs grouped)	SA	96	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, Tumby Bay, Unincorporated SA, Whyalla, Wudinna
Limestone Coast	SA	108	Grant, Kingston, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte and Lucindale, Robe, Tatiara, Wattle Range
Murraylands and Riverland	SA	249	Berri and Barmera, Karoonda East Murray, Loxton Waikerie, Mid Murray, Murray Bridge, Renmark Paringa, Southern Mallee, The Coorong
York and Mid North	SA	135	Barunga West, Clare and Gilbert Valleys, Copper Coast, Goyder, Mount Remarkable, Northern Areas, Orroroo/Carrieton, Peterborough, Port Pirie City and Dists, Wakefield, Yorke Peninsula
Great Southern	WA	181	Albany, Broomehill-Tambellup, Crambrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Plantagenet, Woodanilling

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2021	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2021 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
Kimberley, Goldfields Esperance, Mid-West Gascoyne and Pilbara (RDAs grouped)	WA	137	Asburton, Broome, Carnamah, Carnarvon, Chapman Valley, Coolgardie, Coorow, Cue, Derby-West Kimberley, Dundas, East Pilbara, Esperance, Exmouth, Greater Geraldton, Halls Creek, Irwin, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Karratha, Laverton, Leonora, Meekatharra, Menzies, Mingenew, Morawa, Mount Magnet, Murchison, Ngaanyatjarraku, Northampton, Perenjori, Port Headland, Ravensthorpe, Sandstone, Shark Bay, Three Springs, Upper Gascoyne, Wiluna, Wyndham-East Kimberley, Yalgoo
Perth and Peel (RDAs grouped)	WA	86	Armadale, Bassendean, Bayswater, Belmont, Boddington, Cambridge, Canning, Claremont, Cockburn, Cottesloe, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Gosnells, Joondalup, Kalamunda, Kwinana, Mandurah, Melville, Mosman Park, Mundaring, Murray, Nedlands, Peppermint Cove, Perth, Rockingham, Serpentine-Jarrahdale, South Perth, Stirling, Subiaco, Swan, Victoria Park, Vincent, Wanneroo, Waroona
South West	WA	171	Augusta-Margaret River, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Bunbury, Busselton, Capel, Collie, Dardanup, Donnyboork-Balingup, Harvey, Manjimup, Nannup
Wheatbelt	WA	141	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, Wickepin, Williams, Wongan-Ballidu, Wyalkatchem, Yilgarn, York
RDA Tasmania	Tas	742	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	180	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	91	All suburbs within the ACT including Unincorporated ACT. The territory 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 2021 there were a total of 560 LGAs across Australia, based on the 2021 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) edition (3) of the LGA structure. The 2021 ASGS was current as of July 2021. These ASGS LGAs are an ABS approximation of gazetted LGA boundaries, as defined by each State and Territory Local Government Department.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/jul2021-jun2026/non-abs-structures.>

In the 2021 Regional Wellbeing Survey we received at least some responses from people residing in 470 of Australia's 560 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 29 LGAs to report them as individual LGAs. The remaining LGAs are reported as part of a larger group. We report a total of 62 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. There are, however, some grouped LGAs where this approach would lead to a long and unwieldy name – typically where a large urban area consisting of a relatively large number of LGAs is reported. In these cases, a short, representative name is used and a reference to this document is appended. Please see the table below for the full details of the contents of these exceptional aggregations of LGAs.

Table 2. Exceptional aggregated LGAs

Grouped LGA name	State	Total responses in 2021	Constituent LGAs
Sydney	NSW	117	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 Sydney, Northern Beaches, Parramatta, Penrith, Randwick, Ryde, Strathfield, Sutherland Shire, Sydney, The Hills Shire, Waverley, Willoughby, Wollondilly, Woollahra
Melbourne	Vic	170	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

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 organisation has been established to address natural resource management issues that require landscape-scale action. Boundaries of these NRM regions change over time. The

2021 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 39 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 total number of responses achieved from different NRM regions (individual and grouped) is listed in Table 2.

Table 3 Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions

NRM region	State/ Territory	Location	Total responses in 2021
Central Tablelands	NSW	East NSW	229
Central West	NSW	Central NSW	227
Greater Sydney	NSW	East NSW	133
Hunter	NSW	East NSW	290
Murray	NSW	South NSW	224
North Coast	NSW	North-east NSW	202
North West NSW	NSW	North NSW	243
Northern Tablelands	NSW	North NSW	170
Riverina	NSW	South NSW	491
South East NSW	NSW	South-east NSW	669
Western	NSW	West NSW	68
Corangamite	Vic	South Vic	396
East Gippsland	Vic	East Vic	118
Glenelg Hopkins	Vic	South-west Vic	306
Goulburn Broken	Vic	North Vic	497
Mallee	Vic	North-west Vic	178
North Central	Vic	North Vic	537
North East	Vic	North Vic	314
Port Phillip and Western Port	Vic	South Vic	401
West Gippsland	Vic	East Vic	407
Wimmera	Vic	West Vic	161
Burdekin (formerly North Queensland Dry Tropics)	Qld	East Qld	70
Burnett Mary	Qld	South-east Qld	178
Cape York, Desert Channels, Northern Gulf, Southern Gulf (grouped NRM regions)	Qld	North and West Qld	78
Fitzroy, Mackay Whitsunday (grouped NRM regions)	Qld	East Qld	131
South East Queensland (formerly Healthy Land and Water)	Qld	South-east Qld	287

NRM region	State/ Territory	Location	Total responses in 2021
Southern Queensland Landscapes	Qld	South Qld	348
Wet Tropics (formerly Terrain NRM)	Qld	North-east Qld	87
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	SA	South SA	195
Northern and Yorke and Kangaroo Island (grouped NRM regions)	SA	South SA	166
SA Arid Lands and Eyre Peninsula (grouped NRM regions)	SA	North-east and South SA	70
South Australian Murray Darling Basin (formerly Murraylands and Riverland)	SA	East SA	365
South East (formerly Limestone Coast)	SA	South-east SA	117
Northern Agricultural	WA	West WA	73
Peel-Harvey and Perth (grouped NRM regions)	WA	South-west WA	94
Rangelands	WA	North, North-west and central WA	53
South Coast	WA	South WA	182
South West	WA	South-west WA	206
Wheatbelt	WA	Central-west WA	108
Cradle Coast	Tasmania	West Tas	156
North	Tasmania	North-east Tas	195
South	Tasmania	South-east Tas	388
Northern Territory	NT	All NT	178
ACT	ACT	All ACT	91

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 2021 RWS Data Tables report responses from the Lake Eyre Basin and the Murray Darling Basin.

Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) is a large catchment area that crosses parts of north-west NSW, south-west QLD, north-east SA and south-east NT. A total of 139 people living in LEB responded to the 2021 RWS. A map of the LEB can be found at

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/water/leb-map.pdf>.

The 2021 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 4180 people living in the MDB responded to the 2021 RWS, including 1060 from northern MDB and 3120 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)

Since 2020, 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 2021 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 for 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 categorised (all LGAs). This includes all LGAs declared as disaster affected in 2020, irrespective of whether they were categorised 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 findings 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.
- 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 lodgement 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/Support-in-difficult-times/Natural-disaster-support/Bushfire-support/Bushfires-affected-postcodes-in-2019-20/>.

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

4. About the groups

4.1 Socio-demographic groups

Several socio-demographic groups are reported in the 2021 RWS Data Tables. Table 4 describes the groups and the responses received for each group.

Table 4 Socio-demographic groups

Socio-demographic group	Description	Total responses in 2021
Female	All 2021 RWS participants who identified as female	5575
Male	All 2021 RWS participants who identified as male	4307
Aged 18-29	All 2021 RWS participants aged 18 to 29 years old	165
Aged 30-44	All 2021 RWS participants aged 30 to 44 years old	923
Aged 45-64	All 2021 RWS participants aged 45 to 64 years old	3732
Aged 65+	All 2021 RWS participants aged 65 years and older	4920
Aged 18-29 (Female)	All 2021 RWS participants aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as female	121
Aged 30-44 (Female)	All 2021 RWS participants aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as female	682
Aged 45-64 (Female)	All 2021 RWS participants aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as female	2408
Aged 65+ (Female)	All 2021 RWS participants aged 65 years and older who identified as female	2257
Aged 18-29 (Male)	All 2021 RWS participants aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as male	39
Aged 30-44 (Male)	All 2021 RWS participants aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as male	229
Aged 45-64 (Male)	All 2021 RWS participants aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as male	1297
Aged 65+ (Male)	All 2021 RWS participants aged 65 years and older who identified as male	2632
Regional Australia (female)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia who identified as female	4922
Regional Australia (male)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia who identified as male	3830
Urban Australia (female)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia who identified as female	632
Urban Australia (male)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia who identified as male	457
Regional Australia (aged 18-29)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 18 to 29 years old	125
Regional Australia (aged 30-44)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 30 to 44 years old	758
Regional Australia (aged 45-64)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 45 to 64 years old	3331
Regional Australia (aged 65+)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 65 years or older	4416

Socio-demographic group	Description	Total responses in 2021
Urban Australia (aged 18-29)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 18 to 29 years old	38
Urban Australia (aged 30-44)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 30 to 44 years old	156
Urban Australia (aged 45-64)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 45 to 64 years old	386
Urban Australia (aged 65+)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 65 years or older	497
Regional Australia (female, 18-29)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as female	94
Regional Australia (female, 30-44)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as female	569
Regional Australia (female, 45-64)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as female	2144
Regional Australia (female, 65+)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as female	2026
Regional Australia (male, 18-29)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as male	28
Regional Australia (male, 30-44)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as male	183
Regional Australia (male, 45-64)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as male	1163
Regional Australia (male, 65+)	2021 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as male	2361
Urban Australia (female, 18-29)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as female	26
Urban Australia (female, 30-44)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as female	108
Urban Australia (female, 45-64)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as female	258
Urban Australia (female, 65+)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as female	226
Urban Australia (male, 18-29)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as male	10
Urban Australia (male, 30-44)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as male	42
Urban Australia (male, 45-64)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as male	125
Urban Australia (male, 65+)	2021 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as male	269
Not Indigenous	2021 RWS participants who do not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders	9725
Indigenous	2021 RWS participants who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders	165
Carer (child)	2021 RWS participants who care for one or more children	473
Carer (other)	2021 RWS participants who cares for someone other than a child	539

Socio-demographic group	Description	Total responses in 2021
Retired	2021 RWS participants who is retired	4174
Employed	2021 RWS participants who is employed	5490
Sole person household	2021 RWS participants in a sole person household	2160
More than 1 person in household	2021 RWS participants living in a household with more than one person	7635
Children under 15 in the household	2021 RWS participants who have children aged under 15 living in the household	1206
Children 15 or over financially dependent in the household	2021 RWS participants who have children aged 15 or older who are financially dependent on them	1062

4.2 Farmers

Different types of farmers, farm workers and socio-demographic groups of farmers are reported in the 2021 RWS Data Tables. A person was classified as a farmer if on the 2021 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 farm worker was classified as someone who worked on a farm (answered any question that indicated they worked on a farm) but were not a farmer defined above.

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.

Table 4 describes the groups and the responses received for each group.

Table 5 Farmers

Type of farmer	Description	Total responses in 2021
Farmer	All 2021 RWS participants who were classified as farmers	2425
Farm worker	All 2021 RWS participants who were classified as farm workers	332
Farmer or farm worker	All 2021 RWS participants who were classified as farmers or farm workers	2757
Regional farmers	2021 RWS participants who were farmers in regional areas	2350
Urban farmers	2021 RWS participants who were farmers in urban areas	55
Irrigator	All 2021 RWS participants who identified as irrigators	632
Dryland farmer	All 2021 RWS participants who identified as dryland farmers	1697
Female farmer	2021 RWS participants who were farmers and identified as female	977

Type of farmer	Description	Total responses in 2021
Male farmer	2021 RWS participants who were farmers and identified as male	1416
Farmer aged 18-39	2021 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 18 to 39 years old	116
Farmer aged 40-54	2021 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 40 to 54 years old	385
Farmer aged 55-64	2021 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 55 to 64 years old	663
Farmer aged 65+	2021 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 65 years or older	1179
NSW farmers	2021 RWS participants who were farmers in NSW	725
VIC farmers	2021 RWS participants who were farmers in Victoria	844
QLD farmers	2021 RWS participants who were farmers in Queensland	320
SA farmers	2021 RWS participants who were farmers in South Australia	178
WA farmers	2021 RWS participants who were farmers in Western Australia	202
TAS farmers	2021 RWS participants who were farmers in Tasmania	132
Cotton growers	2021 RWS participants who were classified as cotton growers (indicated cotton growing was their most important or a major farm activity)	88
Dairy farmers	2021 RWS participants who were classified as dairy farmers (indicated dairy farming was their most important or major farm activity)	158
Crop growers	2021 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)	238
Graziers	2021 RWS participants who were classified as graziers (indicated beef or sheep grazing was their most important or major farm activity)	1121
Fruit, vegetable or winegrape growers	2021 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)	263
Mixed cropping and grazing	2021 RWS participants who were classified as mixed crop growers and graziers (classified as both crop growers <i>and</i> graziers as defined above)	416
Farmer in MDB	2021 RWS participants who were farmers residing within the Murray Darling Basin	1180
Farmer not in MDB	2021 RWS participants who were farmers not residing within the Murray Darling Basin	1245
Farmer in Northern MDB	2021 RWS participants who were farmers residing within northern Murray Darling Basin	396
Farmer in Southern MDB	2021 RWS participants who were farmers residing within southern Murray Darling Basin	784

Type of farmer	Description	Total responses in 2021
Irrigator in MDB	2021 RWS participants who were irrigators residing within the Murray Darling Basin	352
Irrigator not in MDB	2021 RWS participants who were irrigators not residing within the Murray Darling Basin	280
Irrigator in Northern MDB	2021 RWS participants who were irrigators residing within northern Murray Darling Basin	90
Irrigator in Southern MDB	2021 RWS participants who were irrigators residing within southern Murray Darling Basin	262
Dryland farmer in MDB	2021 RWS participants who were dryland farmers residing within the Murray Darling Basin	808
Dryland farmer not in MDB	2021 RWS participants who were dryland farmers not residing within the Murray Darling Basin	889
Dryland farmer in Northern MDB	2021 RWS participants who were dryland farmers residing within northern Murray Darling Basin	281
Dryland farmer in Southern MDB	2021 RWS participants who were dryland farmers residing within southern Murray Darling Basin	527