

2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey Data Tables

Version1.0, release date August 2024

Explanatory notes and definitions of regions and groups reported

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1. Introduction

This document provides explanatory notes for users of the 2023 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 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey.

The *2023 RWS Data Tables* can be accessed via our website at:

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

2.1 How to use the 2023 Data Tables

The 2023 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 2023 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 2023 RWS Data Tables spreadsheet for any purpose, providing you acknowledge the data source. Data should be cited as being sourced from the 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey Data Tables, version 1.00, August 2024.

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 2023 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 2021 (where available) Census of Population and Housing. The weighting procedure used was the 'Rake Weights' procedures in the IBM SPSS Statistics 29 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.

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 60 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 2023 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 10345 people from regional Australia took part in the 2023 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, 1481 people from these cities took part in the 2023 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 2023 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, 4315 people from NSW took part in the 2023 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, 3720 people who live in regional NSW and 586 who live in urban NSW took part in the 2023 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, 3450 people from Victoria took part in the 2023 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, 3096 people who live in regional Victoria and 340 who live in urban VIC took part in the 2023 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, 1540 people from Queensland took part in the 2023 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, 1297 people who live in regional Queensland and 236 who live in urban Queensland took part in the 2023 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, 1251 people from SA took part in the 2023 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, 1118 people who live in regional SA and 123 who live in urban SA took part in the 2023 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, 494 people from WA took part in the 2023 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, 406 people who live in regional WA and 83 who live in urban WA took part in the 2023 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, 568 people from Tasmania took part in the 2023 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, 142 people from NT took part in the 2023 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, 113 people from ACT took part in the 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey, although not all these people answered every question on the survey.

3.3 Remoteness

Six groups of remoteness are reported in the 2023 RWS Data Tables based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASCS) Remoteness Structure. These include:

- Major cities of Australia (1481 RWS survey respondents in 2023)
- Inner regional Australia (6203 RWS survey respondents in 2023)
- Outer regional Australia (3403 RWS survey respondents in 2023)
- Remote and very remote Australia (739 RWS survey respondents in 2023)
- Remote Australia (548 RWS survey respondents in 2023)
- Very remote Australia (191 RWS survey respondents in 2023)

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 2023 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 2023, the 2023 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, 32 individual RDAs across Australia were reported, 3 were reported individually as well as part of a larger group, and 10 were reported as part of a larger group only.

Table 1 Regional Development Areas (RDAs)

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2023	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2023 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
Central Coast and Hunter (RDAs grouped)	NSW	294	Central Coast, Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton, Upper Hunter Shire, part of Mid-Coast
Central West	NSW	433	Bathurst Regional, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Weddin
Far West and Orana (RDAs grouped)	NSW	506	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	236	Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton, Upper Hunter Shire, part of Mid-Coast
Illawarra Shoalhaven (RDAs grouped)	NSW	144	Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wollongong
Mid North Coast	NSW	240	Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Nambucca Valley, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Part of Mid-Coast
Murray	NSW	337	Albury, Balranald, Berrigan, Edward River, Federation, Greater Hume Shire, Murray River, Wentworth
Northern Inland	NSW	560	Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth Regional, Tenerfield, Uralla, Walcha
Northern Rivers	NSW	128	Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed
Orana	NSW	452	Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, Coonamble, Dubbo Regional, Gilgandra, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle Shire, Western Plains Regional
Riverina	NSW	641	Bland, Carrathool, Coolamon, Griffith, Gundagai, Hay, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Snowy Valleys, Temora, Wagga Wagga
Southern NSW and ACT	NSW	795	Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional, Snowy Monaro Regional, Upper Lachlan Shire, Wingecarribee, Yass Valley
Sydney	NSW		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
Barwon South West	Vic	416	Colac-Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Greater Geelong, Moyne, Queenscliffe, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast, Warrnambool
Gippsland	Vic	480	Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Wellington

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2023	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2023 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
Grampians	Vic	510	Ararat, Ballarat, Golden Plains, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Moorabool, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, West Wimmera, Yarriambiack
Hume	Vic	883	Alpine, Benalla, Greater Shepparton, Indigo, Mansfield, Mitchell, Moira, Murrindindi, Strathbogrie, Towong, Wangaratta, Wodonga
Loddon Mallee	Vic	917	Buloke, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Mildura, Mount Alexander, Swan Hill
Melbourne	Vic	231	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	71	Banana, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo, Central Highlands, Diamantina, Gladstone, Livingstone, Longreach, Rockhampton, Winton, Woorabinda
Darling Downs and South West	Qld	878	Balonne, Bulloo, Goondiwindi, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Southern Downs, Toowoomba, Western Downs
Ipswich, West Moreton, Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast, Logan and Redlands, Gold Coast (Grouped RDAs)	Qld	226	Gold Coast, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Redlands, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Sunshine Coast
Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast (Grouped RDAs)	Qld	132	Moreton Bay, Noosa, Sunshine Coast
Townsville and North West	Qld	86	Bouli, Burdekin, Burke, Carpentaria, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, McKinlay, Mornington, Mount Isa, Palm Island, Richmond, Townsville
Townsville and North West, Greater Whitsunday (RDAs grouped)	Qld	110	Bouli, 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 2023	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2023 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
Tropical North	Qld	84	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	118	Bundaberg, Cherbourg, Fraser Coast, Gympie, North Burnett, South Burnett
Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	SA	384	Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla
Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island & Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains (RDAs grouped)	SA	439	Adelaide Hills, Adelaide Plains, Alexandrina, Barossa, Gawler, Kangaroo Island, Light, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla
Adelaide Metropolitan	SA	87	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 (RDAs grouped)	SA	74	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	82	Grant, Kingston, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte and Lucindale, Robe, Tatiara, Wattle Range
Murraylands and Riverland	SA	442	Berri and Barmera, Karoonda East Murray, Loxton Waikerie, Mid Murray, Murray Bridge, Renmark Paringa, Southern Mallee, The Coorong
York and Mid North	SA	117	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	116	Albany, Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Plantagenet, Woodanilling
Kimberley, Goldfields Esperance, Mid-West Gascoyne and Pilbara (RDAs grouped)	WA	89	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

RDA	State/ Territory	Total responses in 2023	LGAs located in this RDA (note that in the 2023 RWS, responses were achieved from the majority of LGAs listed, but not from all)
			Magnet, Murchison, Ngaanyatjaraku, Northampton, Perenjori, Port Headland, Ravensthorpe, Sandstone, Shark Bay, Three Springs, Upper Gascoyne, Wiluna, Wyndham-East Kimberley, Yalgoo
Perth and Peel (RDAs grouped)	WA	83	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	116	Augusta-Margaret River, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Bunbury, Busselton, Capel, Collie, Dardanup, Donnybrook-Balingup, Harvey, Manjimup, Nannup
Wheatbelt	WA	85	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, Wickelpin, Williams, Wongan-Ballidu, Wyalkatchem, Yilgarn, York
RDA Tasmania	Tas	568	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	140	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	113	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 2023 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.

In the 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey we received at least some responses from people residing in 452 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 65 LGAs to report them as individual LGAs. The remaining LGAs are reported as part of a larger group. We report a total of 76 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 organisation has been established to address natural resource management issues that require landscape-scale action. Boundaries of these NRM regions change over time. The 2023 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 2 Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions

NRM region	State/ Territory	Location	Total responses in 2023
Central Tablelands	NSW	East NSW	402
Central West	NSW	Central NSW	435
Greater Sydney	NSW	East NSW	288
Hunter	NSW	East NSW	319
Murray	NSW	South NSW	307
North Coast	NSW	North-east NSW	285
North West NSW	NSW	North NSW	310
Northern Tablelands	NSW	North NSW	402
Riverina	NSW	South NSW	674
South East NSW	NSW	South-east NSW	869

NRM region	State/ Territory	Location	Total responses in 2023
Western	NSW	West NSW	156
Corangamite	Vic	South Vic	
East Gippsland	Vic	East Vic	
Glenelg Hopkins	Vic	South-west Vic	
Goulburn Broken	Vic	North Vic	
Mallee	Vic	North-west Vic	
North Central	Vic	North Vic	
North East	Vic	North Vic	
Port Phillip and Western Port	Vic	South Vic	
West Gippsland	Vic	East Vic	
Wimmera	Vic	West Vic	
Burdekin (formerly North Queensland Dry Tropics)	Qld	East Qld	
Burnett Mary	Qld	South-east Qld	
Cape York, Desert Channels, Northern Gulf, Southern Gulf (grouped NRM regions)	Qld	North and West Qld	
Fitzroy, Mackay Whitsunday (grouped NRM regions)	Qld	East Qld	
South East Queensland (formerly Healthy Land and Water)	Qld	South-east Qld	
Southern Queensland Landscapes	Qld	South Qld	
Wet Tropics (formerly Terrain NRM)	Qld	North-east Qld	
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	SA	South SA	
Northern and Yorke and Kangaroo Island (grouped NRM regions)	SA	South SA	
SA Arid Lands and Eyre Peninsula (grouped NRM regions)	SA	North-east and South SA	
South Australian Murray Darling Basin (formerly Murraylands and Riverland)	SA	East SA	
South East (formerly Limestone Coast)	SA	South-east SA	
Northern Agricultural	WA	West WA	
Peel-Harvey and Perth (grouped NRM regions)	WA	South-west WA	
Rangelands	WA	North, North-west and central WA	
South Coast	WA	South WA	
South West	WA	South-west WA	
Wheatbelt	WA	Central-west WA	
Cradle Coast	Tasmania	West Tas	
North	Tasmania	North-east Tas	
South	Tasmania	South-east Tas	
Northern Territory	NT	All NT	
ACT	ACT	All ACT	

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 Murray Darling Basin (MDB)

The 2023 RWS Data Tables report responses from the Murray Darling Basin.

The 2023 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.

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 with a sufficient sample size, 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://www.health.gov.au/our-work/phn?utm_source=health.gov.au&utm_medium=callout-auto-custom&utm_campaign=digital_transformation.

4. About the groups

4.1 Socio-demographic groups

Several socio-demographic groups are reported in the 2023 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 2023
Female	All 2023 RWS participants who identified as female	6630
Male	All 2023 RWS participants who identified as male	4765
Aged 18-29	All 2023 RWS participants aged 18 to 29 years old	453
Aged 30-44	All 2023 RWS participants aged 30 to 44 years old	1408
Aged 45-64	All 2023 RWS participants aged 45 to 64 years old	3835
Aged 65+	All 2023 RWS participants aged 65 years and older	5725
Aged 18-29 (Female)	All 2023 RWS participants aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as female	326
Aged 30-44 (Female)	All 2023 RWS participants aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as female	969
Aged 45-64 (Female)	All 2023 RWS participants aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as female	2556

Socio-demographic group	Description	Total responses in 2023
Aged 65+ (Female)	All 2023 RWS participants aged 65 years and older who identified as female	2725
Aged 18-29 (Male)	All 2023 RWS participants aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as male	109
Aged 30-44 (Male)	All 2023 RWS participants aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as male	409
Aged 45-64 (Male)	All 2023 RWS participants aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as male	1249
Aged 65+ (Male)	All 2023 RWS participants aged 65 years and older who identified as male	2957
Regional Australia (female)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia who identified as female	5788
Regional Australia (male)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia who identified as male	4120
Urban Australia (female)	2023 RWS participants living in urban Australia who identified as female	783
Urban Australia (male)	2023 RWS participants living in urban Australia who identified as male	595
Regional Australia (aged 18-29)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 18 to 29 years old	402
Regional Australia (aged 30-44)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 30 to 44 years old	1189
Regional Australia (aged 45-64)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 45 to 64 years old	3374
Regional Australia (aged 65+)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 65 years or older	4991
Urban Australia (aged 18-29)	2023 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 18 to 29 years old	41
Urban Australia (aged 30-44)	2023 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 30 to 44 years old	197
Urban Australia (aged 45-64)	2023 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 45 to 64 years old	441
Urban Australia (aged 65+)	2023 RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 65 years or older	698
Regional Australia (female, 18-29)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as female	295
Regional Australia (female, 30-44)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as female	835
Regional Australia (female, 45-64)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as female	2266
Regional Australia (female, 65+)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as female	2359
Regional Australia (male, 18-29)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as male	91
Regional Australia (male, 30-44)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as male	333
Regional Australia (male, 45-64)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as male	1082

Socio-demographic group	Description	Total responses in 2023
Regional Australia (male, 65+)	2023 RWS participants living in regional Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as male	2591
Urban Australia (female, 18-29)	2023RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as female	26
Urban Australia (female, 30-44)	2023RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as female	125
Urban Australia (female, 45-64)	2023RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as female	276
Urban Australia (female, 65+)	2023RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as female	346
Urban Australia (male, 18-29)	2023RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 18 to 29 years old who identified as male	13
Urban Australia (male, 30-44)	2023RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 30 to 44 years old who identified as male	63
Urban Australia (male, 45-64)	2023RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 45 to 64 years old who identified as male	161
Urban Australia (male, 65+)	2023RWS participants living in urban Australia aged 65 years or older who identified as male	350
Not Indigenous	2023RWS participants who do not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders	15260
Indigenous	2023RWS participants who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders	517
Carer (child)	2023RWS participants who care for one or more children	579
Carer (other)	2023RWS participants who care for someone other than a child	520
Retired	2023RWS participants who are retired	4892
Employed	2023 RWS participants who are employed	6205
Unemployed	2023 RWS participants who are unemployed and actively seeking work	240
Not in labour force	2023 RWS participants who are not in the labour force	9332
Sole person household	2023 RWS participants in a sole person household	2876
More than 1 person in household	2023 RWS participants living in a household with more than one person	8219

4.2 Farmers

Different types of farmers, farm workers and socio-demographic groups of farmers are reported in the 2023 RWS Data Tables. A person was classified as a farmer if on the 2023 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 4 Farmers

Type of farmer	Description	Total responses in 2023
Farmer	All 2023 RWS participants who were classified as farmers	1761
Farm worker	All 2023 RWS participants who were classified as farm workers	622
Farmer or farm worker	All 2023 RWS participants who were classified as farmers or farm workers	2050
Regional farmers	2023 RWS participants who were farmers in regional areas	1624
Urban farmers	2023 RWS participants who were farmers in urban areas	116
Irrigator	All 2023 RWS participants who identified as irrigators	500
Dryland farmer	All 2023 RWS participants who identified as dryland farmers	1165
Female farmer	2023 RWS participants who were farmers and identified as female	842
Male farmer	2023 RWS participants who were farmers and identified as male	892
Farmer aged 18-39	2023 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 18 to 39 years old	44
Farmer aged 40-54	2023 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 40 to 54 years old	190
Farmer aged 55-64	2023 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 55 to 64 years old	707
Farmer aged 65+	2023 RWS participants who were farmers and aged 65 years or older	791
NSW farmers	2023 RWS participants who were farmers in NSW	635
VIC farmers	2023 RWS participants who were farmers in Victoria	566
QLD farmers	2023 RWS participants who were farmers in Queensland	204
SA farmers	2023 RWS participants who were farmers in South Australia	183
WA farmers	2023 RWS participants who were farmers in Western Australia	103
TAS farmers	2023 RWS participants who were farmers in Tasmania	
Cotton growers	2023 RWS participants who were classified as cotton growers (indicated cotton growing was their most important or a major farm activity)	103
Dairy farmers	2023 RWS participants who were classified as dairy farmers (indicated dairy farming was their most important or major farm activity)	91

Type of farmer	Description	Total responses in 2023
Crop growers	2023 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)	121
Graziers	2023 RWS participants who were classified as graziers (indicated beef or sheep grazing was their most important or major farm activity)	752
Fruit, vegetable or winegrape growers	2023 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)	1133
Mixed cropping and grazing	2023 RWS participants who were classified as mixed crop growers and graziers (classified as both crop growers <i>and</i> graziers as defined above)	282
Farmer in MDB	2023 RWS participants who were farmers residing within the Murray Darling Basin	442
Farmer not in MDB	2023 RWS participants who were farmers not residing within the Murray Darling Basin	1030
Farmer in Northern MDB	2023 RWS participants who were farmers residing within northern Murray Darling Basin	711
Farmer in Southern MDB	2023 RWS participants who were farmers residing within southern Murray Darling Basin	368
Irrigator in MDB	2023 RWS participants who were irrigators residing within the Murray Darling Basin	660
Irrigator not in MDB	2023 RWS participants who were irrigators not residing within the Murray Darling Basin	300
Irrigator in Northern MDB	2023 RWS participants who were irrigators residing within northern Murray Darling Basin	177
Irrigator in Southern MDB	2023 RWS participants who were irrigators residing within southern Murray Darling Basin	76
Dryland farmer in MDB	2023 RWS participants who were dryland farmers residing within the Murray Darling Basin	224
Dryland farmer not in MDB	2023 RWS participants who were dryland farmers not residing within the Murray Darling Basin	688
Dryland farmer in Northern MDB	2023 RWS participants who were dryland farmers residing within northern Murray Darling Basin	470
Dryland farmer in Southern MDB	2023 RWS participants who were dryland farmers residing within southern Murray Darling Basin	278