



Australian Government



Inspector-  
General of  
Water  
Compliance

# Murray–Darling Basin community perceptions research 2023

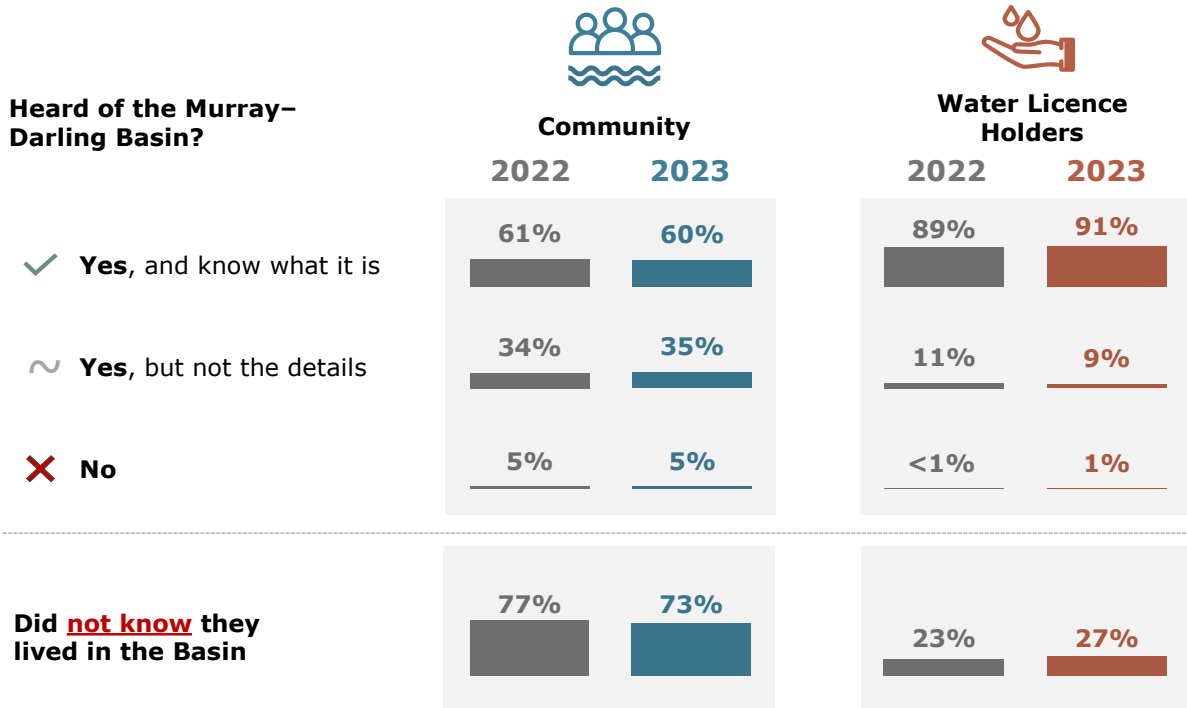
## Knowledge of the Murray–Darling Basin and Water Management



# Foundational Basin knowledge



A key factor to understanding water management is having knowledge of the Basin. In line with the 2022 findings, **knowledge of the Basin tended to be largely superficial**, with substantial gaps in understanding identified among respondents. Most Basin community members continued to be unaware that they lived in the Basin (73% not aware).



Q14. Have you heard of the Murray-Darling Basin? Base: Community (2023: n=800, 2022: n=817), WLH (2023: n=214, 2022: n=200).  
 Q15. Do you live in the Murray-Darling Basin? Base: Community (2023: n=763, 2022: n=780), WLH (2023: n=212, 2022: n=199).  
 Note: Arrows indicate results are significantly higher or lower than the previous year (at a 90% Confidence level).

Consistent with the findings from 2022, the qualitative research identified **substantial gaps** in understanding, even among more engaged participants (including water licence holders).

Many participants had **limited awareness** in relation to:



The **size, scale and locational coverage** of the Basin.



The **extent of management** of Basin waterways, and details about management operations and processes.



**How the Basin operated as a system** (including that underground water was part of the Basin system).



**How water flows** (including environmental flows) **were managed** and overseen, and by **whom**.



The **extent of monitoring and oversight** in relation to water take (including allocations and entitlements) as well as compliance and enforcement activities.

"I understand the idea, but if someone asked me to show it on a map, I wouldn't be able to" – Less engaged community member, Queensland