



Berri community

In interpreting this information, it is important to understand that there are many drivers of the socio-economic trends reflected in the data. Therefore, the socioeconomic changes outlined here cannot simply be attributed to the Basin Plan – it is just one of a number of factors that affect communities.

This information should be read in conjunction with *Understanding change in Basin communities* on the Southern Basin community profiles page at mdba.gov.au.

Total surface water entitlements available in Berri prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 41.4 GL. 12.9 GL (31.2% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 10.6 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 63% was purchased up to June 2011). 2.3 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 9.6 GL (23.8% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 7,739 to 7,032 persons (9.1%) between 2001 and 2016

- Decrease has been constant across time

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 2,828 to 2,003 FTE (29.2%) between 2001 and 2016

- Half of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 36.5 to 28.5 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 54.8% (399 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Half of the decrease occurred between 2001 and 2006
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 62.1% (32.7% between 2001 and 2006)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 41.5% (149 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2006 and 2011

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 33.4% (394 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2011 and 2016

Government services workforce

Increased 8% (44 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 30% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 22% between 2011 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 26% agriculture, 42% non-agriculture private, 20% government services
- **2016:** 16% agriculture, 39% non-agriculture private, 30% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Decreased from 4,240 to 4,086 persons (3.6%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2001 and 2006

47% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 39% in 2001

- 16% increase in 45 years and over, 16% decrease in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

23% of town population in 2016
down from 28% in 2001

Part-time employment

Constant around 12% to 13% of
town population

Unemployment in the town

Constant around 3% to 4% of
town population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 4, advantage/disadvantage = 6, wealth = 7, education = 6
- **2016:**, disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 3, wealth = 2, education = 5

Land use



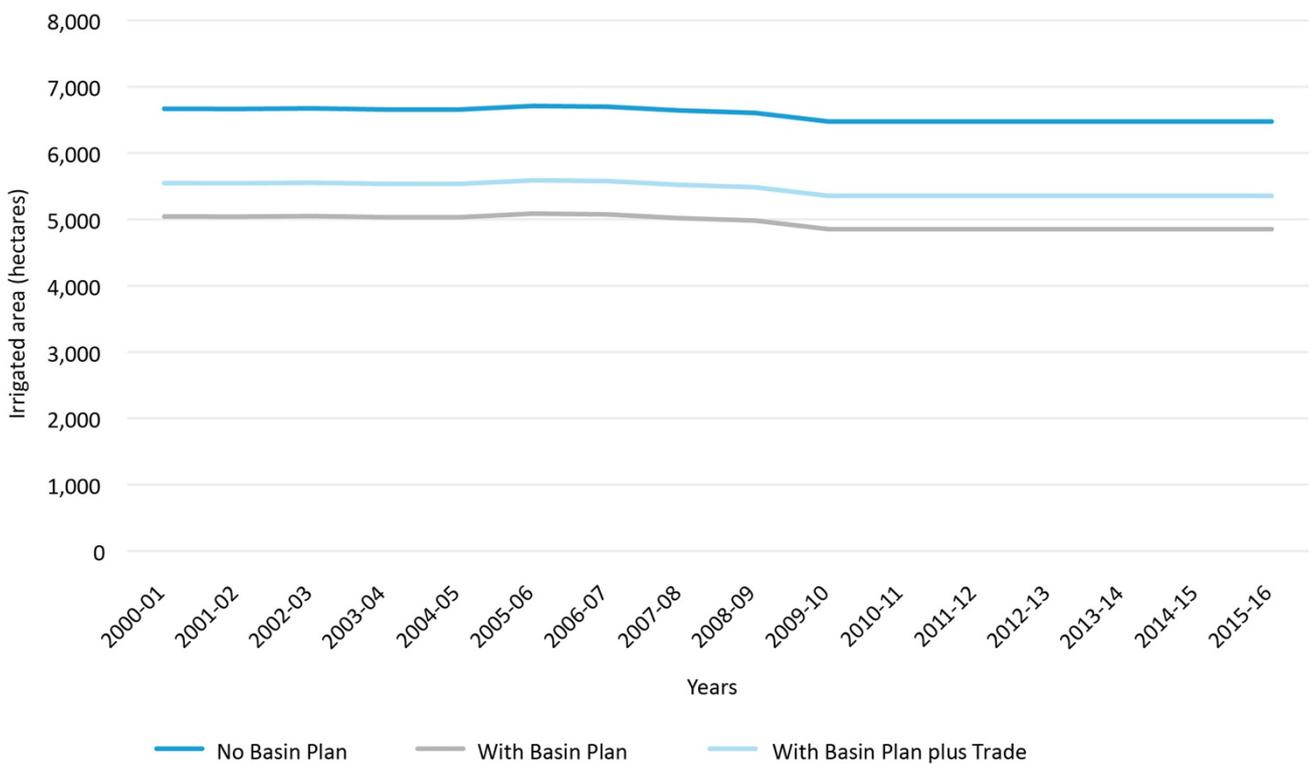
Water recovery programs

Water recovery occurred between 2009 and 2015, with most of the recovery through purchase. The On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program recovered water between 2011 and 2016. The Private Infrastructure Irrigation Program in South Australia contributed to modernising and increasing the efficiency of water delivery systems. Berri Barmera Council received funding under the Strengthening Basin Communities program for the Berri Stormwater Recycling Scheme.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

While grapes remain the dominant form of irrigated agriculture in the Berri community, significant areas of citrus, nuts, fruit and vegetables are also grown in the local area. The Basin Plan water recovery alone was estimated to reduce the area irrigated by around 24% to 25%. Most of the decrease affected the area of grape production, with smaller effects on citrus, fruit and vegetables. However, the effects of the Basin Plan have been moderated by the permanent trade of water back into the community. As a consequence of the Basin Plan water recovery and water trade, irrigated production is estimated to have fallen by around 16.5% to 17.5%.

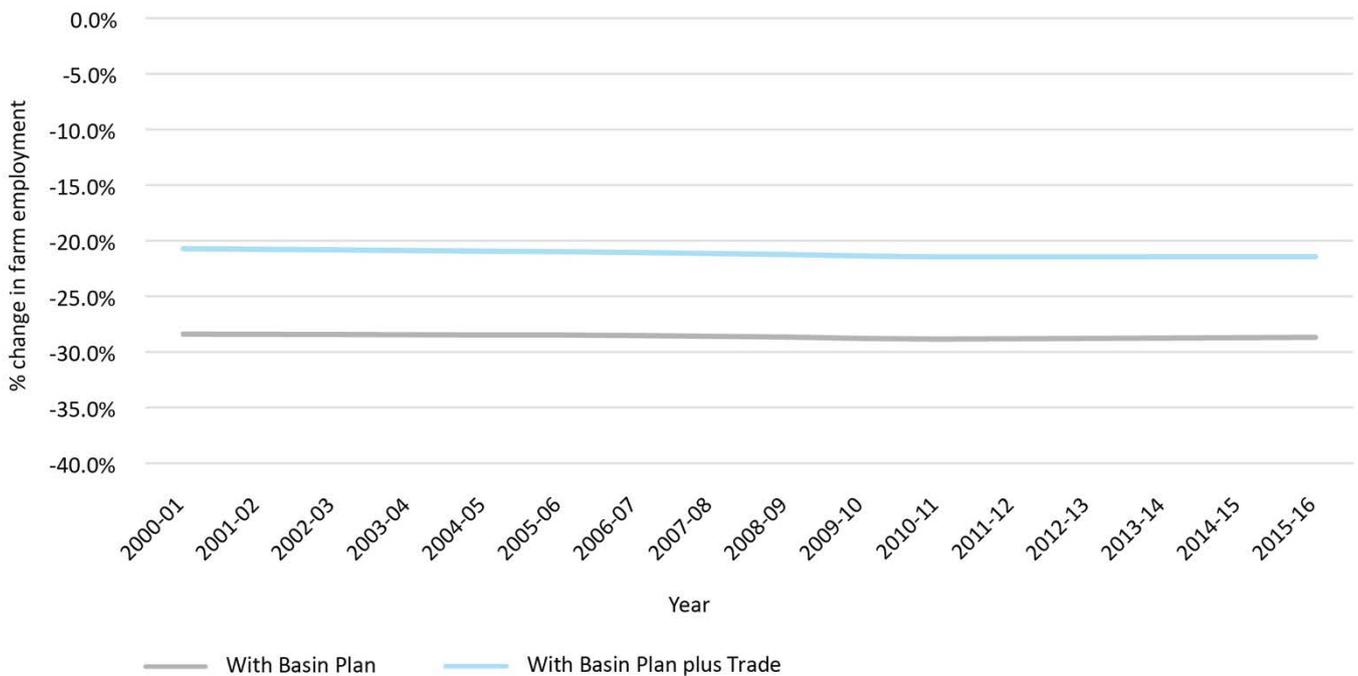
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 670 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 62% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 41% of the change, while the Basin Plan water recovery contributed 21%, after accounting for permanent water trade back into the community. In the absence of that water trade, it is estimated the effect of the Basin Plan water recovery has led to a decrease in farm employment of approximately 28%.

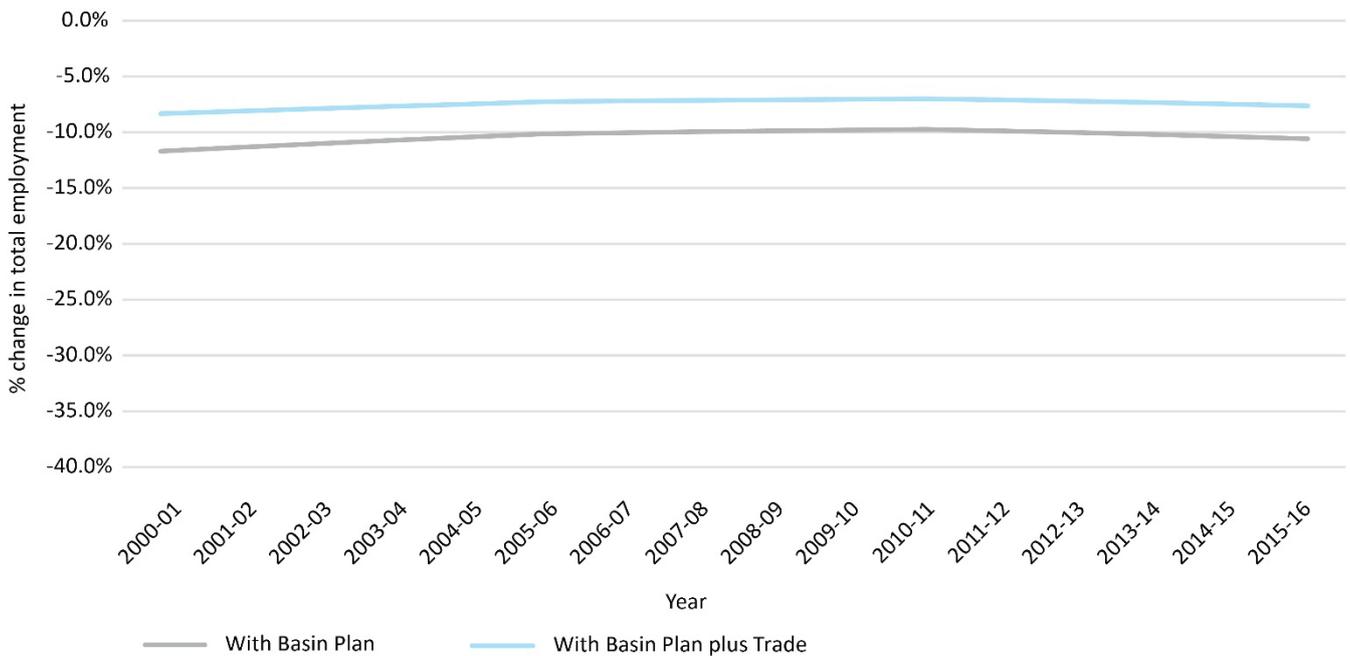
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 3,035 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 29% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 21% of the change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed the remaining 8% after accounting for permanent water trade back into the community. In the absence of that water trade, it is estimated the effect of Basin Plan water recovery might have led to a decrease in total employment of approximately 11%. Given the prevailing social and economic conditions at the time of the water recovery and the trends of social and economic change affecting the community, it is possible the modelling results might under-estimate the effect of Basin Plan water recovery.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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