



# Berrigan-Finley 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](http://mdba.gov.au).

Total surface water entitlements available in Berrigan-Finley prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 621 GL. 64.3 GL (10.4% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 41.5 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 64% was purchased up to June 2011). 22.8 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 31.7 GL (5.6% of available water).

## Trends in social and economic conditions

### AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 7,116 to 5,665 persons (20.4%) between 2001 and 2016

- Decrease has been constant across time

### WORKFORCE

#### Total area workforce

Decreased from 2,626 to 1,579 FTE (39.9%) between 2001 and 2016

- 22.9% of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 36.9 to 27.9 FTE per 100 persons

#### Agricultural workforce

Decreased 40.4% (396 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- 21.8% of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 35.4% (around half between 2001 and 2006, other half between 2011 and 2016)

#### Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 32.1% (43 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Decreasing 2001 to 2006, increasing 2006 to 2011, decreasing 2011 to 2016

#### Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 57.7% (626 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Constantly decreasing across the whole period

#### Government services workforce

Decreased 8.8% (37 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 14.5% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 19.7% between 2011 and 2016

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## ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 37% agriculture, 41% non-agriculture private, 16% government services
- **2016:** 37% agriculture, 29% non-agriculture private, 24% government services

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## TOWN POPULATION

Remained around 2,850 persons between 2001 and 2016

- Small increases and decreases across the period

58% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 47% in 2001

- 22% increase in 45 years and over, 21% decrease in under 45s

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Full-time employment

21% 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 2% of town  
population

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## SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS, BERRIGAN/FINLEY)

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

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## Land use



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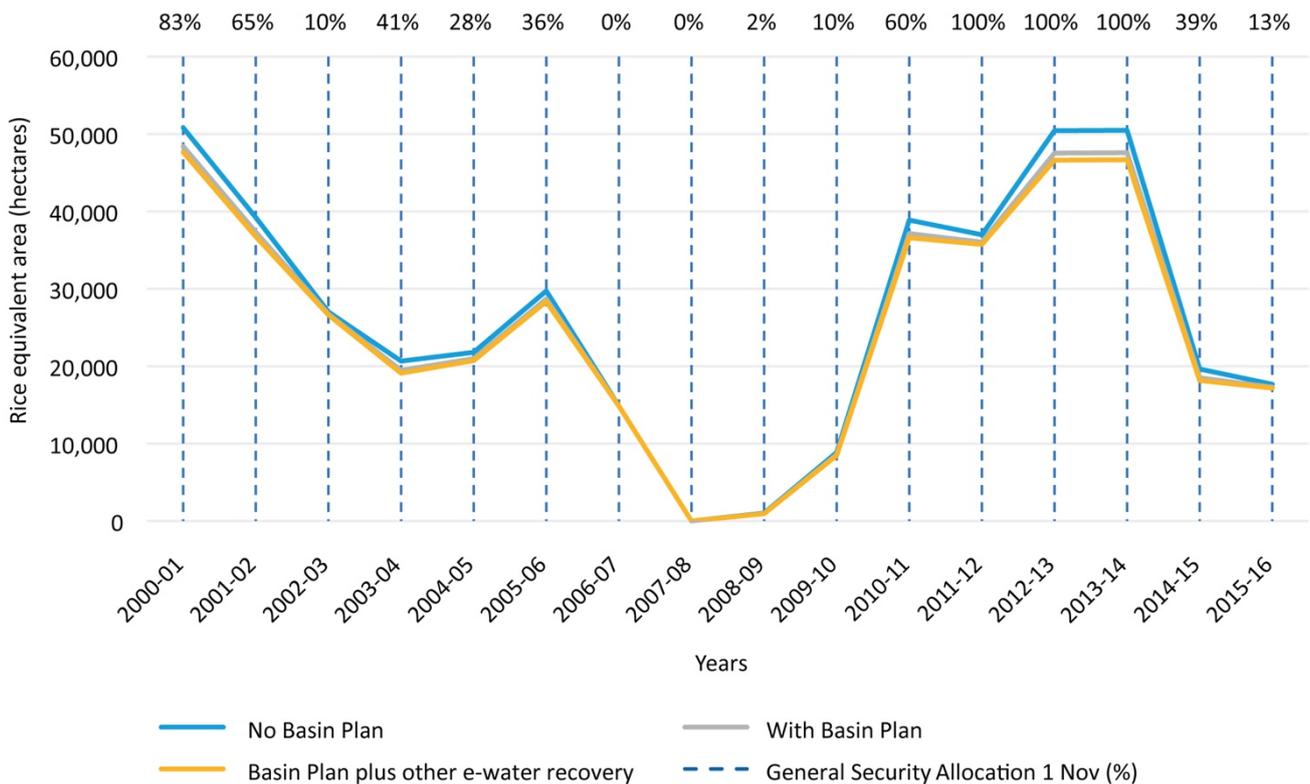
## Water recovery programs

Water recovery through purchase occurred between 2009 and 2013. Further water recovery has come through infrastructure investments through the Australian Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (Rounds 1 through 5), mostly from 2013 onwards. Improvements to off-farm water delivery infrastructure benefitted water users in the Murray Irrigation District. Berrigan Shire Council received funding through the Strengthening Basin Communities program to identify a range of water savings opportunities.

## Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production include annual cropping and dairying. A mix of annual irrigated crops are grown including winter cereals and oils, pasture, corn, rice and more recently some of the area grown to rice has substituted to producing cotton. This mix of crops are represented as rice equivalent hectares. The effects of Basin Plan water recovery combined with the on-farm infrastructure investment programs have contributed to a reduction in the rice equivalent area of around 4% to 5%. Other environmental water recovery when considered along with the Basin Plan water recovery has contributed to the rice equivalent area decreasing by approximately 6% to 7%. Across the period examined, milk production has increased. Although rising from around 140 to 170 million litres per annum, milk production did decline to under 130 million litres in 2009-10 as a consequence of the drought.

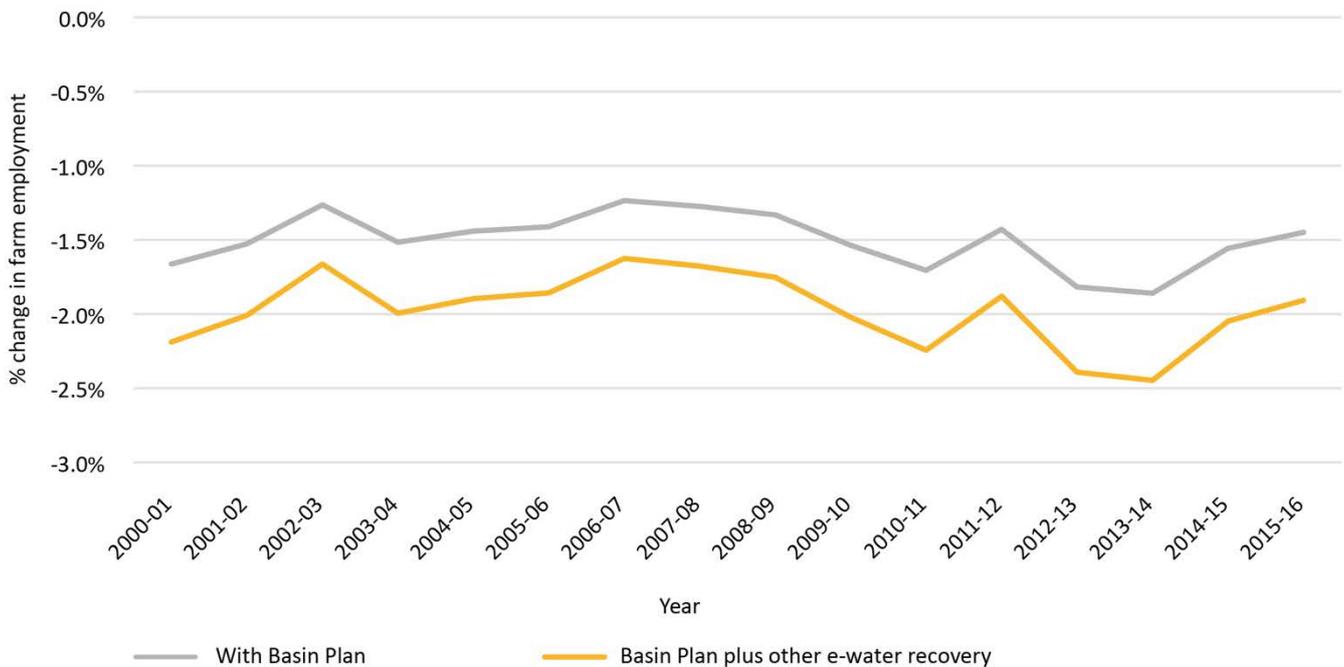
### Area of irrigated production (rice-equivalent hectares) 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 600 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 35% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to around 32% of the change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed approximately 2%. The remaining decrease in farm employment is associated with the recovery of water for the environment through processes beyond the Basin Plan.

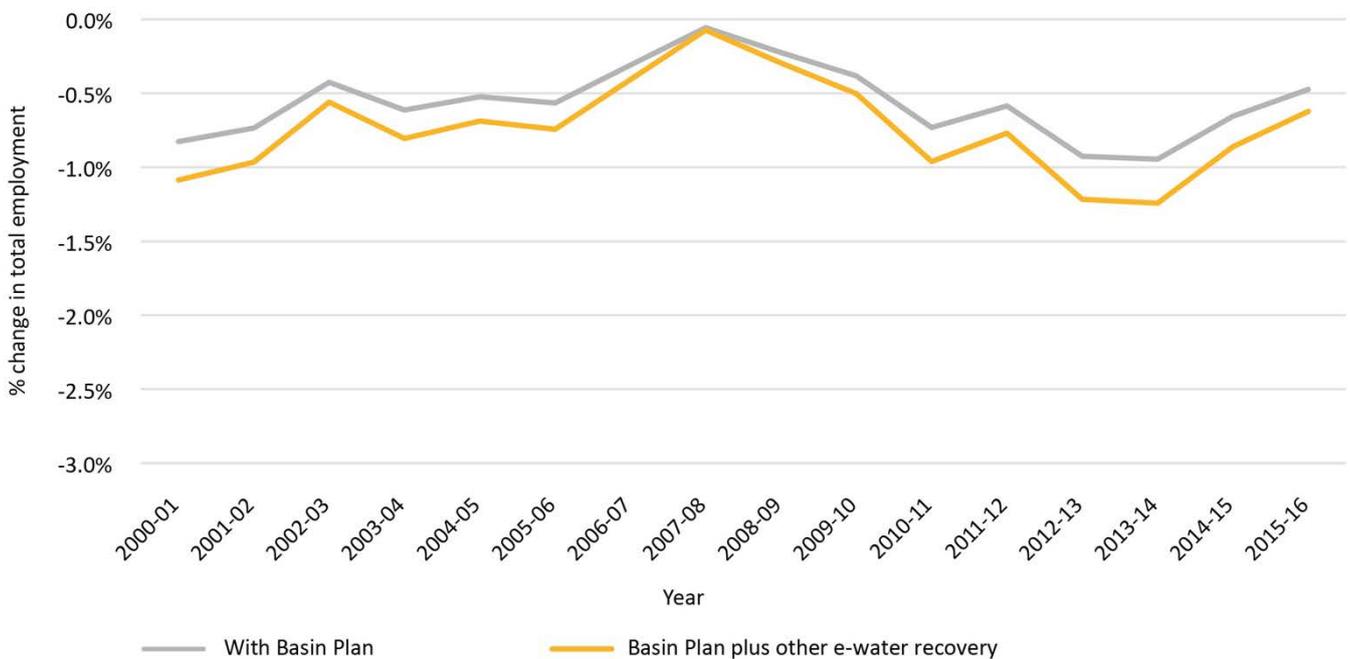
### Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 2,625 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 40% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to around 38.5% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed approximately 1%. The remaining decrease in total employment (0.5%) is associated with the recovery of water for the environment outside the Basin Plan. 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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