



Blanchetown 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 Blanchetown prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 3 GL. 0.5 GL (17.4% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 0.5 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 100% was purchased up to June 2011). A small volume was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is around 0.5 GL.

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 386 to 251 persons (35%) between 2001 and 2016
→ Two-thirds of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 107 to 39 FTE (63.8%) between 2001 and 2016
→ Most of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
→ Workforce participation fell from 27.8 to 15.5 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 59.1% (32 FTE) between 2001 and 2016
→ Most of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
→ Employment in irrigated production remained quite small

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

There has been limited employment in this sector

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 77.5% (29 FTE) between 2001 and 2016
→ Nearly all between 2011 and 2016

Government services workforce

There has been limited employment in this sector

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 51% agriculture, 36% non-agriculture private, 11% government services
- **2016:** 57% agriculture, 22% non-agriculture private, 15% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 188 to 240 persons (33.3%) between 2001 and 2016

- The population has varied considerably across time

67% of the town population was 45 and over across the period from 2001 to 2016

- 27% increase in 45 years and over, 45% increase in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

14% of town population in 2016
down from 20% in 2001

Part-time employment

Constant around 9% of town
population

Unemployment in the town

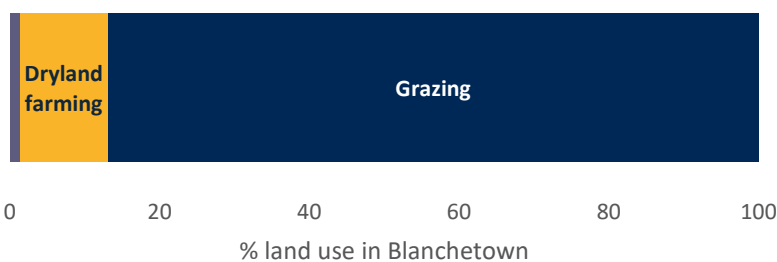
Constant around 1% to 3% of
town population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 3, advantage/disadvantage = 2, wealth = 1, education = 3
- **2016:** disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 1, wealth = 2, education = 3

Land use

Irrigated production



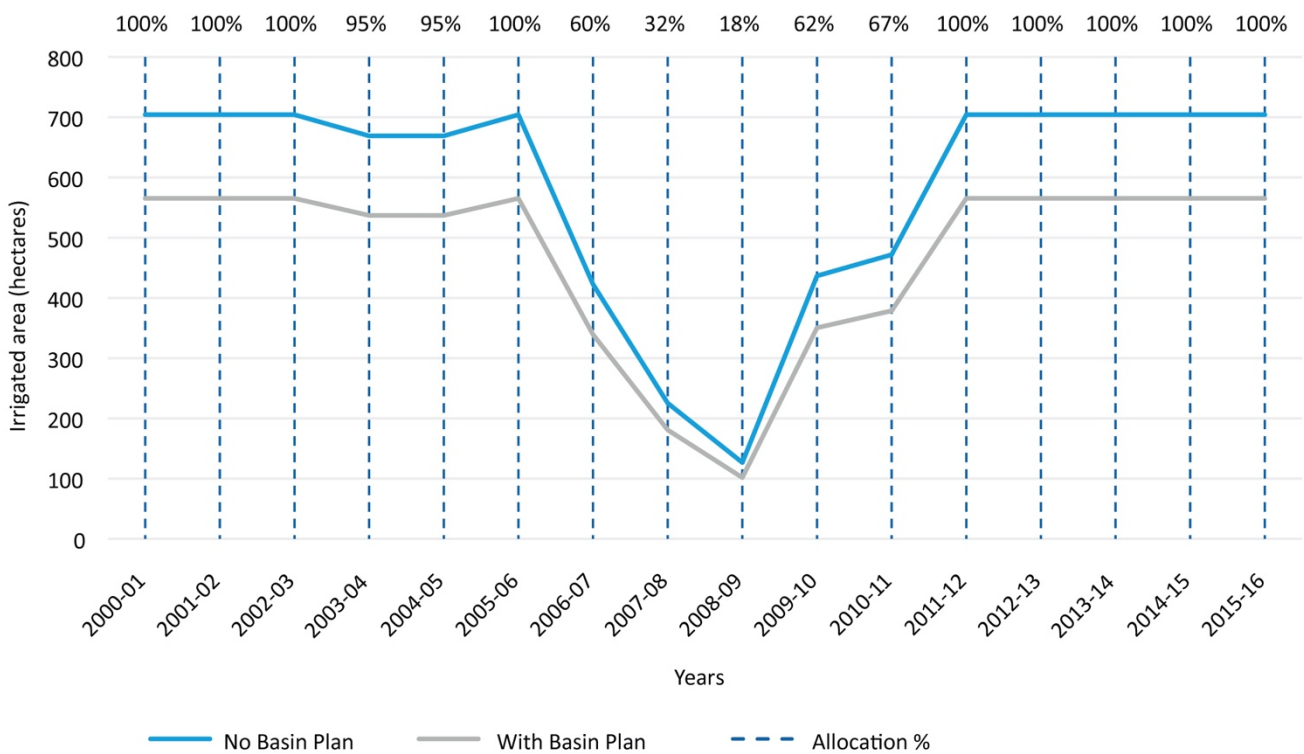
Water recovery programs

A small amount of water recovery occurred through round 3 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program in 2014.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production are vegetables, grapes and fruit. Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have reduced the area irrigated by around 19% to 20%. Most of the decrease in irrigated production has applied to the vegetable growing sector.

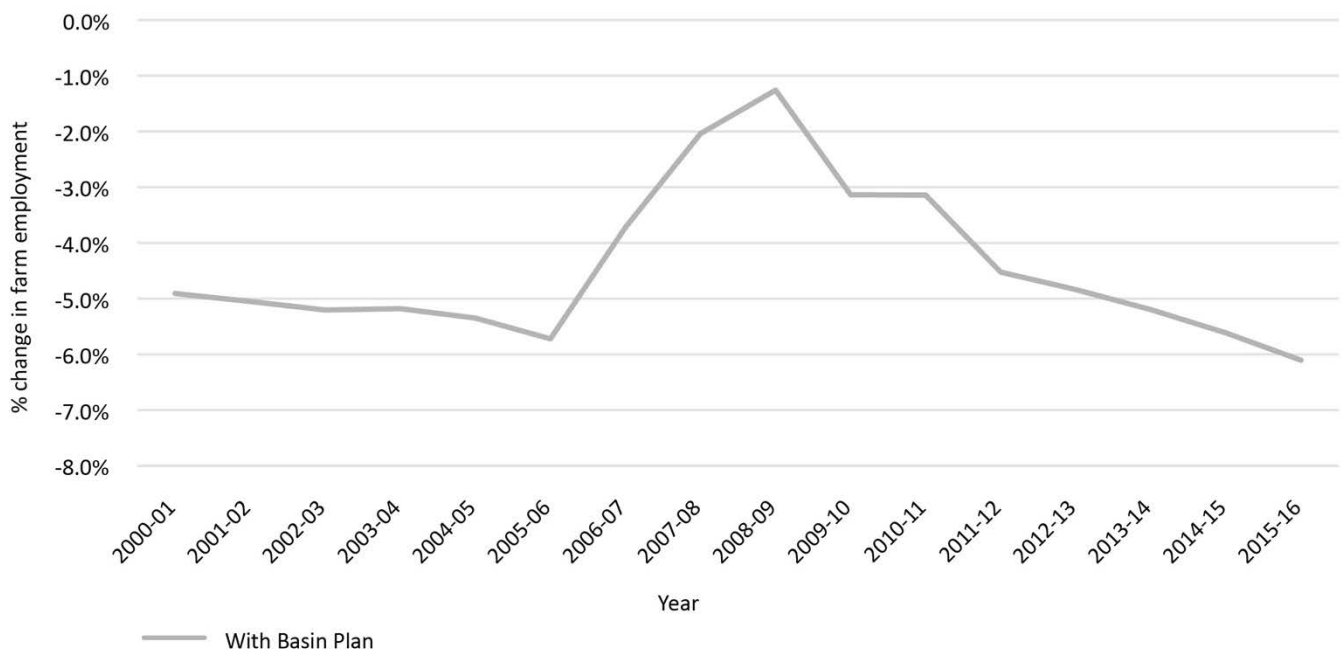
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 63 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell considerably between 2001–16. Basin Plan water recovery contributed approximately 5% of the overall change to farm employment.

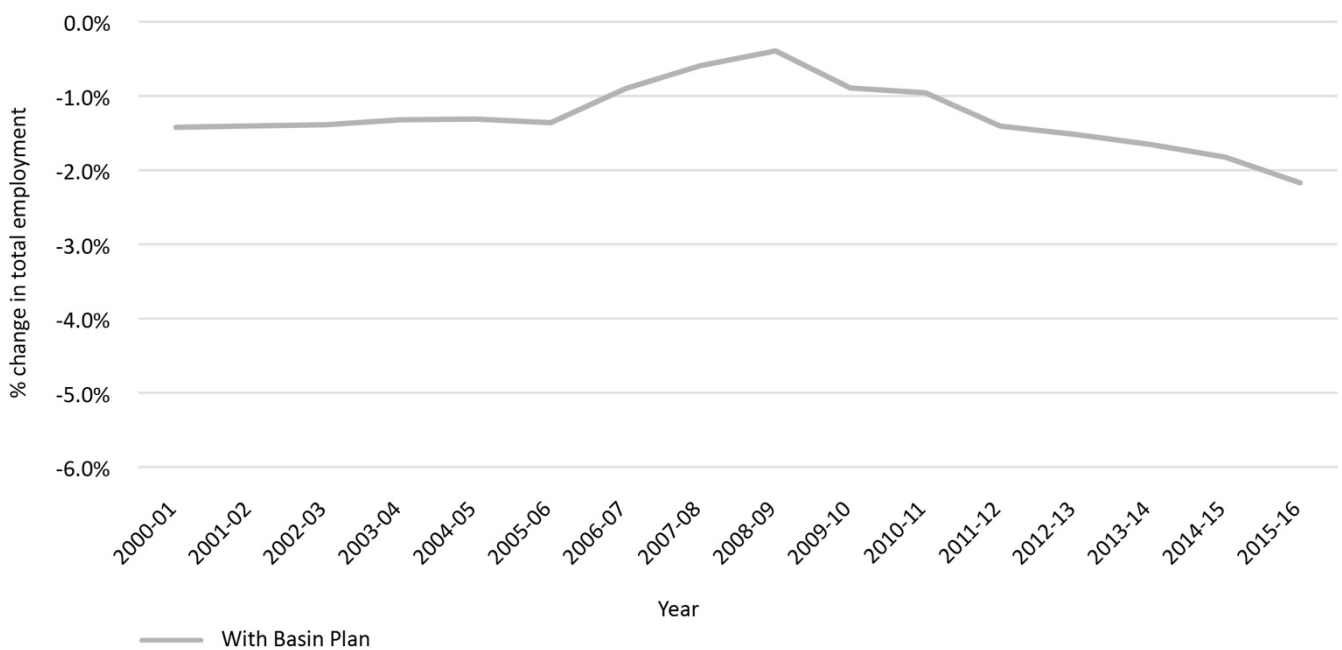
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 125 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by 64% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 62% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed the remaining 2%.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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