



# Coleambally 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 Coleambally prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 316 GL. 25.1 GL (7.9% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 14.5 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 73% was purchased up to June 2011). 10.6 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 9.9 GL (3.6% of available water).

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## Trends in social and economic conditions

### AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 1,226 to 1,192 persons (5.8%) between 2001 and 2016

- Decrease of 8% between 2001 and 2011, increase of 2.2% between 2011 and 2016

### WORKFORCE

#### Total area workforce

Decreased from 514 to 406 FTE (21%) between 2001 and 2016

- Three-quarters of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 40.6 to 34.1 FTE per 100 persons

#### Agricultural workforce

Decreased 23.2% (64 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Large increases and decreases are observed across time
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 25% across the period

#### Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 11.3% between 2001 and 2016

- Large increases and decreases observed between 2001 and 2011

#### Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 45.1% (68 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Large decreases between 2001 and 2006, and between 2011 and 2016

#### Government services workforce

Increased 21.7% (13 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increased 27.8% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 6.1% between 2011 and 2016

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## ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 54% agriculture, 29% non-agriculture private, 12% government services
- **2016:** 53% agriculture, 20% non-agriculture private, 18% government services

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## TOWN POPULATION

Decreased from 674 to 663 persons (1.6%) between 2001 and 2016

- Decrease of 6.5% between 2001 and 2011, increase of 4.9% since 2011

47% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 41% in 2001

- 14% increase in 45 years and over, 12% decrease in under 45s

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Full-time employment

27% of town population in 2016, down from 33% in 2001

### Part-time employment

Variable around 11% to 16% of town population

### Unemployment in the town

Constant around 1% to 2% of town population

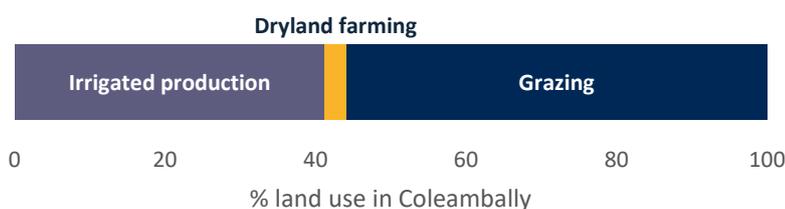
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## SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 7, advantage/disadvantage = 8, wealth = 9, education = 6
- **2016:** disadvantage = 4, advantage/disadvantage = 5, wealth = 3, education = 7

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## Land use



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## Water recovery programs

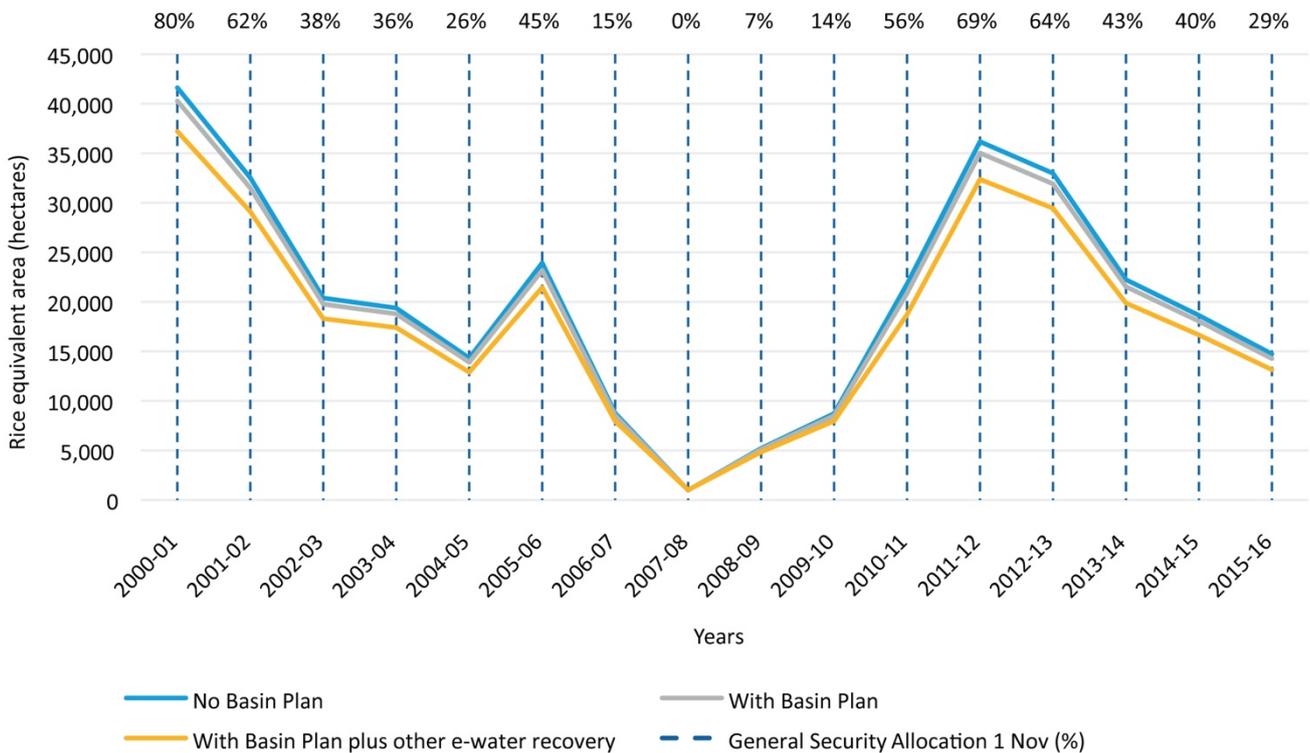
Water recovery through purchase occurred between 2010 and 2012. Water recovery from on-farm infrastructure investment came through Rounds 1 to 5 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program and the Water Smart Australia program. The region benefitted from irrigation system modernisation planning and subsequent improvements to the water delivery system of the Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative.

## Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

Mostly annual crops are grown in this community, which is largely dependent on general security entitlements along with some high security water and groundwater resources. Annual crops grown include rice, corn, wheat, soybeans, cotton, wheat, pasture and canola. The area of irrigated annuals vary year on year and are aggregated in rice equivalent hectares. Changes to the maximum area of irrigation are a consequence of the permanent trade of water out of the community, Basin Plan water recovery and other sources of environmental water recovery. High and general security water trade out of the community is around twice the volume of entitlements as those purchased by the Commonwealth for the Basin Plan.

The Basin Plan water recovery alone is estimated to have reduced the area of rice equivalent hectares by around 3%. Additional environmental water recovery occurring at the same time, is estimated to have reduced the maximum area irrigated by a further 7% to 8%.

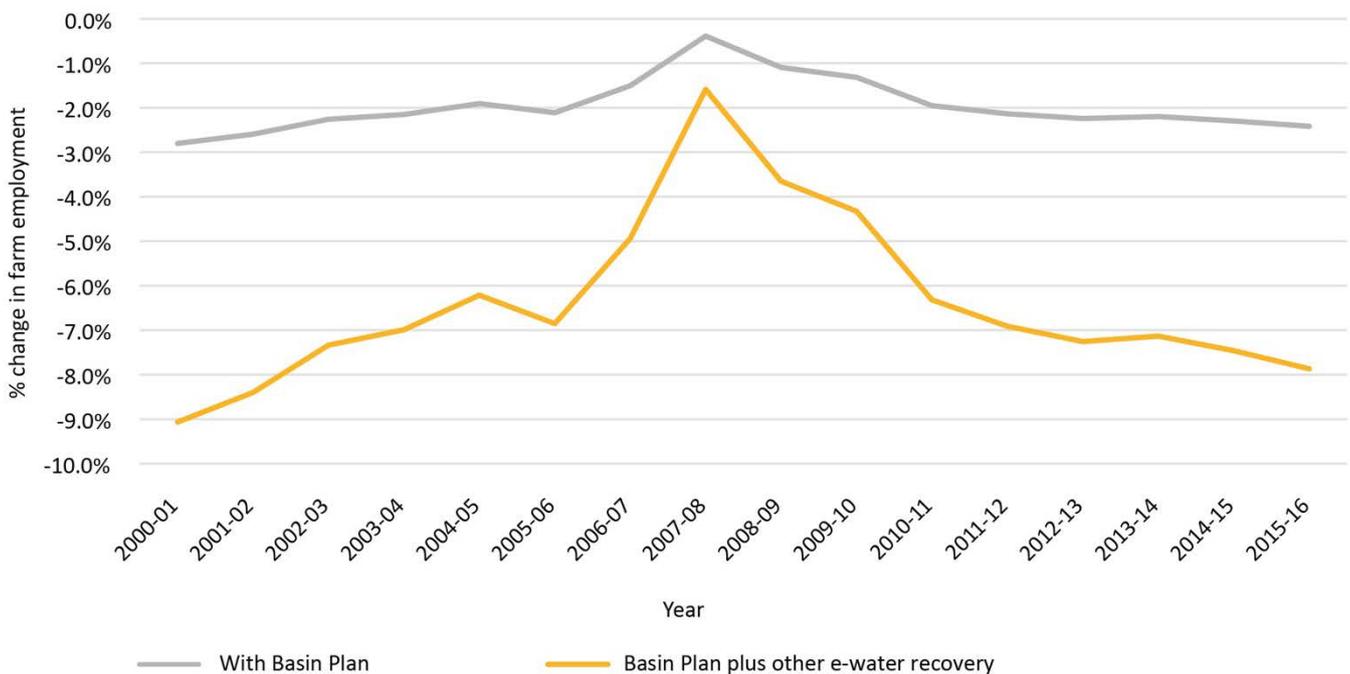
### Area of irrigated production (rice equivalent hectares) 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 248 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 25% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to around 17% of this change while Basin Plan water recovery contributed approximately 2% to 3% and other environmental water recovery the remaining 5% to 6%.

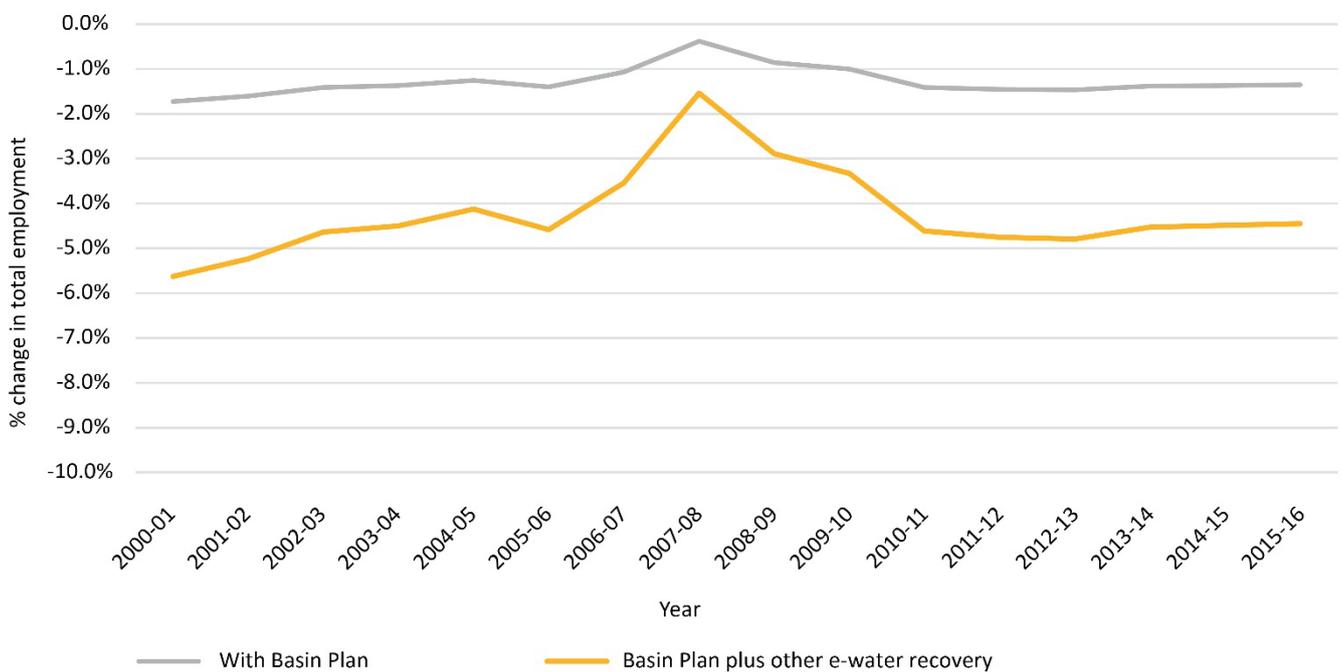
### Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 515 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 21% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to around 16% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed approximately 1.5%. Other environmental water recovery contributed the remaining 3.5%.

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



Updated June 2018