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.

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).

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
**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

**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

**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

**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

Land use

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
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

![Graph showing the effect of Basin Plan on total employment from 2001 to 2016. The graph indicates that total employment fell by around 21% between 2001 and 2016, with non-Basin Plan factors contributing around 16% of the change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed approximately 1.5%. Other environmental water recovery contributed the remaining 3.5%. The graph also shows variations in employment due to different factors throughout the period.]