



Coomealla 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 Coomealla prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 88.4 GL. 6.5 GL (7.3% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 6.3 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 10% was purchased up to June 2011). 0.2 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 6.2 GL (7.1% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Increased from 2,147 to 2,190 persons (2%) between 2001 and 2016
→ Decrease of 7.9% between 2001 and 2006, increase of 15% for 2006 to 2011

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 691 to 453 FTE (34.5%) between 2001 and 2016
→ Increase of 8.9% between 2001 and 2011, decrease of 43.5% between 2011 and 2016
→ Workforce participation fell from 32.2 to 20.7 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 56.1% (175 FTE) between 2001 and 2016
→ Decrease occurred across the period with half the decline between 2011 and 2016
→ Employment in irrigated production decreased 59.3% (133 FTE) falling consistently across the period

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 51.4% (22 FTE) between 2001 and 2016
→ Mostly between 2011 and 2016

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 25% (54 FTE) between 2001 and 2016
→ Increased 34.4% between 2001 and 2011, decreased 59.4% between 2011 and 2016

Government services workforce

Decreased 7.1% (36 FTE) between 2001 and 2016
→ Increasing 53.9% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 61% between 2011 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001**: 45% agriculture, 31% non-agriculture private, 18% government services
- **2016**: 30% agriculture, 36% non-agriculture private, 25% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Decreased from 633 to 505 persons (20.2%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2001 and 2011

50% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 45% in 2001

- 11% decrease in 45 years and over, 27% decrease in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

12% of town population in 2016
down from 17% in 2001

Part-time employment

7% of town population in 2016
down from 9% in 2001

Unemployment in the town

Varied around 2% to 5% of town
population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001**: disadvantage = 3, advantage/disadvantage = 4, wealth = 3, education = 6
- **2016**: disadvantage = 1, advantage/disadvantage = 1, wealth = 1, education = 2

Land use



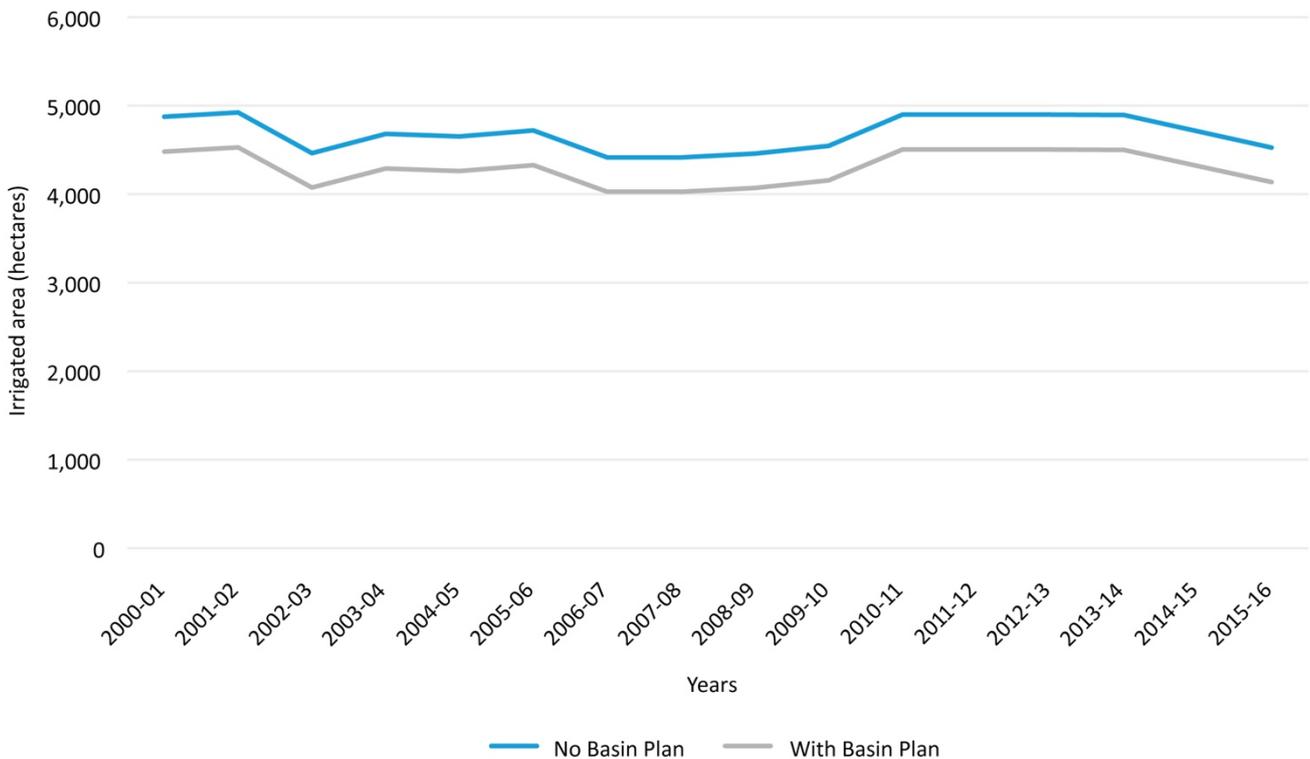
Water recovery programs

Most water purchase occurred within the early years of the program. The remaining recovery occurred through round 4 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program. An irrigation system modernisation planning assessment was carried out by Western Murray Irrigation to highlight water needs in the area.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

Grapevines and citrus represent the major proportion of the irrigated crops grown in Coomealla. Other crops include fruit, vegetables, and annual crops and pasture. Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed to a reduction in the area irrigated of around 8% to 9%, with most of the change affecting the area of grapes and vegetables being grown. This relatively large influence of the Basin Plan on the area of grape production, when compared to the volume of water recovery, is likely to have been influenced by the prices received for grapes across the second half of the period examined.

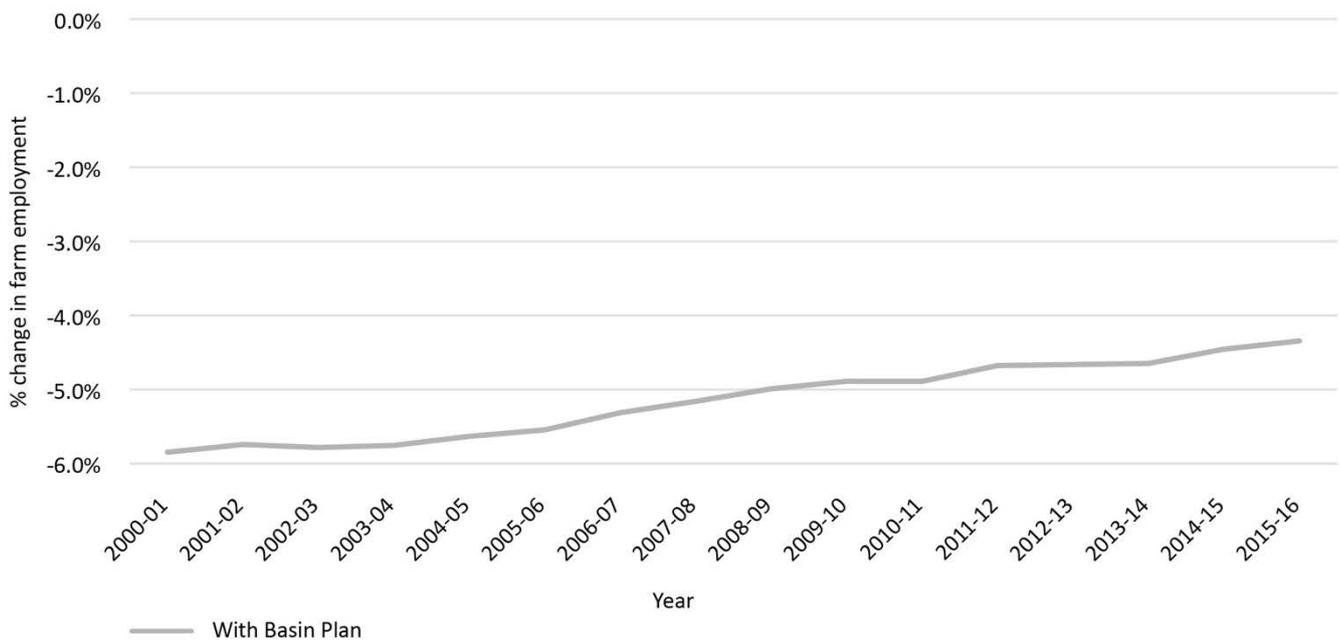
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 440 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 59% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors contributed around 53% to 54.5% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed the remaining 4.5% to 6%.

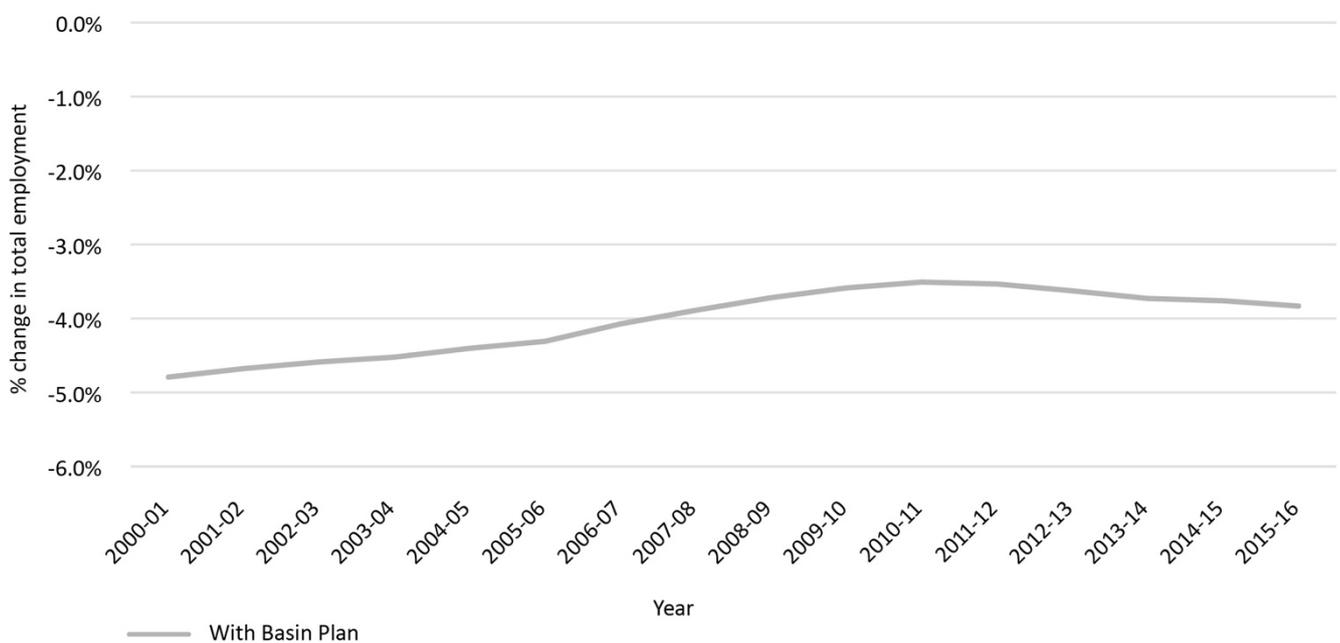
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 830 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 35% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 31% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed the remaining 4%.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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