



Denimein 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 Denimein prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 72.7 GL. 16.1 GL (22.2% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 11.2 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 73% was purchased up to June 2011). 4.9 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 9.1 GL (13.4% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 636 to 429 persons (32.5%) between 2001 and 2016

→ 31.4% of the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 227 to 137 FTE (39.6%) between 2001 and 2016

→ 32% of the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011

→ Workforce participation fell from 35.7 to 32 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 60.4% (52 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

→ All between 2001 and 2011

→ Employment in irrigated production decreased 69% (all between 2001 and 2011)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Remained a small part of the local economy

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 40.1% (37 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

→ 25.6% of the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011

Government services workforce

Declined by 15.2% (7 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

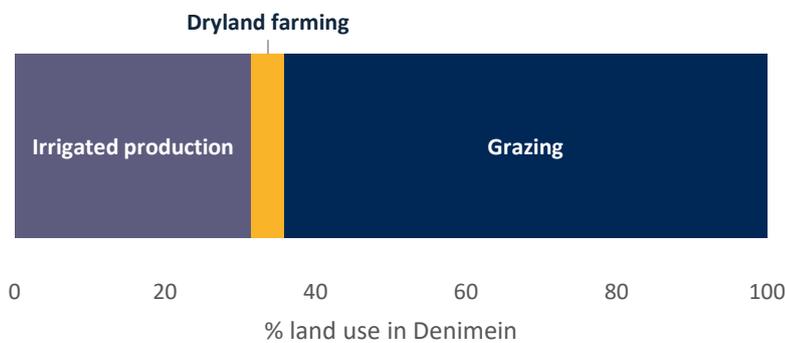
Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 38% agriculture, 41% non-agriculture private, 18% government services
- **2016:** 25% agriculture, 41% non-agriculture private, 26% government services

TOWN POPULATION

There are no towns within the Denimein community area

Land use



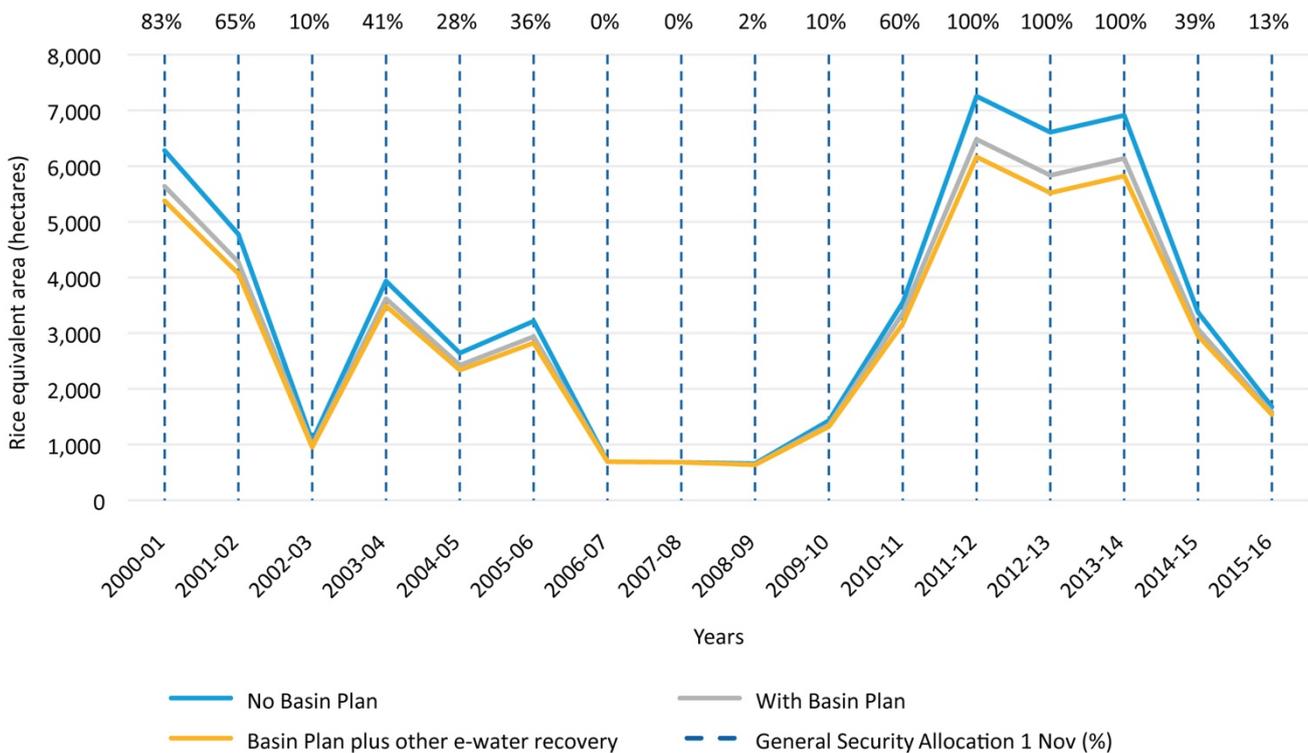
Water recovery programs

Most water recovery occurred through purchase with the largest volume recovered during 2011. The remaining water recovery occurred through rounds 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program (after 2010).

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production is annual cropping and dairy. 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. Basin Plan water recovery has led to a reduction in the maximum area irrigated of around 10% to 11%. Other environmental water recovery when considered along with the Basin Plan water recovery have contributed to the maximum area of irrigation decreasing by approximately 14% to 16%. Across the period being examined, the maximum volume of milk production has remained relatively constant at around 12 million litres per annum, though milk production did decline to under 10 million litres in 2009-10.

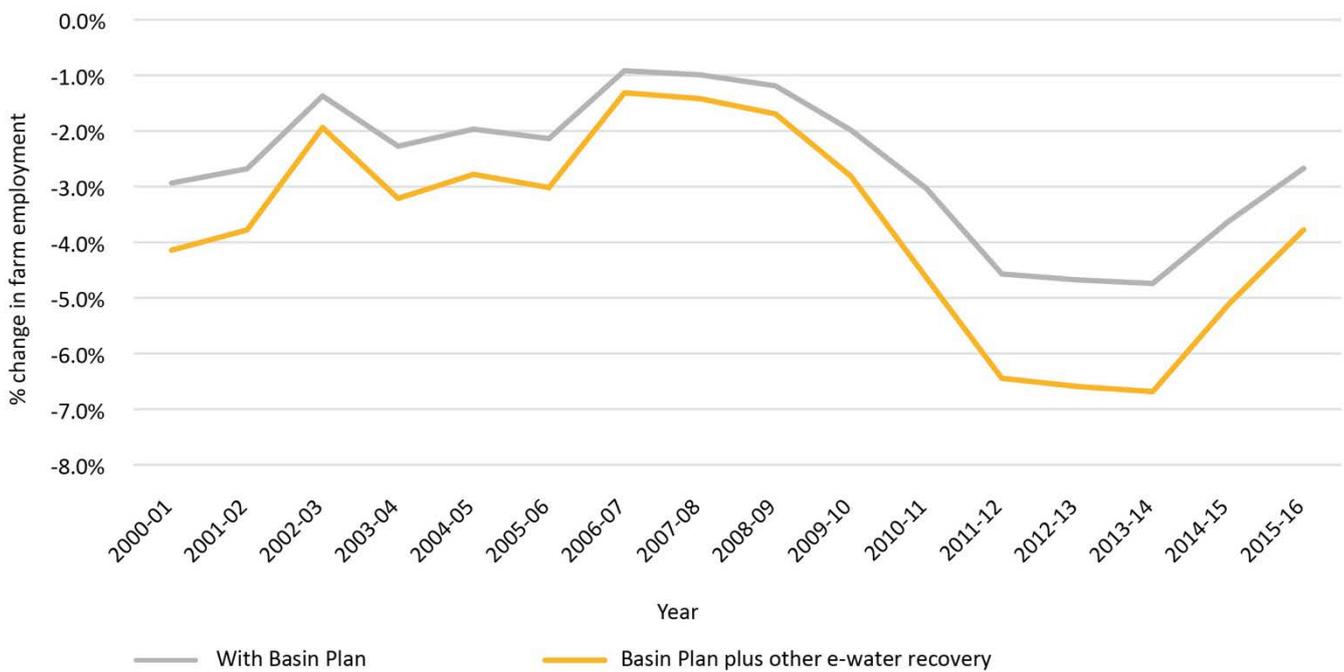
Area of irrigated production (rice-equivalent hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 74 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 69% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to at least 62% of this change while Basin Plan water recovery contributed approximately 2.5% to 5%. The remaining decrease in farm employment (1.5% to 2%) is associated with the recovery of water for the environment through processes beyond the Basin Plan.

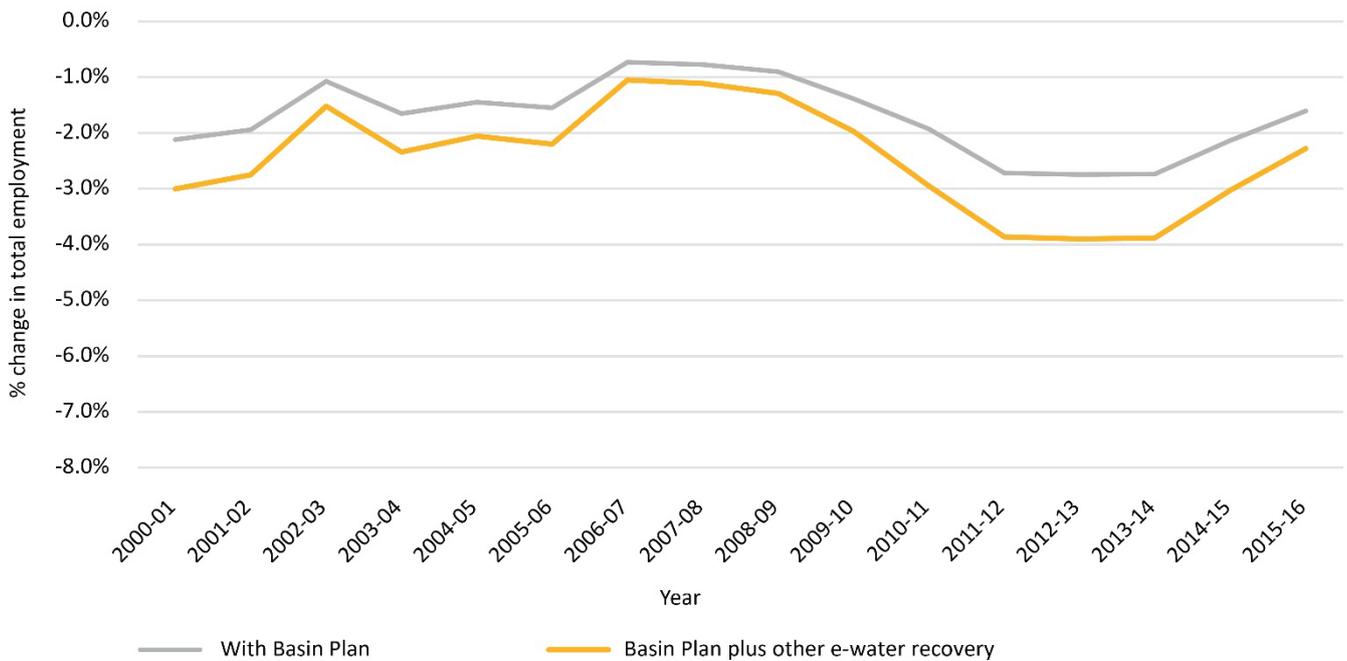
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 225 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 40% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 36% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed approximately 2.5%. The remaining decrease in total employment (1.5%) is associated with the recovery of water for the environment through processes beyond 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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