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
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.
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