



Kerang-Cohuna 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 Kerang-Cohuna prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 350.7 GL. 64.6 GL (18.4% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 59.8 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 61% was purchased up to June 2011). 4.8 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 57.8 GL (16.6% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Increased from 9,891 to 10,764 persons (8.8%) between 2001 and 2016

- Increase has been relatively constant across the period

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 3,379 to 3,041 FTE (10%) between 2001 and 2016

- The decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 34.2 to 28.3 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 30.8% (437 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Half of the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 43% (all between 2001 and 2011)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 44.3% (101 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2011 and 2016

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 10.8% (134 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Falling 25.6% between 2011 and 2016 after increasing 14.8% between 2001 and 2011

Government services workforce

Increased 41.8% (211 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 45.3% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 3.5% between 2011 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001**: 42% agriculture, 36% non-agriculture private, 15% government services
- **2016**: 32% agriculture, 36% non-agriculture private, 24% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Decreased from 5,669 to 5,502 persons (2.9%) between 2001 and 2016

- All between 2006 and 2011

58% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 47% in 2001

- 19% increase in 45 years and over, 23% decrease in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

20% of town population in 2016
down from 24% in 2001

Part-time employment

Constant around 12% to 14% of
town population

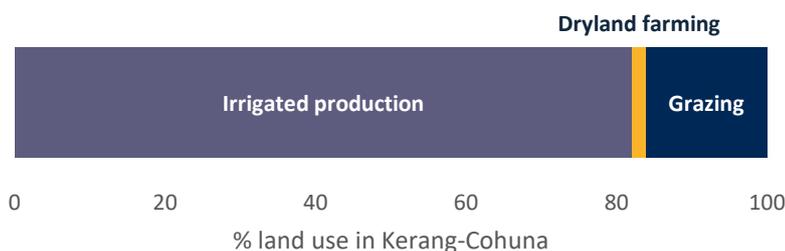
Unemployment in the town

Constant around 2% of town
population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS, KERANG/ COHUNA)

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

Land use



Water recovery programs

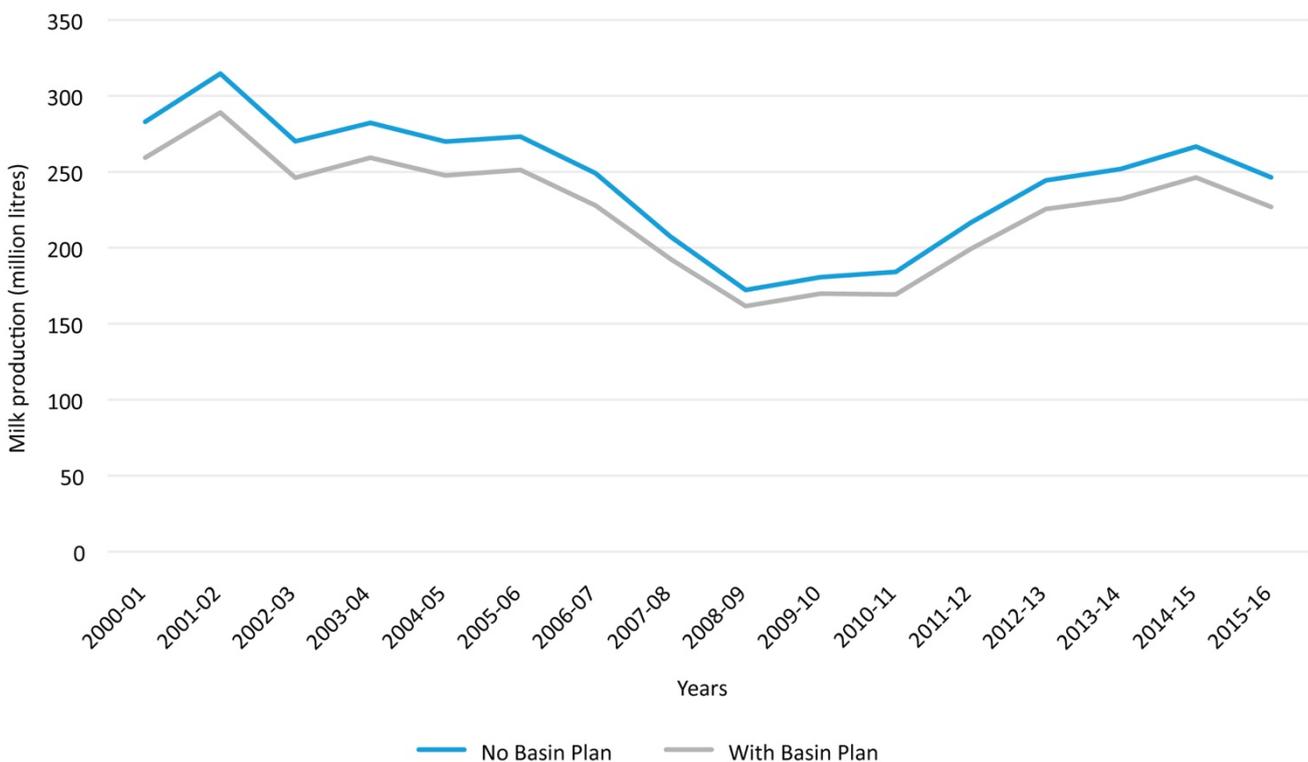
Water purchase occurred between 2009 and 2013, with the majority between 2010 and 2012. Irrigation system modernisation planning through Goulburn Murray Water led to water delivery improvements. Water recovery from the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program occurred between the years 2011 to 2016. Gannawarra Shire council received funding for development plans to management drainage conditions and recreational facilities.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

Since the early 2000s, the overall decline in milk production has been around 16%. This has been the major form of irrigated production in the Kerang-Cohuna community. Factors contributing to the decline in milk production during this period include the sale of water out of the district prior to 2007-08, the long-term effects of drought, changes in farming practices to accommodate the combined effects of both drought and Basin Plan water recovery, and the milk prices received.

The net effect of the Basin Plan water recovery represents around half (8%-9%) of the total decrease in milk production, with a further quarter of the total decrease explained by the permanent sale of water out of the community prior to 2007-08. The other factors listed above contributed to the remainder of the decrease in milk production.

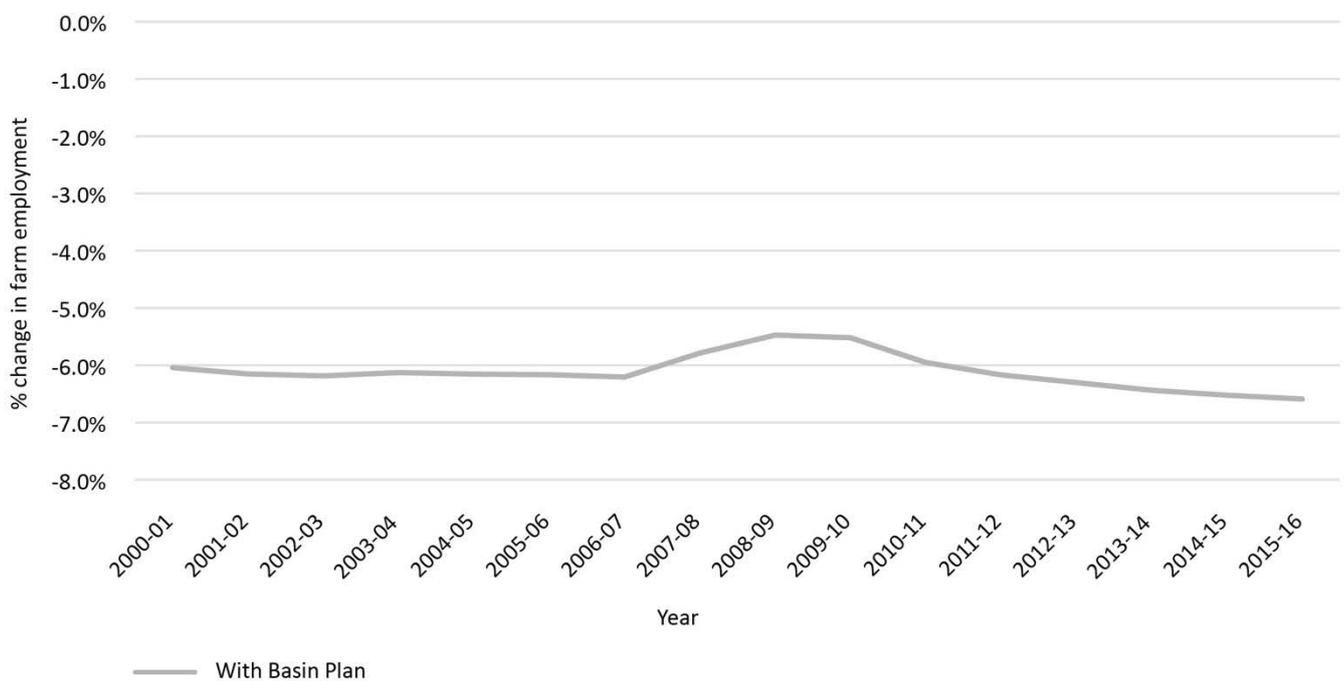
Volume of milk production (million litres) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 1,050 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 43% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 36.5% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 6% to 6.5%.

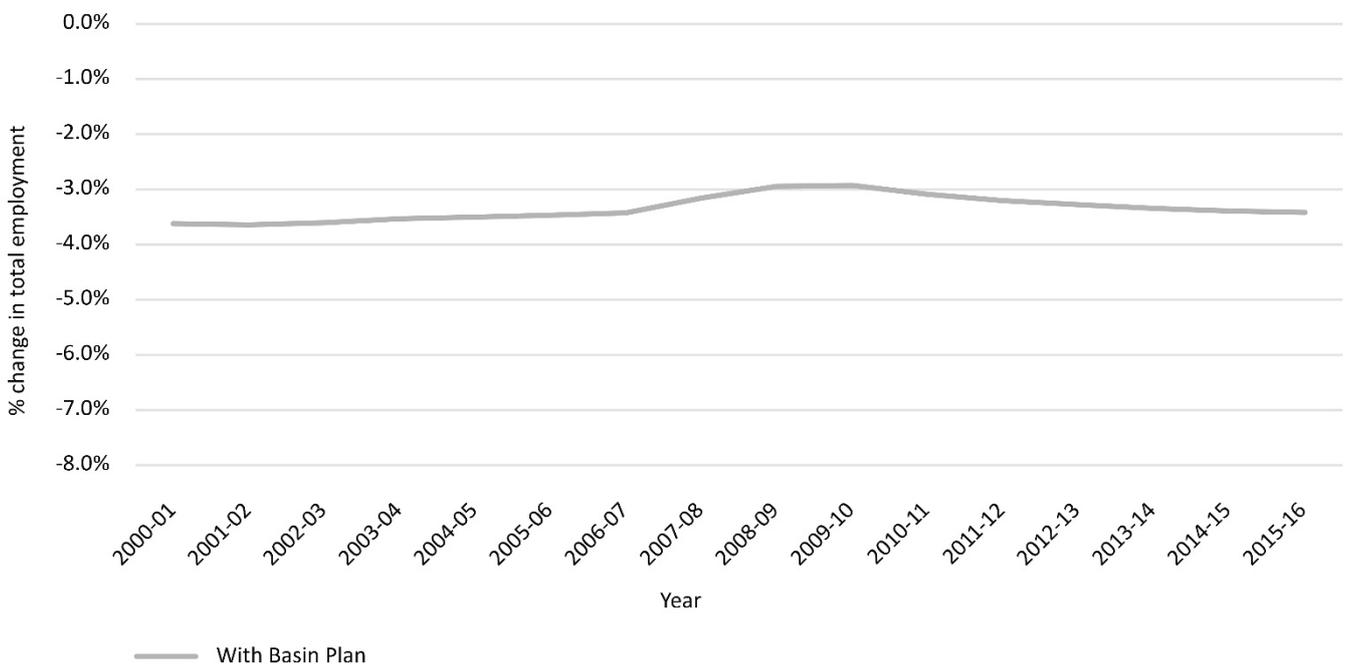
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 3,380 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 10% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 6.5% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 3.5%.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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