



# Lower Lakes 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](http://mdba.gov.au).

Total surface water entitlements available in Lower Lakes prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 38.2 GL. 4.7 GL (12.2% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 4.1 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 75% was purchased up to June 2011). 0.5 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 3.9 GL (10.4% of available water).

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## Trends in social and economic conditions

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### AREA POPULATION

Increased from 3,271 to 3,594 persons (9.9%) between 2001 and 2016

- Most of the increase occurred between 2011 and 2016

### WORKFORCE

#### Total area workforce

Decreased from 1,123 to 839 FTE (25.3%) between 2001 and 2016

- Most of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 34.3 to 23.3 FTE per 100 persons

#### Agricultural workforce

Decreased 38.8% (175 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Decrease was fairly constant across the period
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 54.8% (all between 2001 and 2011)

#### Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 24.1% (12 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2006 and 2011

#### Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 30.9% (135 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- All between 2011 and 2016

#### Government services workforce

Increased 6.2% (12 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 22.4% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 16.2% between 2011 and 2016

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## ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 40% agriculture, 39% non-agriculture private, 17% government services
- **2016:** 33% agriculture, 36% non-agriculture private, 24% government services

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## TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 1,332 to 1,611 persons (20.9%) between 2001 and 2016

- Relatively consistent growth across the period

59% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 47% in 2001

- 51% increase in 45 years and over, 5% decrease in under 45s

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Full-time employment

19% of town population in 2016  
down from 25% in 2001

### Part-time employment

Varied around 14% to 17% of  
town population

### Unemployment in the town

Constant around 2% of town  
population

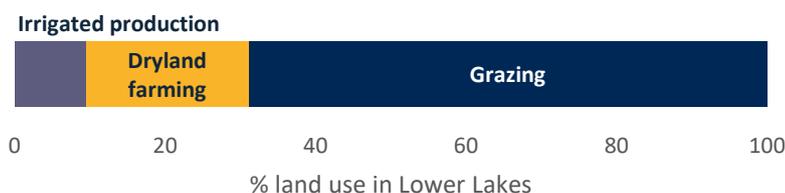
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## SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

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

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## Land use



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## Water recovery programs

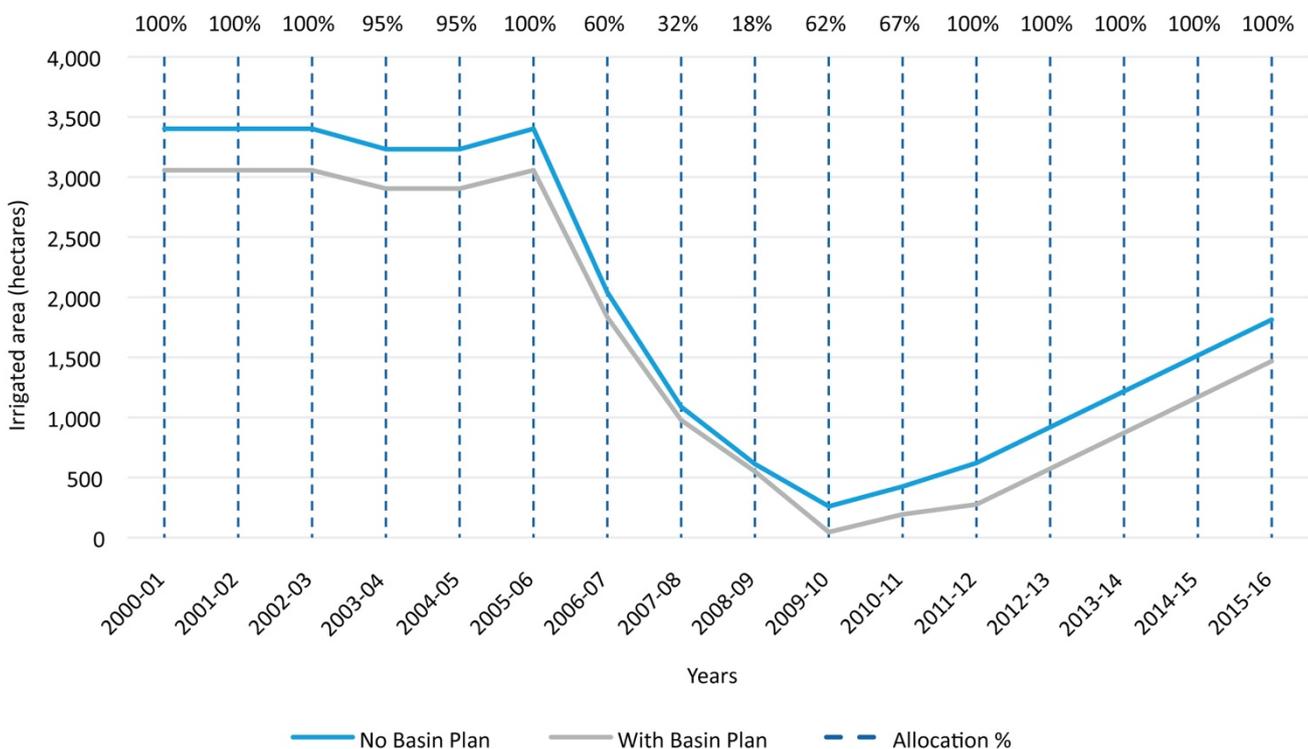
The Commonwealth has contributed to funding of the construction of three pipelines, including two potable pipelines servicing local communities and one irrigation pipeline servicing local communities. The community also received funding through Coorong District Council to develop a plan for responding to climate change. The Coorong and Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project to support the restoration of this site to a healthy and resilient wetland of international importance is on-going.

## Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production have been viticulture and irrigated pasture to support milk production and other livestock. Droughts, low water allocations and the fall in the river level around the 2002-03 drought had a significant effect on irrigated pasture production and milk output. The latter fell from 85 million litres to less than 15 million litres in 2008-09. Since the drought, milk production has been significantly lower with maximum output of around 47 million litres in 2012-13.

While the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have reduced the total area irrigated by around 10% to 15%, the overall change in milk production is likely to be a consequence of increased temporary water trade out of the community across the last four years and the challenges (including significant costs) of rehabilitating the land used for irrigation prior to the drought but still affected by the consequences of being unable to irrigate during the drought and the low river height during that period. Across the period being examined, there has been a modest increase in the area of grape production.

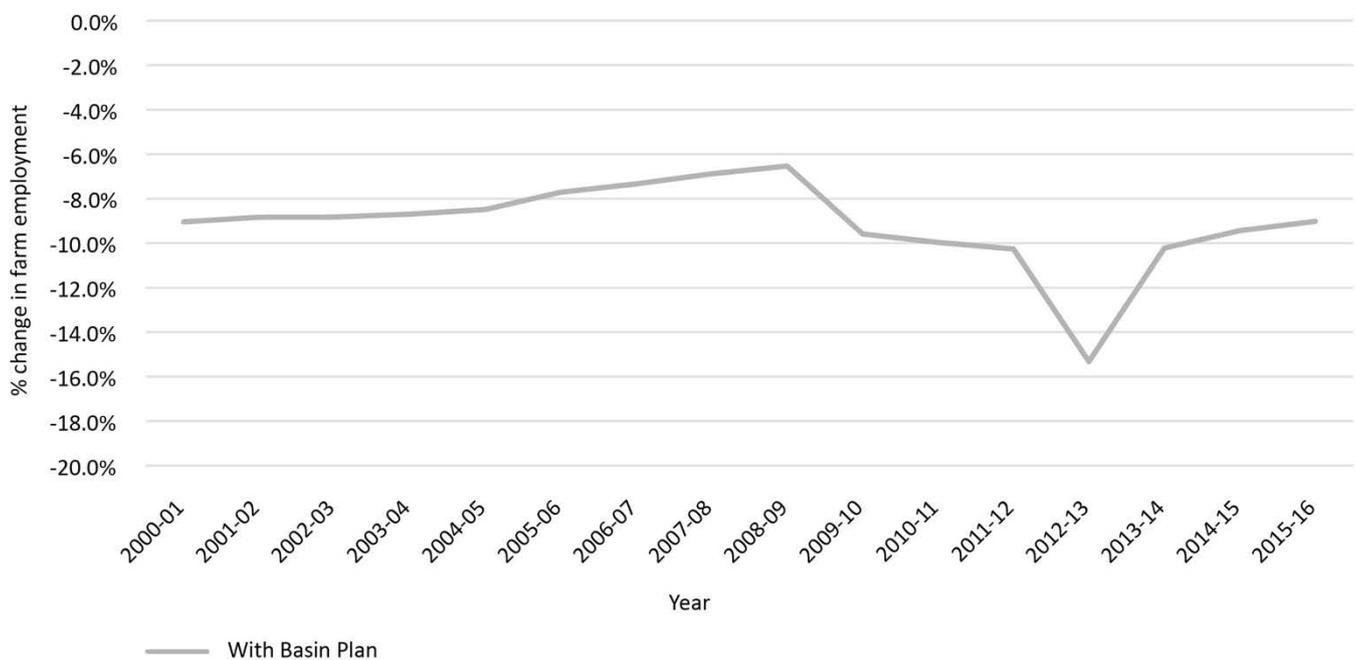
### Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 445 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 58% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 48% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 10%.

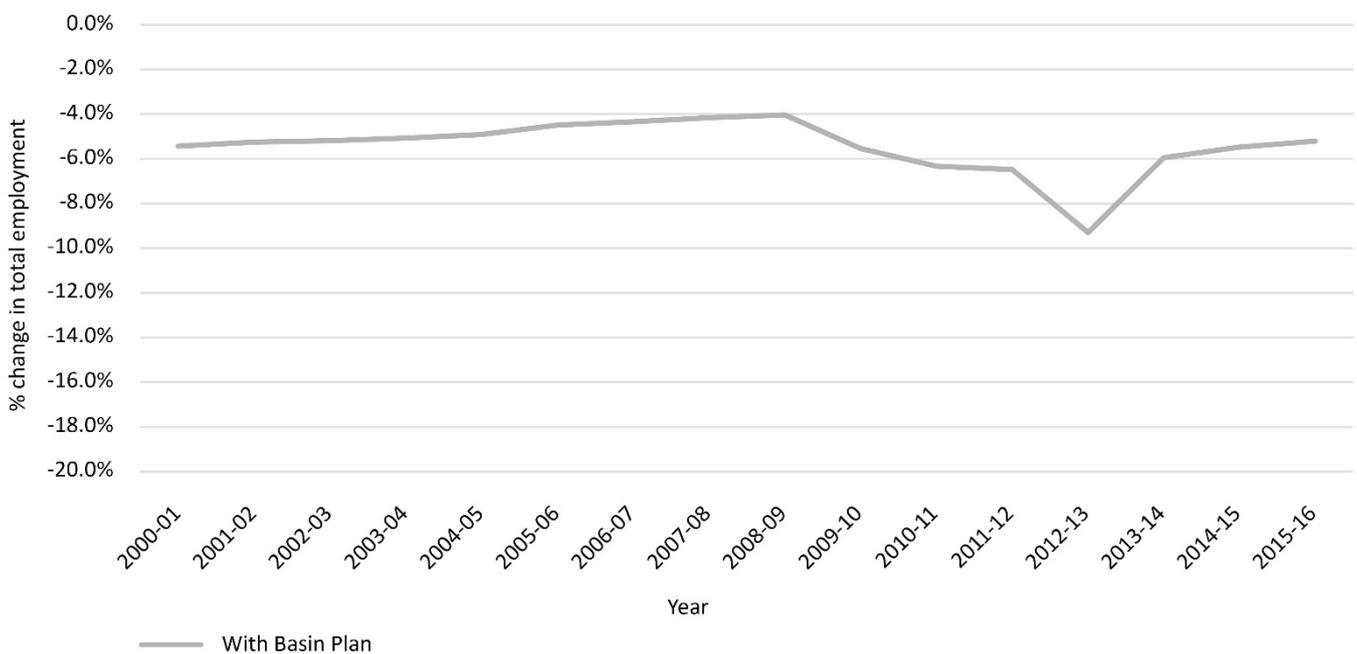
### Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 1,130 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 25% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 19% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 6%.

### Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



Updated June 2018