



Loxton 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 Loxton prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 64.1 GL. 14.2 GL (22.2% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 11.6 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 61% was purchased up to June 2011). 2.6 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 10.5 GL (16.9% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Increased from 4,724 to 5,115 persons (8.3%) between 2001 and 2016

- Most of the increase occurred between 2006 and 2016

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 1,823 to 1,642 FTE (9.9%) between 2001 and 2016

- Most of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 38.6 to 32.1 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 47.2% (363 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2001 and 2006
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 48% (half between 2001 and 2006)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 11.5% (14 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Employment varied throughout the period

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 0.5% (3 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 20.8% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 21.3% between 2011 and 2016

Government services workforce

Increased 51.2% (157 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 55.6% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 4.4% between 2011 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 42% agriculture, 34% non-agriculture private, 17% government services
- **2016:** 25% agriculture, 38% non-agriculture private, 28% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 3,355 to 3,843 persons (14.5%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2006 and 2011

53% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 44% in 2001

- 37% increase in 45 years and over, 4% decrease in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

24% of town population in 2016
down from 29% in 2001

Part-time employment

Varied around 13% to 15% of
town population

Unemployment in the town

Constant around 2% to 3% of
town population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

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

Land use



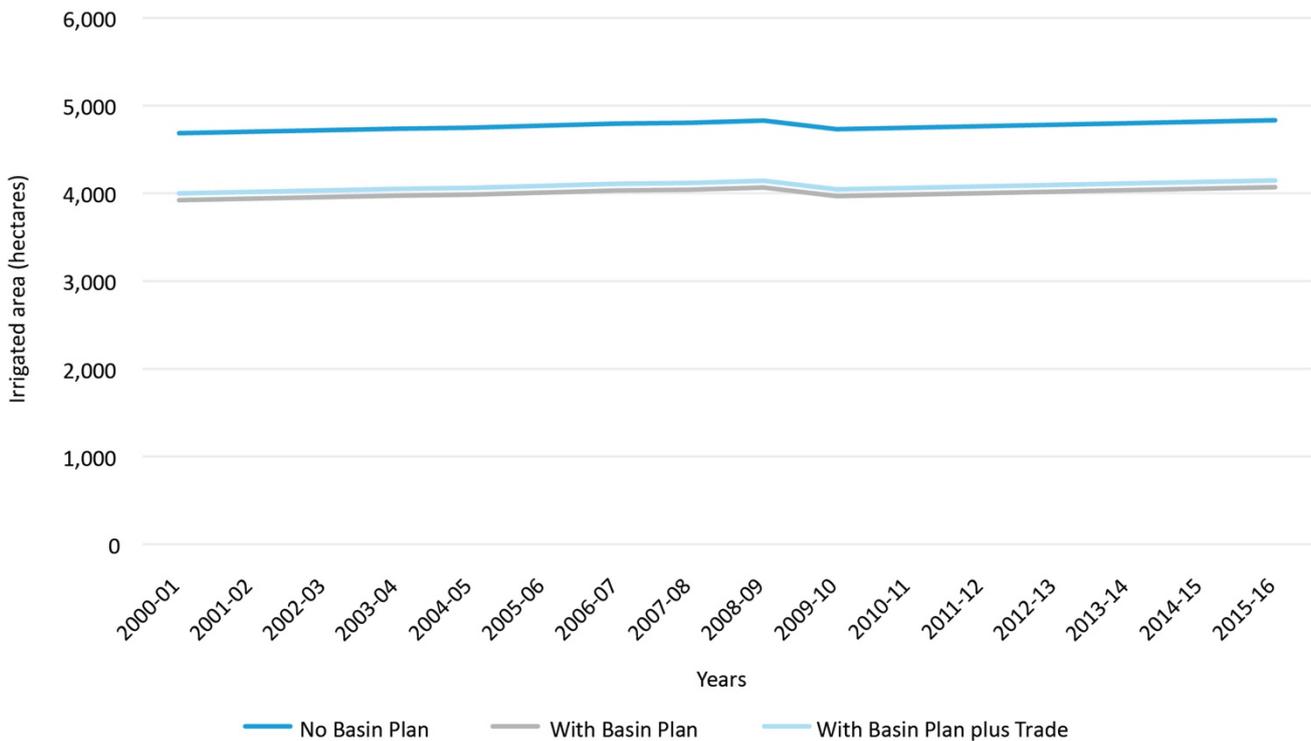
Water recovery programs

Water recovery through purchase occurred between 2009 and 2013, with 2010 being the largest year for water purchasing. The On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program water recovery occurred between 2011 and 2016, as well as through the Private Infrastructure Irrigation Program for South Australia in 2011-12. The community benefited from investment in the Loxton Waikerie water recycling scheme.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production are grapes, citrus and nuts, with small areas of vegetables, fruit and some annual crops. While the area of nut production has been increasing across the period, the area of vegetable production has declined considerably since the drought. The effect of the Basin Plan water recovery alone was estimated to reduce the area irrigated by around 15% to 16%. The purchase of water into the area has helped to offset a small proportion of the effects of water recovery. The net effect of the Basin Plan water recovery combined with water trade is estimated to reduce the area irrigated by around 14% to 14.5%. Most of the changes have affected the area of grapes and citrus.

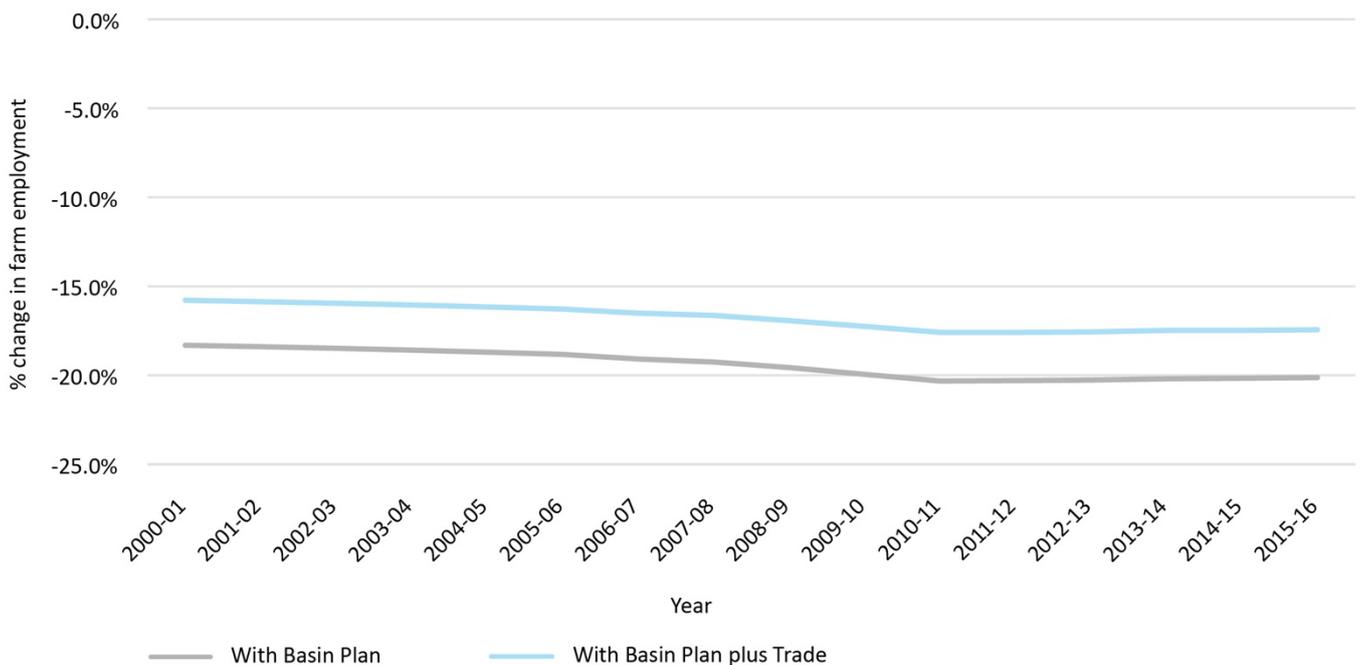
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 655 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 48% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 31% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery contributed the remaining 17% after accounting for permanent water trade back into the community. In the absence of that water trade, it is estimated the effects of Basin Plan water recovery would have led to a decrease in farm employment of approximately 19%.

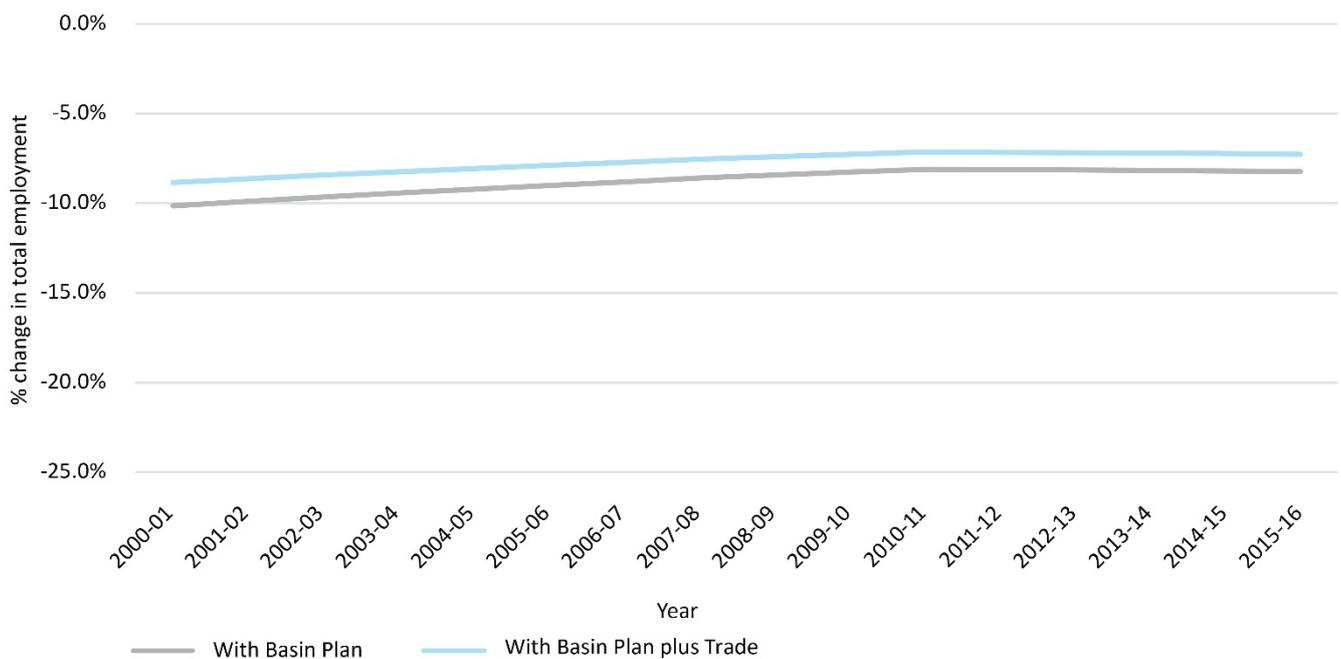
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 1,940 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 10% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 2% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery contributed the remaining 8% after accounting for permanent water trade back into the community. In the absence of that water trade, it is estimated the effect of the Basin Plan water recovery would have led to a decrease in total employment of approximately 9%. 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 (including the challenges for grape and citrus producers), it is possible the modelling results might over-estimate the effects of Basin Plan water recovery.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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