



Mildura 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 Mildura prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 64.1 GL. 11 GL (17.2% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 10.9 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 71% was purchased up to June 2011). 0.1 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 10.8 GL (16.9% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

Community area adjacent to town area

AREA POPULATION

Increased from 12,600 to 16,880 persons (34%) between 2001 and 2016
→ 26.3% between 2001 and 2011

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Increased from 4,403 to 5,443 FTE (23.6%) between 2001 and 2016
→ 23.2% of the increase occurred between 2001 and 2006
→ Workforce participation fell from 34.9 to 32.2 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 26.6% (261 FTE) between 2001 and 2016
→ Over half the decrease occurred between 2001 and 2006
→ Employment in irrigated production decreased 38.6% (over half between 2001 and 2006)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 19.1% (56 FTE) between 2001 and 2016
→ Mostly between 2006 and 2011 after increasing between 2001 and 2006

Non-agriculture private workforce

Increased 19.4% (445 FTE) between 2001 and 2016
→ Increasing 29.9% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 10.4% between 2011 and 2016

Government services workforce

Increased 84.5% (711 FTE) between 2001 and 2016
→ Increasing 68.5% between 2001 and 2011, increasing 16.1% between 2011 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE:

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 22% agriculture, 52% non-agriculture private, 19% government services
- **2016:** 13% agriculture, 50% non-agriculture private, 29% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 28,062 to 33,445 persons (19.2%) between 2001 and 2016

- Relatively constant across the period

43% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 37% in 2001

- 40% increase in 45 years and over, 7% increase in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

24% of town population in 2016
down from 26% in 2001

Part-time employment

Varied around 12% to 14% of
town population

Unemployment in the town

Constant around 3% to 4% of
town population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 6, advantage/disadvantage = 7, wealth = 7, education = 8
- **2016:** disadvantage = 4, advantage/disadvantage = 4, wealth = 3, education = 6

Land use



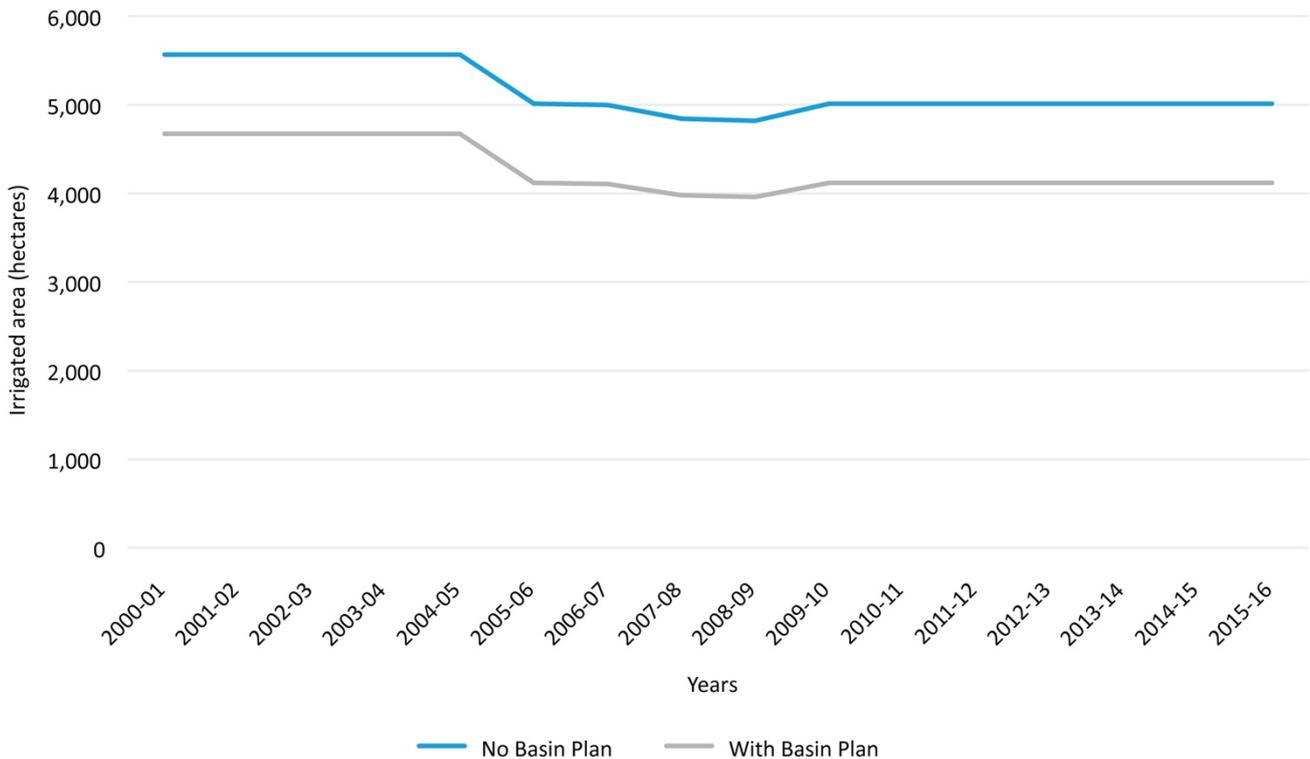
Water recovery programs

Most water recovery occurred through purchase with the largest volume being recovered in 2010. The balance of water recovery was through rounds 3 and 4 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program during 2014 and 2015.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main irrigated crop is grape production, with relatively small areas of citrus, fruit, nuts and vegetables. Grape production includes table grape, dried fruit and wine grape production. Basin Plan water recovery has contributed to the area of irrigation falling by approximately 16% to 18%. Most of the reduction in area is associated with grape production. Decisions to leave the respective grape producing sectors would have also been influenced by the prices growers were receiving for their products, particularly the outputs supplied to the dried fruit and wine grape sectors at the time of the Basin Plan water recovery, as well as the influence of the millennium drought on irrigation business viability.

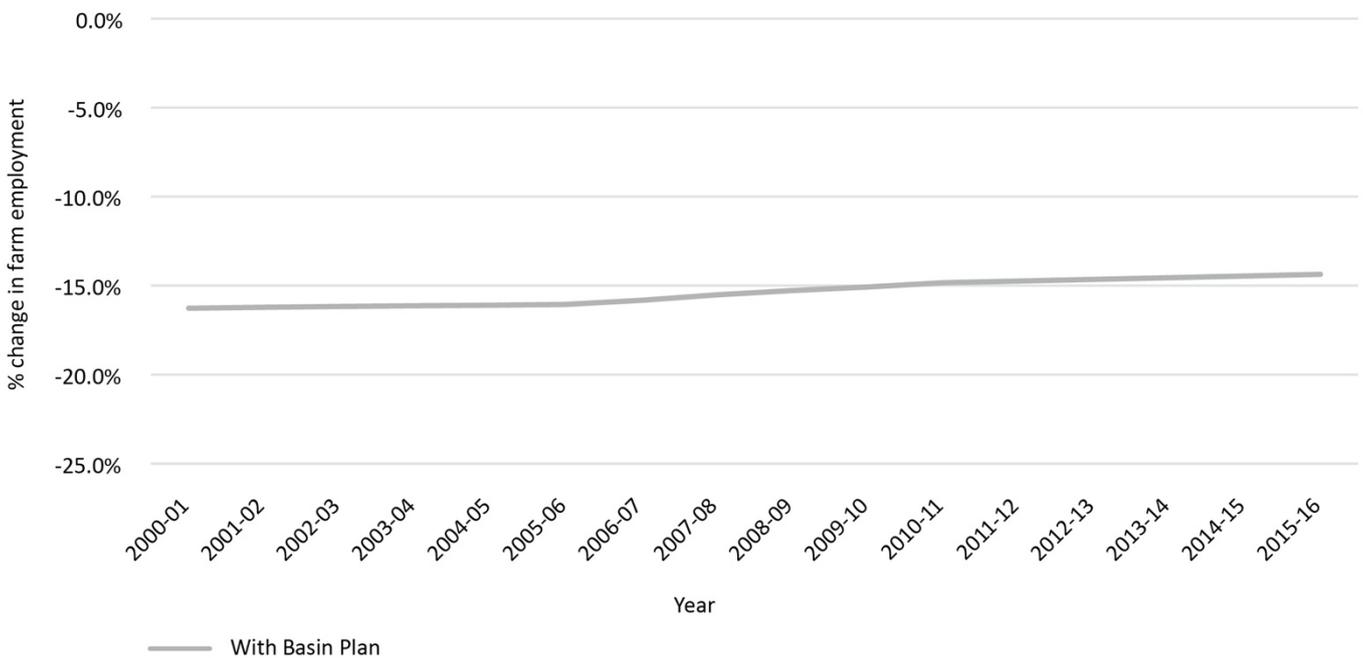
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 760 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 39% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 24% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 15%.

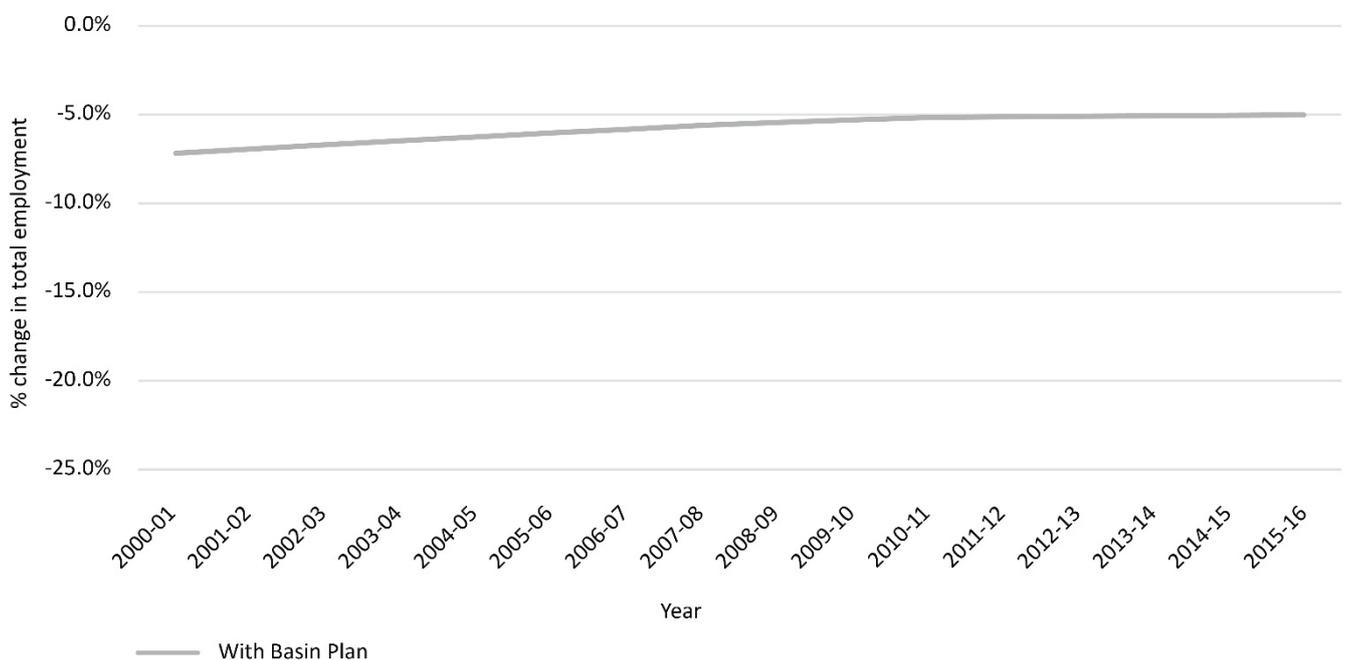
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 4,590 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment increased by around 24% between 2001–16. It is estimated that total employment might have been 5% to 7% higher if there had been no Basin Plan water recovery in the community.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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