



Mirrool 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 Mirrool prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 478.6 GL. 18.1 GL (3.8% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 14 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 31% was purchased up to June 2011). 4.2 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 12.2 GL (2.7% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Increased from 22,823 to 24,938 persons (9.3%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly 2011 to 2016

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Increased from 8,345 to 8,929 FTE (7%) between 2001 and 2016

- Constant increase between 2006 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 36.6 to 35.8 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 32% (659 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2001 and 2006
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 36.8% (mostly between 2001 and 2006)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Increased 48.4% (499 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Largely between 2001 and 2006, and between 2011 and 2016

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 6.5% (260 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing and decreasing across the period

Government services workforce

Increased 53.1% (675 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Constant rate of increase across the period

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 25% agriculture, 48% non-agriculture private, 15% government services
- **2016:** 16% agriculture, 42% non-agriculture private, 22% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 16,004 to 18,878 persons (18%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2006 and 2016

40% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 33% in 2001

- 42% increase in 45 years and over, 6% increase in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

29% of town population in 2016
down from 30% in 2001

Part-time employment

Constant around 12% to 13% 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 = 7, wealth = 8, education = 6
- **2016:** disadvantage = 5, advantage/disadvantage = 5, wealth = 5, education = 5

Land use



Water recovery programs

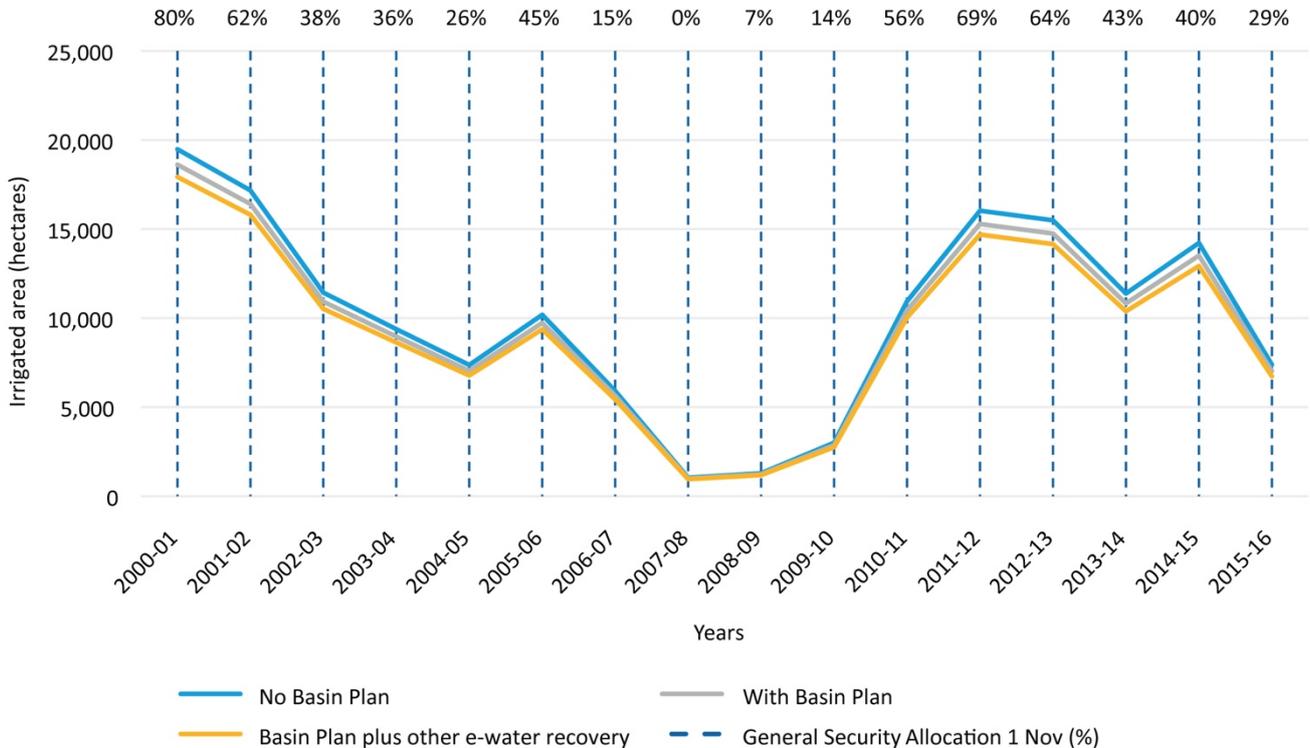
Water purchase accounted for most of the water recovered, peaking during 2012. Infrastructure water recovery occurred through the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program between 2012 and 2017. An irrigation system assessment identified, and lead to, funding for improvements to the water delivery infrastructure managed by Murrumbidgee Irrigation. The community received from funding through Griffith City Council to support planning for climate change and water security through the Strengthening Basin Communities program.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main crops grown are annuals (summer and winter cereals and oils, pasture, rice and some recent substitution of land from growing rice to cotton, grouped together as rice equivalent hectares) plus over 13,000 hectares of grapes and 4,700 hectares of citrus. A small proportion of the land is utilized for other fruit trees and vegetables. While citrus has remained fairly constant, grape and fruit areas have been increasing over time, although the area of vegetables has fallen since the drought.

The Basin Plan water recovery was estimated to reduce the rice equivalent area irrigated by approximately 4% to 5%. Other sources of environmental water recovery together the Basin Plan water recovery were estimated to reduce the rice equivalent hectares by around 8% to 9%. Significant investment through the Basin Plan on-farm and off-farm infrastructure investment, together with the changes made to the farming production systems, have the potential to offset the effects of water recovery. At this time, it is too early to identify the productivity benefits arising from that investment. There is no detectable effect of the Basin Plan water recovery on the area of the other irrigated crops being grown.

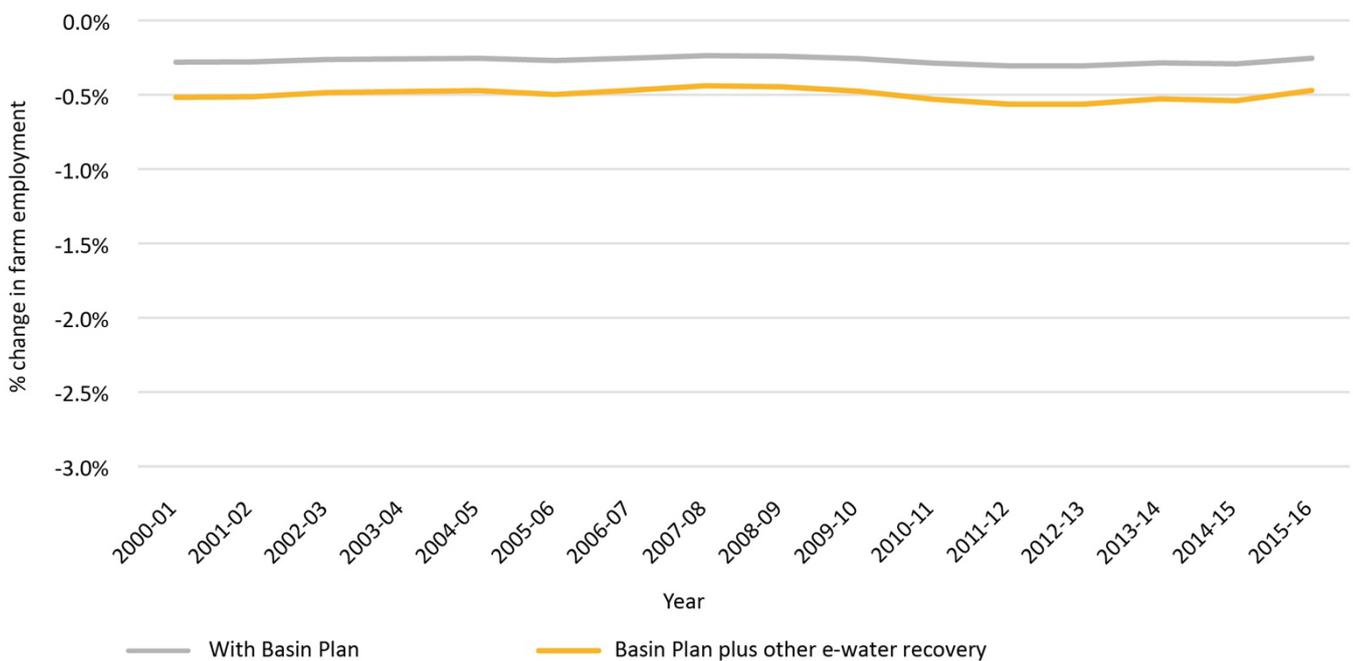
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 1,810 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 34% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 33% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed part of the remaining 1%. Other environmental water recovery is estimated to have further reduced farm employment. However, the overall effect of all water recovery for the environment has an effect on farm employment of less than 1%.

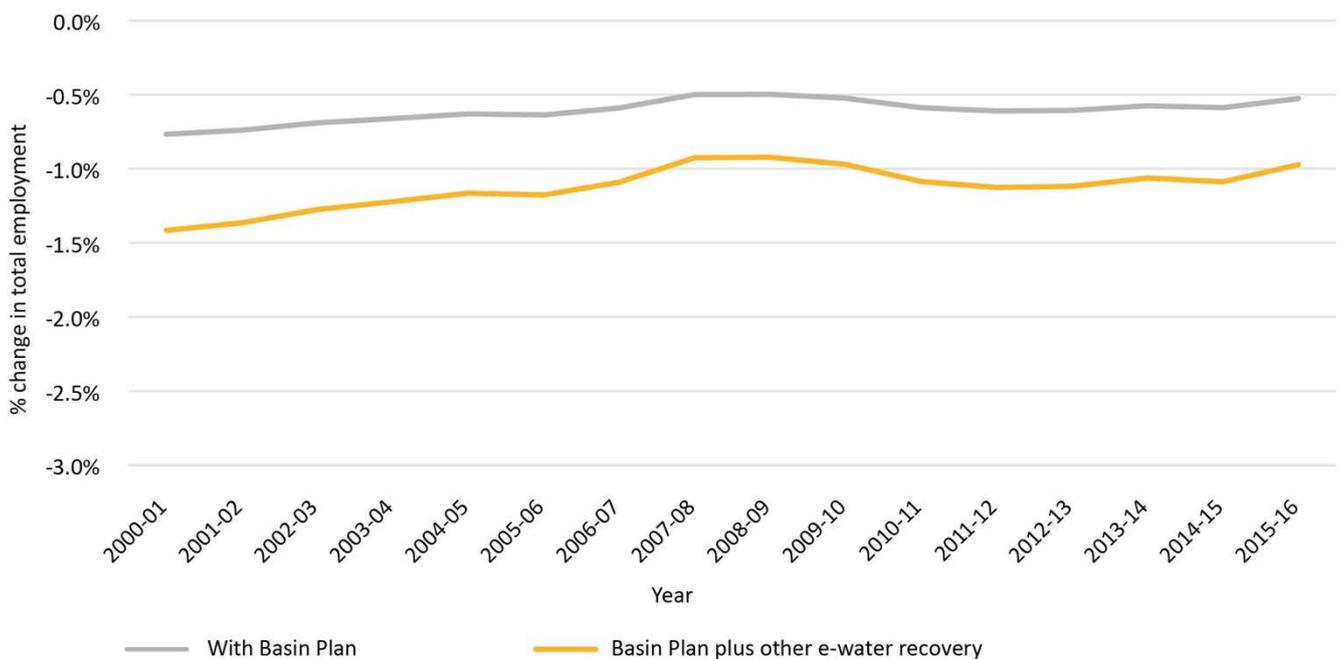
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 8,940 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment increased by around 7% between 2001–16. It is estimated that total employment might have been up to 0.5% higher if there had been no Basin Plan water recovery, and a further 1% higher in the absence of environmental water recovery beyond the Basin Plan.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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