



Murray Bridge 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 Murray Bridge prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 27.4 GL. 5.5 GL (20% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 4.4 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 71% was purchased up to June 2011). 1.1 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 3.9 GL (14.7% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Increased from 14,676 to 18,608 persons (26.8%) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the increase occurred between 2006 and 2011

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Increased from 4,467 to 5,620 FTE (25.8%) between 2001 and 2016

- All of the increase occurred between 2001 and 2011
- Workforce participation fell from 30.4 to 30.2 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Increased 24.3% (198 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Decreasing 22.4% between 2001 and 2006, increasing 36.9% between 2011 and 2016
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 24.2% (decrease 36.1% between 2001 and 2006 before increasing 11% between 2006 and 2011)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Increased 57.6% (232 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 94.7% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 37% between 2006 and 2016

Non-agriculture private workforce

Increased 3.9% (93 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 20.5% between 2006 and 2011, decreasing 14.5% between 2011 and 2016

Government services workforce

Increased 55.2% (470 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 55.8% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 0.6% between 2011 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 18% agriculture, 54% non-agriculture private, 19% government services
- **2016:** 18% agriculture, 44% non-agriculture private, 24% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 13,016 to 16,803 persons (29.1%) between 2001 and 2016

- Half of the increase occurred between 2006 and 2011

45% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 39% in 2001

- 49% increase in 45 years and over, 17% increase in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

23% of town population in 2016,
no change from 2001

Part-time employment

Constant around 13% to 14% of
town population

Unemployment in the town

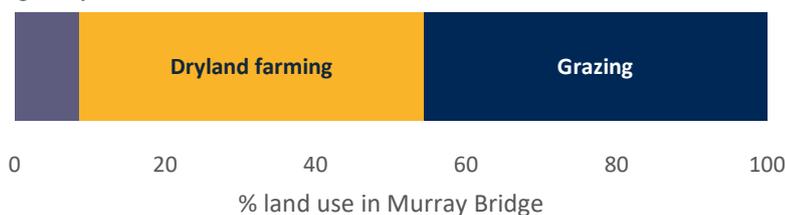
Constant around 3% to 5% of
town population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 2, wealth = 4, education = 2
- **2016:** disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 2, wealth = 2, education = 2

Land use

Irrigated production



Water recovery programs

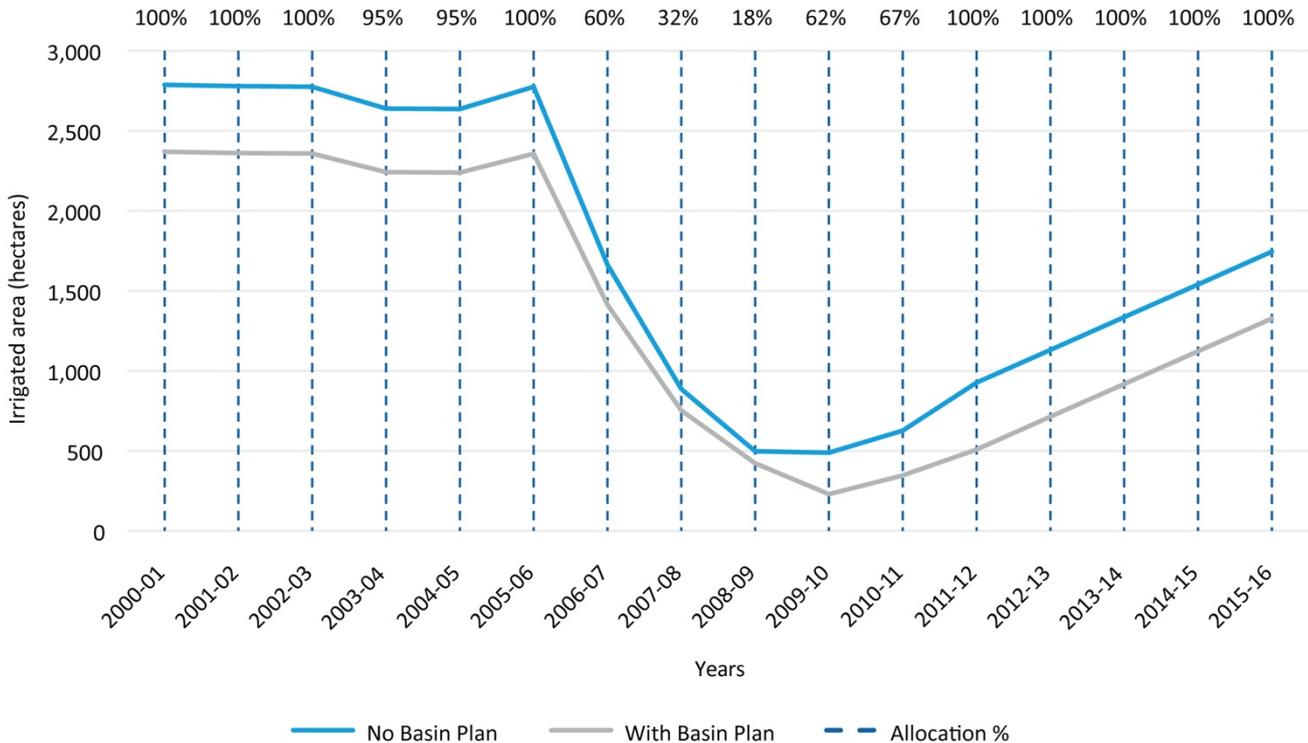
Water recovery occurred through the On-Farm Irrigation efficiency program rounds 2, 3 and 4 and through the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Program for South Australia. The community received funding through the Rural City of Murray Bridge for a feasibility study to provide recycled water for industry and irrigation.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production have been irrigated pasture to support milk production and other livestock, plus citrus and vegetables, with small areas of fruit and grapes. Drought, 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 18 million litres to less than 2 million litres in 2006-07. Since the drought, milk production has increased to a maximum output of around 26 million litres in 2012-13. While the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have reduced the maximum area irrigated by up to 30%, the overall effects on milk production are likely to arise from a significant change in the dairy production systems used. In particular, an increase in the intensification of dairying around those lands remaining under irrigation.

Other factors leading to changes in irrigated production include an increase in the volume of 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 being unable to irrigate during the drought and the low river height during that period.

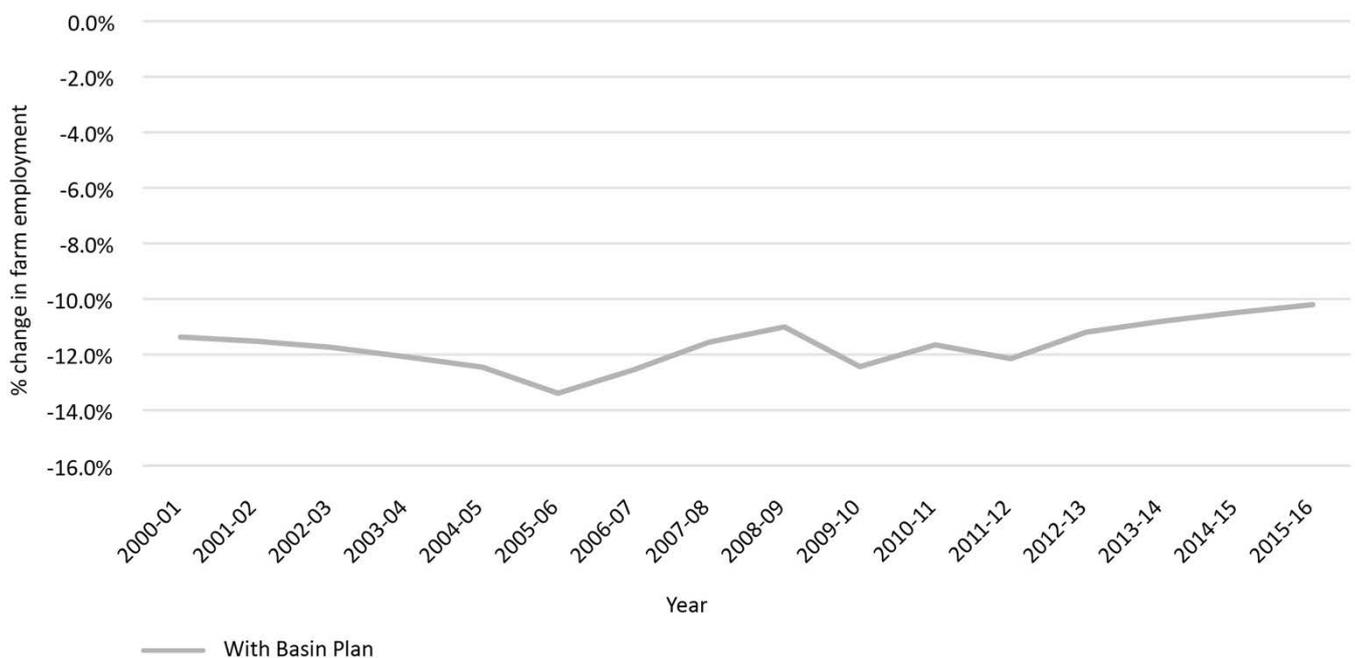
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 600 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 24% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 13% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 11%.

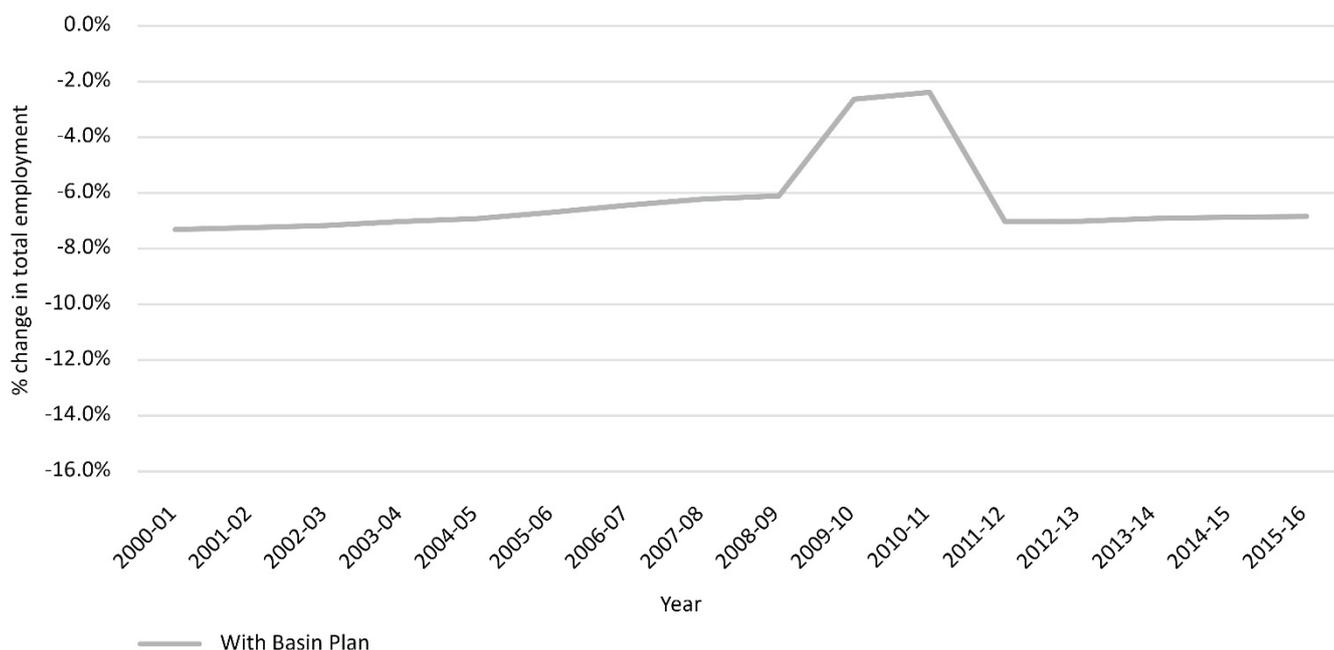
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 4,500 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment increased by around 26% between 2001–16. Modelling estimates indicate total employment might have been 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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