



# Pyramid Hill-Boort 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 Pyramid Hill-Boort prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 229.7 GL. 40.8 GL (17.8% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 36.8 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 55% was purchased up to June 2011). 4.1 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 35 GL (15.5% of available water).

## Trends in social and economic conditions

### AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 4,050 to 3,120 persons (23%) between 2001 and 2016

- Decrease has been relatively constant across time

### WORKFORCE

#### Total area workforce

Decreased from 1,461 to 792 FTE (45.8%) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 36.1 to 25.4 FTE per 100 persons

#### Agricultural workforce

Decreased 47% (413 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Decreasing 15.7% between 2001 and 2006, and 27.4% between 2011 and 2016
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 66.5% (constant across the period)

#### Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 62.7% (48 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011

#### Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 58% (180 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016

#### Government services workforce

Decreased 21.7% (43 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 5.2% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 26.8% between 2011 and 2016

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## ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 60% agriculture, 21% non-agriculture private, 13% government services
- **2016:** 59% agriculture, 16% non-agriculture private, 19% government services

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## TOWN POPULATION

Decreased from 1,250 to 1,179 persons (5.7%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2006 and 2011

59% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 50% in 2001

- 11% increase in 45 years and over, 21% decrease in under 45s

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Full-time employment

18% of town population in 2016  
down from 26% 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

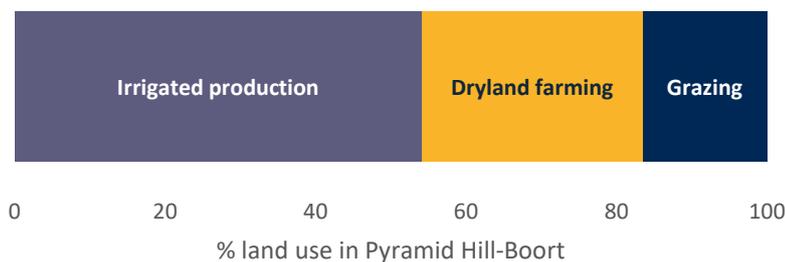
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## SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS, PYRAMID HILL/BOORT)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 3/9, advantage/disadvantage = 2/7, wealth = 2/6, education = 2/8
- **2016:** disadvantage = 2/5, advantage/disadvantage = 2/5, wealth = 2/4, education = 3/7

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## Land use



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## Water recovery programs

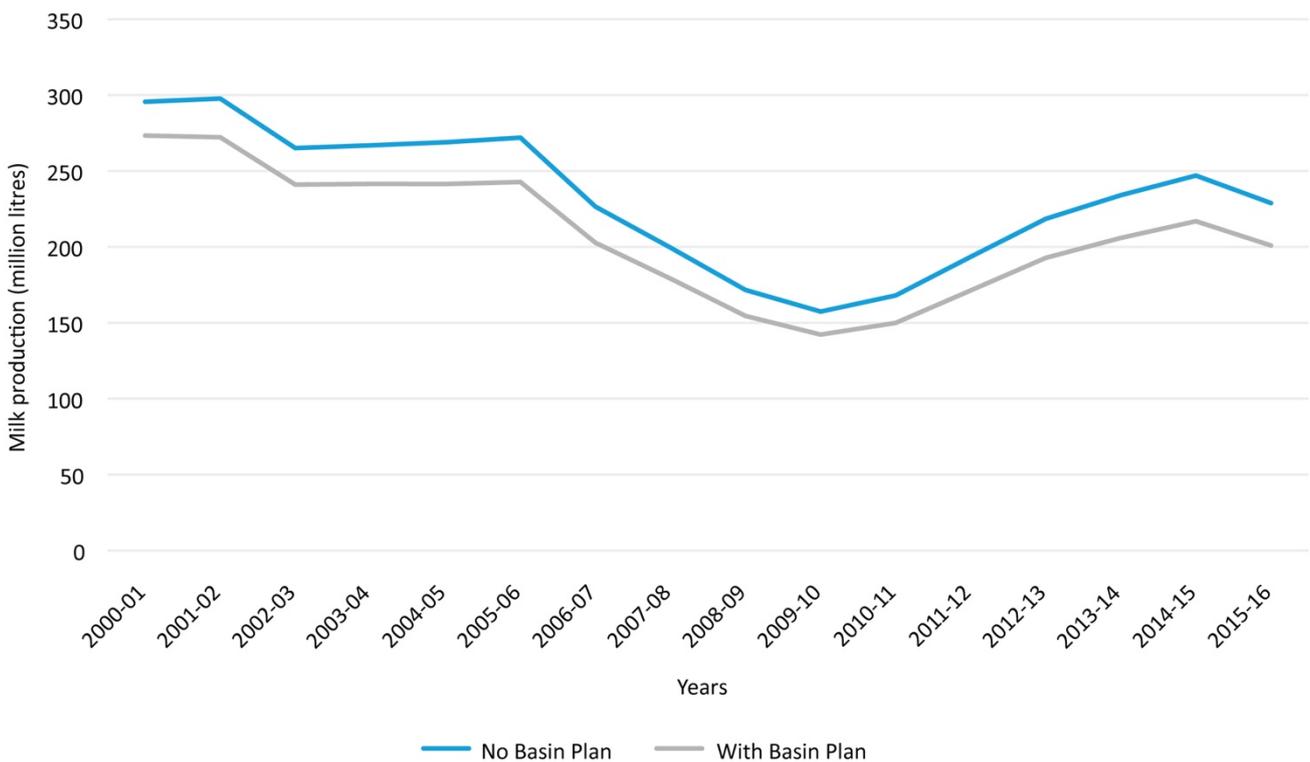
Water purchase accounted for most of the water recovery, mostly occurring between 2010 and 2012.

Infrastructure water recovery recovered through rounds 1 to 4 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program.

## Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

Milk production is the main form of irrigated production in the Pyramid Hill-Boort community. Since the early 2000s, the overall decline in milk production has been around 26%. Factors contributing to the decline in milk production during this period include the sale of water out of the district prior to 2007-08, the long-term effects of drought, changes in farming practices to accommodate the combined effects of future droughts and Basin Plan water recovery, and the milk prices received. Basin Plan water recovery has led to nearly half (10% to 13%) of the decrease in milk production, with a further quarter resulting from the permanent sale of water out of the community prior to 2007-08. The other factors listed above contributed to the remainder of the decrease in milk volume.

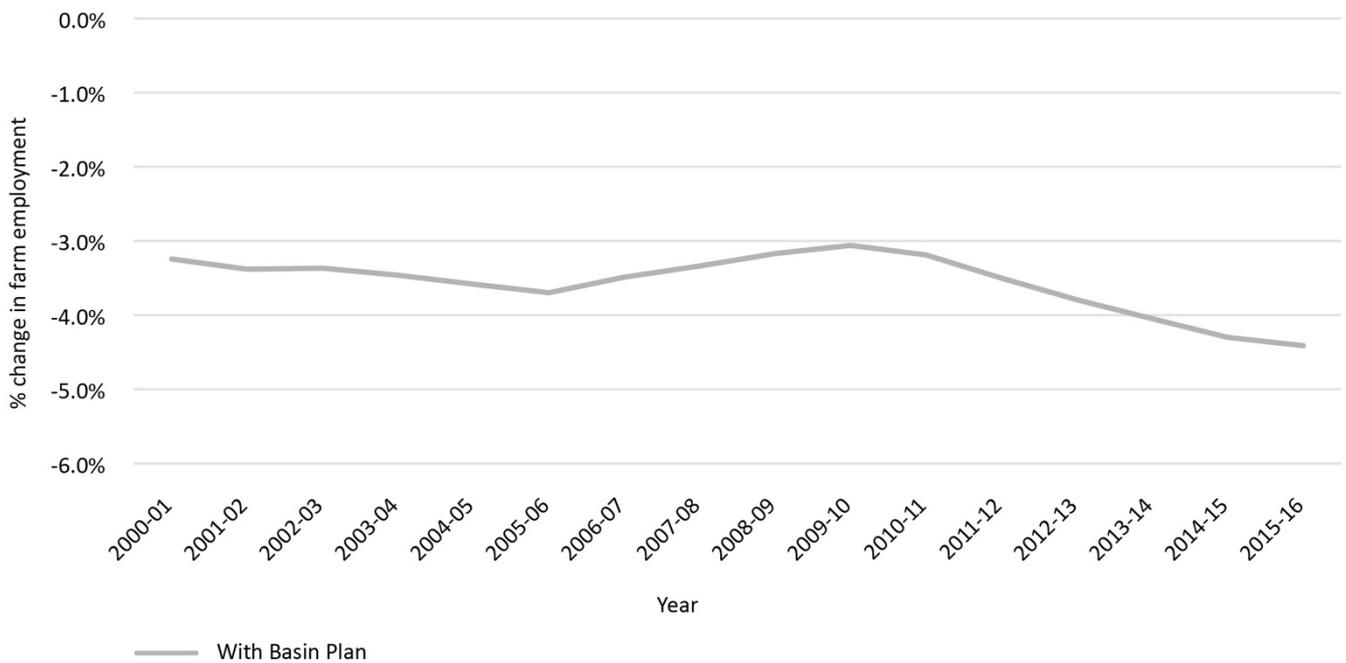
### Milk production (million litres) 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 900 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 66.5% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 62.5% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 4%.

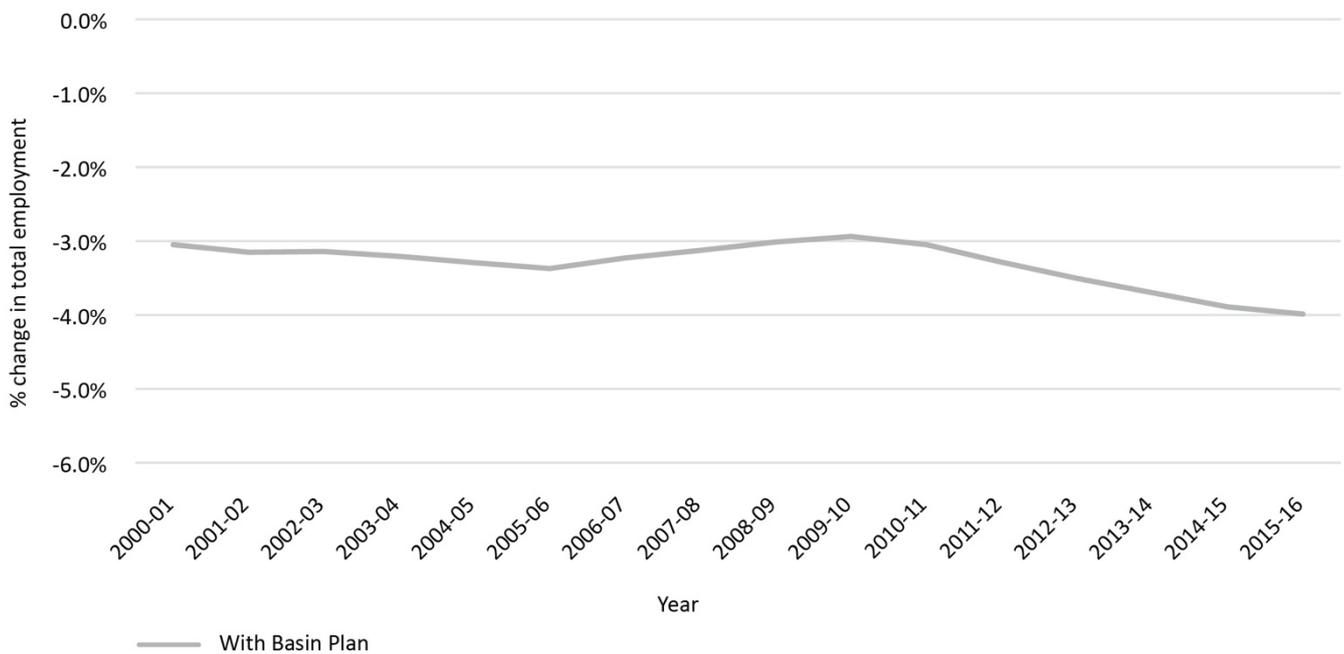
### Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 1,460 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 46% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 42.5% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 3.5%. 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, it is possible the modelling results might under-estimate the effect of the Basin Plan water recovery.

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



Updated June 2018