



Red Cliffs 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 Red Cliffs prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 42.6 GL. 9.4 GL (21.9% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 9.3 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 76% 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 9.2 GL (21.7% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 3,962 to 3,035 persons (23.4%) between 2001 and 2016

- Decreasing 25.7% between 2006 and 2011, increasing 4.6% between 2011 and 2016

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 1,449 to 894 FTE (38.3%) between 2001 and 2016

- Most of the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011
- Workforce participation fell from 36.6 to 29.5 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 65.9% (433 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Decreasing 36.3% between 2001 and 2006, and 25.7% between 2006 and 2011
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 76.2% (44.3% between 2001 and 2006)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 43% (48 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 56.3% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 80.4% between 2006 and 2011

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 22.7% (110 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 8% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 30.6% between 2006 and 2016

Government services workforce

Decreased 4.6% (9 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 21.9% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 26.5% between 2006 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 45% agriculture, 34% non-agriculture private, 13% government services
- **2016:** 25% agriculture, 42% non-agriculture private, 21% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 2,638 to 2,915 persons (10.5%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2011 and 2016

48% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 41% in 2001

- 27% increase in 45 years and over, no change in proportion of under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

20% of town population in 2016
down from 23% in 2001

Part-time employment

Constant around 10% to 12% of
town population

Unemployment in the town

Constant around 3% of town
population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 2, wealth = 3, education = 2
- **2016:** disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 2, wealth = 2, education = 2

Land use



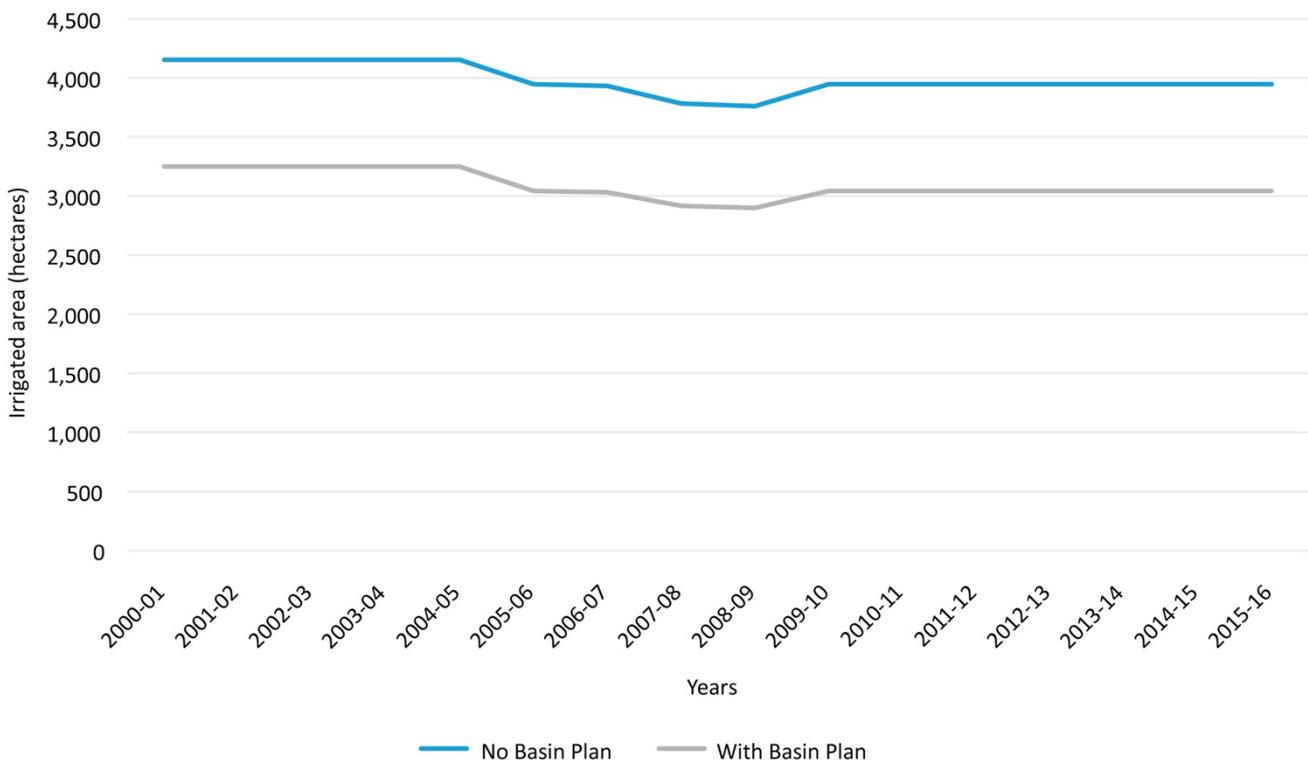
Water recovery programs

Most of the water recovery was obtained through purchase, with the largest part of that water recovery occurring in 2010. Infrastructure water recovery was from rounds 3 and 4 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program between 2014 and 2016.

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 declining by approximately 21% to 23%. Most of the reduction in area is associated with grape production together with area of citrus being halved. Decisions to leave the respective industries would have also been influenced by the prices growers were receiving for their products, particularly the outputs supplied to the dried fruit, wine grape and citrus sectors at the time of the Basin Plan water recovery, in addition to the effects of the millennium drought on irrigation business viability. Since the Basin Plan water recovery, there has been an increase in the area of vegetables grown.

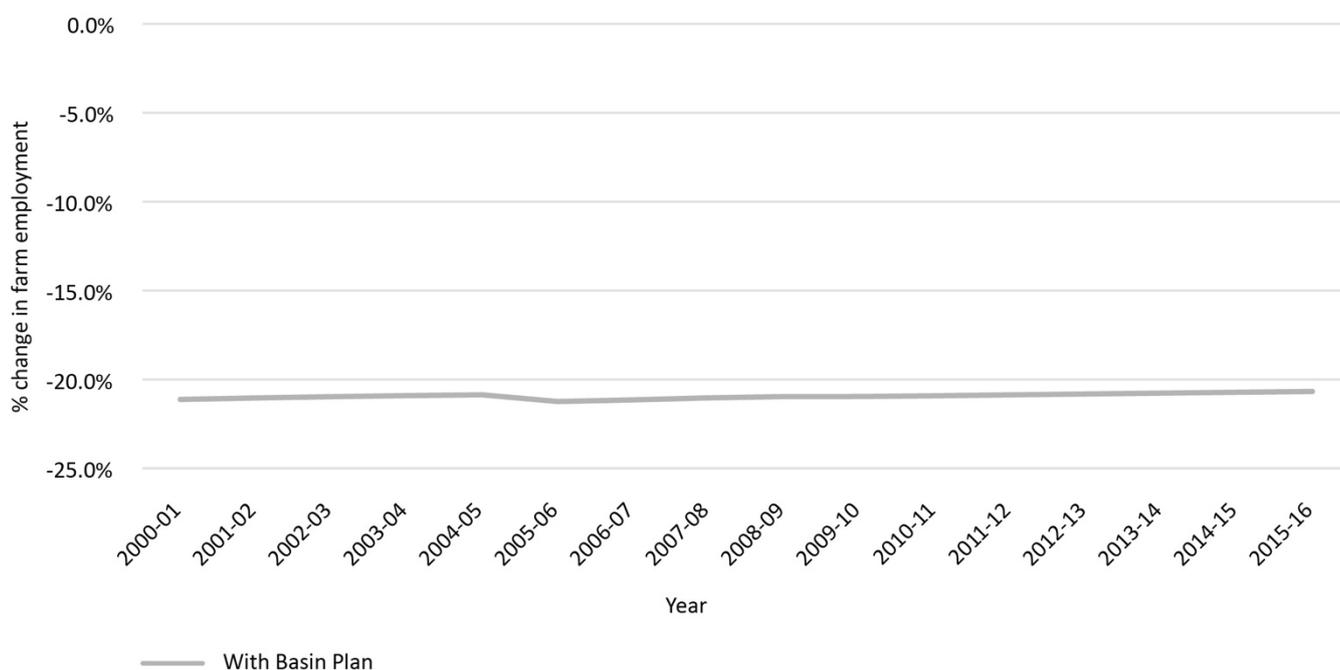
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 550 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 76% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 55% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 21%.

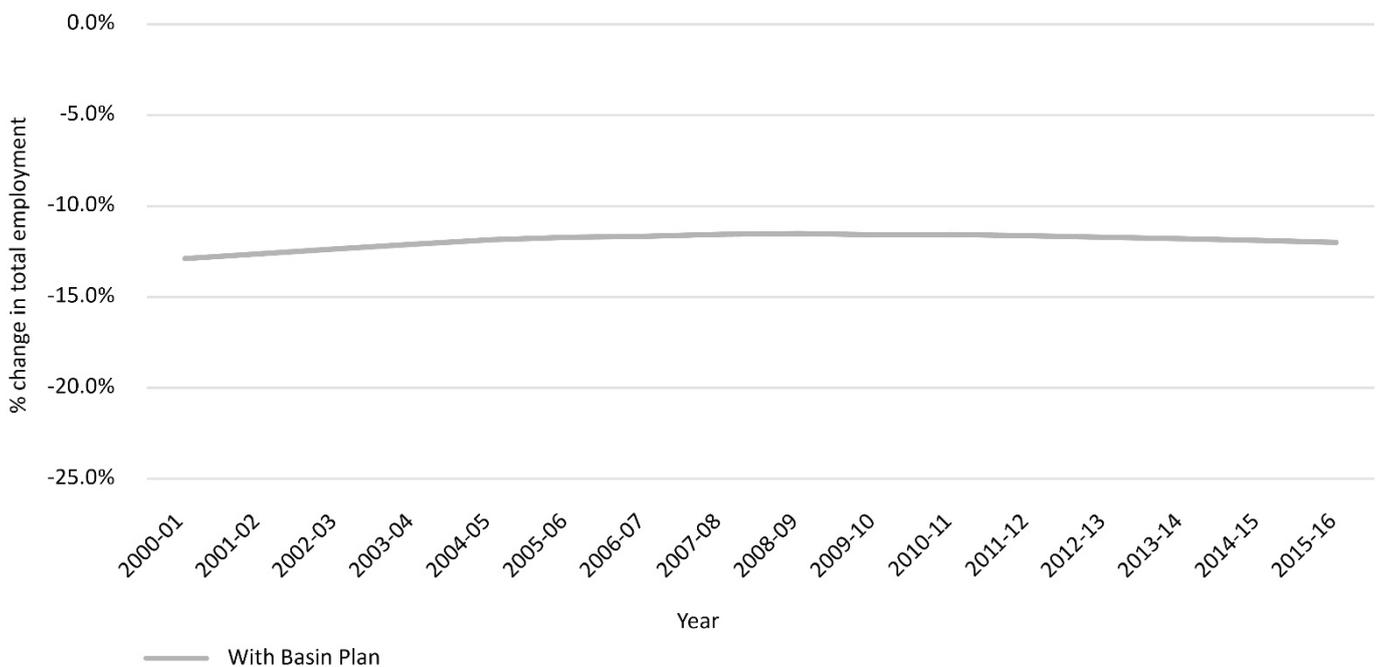
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 1,585 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 38% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 26% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 12%. 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 Basin Plan water recovery.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



Updated June 2018