



Renmark 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 Renmark prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 118.3 GL. 27.8 GL (23.5% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 22.7 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 61% was purchased up to June 2011). 5.2 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 20.5 GL (17.9% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 9,484 to 9,069 persons (4.4%) between 2001 and 2016

- Decreasing 7.1% between 2001 and 2011, increasing 2.7% between 2011 and 2016

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 3,263 to 2,779 FTE (14.8%) between 2001 and 2016

- Decrease occurred between 2006 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 34.4 to 30.6 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 42.7% (555 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2001 and 2006
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 44.2% (over half between 2001 and 2006)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 38.5% (125 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half between 2006 and 2011

Non-agriculture private workforce

Increased 1.4% (15 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 30.1% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 18.4% between 2011 and 2016

Government services workforce

Increased 17.6% (87 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 27.8% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 10.2% between 2011 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 40% agriculture, 35% non-agriculture private, 15% government services
- **2016:** 27% agriculture, 42% non-agriculture private, 21% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 5,286 to 5,624 persons (6.4%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2011 and 2016

49% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 43% in 2001

- 20% increase in 45 years and over, 4% decrease in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

22% of town population in 2016
down from 26% in 2001

Part-time employment

Constant around 12% to 14% of
town population

Unemployment in the town

Constant around 2% to 4% of
town population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 3, wealth = 4, education = 3
- **2016:** disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 2, wealth = 2, education = 2

Land use



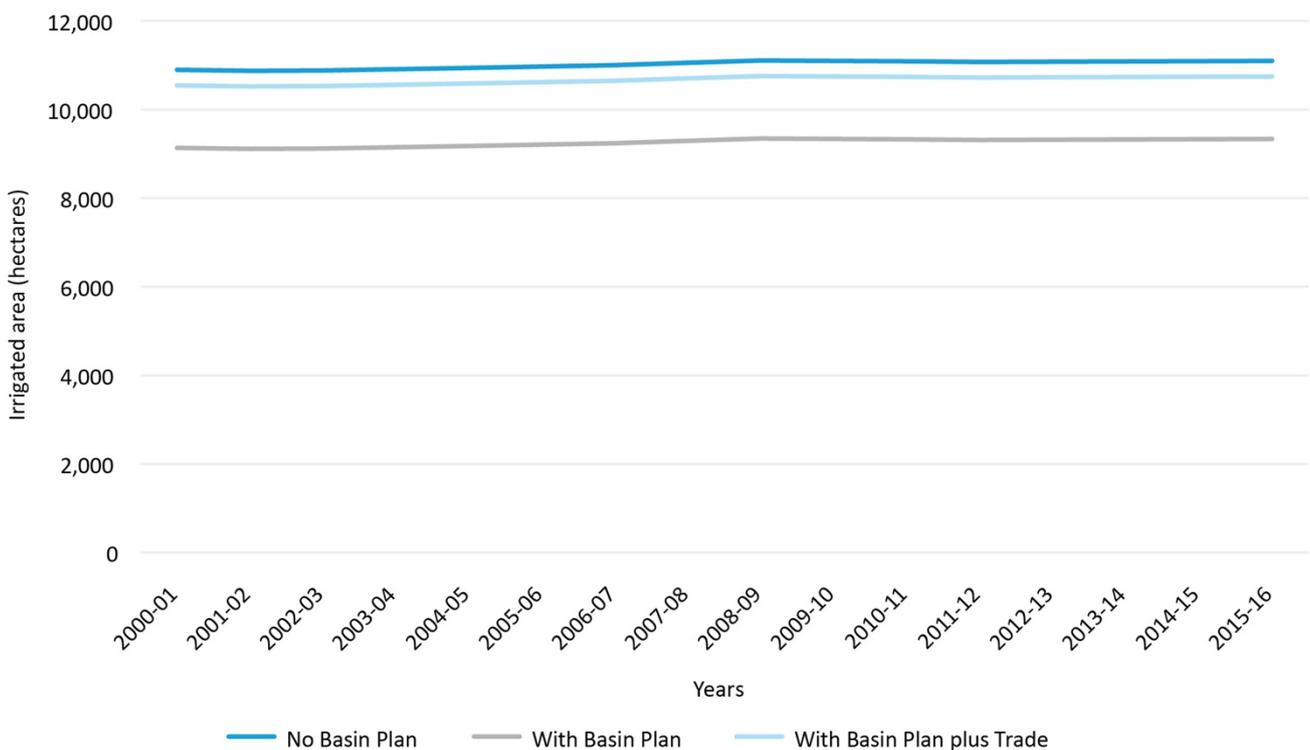
Water recovery programs

Most water recovery was acquired through purchase between 2010 and 2012. Infrastructure water recovery between 2011 and 2016 was split between rounds 1 to 4 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program, and rounds 1 and 2 of the Private Infrastructure Irrigation Program for South Australia program. Irrigation system modernisation planning assistance was accessed by the Renmark Irrigation Trust. The region received funding for stormwater harvesting upgrade through Renmark Paringa Council.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production are grapes, citrus, nuts and fruit with smaller areas of vegetables and annual crops. Since the drought, there have been decreases in the area of vegetables, fruit and annual crops, while the area of nut production has increased. The Basin Plan water recovery alone was estimated to reduce the overall area irrigated by around 15% to 16%. The purchase of water into the area has helped to offset much of the effects from the water recovery. The net effect of the Basin Plan water recovery combined with water trade is estimated to reduce the total area irrigated by around 3% relative to what it might otherwise have been, noting the total irrigated area is around the same as it was prior to the Basin Plan water recovery. Most of the changes associated with the Basin Plan water recovery are associated with the area of grape production.

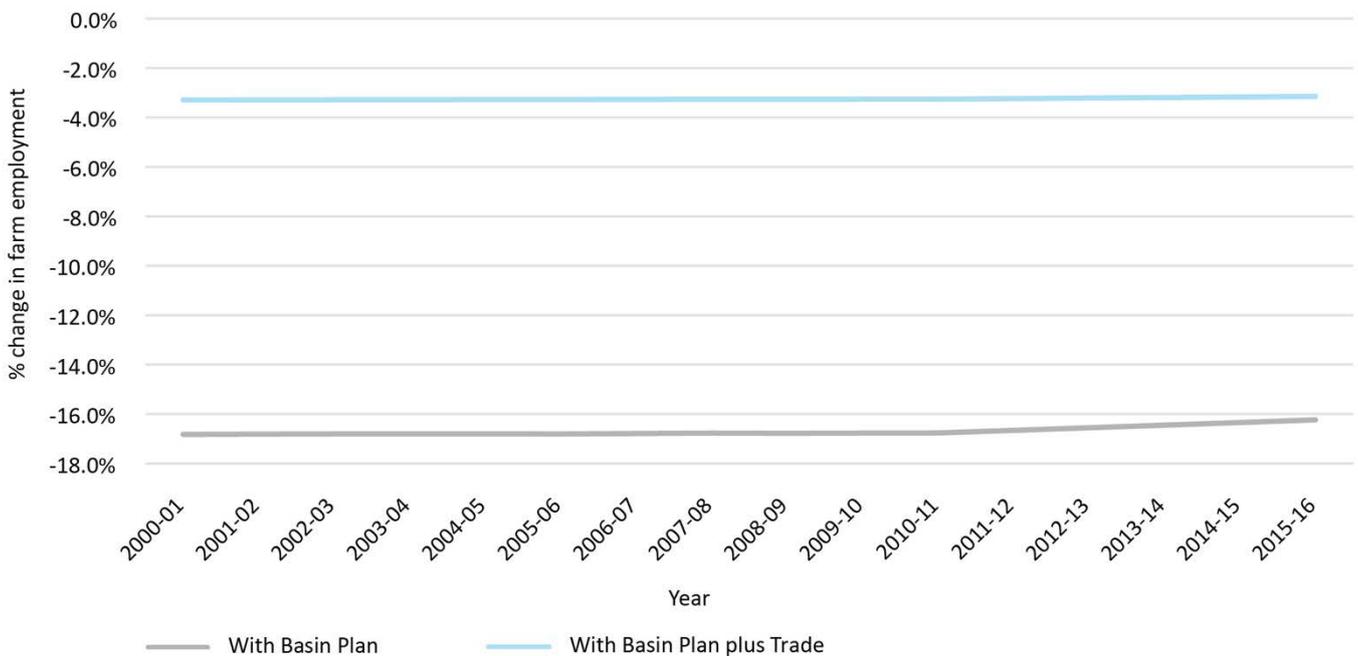
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 1,260 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 44% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 40.5% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed the remaining 3.5% after accounting for the permanent water trade back into the community. In the absence of that water trade, it is estimated the effect of Basin Plan water recovery would have led to a decrease in farm employment of approximately 17%.

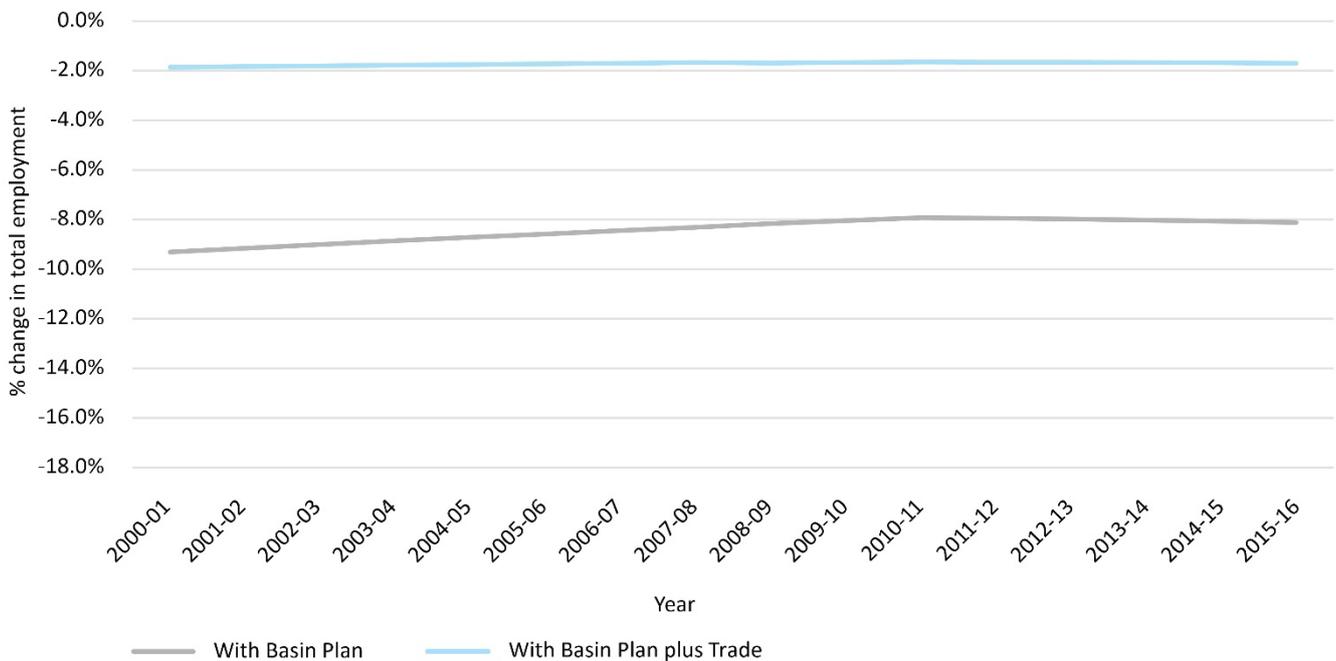
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 3,710 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 15% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 13% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery contributed the remaining 2% after accounting for the permanent water traded back into the community. In the absence of that water trade, it is estimated the effect of the Basin Plan water recovery would have led to a decrease in total employment of approximately 9%.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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