



Robinvale 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 Robinvale prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 101.3 GL. 44.7 GL (44.2% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 43.1 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 52% was purchased up to June 2011). 1.6 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 42.4 GL (42.1% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 5,278 to 4,417 persons (16.3%) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 1,843 to 1,197 FTE (35.1%) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 34.9 to 27.1 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 40.7% (391 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Half the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 39.1% (30.3% between 2001 and 2011)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Increased 89.5% (41 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Large increase between 2006 and 2011, large decrease between 2011 and 2016

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 57.1% (317 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Consistently decreasing across the period

Government services workforce

Decreased 21.9% (62 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Generally decreasing across the period

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 52% agriculture, 30% non-agriculture private, 15% government services
- **2016:** 48% agriculture, 20% non-agriculture private, 18% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 2,607 to 2,672 persons (2.5%) between 2001 and 2016

- Small increases and decreases across the period

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

- 23% increase in 45 years and over, 8% decrease in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

21% of town population in 2016
down from 25% in 2001

Part-time employment

Varied around 8% to 10% of
town population

Unemployment in the town

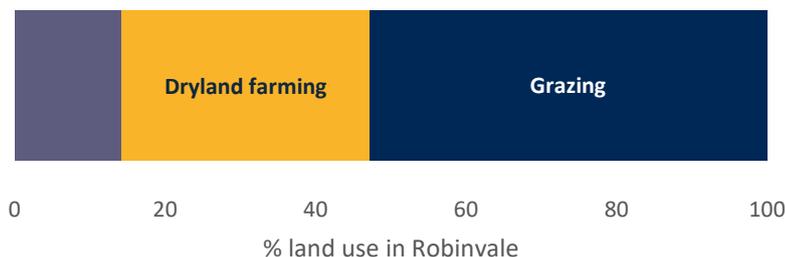
Constant around 3% to 4% of
town population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS, EUSTON/ROBINVALE)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 3/1, advantage/disadvantage = 3/2, wealth = 7/4, education = 1/3
- **2016:** disadvantage = 4/1, advantage/disadvantage = 4/2, wealth = 5/1, education = 4/2

Land use

Irrigated production



Water recovery programs

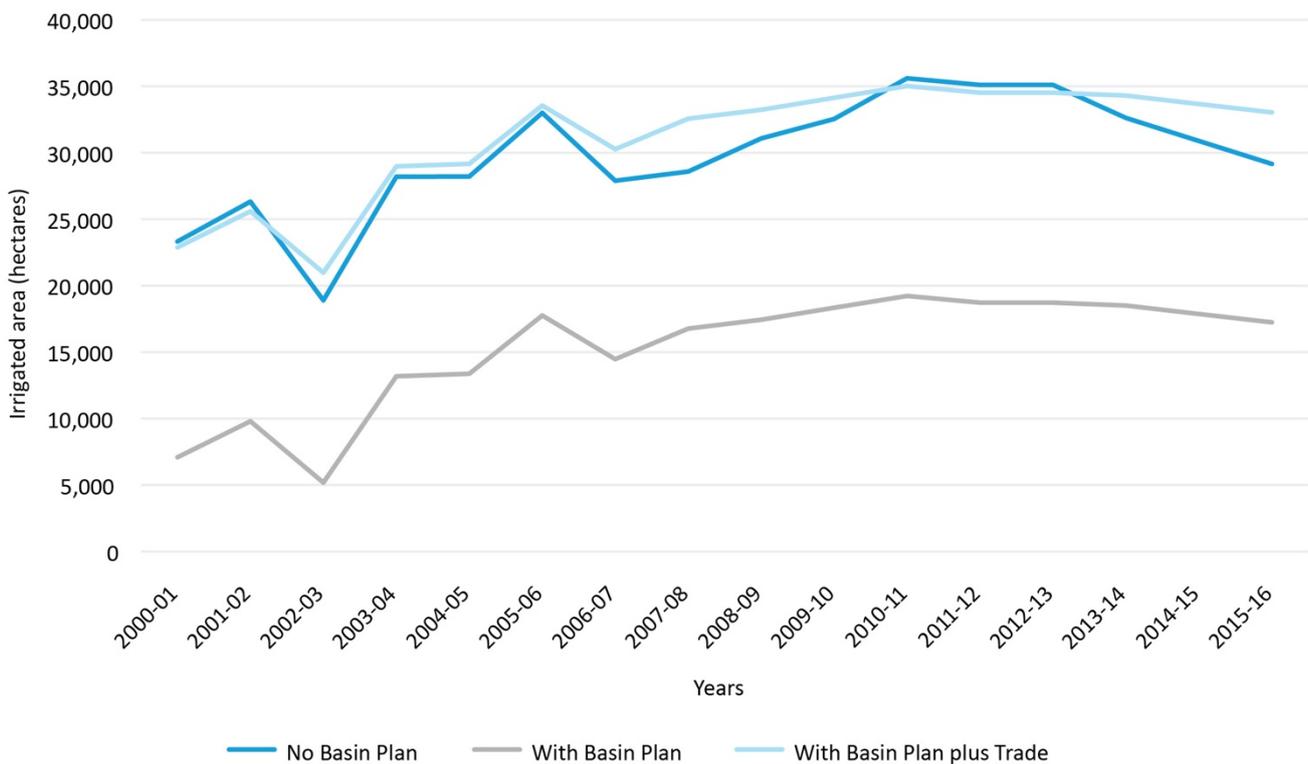
Water recovery by purchase occurred between 2009 and 2013. Infrastructure water recovery occurred under rounds 3 and 4 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program between 2014 and 2016.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

While the total area of irrigation increased by approximately 50% between 2000-01 and 2012-13, there have been significant changes in the mix of crops grown. The area of grapes increased from 8,000 hectares to more than 10,000 hectares then declined to 6,000 hectares.

The area of nuts has grown from 4,000 hectares to more than 15,000 hectares. Across the same period, the area of fruit has expanded while citrus, vegetables and annual crop areas have all fallen. In association with these changes, the Basin Plan water recovery on its own would have been expected to reduce the area of irrigated production by approximately 45%. However, the increasing use of temporary water trade (particularly since the time of most of the Basin Plan water recovery in 2010-11 and 2012-12) has allowed the irrigation sector to at least maintain or slightly increase the area of irrigated production. This use of temporary water trade has transferred the effects of the Basin Plan water recovery to other areas of the southern Basin.

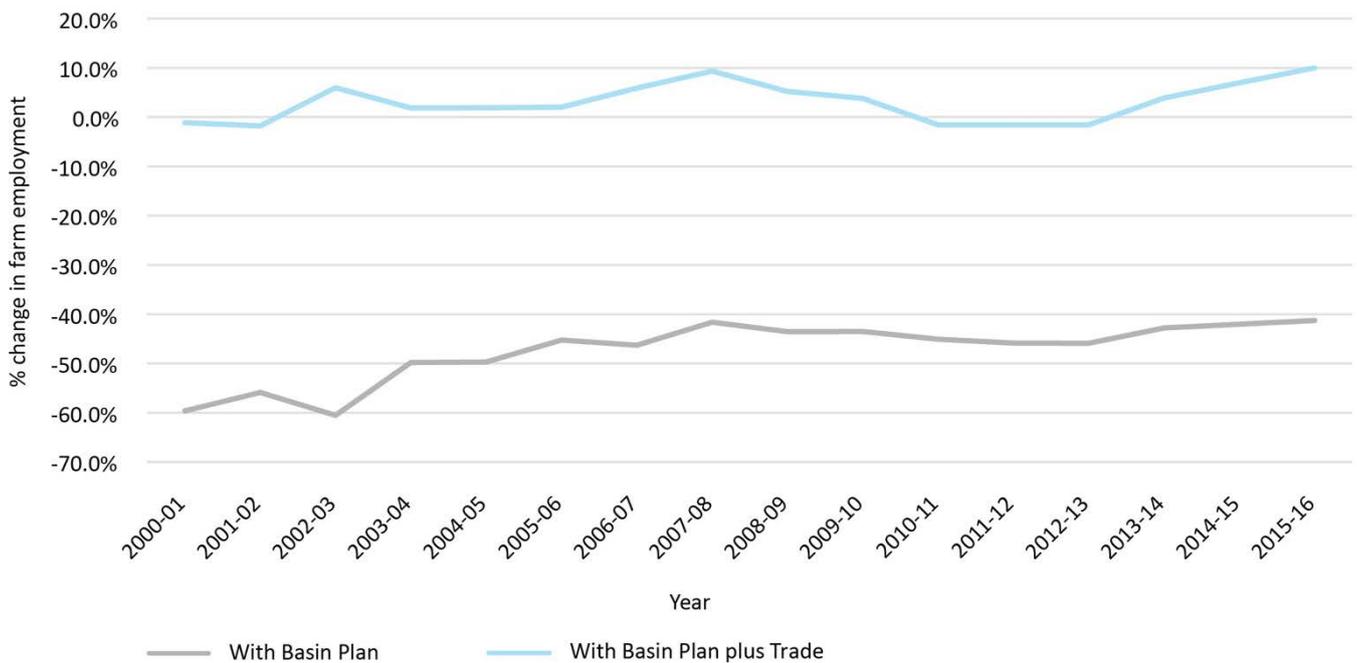
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 1,800 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment increased with the expansion in irrigated production between 2001–16. When considering Basin Plan water recovery on its own, it is estimated the effect on employment would be a decrease of around 40% to 60%. However, water traded back into the community area (particularly from temporary water trade) helped to maintain and then slightly increase employment.

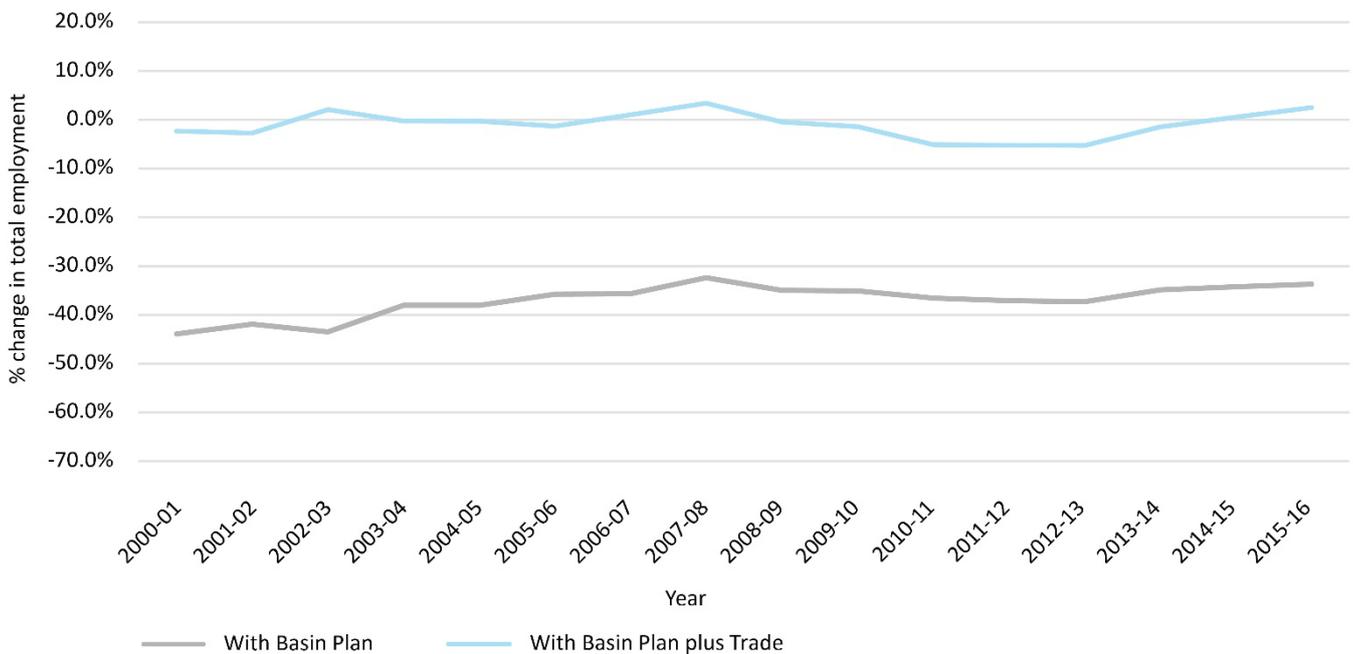
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 2,595 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 15% between 2001–16. Modelling suggests nearly all of this decrease is attributable to non-Basin Plan factors, given the role of temporary water trade into this community between 2001–16. In the absence of temporary water trade into this community, it is estimated Basin Plan water recovery would have led to a 35% to 40% decrease in total employment.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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