



# Rochester 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 Rochester prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 218.7 GL. 51 GL (23.3% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 43.7 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 56% was purchased up to June 2011). 7.2 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 40.6 GL (19% of available water).

## Trends in social and economic conditions

### AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 8,797 to 8,093 persons (8%) between 2001 and 2016  
→ Most of the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011

### WORKFORCE

#### Total area workforce

Decreased from 3,028 to 2,371 FTE (21.7%) between 2001 and 2016  
→ Most of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016  
→ Workforce participation fell from 34.4 to 29.3 FTE per 100 persons

#### Agricultural workforce

Decreased 29.1% (311 FTE) between 2001 and 2016  
→ Half of the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011  
→ Employment in irrigated production decreased 41.8% (40.2% between 2001 and 2011)

#### Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 27.8% (76 FTE) between 2001 and 2016  
→ Mostly between 2011 and 2016

#### Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 32.7% (396 FTE) between 2001 and 2016  
→ Mostly between 2011 and 2016

#### Government services workforce

Increased 11.2% (53 FTE) between 2001 and 2016  
→ Increasing 29.5% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 18.4% between 2011 and 2016

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## ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 35% agriculture, 40% non-agriculture private, 16% government services
- **2016:** 32% agriculture, 34% non-agriculture private, 22% government services

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## TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 2,624 to 2,722 persons (3.7%) between 2001 and 2016

- Population increased and decreased across the period

57% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 43% in 2001

- 39% increase in 45 years and over, 23% decrease in under 45s

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Full-time employment

21% of town population in 2016  
down from 22% in 2001

### Part-time employment

Varied around 11% to 14% of  
town population

### Unemployment in the town

Constant around 1% to 2% of  
town population

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## SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 6, advantage/disadvantage = 5, wealth = 5, education = 4
- **2016:** disadvantage = 4, advantage/disadvantage = 4, wealth = 5, education = 4

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## Land use



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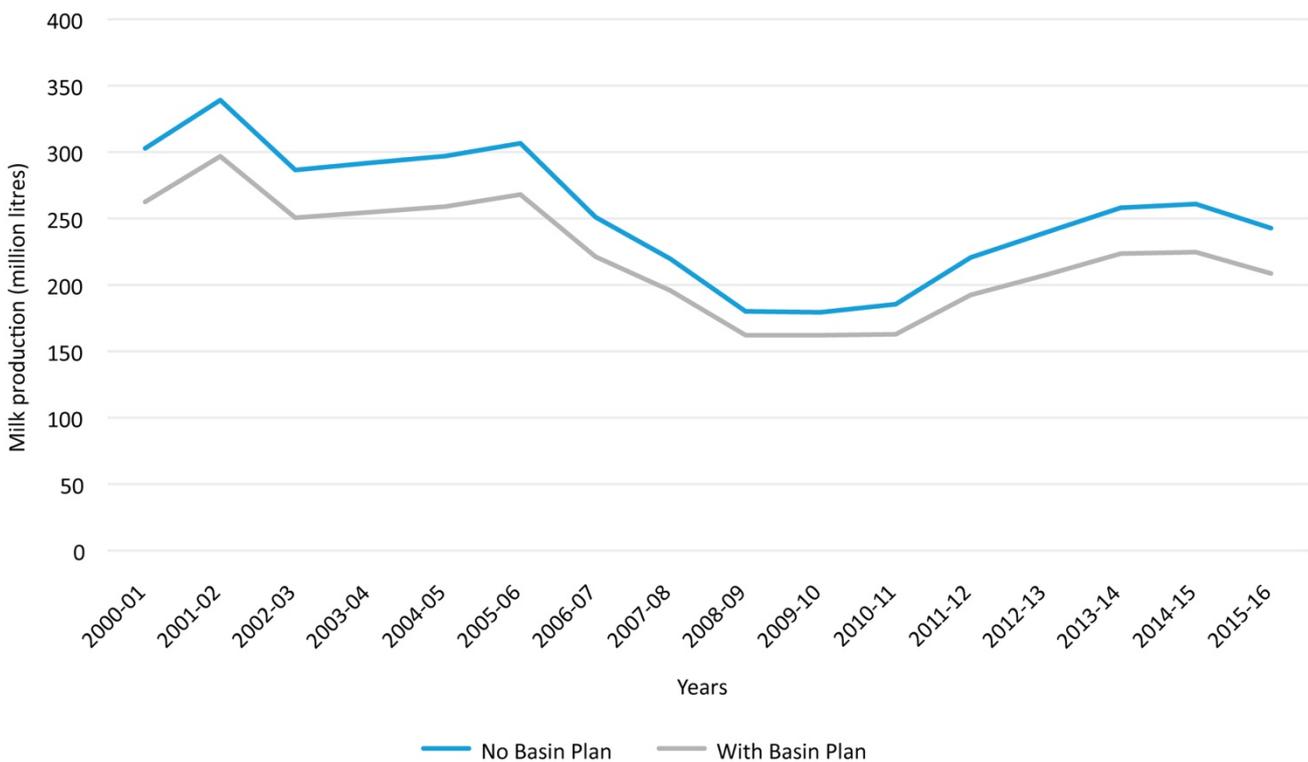
## Water recovery programs

Water recovery through purchase occurred between 2009 to 2015, with a large proportion of the water recovered in 2010 and 2012. Infrastructure water recovery through rounds 1 to 4 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program occurred between 2011 and 2015. Water users benefitted from improvements to the water delivery infrastructure of Gouburn Murray Water.

## Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

Milk production is the main form of irrigated production. Since the early 2000s, the overall decline in milk production has been around 32%. 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 effects of both drought and Basin Plan water recovery, and the milk prices received. The net effect of the Basin Plan water recovery represents nearly half (14% to 16%) of the decrease in milk production, with a further quarter explained by 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 production. Vegetable and fruit production also contribute to irrigated production in this community.

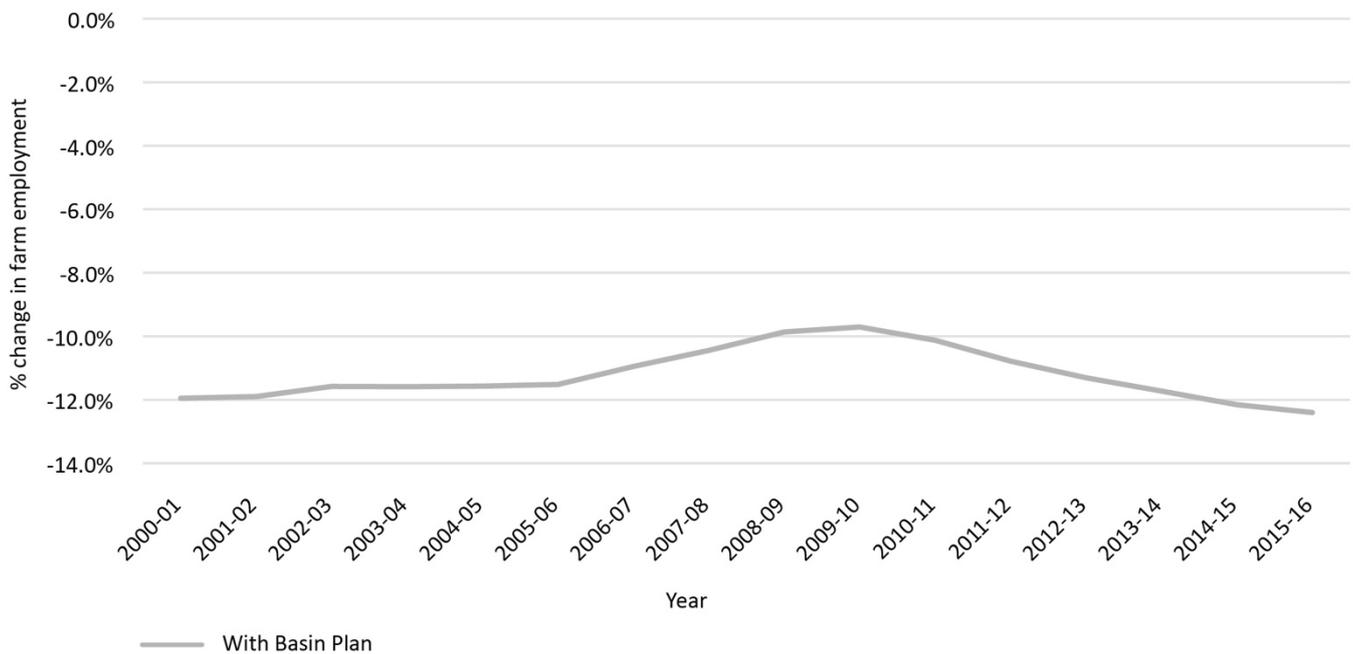
### Volume of milk production (million litres) 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 840 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 42% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 30% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 12%.

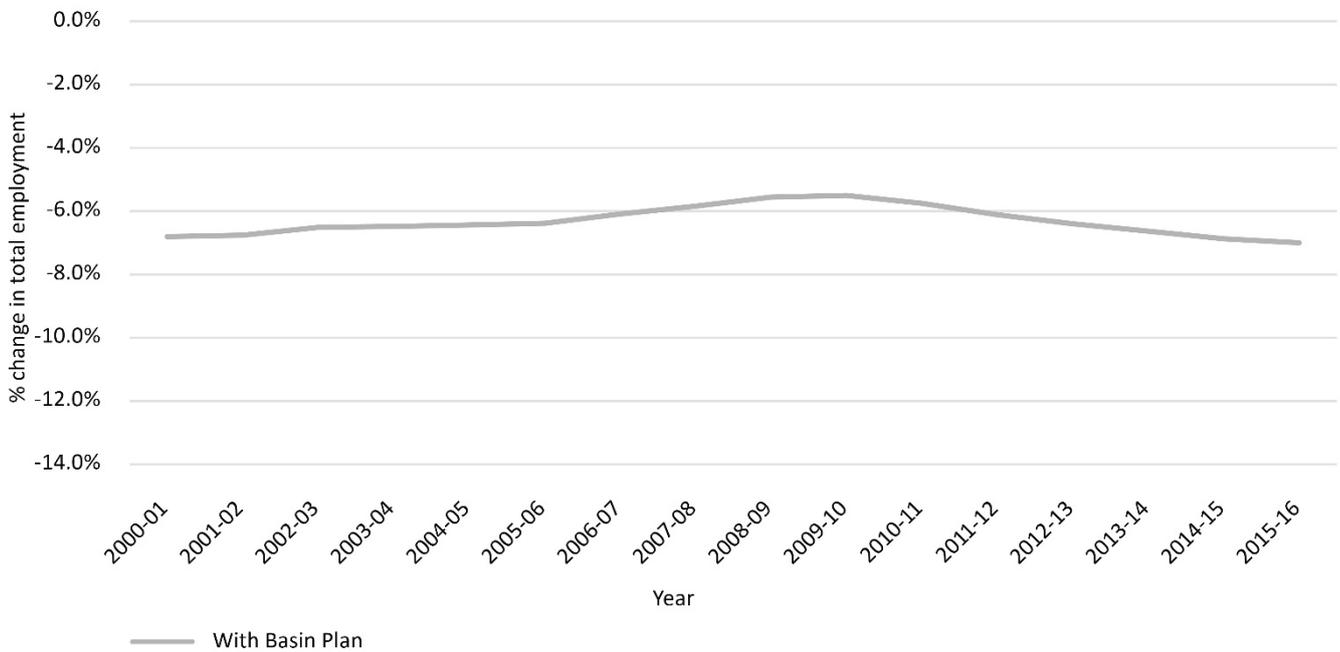
### Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 3,030 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 22% between 2001–16. Non-Basin factors led to 15.3% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 6.7%. 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