



Shepparton irrigation area 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 Shepparton prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 211.6GL. 30.8GL (14.6% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 27.5 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 58% was purchased up to June 2011). 3.3GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 26.1GL (12.5% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 8,325 to 6,998 persons (15.9%) between 2001 and 2016

- Two thirds of the decrease occurred between 2001 and 2006

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 3,355 to 2,451 FTE (26.9%) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 40.3 to 35.0 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 49.9% (505 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Half the decrease occurred between 2001 and 2006
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 60.8% (56.6% between 2001 and 2011)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 45.8% (115 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 31% (469 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Two thirds of the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016

Government services workforce

Increased 15% (87 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 28.7% between 2001 and 2011
- Decreasing 13.8% between 2011 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 30% agriculture, 45% non-agriculture private, 17% government services
- **2016:** 21% agriculture, 43% non-agriculture private, 27% government services

TOWN POPULATION (ARCADIA DOWNS, WUNGHNU, TALLYGAROPNA)

Increased from 747 to 791 persons (5.9%) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 11.1% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 4.3% between 2011 and 2016

47% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 24% in 2001

- 111% increase in 45 years and over, 26% decrease in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

31% of town population in 2016
down from 34% in 2001

Part-time employment

Varied around 15% to 18 % of
town population

Unemployment in the town

Constant around 2% to 3% of
town population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

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

Land use



Water recovery programs

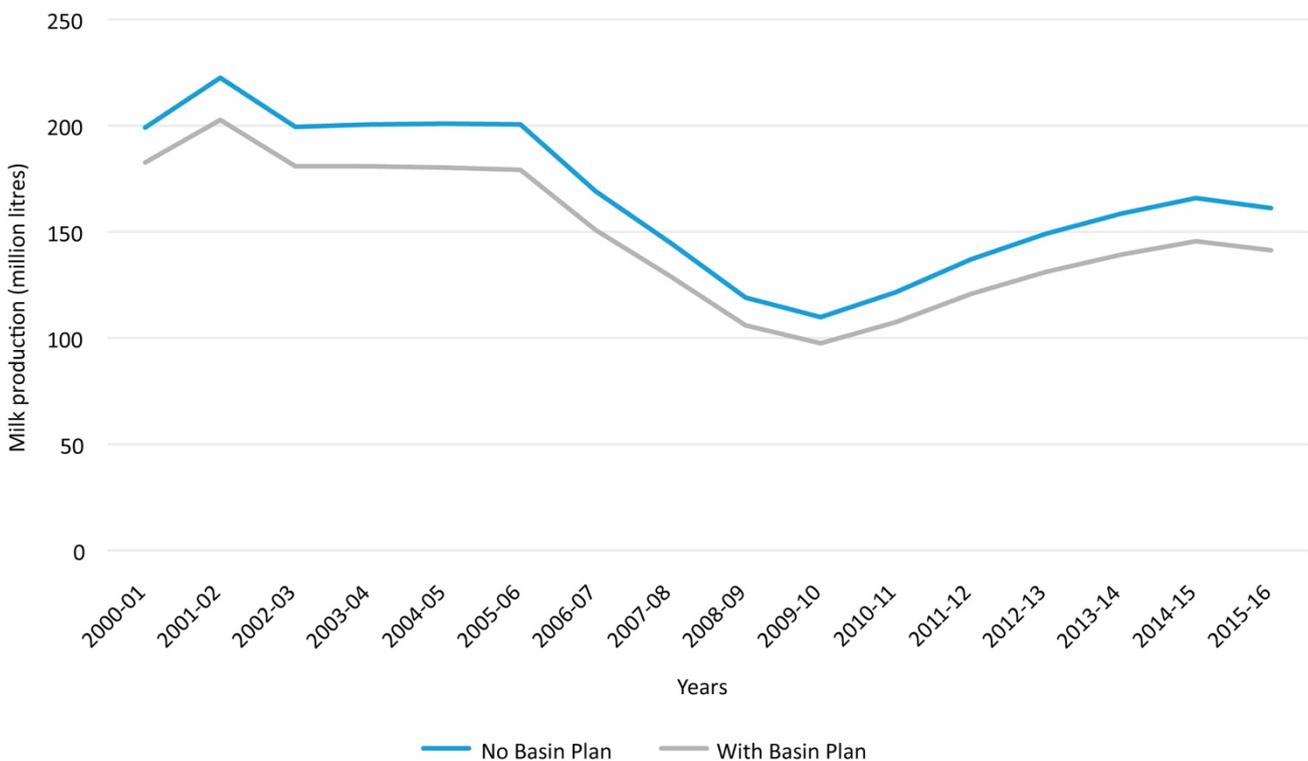
Water recovery through purchase occurred between 2009 and 2012. Since 2013, all water recovery has been through the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program, with round two recording the highest water recovery amount out of the four rounds. Water users benefitted from improvements to the water delivery infrastructure operated by Goulburn Murray Water.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

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 effects of both drought and Basin Plan water recovery, and the milk prices received. The Basin Plan water recovery is associated with nearly half (11% to 13%) of the decrease in milk production, with a further quarter of the total change 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.

Fruit is also a major form of irrigated production in this community. Limited data provided by industry indicated the major changes for this sector were associated with shifting from supplying the canned fruit sector to the fresh fruit market. This includes significant changes in the types of trees grown and the layout of the orchards. Changes for the fruit-growing sector will be considered as part of the observed changes in employment for the agriculture sector.

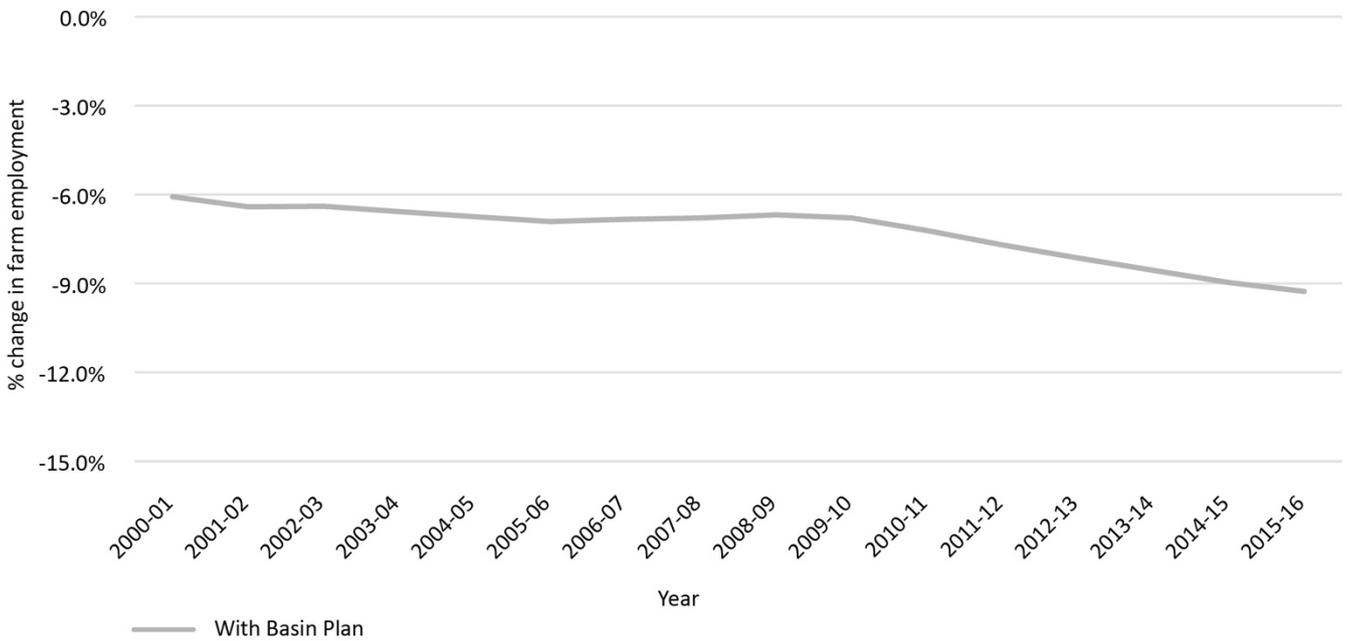
Volume of milk production (million litres) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 670 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 61% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 53% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 8%.

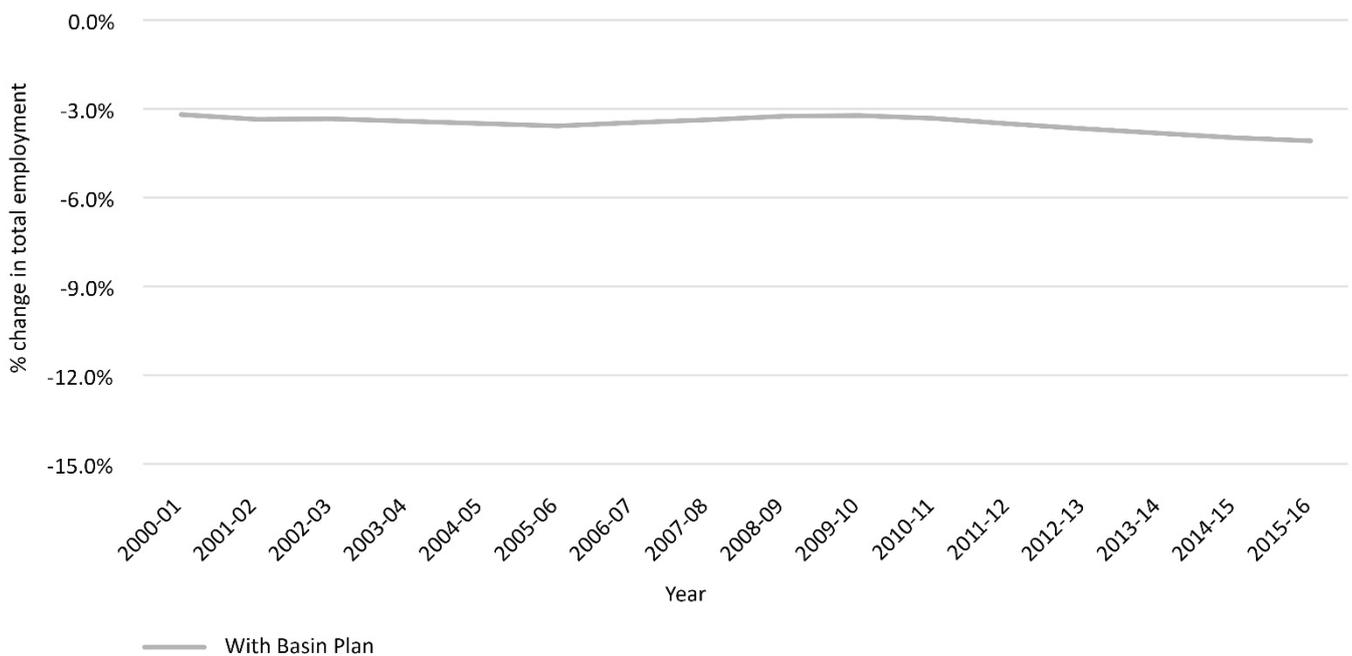
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 3,355 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 27% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 23.5% of this change, while 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 Basin Plan water recovery.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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