



# Swan Hill 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 Swan Hill prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 98.1 GL. 20 GL (20.4% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 17.5 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 77% was purchased up to June 2011). 2.6 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 16.4 GL (17% of available water).

## Trends in social and economic conditions

### AREA POPULATION

Remained around 16,760 people between 2001 and 2016

- Small increases and decreases across time

### WORKFORCE

#### Total area workforce

Decreased from 5,701 to 4,797 FTE (15.9%) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 6.2% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 22% between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 34 to 28.6 FTE per 100 persons

#### Agricultural workforce

Decreased 42.6% (727 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Nearly half the decrease occurred between 2011 and 2016
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 53% (33.6% between 2011 and 2016)

#### Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Increased 24% (40 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 54.9% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 31% between 2006 and 2011

#### Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 20.5% (551 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2011 and 2016

#### Government services workforce

Increased 14.5% (165 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 36.3% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 21.8% between 2011 and 2016

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## ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 30% agriculture, 47% non-agriculture private, 20% government services
- **2016:** 20% agriculture, 45% non-agriculture private, 27% government services

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## TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 9,769 to 10,0603 persons (8.5%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2011 and 2016

44% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 37% in 2001

- 29% increase in 45 years and over, 3% decrease in under 45s

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Full-time employment

26% of town population in 2016  
down from 27% in 2001

### Part-time employment

Constant around 13% to 14% of  
town population

### Unemployment in the town

Constant around 2% of town  
population

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## SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 8, advantage/disadvantage = 7, wealth = 7, education = 8
- **2016:** disadvantage = 5, advantage/disadvantage = 6, wealth = 4, education = 7

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## Land use



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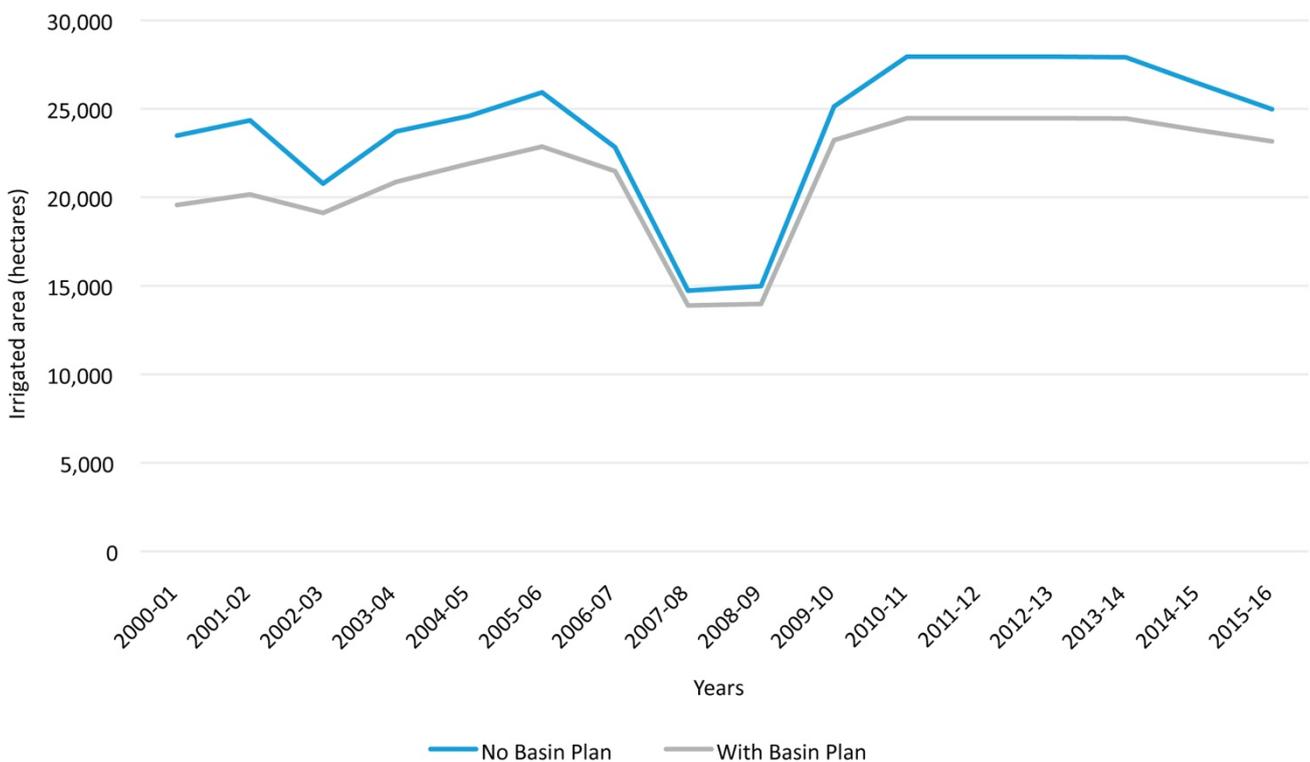
## Water recovery programs

The majority of the water recovered was through purchase, particularly in 2010. Infrastructure water recovery has been through the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program. Irrigation system assessments led to improvements to the water delivery infrastructure in the Goodnight irrigation district.

## Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production are pasture and annual crops, grapes, fruit and nuts, with small areas of citrus and vegetable production. While the maximum area of pasture and annual cropping has been falling across the period being examined, there have been increases in the area of nut and fruit production. The fall in the area irrigated arising from the Basin Plan water recovery represents approximately 17% of the total area irrigated. Most of the decrease in area irrigated is associated with a reduction in the area of irrigated pasture and annuals, as well as the area of grapes and vegetables.

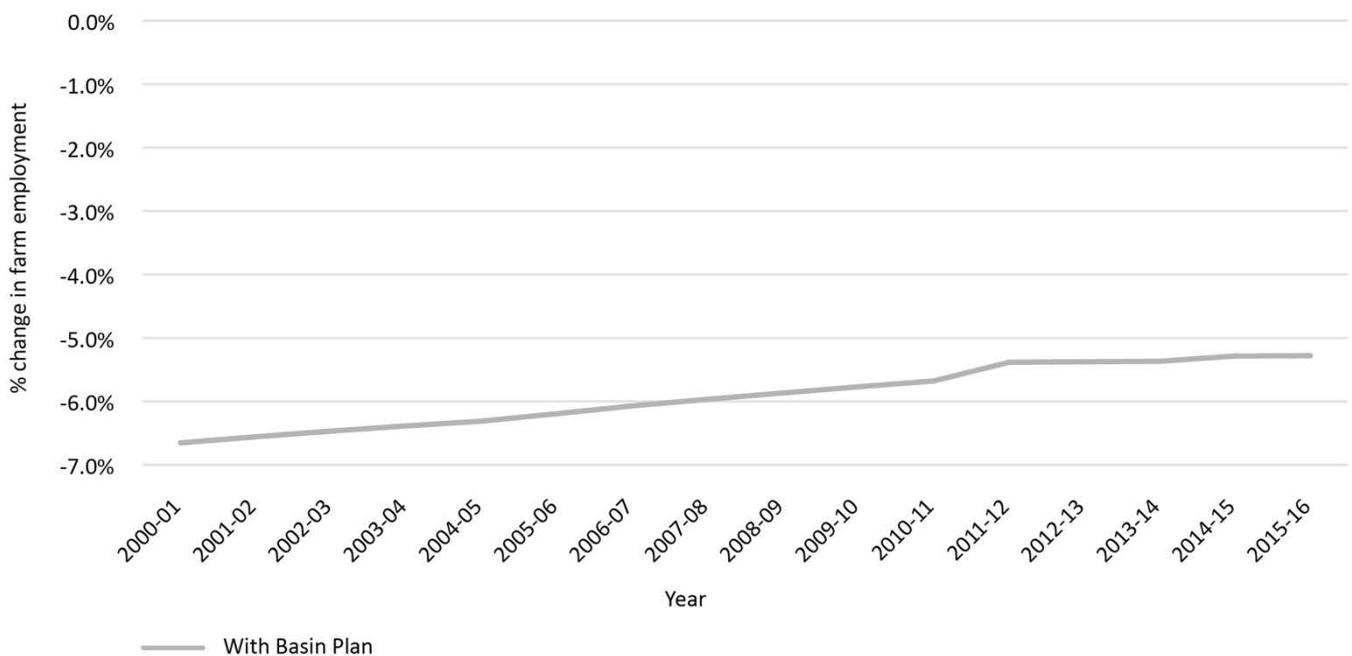
### Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 1,800 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by approximately 15% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 9% of this change while the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 6%.

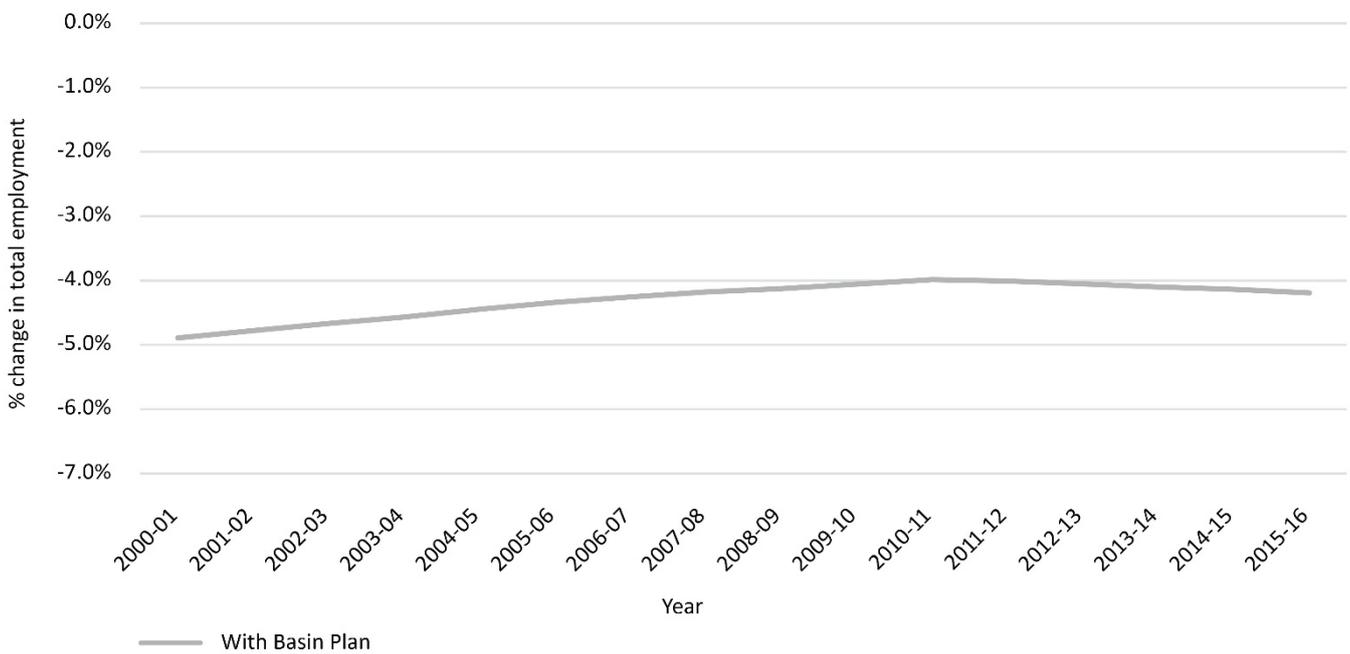
### Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 6,250 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by approximately 16% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to at least 11.5% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 4.5%.

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



Updated June 2018