Swan Reach 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 Swan Reach prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 5.4 GL. 4.3 GL (79.9% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 4.1 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 100% was purchased up to June 2011). 0.2 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 4.1 GL (75.6% of available water).

### Trends in social and economic conditions

**AREA POPULATION**

Decreased from 1,030 to 698 persons (32.2%) between 2001 and 2016

→  Half the decrease occurred between 2001 and 2006

**WORKFORCE**

**Total area workforce**

Decreased from 312 to 181 FTE (42.2%) between 2001 and 2016

→  Half the decrease occurred between 2001 and 2006

→  Workforce participation fell from 30.3 to 25.9 FTE per 100 persons

**Agricultural workforce**

Decreased 50.1% (75 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

→  Mostly between 2001 and 2006

→  Employment in irrigated production decreased 64% (59.6% between 2001 and 2006)

**Agricultural manufacturing workforce**

Decreased 50% (6 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

**Non-agriculture private workforce**

Decreased 41.4% (45 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

→  Mostly between 2006 and 2011

**Government services workforce**

Decreased 19.7% (8 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

→  Increasing 8.3% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 28% between 2006 and 2016
ECONOMIC STRUCTURE
Percentage FTE in key sectors:

→ **2001**: 48% agriculture, 35% non-agriculture private, 13% government services
→ **2016**: 42% agriculture, 36% non-agriculture private, 18% government services

TOWN POPULATION
Decreased from 302 to 212 persons (29.8%) between 2001 and 2016
→ Mostly between 2001 and 2006

67% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 51% in 2001
→ 8% decrease in 45 years and over, 53% decrease in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment
18% of town population in 2016
down from 21% in 2001

Part-time employment
Varied around 11% to 15% of town population

Unemployment in the town
Constant around 2% to 4% of town population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

→ **2001**: disadvantage = 3, advantage/disadvantage = 2, wealth = 1, education = 4
→ **2016**: disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 2, wealth = 2, education = 1

Land use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irrigated production</th>
<th>Dryland farming</th>
<th>Grazing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% land use in Swan Reach</td>
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Water recovery programs

Water recovery occurred in round 3 and 4 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program during 2013 and 2014.
Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main irrigated crops are vegetables, nuts, grapes, citrus and fruit with a small area of some annual crops. Basin Plan water recovery has contributed to the maximum area of irrigation falling by approximately 35% to 45%, with an impact on each of the irrigation sectors.

Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16
Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 235 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment decreased by approximately 64% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 42% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 22%.
In 2001, total employment was approximately 330 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment decreased by approximately 42% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 29% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 13%.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16

Updated June 2018