



Tailem Bend 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 Tailem Bend prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 14.9 GL. 1.7 GL (11.4% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 1.7 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 90% was purchased up to June 2011). 0 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 1.7 GL (11.4% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Increased from 2,607 to 2,863 persons (9.8%) between 2001 and 2016

- Half the increase occurred between 2011 and 2016

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 806 to 691 FTE (14.2%) between 2001 and 2016

- Nearly all between 2011 and 2016
- Workforce participation fell from 30.9 to 24.1 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 32.7% (96 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2001 and 2011
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 69.8% (53.2% between 2001 and 2006)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 22.2% (13 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Employment increased and decreased across the period

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 17.8% (60 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Employment increased and decreased across the period

Government services workforce

Increased 30% (36 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 36% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 6% between 2011 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001**: 37% agriculture, 41% non-agriculture private, 15% government services
- **2016**: 29% agriculture, 40% non-agriculture private, 23% government services

TOWN POPULATION

Increased from 1,394 to 1,410 persons (1.1%) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing and decreasing across the period

55% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 42% in 2001

- 32% increase in 45 years and over, 21% decrease in under 45s

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment

19% of town population in 2016
up from 17% in 2001

Part-time employment

Constant around 13% to 14% of
town population

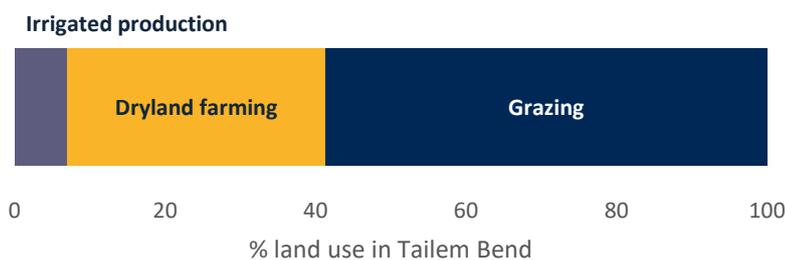
Unemployment in the town

Constant around 4% to 6% of
town population

SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

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

Land use



Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production have been irrigated pasture to support milk production and other livestock, with small areas of vegetables and grapes. Droughts, low water allocations and the fall in the river level around the 2002-03 drought had a significant effect on irrigated pasture production and milk output. The latter fell from 27 million litres to less than 3 million litres in 2006-07. Since the drought, milk production has increased to a maximum output of around 45 million litres in 2012-13. While the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have reduced the total area irrigated by around 10% to 20%, the overall changes in milk production are likely to arise from a significant change in the dairy production systems used in more recent years. In particular, an increase in the intensification of dairying around those lands remaining under irrigation.

Other factors leading to changes in irrigated production include an increase in temporary water trade out of the community across the last four years and the challenges (including significant costs) of rehabilitating the land used for irrigation prior to the drought but still affected by being unable to irrigate during the drought and the low river height during that period.

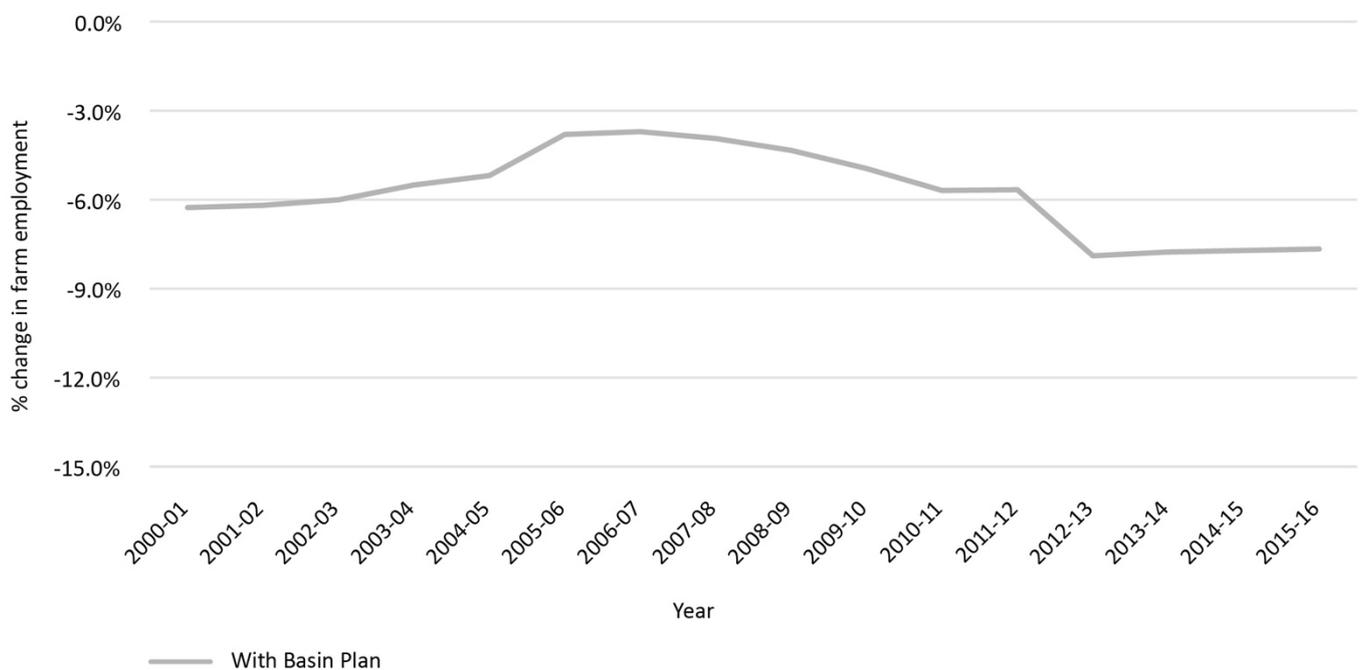
Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 200 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 61% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 54% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 7%.

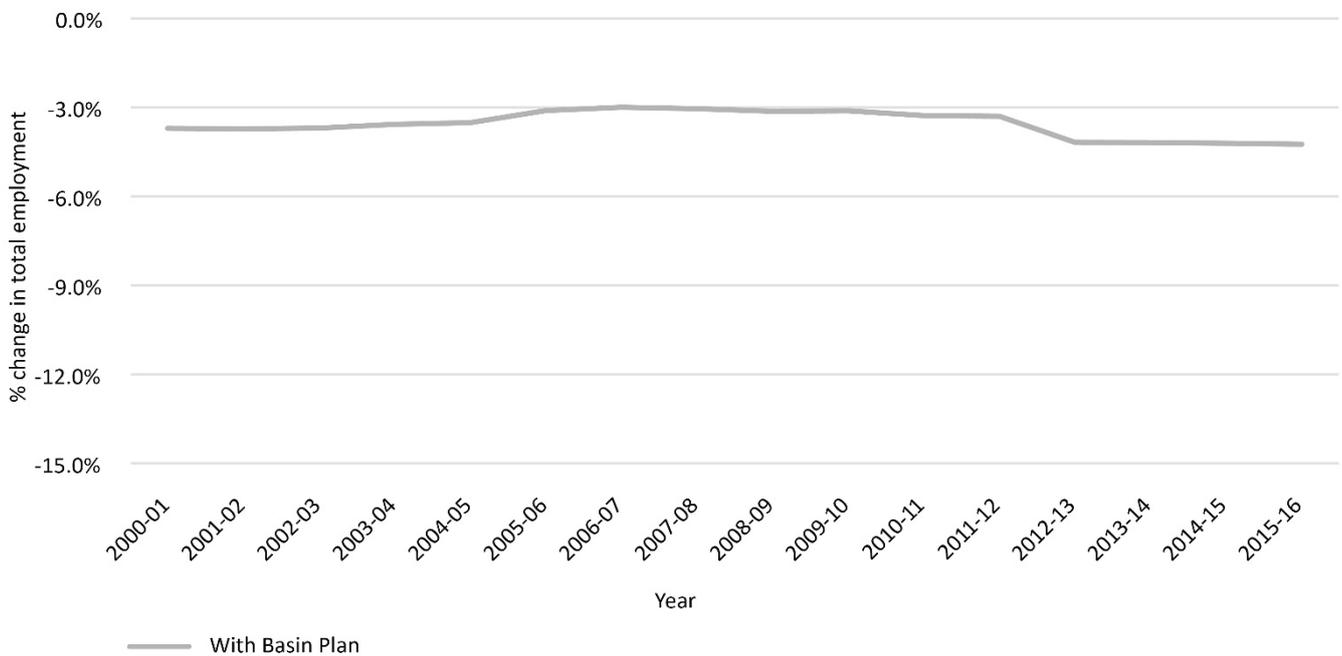
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 805 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 14% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 10% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery is estimated to have contributed the remaining 4%. 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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