



# Waikerie 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 Waikerie prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 64.2 GL. 20.7 GL (32.2% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 16.4 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 49% was purchased up to June 2011). 4.2 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 14.6 GL (23.6% of available water).

## Trends in social and economic conditions

### AREA POPULATION

Increased from 3,827 to 4,084 persons (6.7%) between 2001 and 2016

- Decrease 2.7% between 2001 and 2006, increase 8.6% between 2011 and 2016

### WORKFORCE

#### Total area workforce

Decreased from 1,382 to 1,157 FTE (16.3%) between 2001 and 2016

- Decrease was relatively constant across the period
- Workforce participation fell from 36.1 to 28.3 FTE per 100 persons

#### Agricultural workforce

Decreased 40.1% (269 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2001 and 2006
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 43.3% (27.3% between 2001 and 2006)

#### Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 42.9% (49 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 33.1% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 75.9% between 2006 and 2016

#### Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 6.9% (28 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2011 and 2016

#### Government services workforce

Increased 43.5% (81 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 53.4% between 2001 and 2011, decreasing 9.9% between 2011 and 2016

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## ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 49% agriculture, 30% non-agriculture private, 13% government services
- **2016:** 35% agriculture, 33% non-agriculture private, 23% government services

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## TOWN POPULATION

Decreased from 1,771 to 1,635 persons (7.7%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2006 and 2011

57% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 44% in 2001

- 19% increase in 45 years and over, 30% decrease in under 45s

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Full-time employment

19% of town population in 2016  
down from 25% in 2001

### Part-time employment

Constant around 12% to 13% of  
town population

### Unemployment in the town

Constant around 2% to 3% of  
town population

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## SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

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

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## Land use



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## Water recovery programs

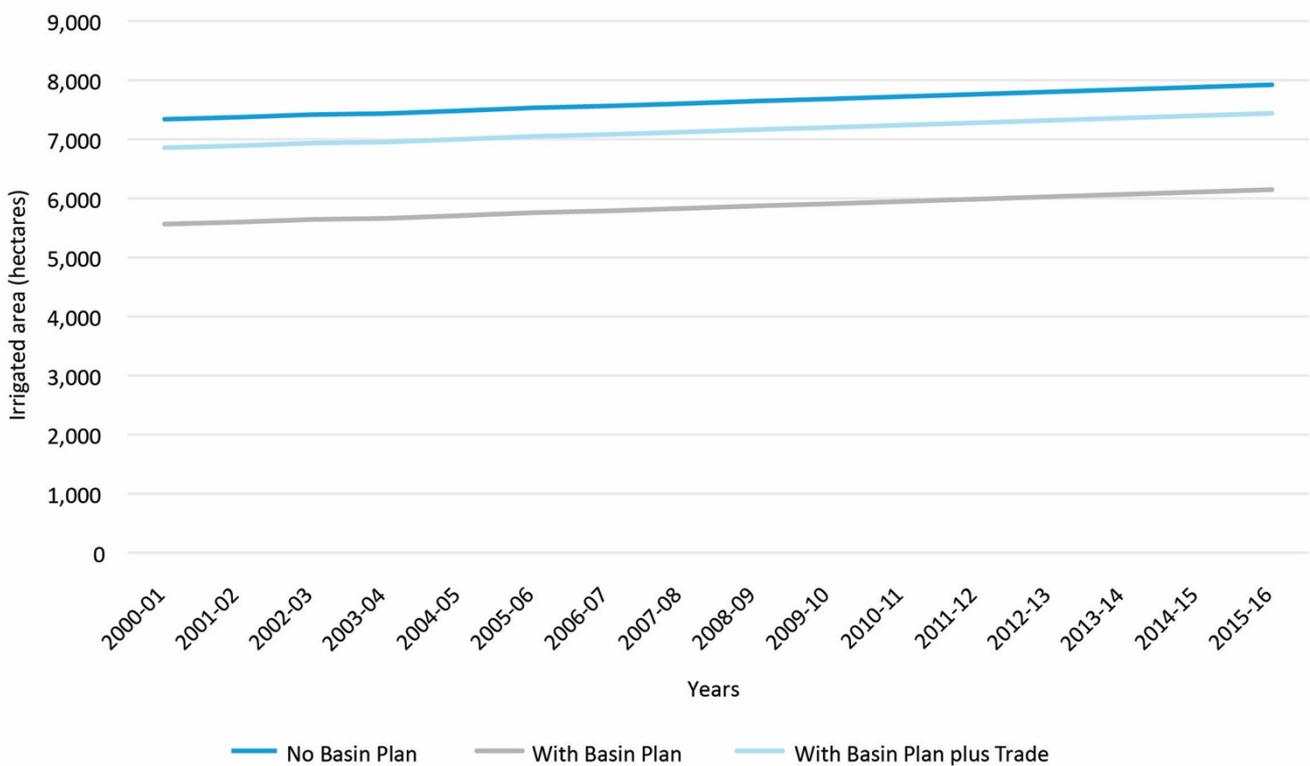
Water recovery through occurred between 2010 and 2013. Rounds 1 to 4 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program represented the majority of the infrastructure water recovery. A small portion came through the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Program for South Australia.

## Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production are grapes and citrus, with smaller areas of vegetables, fruit and nuts. Since the drought, there have been increases in the area of vegetable, nut and citrus production. Basin Plan water recovery alone was estimated to reduce the overall area irrigated by around 23% to 24%. The purchase of water into the area has helped to offset much of the effects of Basin Plan water recovery.

The net effect of the Basin Plan water recovery combined with water trade is estimated to reduce the total area irrigated by around 6% to 6.5% relative to what it might otherwise have been, noting the total irrigated area is around the same as it was prior to the Basin Plan water recovery. Most of the changes associated with the Basin Plan water recovery has affected the area of grapes and fruit production.

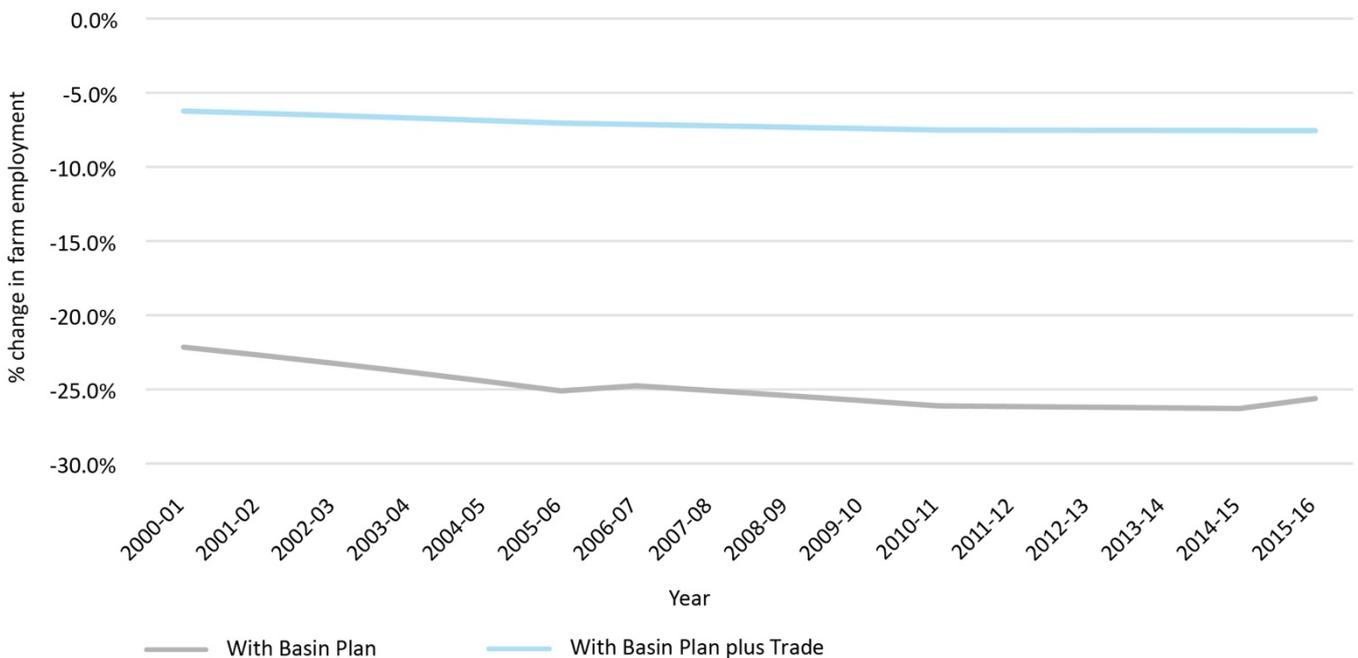
### Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 750 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 43% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 36% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed the remaining 7% after accounting for permanent water trade back into the community. In the absence of that water trade, it is estimated the effect of the Basin Plan water recovery would have led to a decrease in farm employment of approximately 26%.

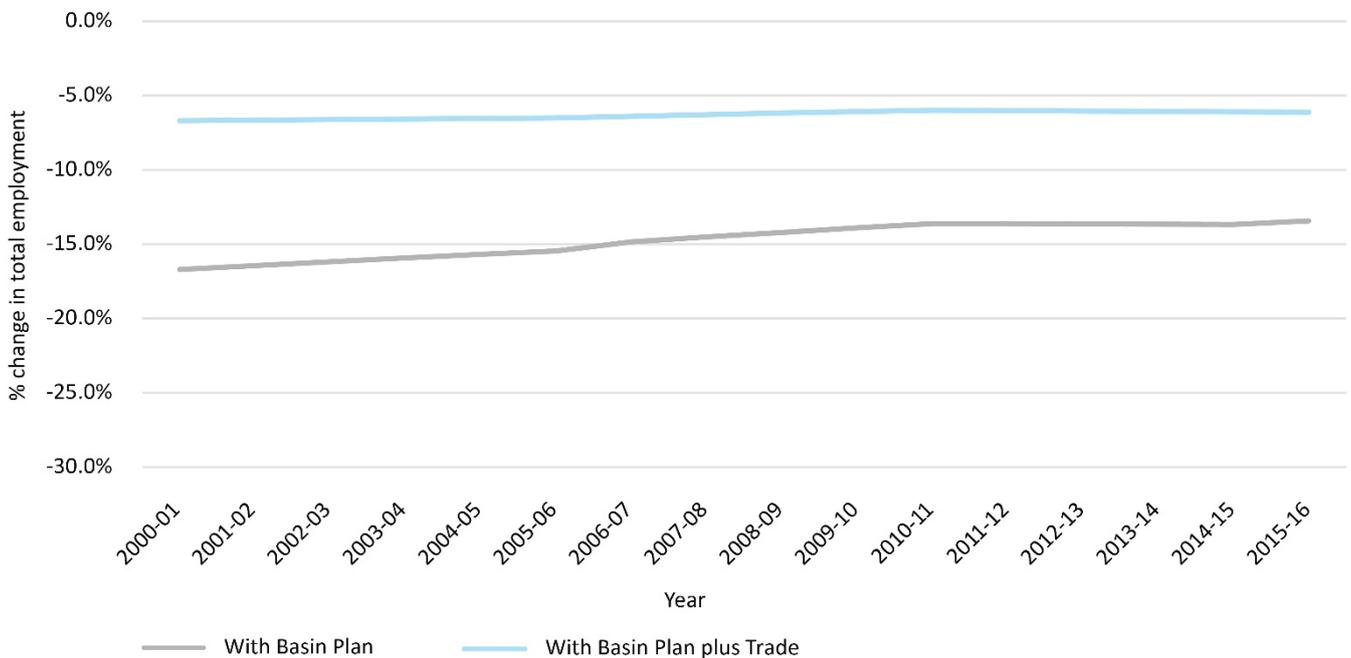
### Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 1,650 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 16% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors contributed 9.5% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed the remaining 6.5% after accounting for permanent water trade back into the community. In the absence of that water trade, it is estimated the effect of Basin Plan water recovery would have led to a decrease in total employment of approximately 15%.

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



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