



# Wakool 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 Wakool prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 258 GL. 97.9 GL (38% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 91 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 54% was purchased up to June 2011). 6.9 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 88 GL (34.5% of available water).

## Trends in social and economic conditions

### AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 1,569 to 854 persons (45.6%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2006 and 2011

### WORKFORCE

#### Total area workforce

Decreased from 537 to 249 FTE (53.7%) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2006 and 2011
- Workforce participation fell from 34.3 to 29.2 FTE per 100 persons

#### Agricultural workforce

Decreased 61.5% (158 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2006 and 2011
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 71.8% (47.6% between 2006 and 2011)

#### Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Decreased 44% (8 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Falling across the period

#### Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 57.3% (96 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2006 and 2011

#### Government services workforce

Decreased 35.1% (34 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 6.9% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 42% between 2006 and 2016

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## ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 48% agriculture, 31% non-agriculture private, 18% government services
- **2016:** 40% agriculture, 29% non-agriculture private, 26% government services

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## TOWN POPULATION

Decreased from 412 to 304 persons (26.2%) between 2001 and 2016

- Half the decrease occurred between 2001 and 2006

54% of the town population was 45 and over in 2016, up from 38% in 2001

- 4% increase in 45 years and over, 45% decrease in under 45s

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Full-time employment

21% of town population in 2016  
down from 23% in 2001

### Part-time employment

Varied between 8% to 14% of  
town population

### Unemployment in the town

Varied around 1% to 4% of town  
population

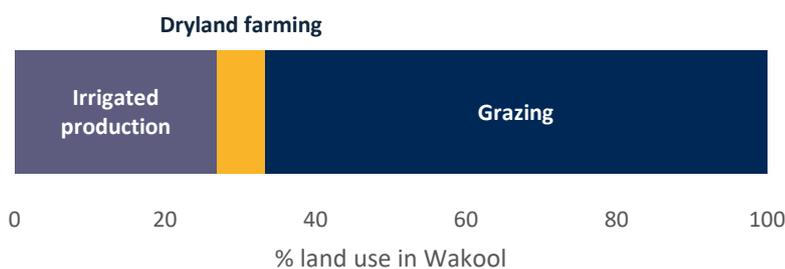
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## SEIFA FOR TOWN: (DECILE RANKINGS)

- **2001:** disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 2, wealth = 5, education = 2
- **2016:** disadvantage = 2, advantage/disadvantage = 2, wealth = 2, education = 2

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## Land use



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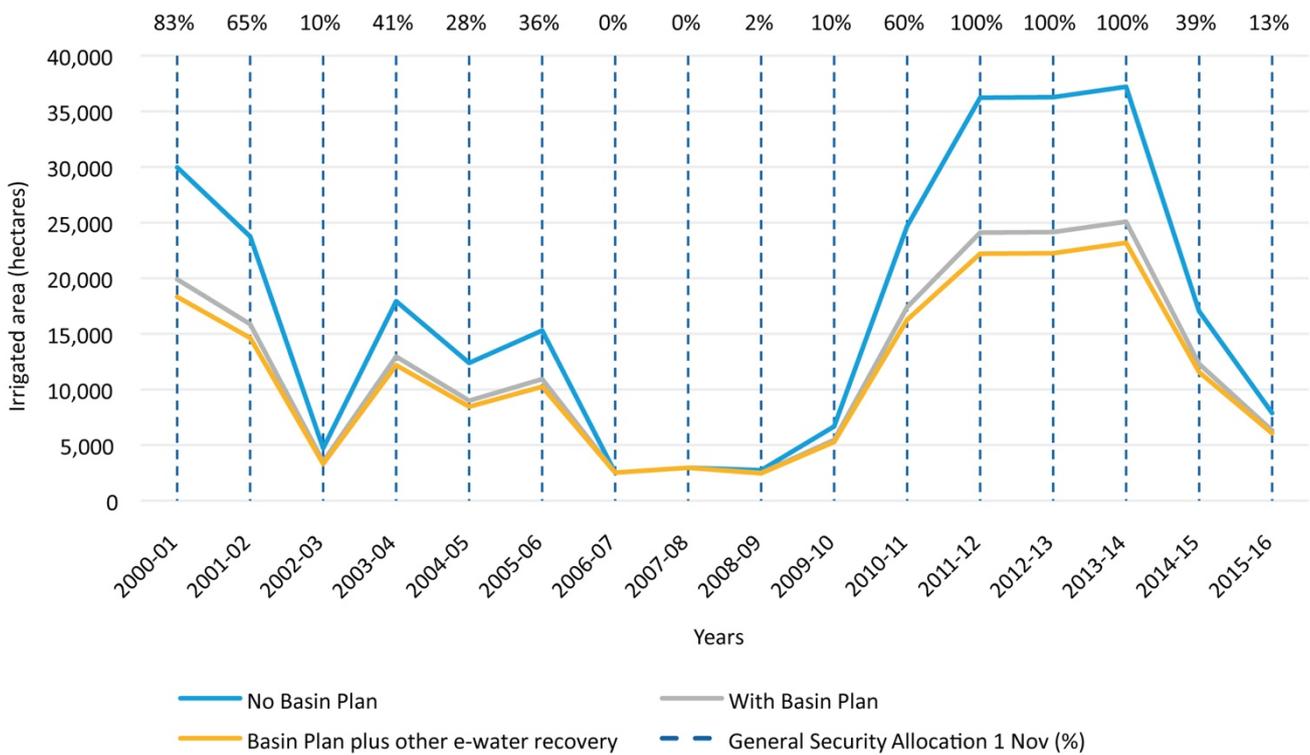
## Water recovery programs

Water recovery was primarily through purchase up until July 2014. Some water recovery occurred through rounds 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program. Water users benefitted from improvements to the water delivery infrastructure in the Murray Irrigation district. The community received funding through the Strengthening Basin Communities program.

## Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production include annual cropping and dairying. The annual irrigated crops grown are mostly rice and some pasture. Basin Plan water recovery has led to a reduction in the maximum area irrigated of around 32% to 34%. Other environmental water recovery when considered along with the Basin Plan water recovery have contributed to the area of irrigation decreasing by a total of approximately 37% to 39%. Across the period being examined, the maximum volume of milk production has fallen slightly, from around 7 million litres to approximately 5.5 million litres.

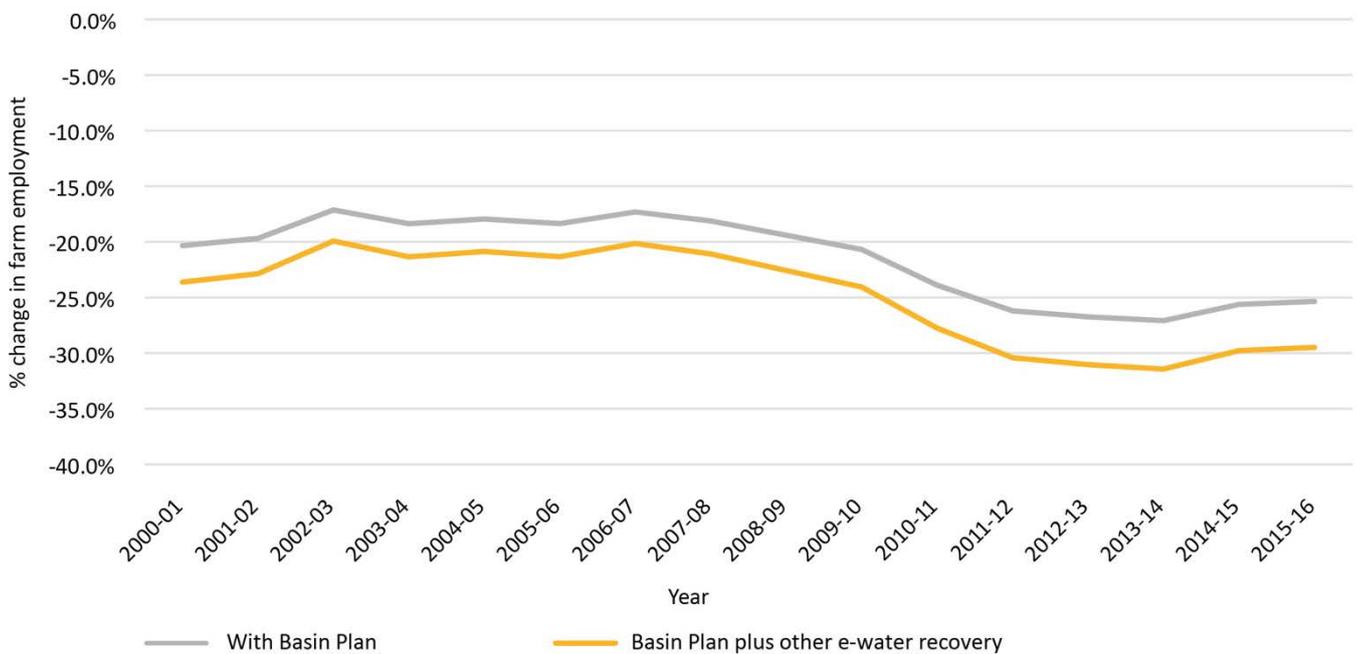
### Area of irrigated production (hectares) 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 193 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 72% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 43% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed around 27%. The remaining decrease in farm employment (2%) is associated with the recovery of water for the environment through processes beyond the Basin Plan.

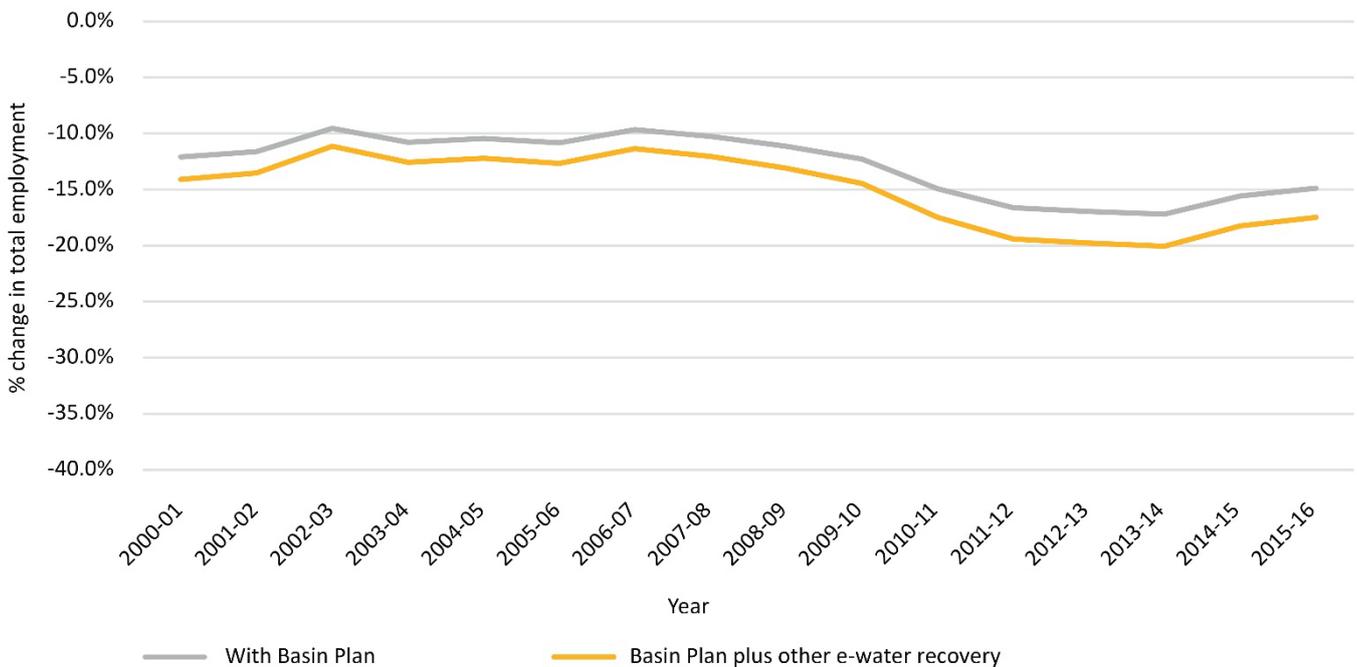
### Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



## Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 535 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 54% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 35% of this change, while Basin Plan water recovery contributed around 16%. The remaining decrease in total employment (3%) is associated with the recovery of water for the environment outside the Basin Plan. 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



Updated June 2018