



West Berriquin 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 West Berriquin prior to Basin Plan water recovery was 130.8 GL. 31.9 GL (24.4% of available water) was recovered up to October 2016. 24.1 GL was recovered through purchase (of which 88% was purchased up to June 2011). 7.8 GL was recovered through on-farm infrastructure investment. The net reduction in water available for production is 20.7 GL (16.6% of available water).

Trends in social and economic conditions

AREA POPULATION

Decreased from 1,198 to 854 persons (28.7%) between 2001 and 2016

- Most of the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011

WORKFORCE

Total area workforce

Decreased from 437 to 271 FTE (38%) between 2001 and 2016

- Over half the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011
- Workforce participation fell from 36.5 to 31.7 FTE per 100 persons

Agricultural workforce

Decreased 55.8% (92 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Mostly between 2001 and 2011
- Employment in irrigated production decreased 64.5% (40% between 2001 and 2006)

Agricultural manufacturing workforce

Remained a small, constant part of the local economy

Non-agriculture private workforce

Decreased 40.5% (72 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Half the decrease occurred between 2006 and 2011

Government services workforce

Decreased 12.3% (19 FTE) between 2001 and 2016

- Increasing 16.2% between 2001 and 2006, decreasing 28.5% between 2006 and 2016

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

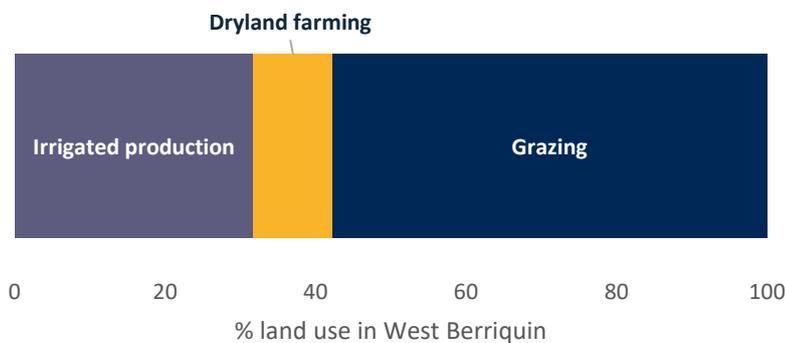
Percentage FTE in key sectors:

- **2001:** 38% agriculture, 41% non-agriculture private, 18% government services
- **2016:** 27% agriculture, 39% non-agriculture private, 25% government services

TOWN POPULATION

There are no towns within the West Berriquin community area

Land use



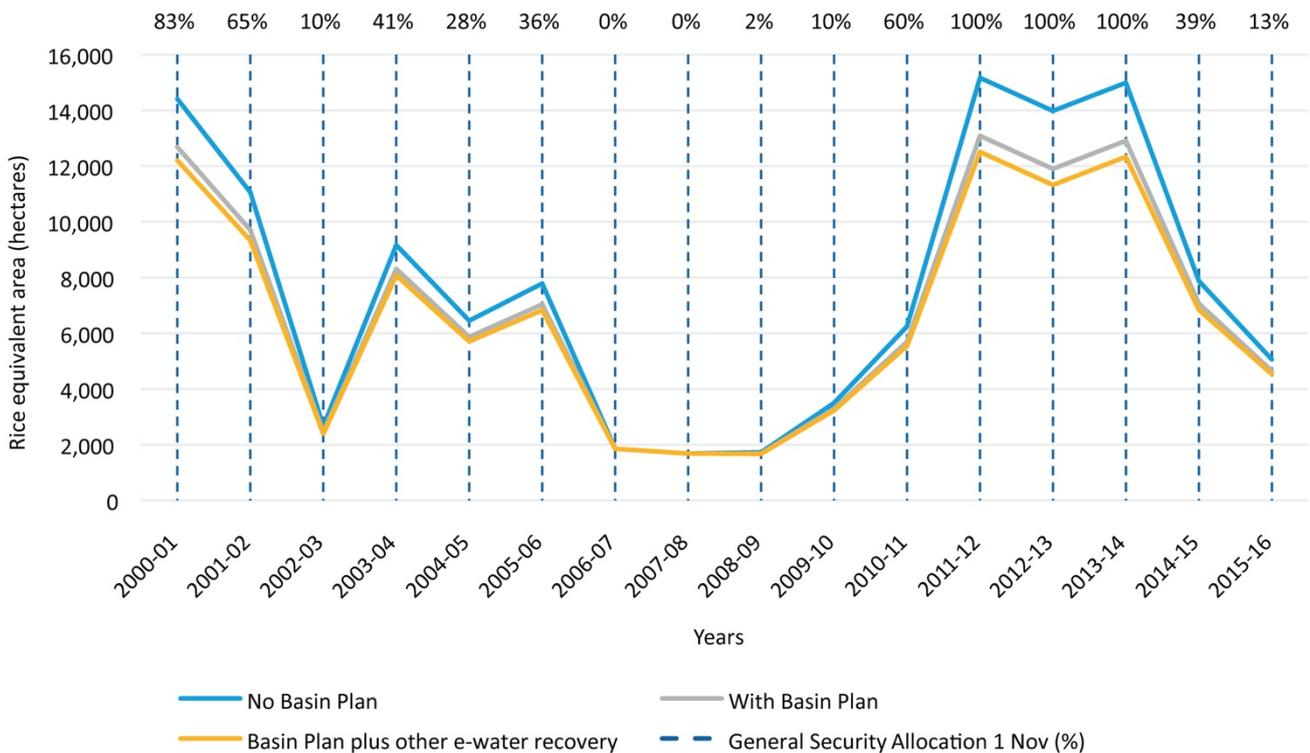
Water recovery programs

Purchase accounted for most of the water recovered. Infrastructure water recovery was from all 5 rounds of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program, occurring after 2010.

Basin Plan impact on irrigated agriculture

The main forms of irrigated production include annual cropping and dairying. A mix of annual irrigated crops are grown including winter cereals and oils, summer crops, pasture and rice. Annual cropping production is calculated as rice equivalent hectares. The effects of the Basin Plan water recovery has led to a reduction in the maximum rice equivalent area of around 12% to 14%. Other environmental water recovery when considered along with the Basin Plan water recovery have contributed to the maximum rice equivalent area decreasing by a total of approximately 16% to 19%. Across the period being examined, the maximum volume of milk production has remained around 47 to 50 million litres, although milk production did fall to under 40 million litres in 2009-10.

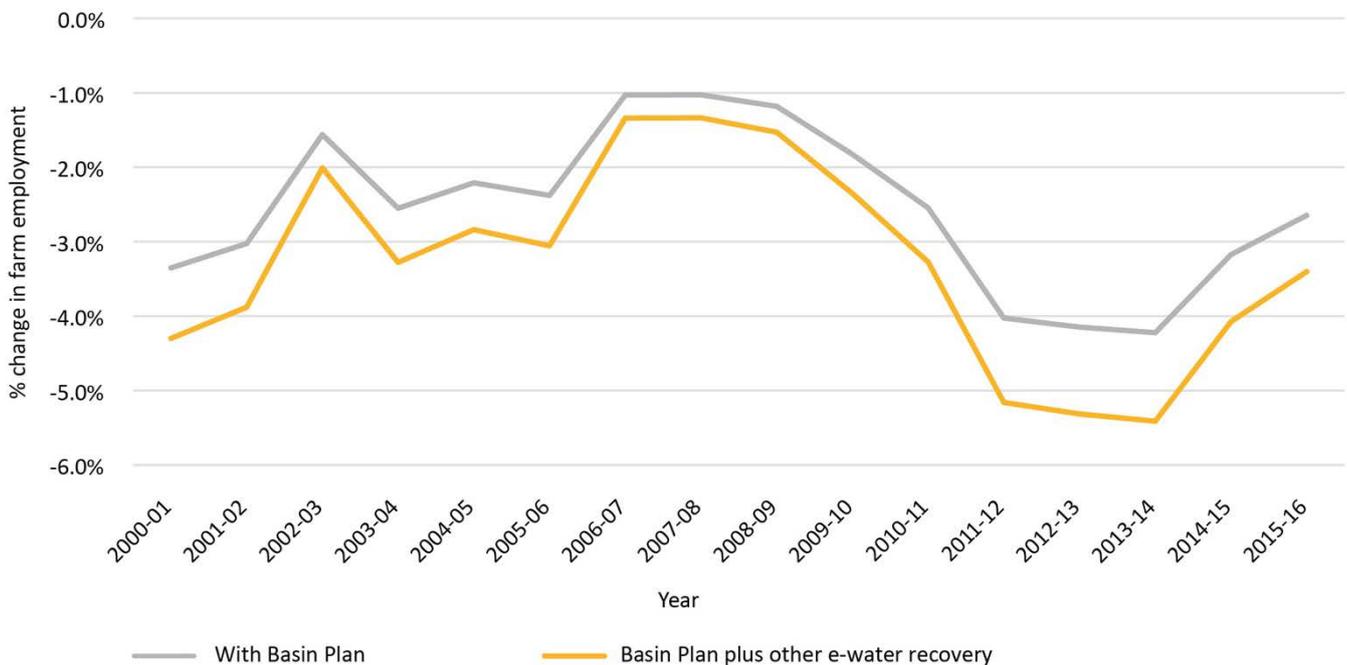
Area of irrigated production (rice equivalent hectares) 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on farm sector

In 2001, farm employment was approximately 113 FTE (including seasonal workers). Farm employment fell by around 65% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 60% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery contributed around 4%. The remaining decrease in farm employment (1%) is associated with the recovery of water for the environment through processes beyond the Basin Plan.

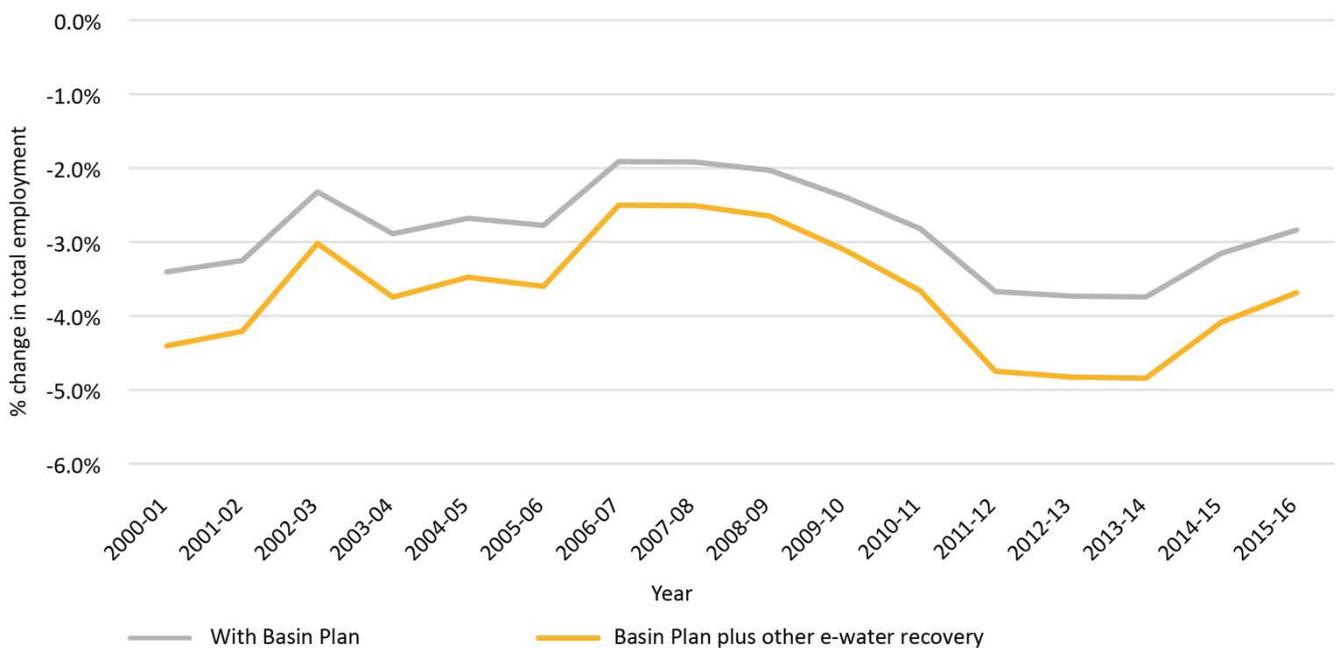
Effect of Basin Plan on farm employment 2001–16



Basin Plan impact on total employment

In 2001, total employment was approximately 435 FTE (including seasonal workers). Total employment fell by around 38% between 2001–16. Non-Basin Plan factors led to 33.5% of this change, while the Basin Plan water recovery contributed around 3.5%. The remaining decrease in total employment (1%) 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 the Basin Plan water recovery.

Effect of Basin Plan on total employment 2001–16



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