

RAMJO Submission – Appendix B – Socio-economic impacts (source Hay Shire Council)

Comments on the Hay Community Profile from the MDBA

The Hay Community profile must not be seen in isolation, but in comparison with other communities.

A summary of the findings regarding Hay, compared to Benalla (as a control not affected by the MDB Plan), Hillston and Robinvale, shows the real impact of the plan in a wider context:

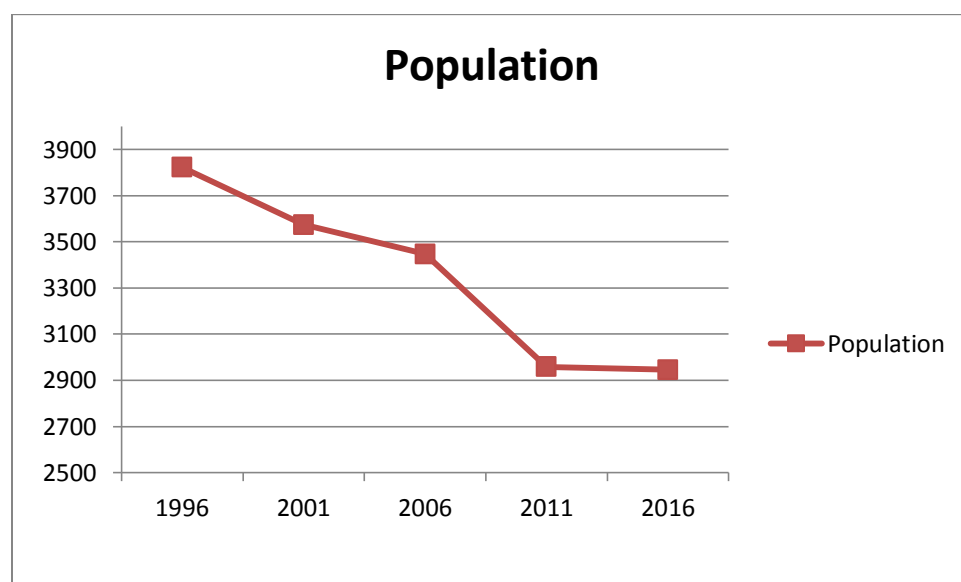
Town	Water	
	Net Reduction in Water	% of Water Reduction
Benalla		
Hay	47.2GL	20
Hillston	30.2GL	16.6
Robinvale	42.4GL	42.1

Town	Total Workforce Growth	Workforce Growth: Sectors			
		Agriculture	Ag manufacturing	Non-Ag	Government
Benalla	64.8%	7.0%	0.0%	21.1%	31.7%
Hay	-24.8%	-41.9%	50.6%	-35.7%	0.0%
Hillston	-10.0%	-30.8%	-44.3%	10.8%	41.8%
Robinvale	-35.1%	-40.7%	89.5%	57.1%	21.9%

Town	Percentage FTE						Town Population (2001-2016)	Notes
	Agriculture		Non-Ag		Government			
	2001	2016	2001	2016	2001	2016		
Benalla	16.0%	14.0%	47.0%	47.0%	28.0%	30.0%	7.9%	NOT affected by MDB Plan, Percentage FTE is 2006 and not 2001
Hay	46.0%	36.0%	32.0%	28.0%	17.0%	23.0%	-12.1%	
Hillston	57.0%	55.0%	26.0%	16.0%	13.0%	18.0%	-10.8%	
Robinvale	52.0%	48.0%	30.0%	20.0%	15.0%	18.0%	2.5%	

This must also be seen in the longer term context of the Hay population, which after a drastic drop, stabilised between 2011 and 2016. This is not reflected in the MDB community profile for Hay.

Hay Population			
Year	Population	Population Change	Percentage Change
1996	3822		
2001	3574	-248	-6.49
2006	3447	-127	-3.55
2011	2958	-489	-14.19
2016	2946	-12	-0.41



The comparison between towns and the longer term population figures must be seen in the context of the tail end of a drought and a change in the agricultural produce of the Hay region, but it cannot be denied that the MDB Plan had an impact on Hay. With a 47GL loss, which equates to 20% of all water, Hay has some of the most drastic water cuts in the Murray Darling Basin. This would have had an impact on the 10% drop of FTE in the Agricultural Sector.

Hay Shire Council has lobbied for the increase in funding for the area in an attempt to negate the negative impact of the plan, and is revising its Economic Development Action plan to provide a strategic direction for a better future for the Shire with less water.