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 been 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.