



8 March 2019

## Namoi Valley

### Water allocation and availability update

Lower Namoi general security allocation **remains unchanged**.

February was very dry with only about 10 mm of rainfall recorded in the catchment, with the storages still experiencing record low inflow. The current resource situation remains critically low. The shortfall remains stable, with the storages requiring about 86 gigalitres (GL) of combined inflow before regulated river operations can resume.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Valley	100%	100%	 Stage 3
Lower Namoi Valley	100%	0%	 Stage 4

Keepit Dam is effectively empty and Split Rock dam is just 3 per cent full. The regulated system was holding only 14.7 GL of water at the start of this month.

Given the lack of resources, the routine tables and graphs showing the resource distribution have been omitted from this statement. They will be returned when the system recovers.

#### Key facts

- The remaining Lower Namoi general security (GS) account water of 12.5 GL cannot be delivered until the resource availability situation improves.
- Storages will require wetter conditions (inflows exceeded at least 80 years in 100) to enable delivery of Lower Namoi GS account water by November 2019. Currently inflows are tracking much drier, the lowest for 120 years.
- There will be no allocation to Upper Namoi GS account next year if Split Rock volume remains below 5 per cent in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- Storage inflows since the last allocation in August 2017 to February 2019 were just 35 GL. This is below the historical minimum from August 1918 to February 1920 of 60 GL.
- In February, 2,240 ML was released from Split Rock Dam to meet 675 ML of general security and 200 ML of high priority demands.

#### Further information

The next water allocation update for the Namoi regulated river will be in early April 2019.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website - [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)