

8 May 2019

## Namoi Valley

### Water allocation update

Below average rainfall in April has been insufficient to produce useful inflows to the storages. **Lower Namoi allocations this year remain unchanged.**

Unregulated flows early last month provided some stock, domestic and riparian relief in the lower Namoi. Restrictions imposed to help flows extend to Walgett have now been lifted, but remain an option in managing future events for critical outcomes.

The current shortfall in fully meeting all resource current commitments remains stable with the storages needing about 85,000 ML of inflow before normal 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 less than 1 per cent full, holding about 10,000 ML, while Split Rock Dam is just 2.5 per cent full, holding about 13,000 ML.

This statement does not include the usual tables and graphs showing resource distribution. Their usefulness is limited due to the lack of water for distribution.

### Key facts

- Remaining Lower Namoi general security (GS) account water of 12.5GL cannot be delivered until the resource availability situation improves.
- Storage inflows since the last allocation in August 2017 to April 2019 were just 36GL. This is below the historical minimum of 61 GL (Aug 1918 to April 1920).

### Water availability outlook for 2019-20

Forecast information is not guaranteed and should be used at one's own risk. This outlook for **1 July 2019** water availability is conservatively based on assumed historical minimum inflows for the remainder of this calendar year only. This reduced future inflow assumption improves water security for critical needs, especially given the current record dry conditions.

- Critical human and stock needs are secured into the next (2019-20) water year based on the conservative assumptions about future conditions.
- Full allocation can be expected for towns, domestic and stock access licences.

- A 75 per cent opening allocation for high security entitlements can be expected in the unlikely event of insufficient runoff in May and June.
- Despite this high security allocation, the reduced availability of water for conveyance impacts the delivery of high security orders in the Lower Namoi.
- There will be no allocation to Upper Namoi General Security entitlements if Split Rock Dam volume remains below 5 per cent, in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- Lower Namoi General Security entitlements can expect no allocation.
- A restriction allowing access to 75 per cent of Upper Namoi General Security carryover water can be expected in the unlikely event of insufficient runoff in May and June.
- If extreme dry conditions continue, further restrictions during 2019-20 on delivering account water, replenishment flows and minimum releases, or a combination of these, will be needed to secure critical human needs for 2020-21.
- If conditions continue to deteriorate, Upper Namoi Valley is likely to advance to Stage 4 drought criticality.

## Further information

The next water allocation update for the Namoi regulated river will be available in early June 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)

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