

6 May 2022

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

The improvement in resources in April allows for the following allocation:

- **Lower Namoi general security allocation to increase by 2.7% of entitlement,** resulting in a total allocation of 101.6% of entitlement for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source were assigned full allocations on 1 July and remain unchanged.

Average rainfall has continued to provide inflows into the Namoi catchment in April. The improvement to resources was the result of downstream water usage freeing airspace in Keepit Dam, allowing for additional inflows to be captured.

Current allocations

2021/22	High Security	General Security
Upper Namoi Regulated River	100%	100%
Lower Namoi Regulated River	100%	101.6%

Resource outlook for 2022/23

This forecast is provided to assist water users in their planning for the 2022/23 water year. Conditions are being closely monitored and water users will be provided monthly updates, up until the start of the new water year, on catchment and inflow conditions so that risks can be assessed.

- Water for all critical needs is secure for the 2022/23 water year.
- **Local water utility, domestic and stock, and high security** water access licences will likely receive full (100%) allocations on 1 July for the 2022/23 water year.
- **General security** entitlement holders in the **Upper Namoi** can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July because Split Rock volume is likely to be above 10%.
- Water remaining in the **Upper Namoi general security** accounts will be carried forward into next year. However, the maximum account balance at any time is 1 megalitre per unit share (or 100% of entitlement).
- Water held in the **Lower Namoi general security** accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward in full into the new water year. The maximum volume that may be held at any time is 2 ML/share (or 200% of entitlement).
- All account water is expected to be fully deliverable as required in 2022/23.

- **Supplementary** access licence holders are likely to start the new water year with a full 100% allocation.

Dam levels (as of 6 May 2022)

- Split Rock Dam is about 71% full – holding approximately 285 gigalitre (GL).
- Keepit Dam is 99% full – holding approximately 424 GL.

Key information

- In April 2022, the Namoi catchment experienced average rainfall, receiving between 10 to 50 mm of rain.
- Inflows to headwater storages were 23.4 GL for Keepit Dam and 2.8 GL for Split Rock Dam.
- Critical requirements for Manilla and Barraba townships are secure for the next 24 months and beyond, based on assumed minimum future inflows to Split Rock Dam.

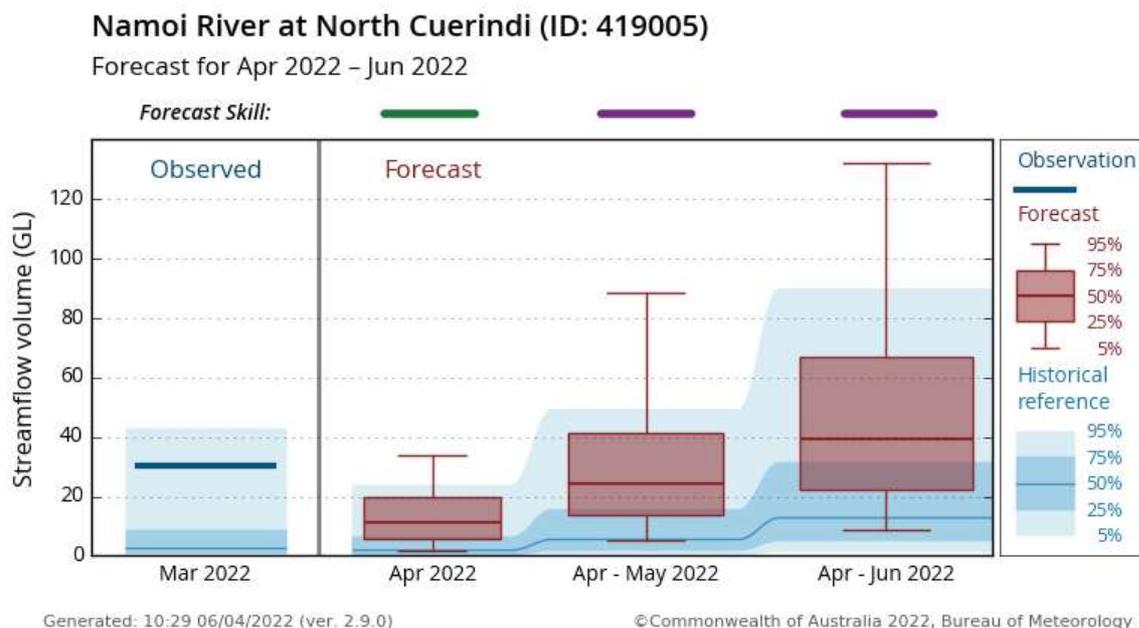
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for May to July indicates above median rainfall for the upper catchment. Additionally, daytime temperatures are likely to be below median and minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the catchment.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the unregulated Namoi River at North Cuerindi (see Figure 1). This may provide an indication of potential future inflows into Keepit Dam. The forecast quantiles of total streamflow volume from April to June are higher than the historical quantile references, indicating likely higher flow than historical streamflow conditions for the next few months.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005



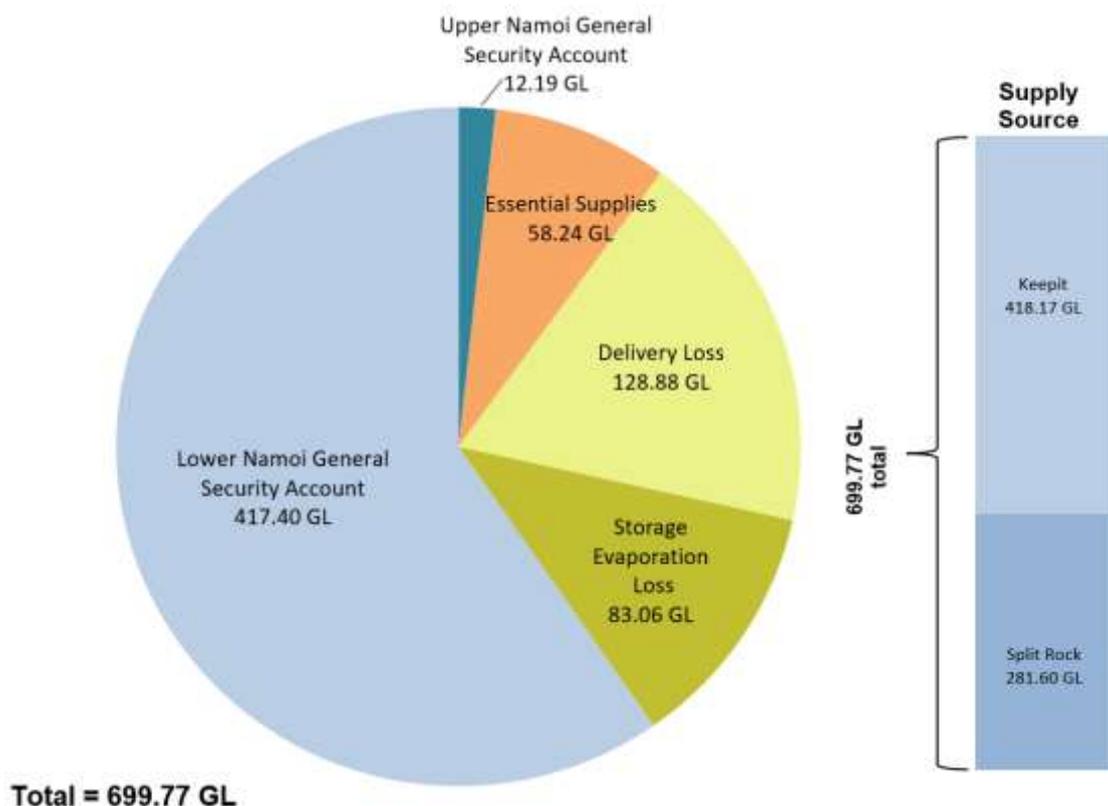
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as at 30 April 2022)	Volume (GL)
Keepit and Split Rock Active Volumes	699.77
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	83.06
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.24
Lower Namoi General Security Account	417.40
Upper Namoi General Security Account	12.19
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	128.88
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	0.00

Notes:

- (1) Storage Evaporation Loss: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and maximum historical evaporation rates over 2 years.
- (2) Essential Supplies: water required to be set aside under water sharing plan to provide for stock & domestic, towns, high security and riverine environments. Includes Gunidgera/Pian stock and domestic replenishments, delivery loss allowance and end-of-system flow requirements. This commitment is offset by minimum forecast inflows into the storages.
- (3) Delivery Loss: this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. The budget is continually assessed and topped up if necessary, as a priority from resource improvements, to ensure that allocated water can be delivered.
- (4) All available water resources have been fully allocated (no surplus/deficit). The system is secure for 24 months and beyond.

Resource Distribution as at 30 April 2022
 Namoi Regulated River Water Sources



Resource assessment data sheet as at 30 April 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	83.06	82.87	0.19	83.06
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.24	56.91	1.33	58.24
General Security Delivery Loss	128.88	113.73	15.15	128.88
Upper Namoi General Security (11.4 GL max)		12.19	0.00	12.19*
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		411.23	6.16	417.40
Additional Resource for Sharing		22.84	-22.84	0.00
Total		699.77	0.00	699.77

*higher than maximum due to trade.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	6.16	GL
Available Water Determination	0.027	ML per unit share

Water allocation guide

The department is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Namoi regulated river water source is now available.

Further details at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Tuesday 7 June 2022**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water