

7 March 2017

Namoi Valley

Water allocation update – to end February 2017

Allocations

The general security allocations in the 2016/17 water years remains **unchanged at 124.67 per cent of entitlement.**

Persistent dry and hot conditions during February have meant that little inflow has arrived in storage during the month.

All other licence categories in the Lower and Upper Namoi valleys have already received their maximum allocation for the 2016/17 water year.

| | High Security | General Security |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Upper Namoi valley | 100% | 100% |
| Lower Namoi valley | 100% | 124.67% |

Dam levels (as at 6 March)

- Keepit Dam is 58 per cent full – falling - holding 250,000 megalitres. This is much higher than at the same time last year when the storage was only 11 per cent full.
- Split Rock Dam is 29 per cent full – falling - holding 118,000 ML, compared to 6 per cent full at the same time last year.

Key facts

- Essential supplies are secure for 2017/18.
- Water is currently being released from Keepit Dam against environmental licence accounts to deliver riverine health outcomes in the Lower Namoi.
- Releases from Keepit Dam may become necessary by mid-April to meet the end of system requirements. However, water from downstream tributaries and weirs will be used first to meet end of system targets in order to delay usage from Keepit Dam.
- A return to block release strategies is not yet anticipated, however; if dry conditions look like continuing for an extended period, consideration will be given to management options that will extend the longevity of critical supplies.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, March is likely to be hotter and drier than average for the Namoi Valley. Warmer and drier than average conditions are expected to continue through Autumn (March to May), stemming from forecast higher than normal air pressure

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across western and southern Australia, resulting in the probably of fewer rain-bearing systems.

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) indicator remains neutral. However, recent changes in both the tropical Pacific Ocean and atmosphere, and climate model outlooks surveyed by the Bureau, suggest that the likelihood of El Niño conditions forming in 2017 has risen to about 50 per cent.

El Niño is often associated with below average winter–spring rainfall over eastern Australia and warmer than average winter–spring maximum temperatures over the southern half of Australia.

Further information

The next monthly Water Allocation Statement for the Namoi regulated river water sources will be issued on **Friday 7 April 2017**.

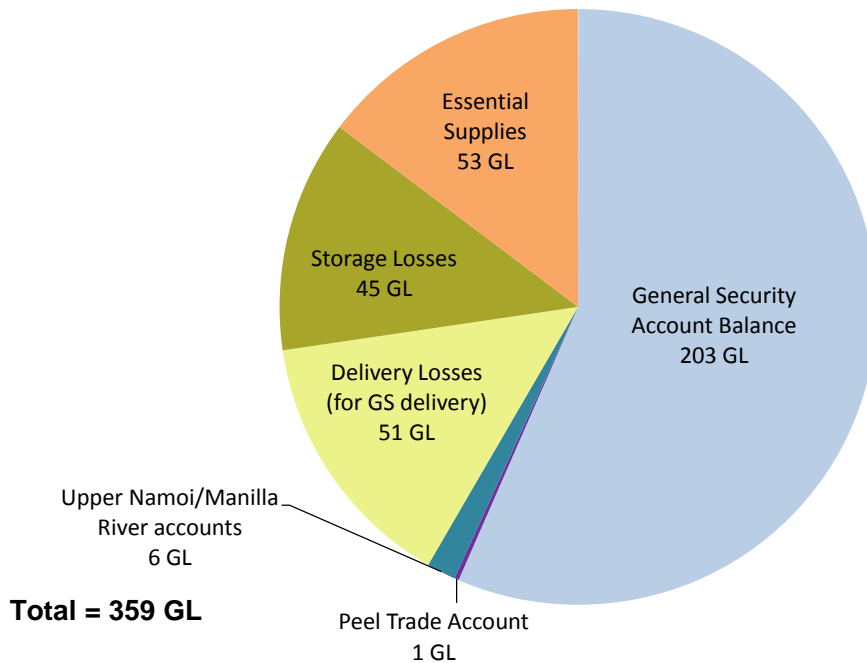
Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Namoi Resource Assessment Data Sheet

| Resource Distribution (as at 01 March 2017) | |
|---|-------------|
| | Volume (GL) |
| Available Resource ⁽¹⁾ | 359.63 |
| less | |
| Storage Losses ⁽²⁾ | 45.42 |
| Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾ | 52.87 (94%) |
| General Security Account Balance | 203.35 |
| Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts | 5.68 |
| Peel Trade Account ⁽⁴⁾ | 0.88 |
| Delivery Loss Account | 51.42 |

**See notes below.*

Resource Distribution as at 01 March 2017 Namoi Valley



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (359 GL) – includes total active storage (Split Rock & Keepit Dams).
- (2) Storage Losses –evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and maximum historical evaporation rates over 2 years.
- (3) Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for Towns, Stock, Domestic, 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.
- (4) Peel Trade Account – the Peel water sharing plan, at Clause 86(4), provides for limited allocation assignment (temporary trade) from the Peel to the Namoi valleys. It requires a volume to be set aside in Keepit resources equal to the AWD times 3,000 to support trade from the Peel valley. The trade account balance is reduced as trade water is released from storage. The account increases with increases to Lower Namoi general security allocation.

In this assessment a total of 3.74 GL trade account balance (being 1.2467ML/share * 3000 shares) was provided. Further, 2.86 GL has been debited commensurate with releases, leaving a current balance of 0.88 GL.

Namoi resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 31 January 2017
- Current Assessment date: 28 February 2017

| Storage volume | Committed Volume (GL) | Remaining Storage Balance (GL) |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Total (Split Rock plus Keepit) | | 369.33 |
| Dead storage | 9.70 | 359.63 |
| Storage Loss Committed - projected 2 years (brought forward) | 49.60 | 310.03 |

| Essential Supplies | Committed Volume (GL) | Remaining Balance (GL) |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Brought forward | 56.00 | |
| Used and associated loss since last assessment | -3.13 | |
| Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security | 0.00 | |
| Transfer to General Security delivery loss account | 0.00 | |
| Current balance | 52.87 | 257.16 |

| Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers | Committed Volume (GL) | Remaining Balance (GL) |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Brought forward | 7.15 | |
| Ordered since last assessment | -0.56 | |
| Allocation Assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi | -0.91 | |
| Current balance | 5.68 | 251.48 |

| General Security (D/S Keepit) | Committed Volume (GL) | Remaining Balance (GL) |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Brought forward | 231.06 | |
| Orders since assessment period | -31.48 | |
| Allocation Assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi and Peel Trade) | 3.77 | |
| Current balance | 203.35 | 48.12 |

| Peel Trade Account | Committed Volume (GL) | Remaining Balance (GL) |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Brought forward | 3.74 | |
| Trade to general security since last assessment | 2.86 | |
| Current balance | 0.88 | 47.24 |

| Delivery Loss | Committed Volume (GL) | Remaining Balance (GL) |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Brought forward | 71.46 | |
| Apparent losses since last assessment | -18.82 | |
| Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS) | 0.00 | |
| Current balance | 52.64 | -5.40 |

| Apparent Losses since last assessment | % of loss | GL |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| Total | | 19.98 |
| Essential Supply Loss | 6% | 1.16 |
| General Security Loss | 94% | 18.82 |

| Resources available for sharing | GL |
|--|--------------|
| Total | -5.40 |

| New balances | Limit | Commitments | | Balance |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|
| | | Current | Additional | |
| | GL | GL | GL | GL |
| Storage Loss | 45.42 | 49.60 | -4.18 | 45.42 |
| Essential Supplies | 56.00 | 52.87 | 0.00 | 52.87 |
| Upper Namoi / Manilla River | 9.81 | 5.68 | 0.00 | 5.68 |
| Delivery Loss | 150.94 | 52.64 | -1.23 | 51.42 |
| General Security Irrigation | 493.40 | 203.35 | 0.00 | 203.35 |
| Peel Trade Account | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.00 | 0.88 |
| Uncommitted resources | - | -5.40 | 5.40 | 0.00 |
| Total | - | 359.63 | 0.00 | 359.63 |

| Recommendations Upper Namoi (General Security) | Value | Unit |
|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Incremental Increase CREDITED | 0.00 | GL |
| Available Water Determination | 0.0000 | ML per unit share |

| Recommendations Lower Namoi (General Security) | Value | Unit |
|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Incremental Increase CREDITED | 0.00 | GL |
| Available Water Determination | 0.0000 | ML per unit share |