

9 August 2018

Namoi Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

Lower Namoi general security allocation remains unchanged at zero per cent of entitlement. Rainfall and system inflows were negligible in July 2018.

The 2017-2018 inflow to headwater storages were within the lowest five years out of 100 years of historical inflows. The evaporation and delivery losses for the last water year were higher than the budgeted volume. There is a current shortfall of 63,000 megaliters (ML).

Apart from the Lower Namoi general security, all other categories of licence in the regulated river valley have received their maximum allocation for the 2018-19 water year.

	High Security	General Security
Upper Namoi Valley	100%	100%
Lower Namoi Valley	100%	0.0%

Dam levels (as at 7 August)

- Keepit Dam is about 10 per cent full – steady – currently about 50,000 ML.
- Split Rock Dam is 14 per cent full – steady – currently about 58,000 ML.

Key facts

- The general security delivery loss account has been empty since January 2018. The essential supply reserve is supporting domestic, stock and riparian flow to Walgett.
- A bulk water transfer will be required from Split Rock by next summer to deliver remaining account volumes in the Lower Namoi.
- Efficiency strategies, including block releases and limiting the length of river for deliveries to Gunidgera Weir will be implemented.
- Weather outlook is for dry conditions extending into spring. If the dry condition persist, deliverability will become extremely difficult by spring.
- The current water in storage is being prioritised for critical water needs.

Seasonal climate outlook

The outlook suggests areas currently experiencing drought are unlikely to get respite in the coming three months.

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting that rainfall is unlikely to exceed median conditions during August to October for the catchment. Forecasts also suggest that day and night-time temperatures are very likely to be above median during this period.

Most international climate models show El Niño is likely to develop before the end of 2018. El Niño typically means below average rainfall during winter-spring for northern and eastern Australia.

About half of the international climate models indicate a positive IOD event could develop in the coming months. A positive IOD typically means below average rainfall during winter-spring for southern and central Australia.

In summary, all indicators are forecasting a dry winter – spring season.

For more details:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/archive/outlooks/latest-outlook.shtml>

Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Namoi regulated river will be available in early September 2018.

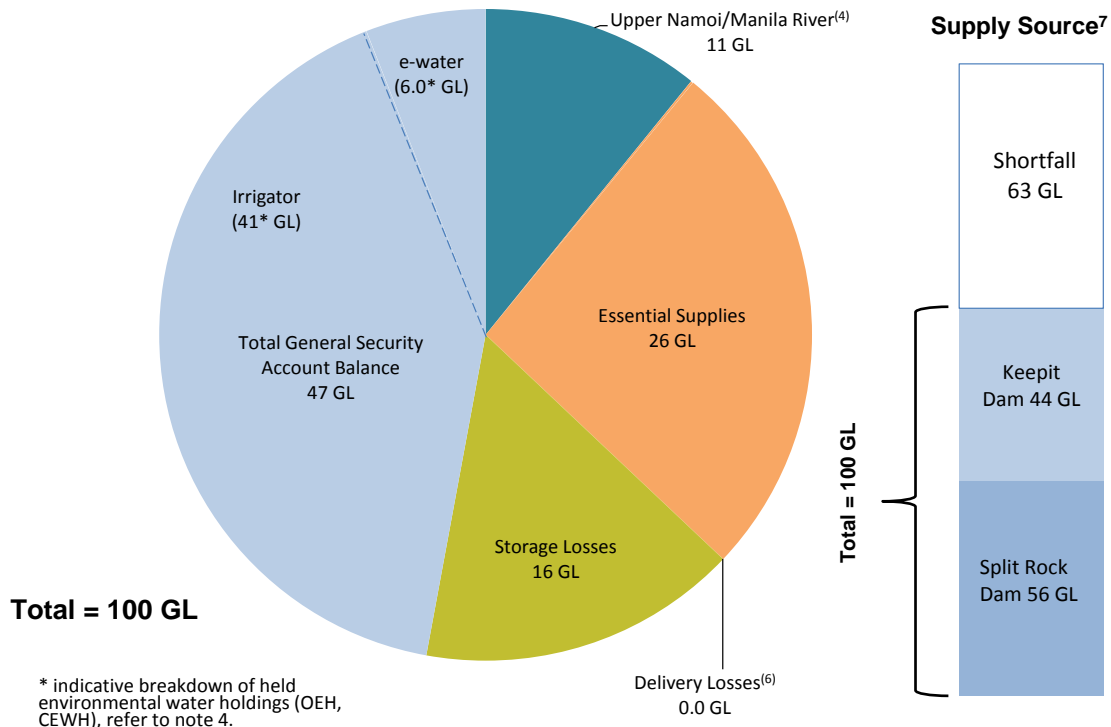
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 July 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	99.97
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	15.84
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	26.12
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	47.08
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts ⁽⁴⁾	10.93
Peel Trade Account ⁽⁵⁾	0.00
Delivery Loss Account ⁽⁶⁾	0.00

See notes below.

Resource Distribution (as at 31 July 2018)



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource: 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) Held environmental water (HEW): as a trial, water administered by environmental water holders is reported here, with the associated portions of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only and, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, estimated to be about 6 GL of GS in the Lower Namoi and 0.11 GL of GS in the Upper Namoi. No HS water is held. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) Peel Trade Account: the Peel water sharing plan, at Clause 86(4), provides for limited allocation assignment from the Peel to the Namoi valleys. It requires a volume to be set aside in Keepit Dam equal to the AWD times 3,000 (maximum of 6,000 ML), for trade from the Peel valley. The current account balance is zero (0) ML meaning all available trade water has been delivered.
- (6) This account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water (delivery losses). Zero balance means that water must be borrowed to continue the delivery of general security water, in accordance with prior practice. It also means that payback of any borrow will occur before further general security allocation increase.
- (7) Supply Distribution – the distribution of supply includes active volumes in the dams at the time of the assessment, and it is also include any estimated shortfall in meeting the full account limits. High transmission losses create account shortfalls in very dry years. We estimate about 71 GL of inflow to cover the shortfall and extra evaporation prior to next GS allocation increment.

Resource Assessment

Volumes in GL	Target	1 Jul 18	Adjustments	1 Aug 18
Storage Loss	29.66	17.92	-2.08	15.84
Essential Supplies	58.24	26.12	0.00	26.12
Upper Namoi / Manilla River	11.31	10.93	0.00	10.93
Delivery Loss	17.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Security Irrigation	491.80	47.08	0.00	47.08
Peel Trade Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Additional Resource for Sharing	-	-2.08	2.08	0.00
Total	-	99.97	0.00	99.97

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