

10 October 2018

## Namoi Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

Lower Namoi general security allocation **remains unchanged at 0 per cent of entitlement**. Little or no rainfall, particularly over the catchment areas of Keepit and Split Rock Dams, has resulted in no improvement in resources.

The 2018-19 inflows to headwater storages are currently tracking near historical minimums. Compared to the last month, there is a slight deterioration in the shortfall which is now 63,800 megalitres (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 8 October)

- Keepit Dam is just below 11 per cent full – steady – currently about 51,000 ML.
- Split Rock Dam is 13 per cent full – steady – currently about 56,000 ML.

#### Key facts

- The general security delivery loss account has been empty since January 2018. The essential supply reserve is supporting the remaining account water deliveries.
- WaterNSW will begin to transfer water from Split Rock to Keepit Dam later this month.
- The first block release from Keepit Dam will commence this month, with flows expected to arrive at Gunidgera weir by November. A further block release will likely be required if conditions remain dry.
- Without inflows, Keepit Dam will be extremely low by the end of this calendar year.
- Pian Creek replenishments will be timed around tributary inflows, including from the Peel River.

## Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal rainfall outlook for October to December at Namoi catchment suggests an even chance of median rainfall conditions. However, the valley is likely to experience very much above average temperature for the same period.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral, but El Niño conditions may develop by late spring. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also neutral, although a positive event may be emerging. A positive IOD and El Niño during spring typically means below average rainfall for southern, eastern and central Australia.

For more details on the seasonal climatic outlook:

<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 November 2018.

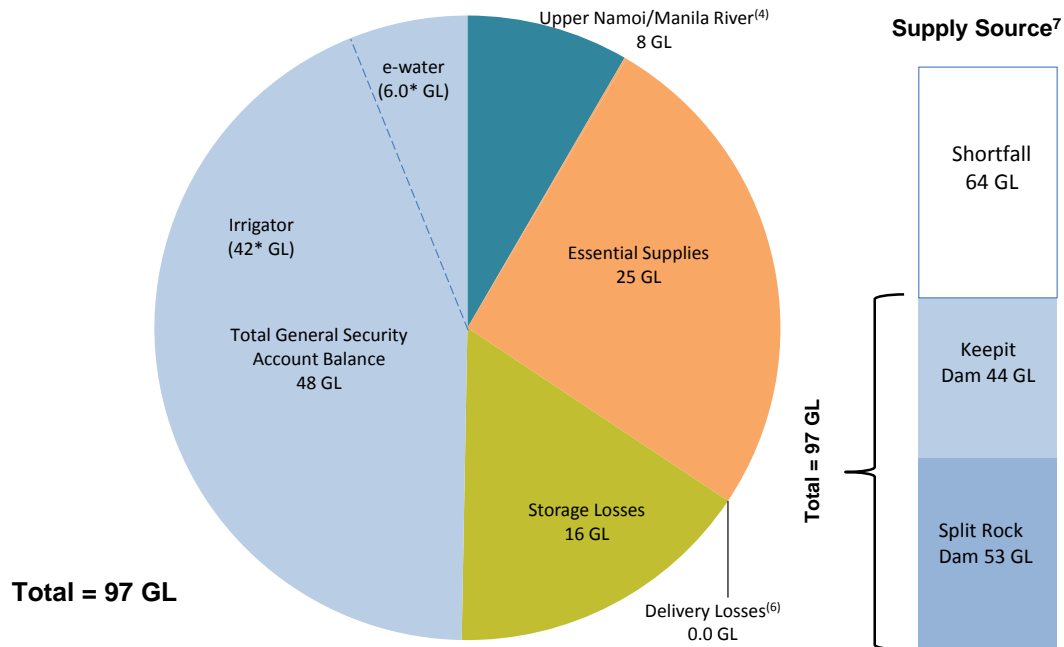
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website - [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

## Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 30 September 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	97.65
<b>less</b>	
Storage Losses <sup>(2)</sup>	15.57
Essential Supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	25.26
General Security Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	48.54
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts <sup>(4)</sup>	8.28
Peel Trade Account <sup>(5)</sup>	0.00
Delivery Loss Account <sup>(6)</sup>	0.00

See notes below.

## Resource Distribution (as at 30 September 2018)



\* indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, CEWH), refer to note 4.

### 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. The current shortfall is 13.8GL.
- (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. The current shortfall is 33GL.
- (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. The payback of any borrow will occur before further general security allocation increase. The current shortfall is 17GL.
- (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 as at 30 September 2018

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	29.38	15.71	-0.14	15.57
Essential Supplies	58.24	25.54	-0.28	25.26
Upper Namoi / Manilla River		8.28	0.00	8.28
Delivery Loss	17.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Security Irrigation		48.54	0.00	48.54
Peel Trade Account		0.00	0.00	0.00
Additional Resource for Sharing		-0.42	0.43	0.01
Total		97.64	0.01	97.65

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

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