

4 October 2019

## Namoi Valley

### Water allocation update

There was no significant rainfall in the Namoi catchment in September to produce inflows to storages. As a result, high security allocations remain unchanged with no water allocation to general security users. All other license categories have received their maximum allocation.

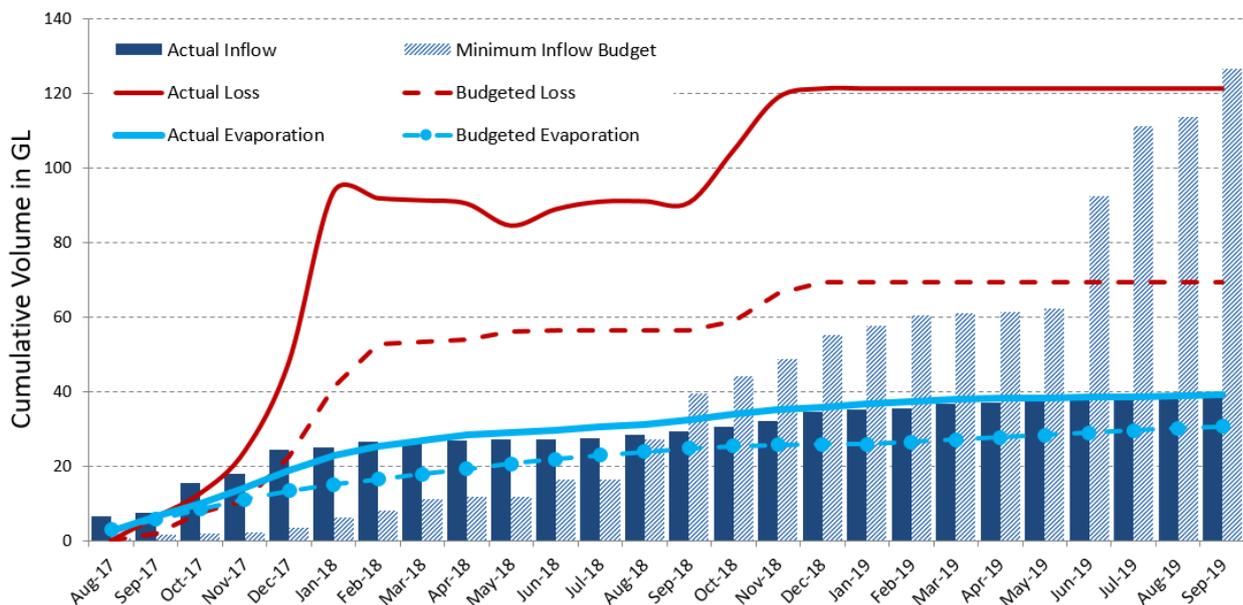
2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Valley	75%	0%	 Stage 3
Lower Namoi Valley	75%	0%	 Stage 4

Keepit Dam is less than 1% full, holding 10,500 ML, and Split Rock Dam is less than 2% full, holding about 9,800 ML.

Currently, storages need at least 86,000 megalitres (ML) of inflow before normal regulated river operations can resume.

The context for this severe shortfall can be seen in the following figure. It shows that actual inflow is now much less than the historical minimum inflow, and that actual transmission losses and evaporation are worse than those expected based on prior practise.

Figure: Cumulative inflow and loss since the last general security allocation compared to budget



### Drought stage and restrictions

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances. Currently, the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi is at Stage 3 and Stage 4 respectively. At this drought stage, if there is insufficient water available to provide a full high security allocation, then access to general security water, including carryover water, is restricted to the same or greater extent than the high security allocation to support higher priority commitments. More details on how restrictions are imposed on carryover water can be found in the following link:

[https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/272154/imposing-restrictions-on-carryover-water-in-regulated-rivers.pdf](https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/272154/imposing-restrictions-on-carryover-water-in-regulated-rivers.pdf)

### Key facts

- Storage inflows since the last general security allocation in August 2017 have been just 39 GL. This is well below the previous historical minimum of 127 GL (August 1993 to September 1995).
- Further water saving measures in the Upper Namoi will be required to secure town water supplies for Manilla township if the current dry weather and lack of inflows continues.
- Upper Namoi general security water access licence holders are allowed to access 75% of the volume of water in their accounts at 1 July 2019.
- Lower Namoi general security water access license holders are restricted from accessing any water in their accounts as the remaining account water of 12.3 GL cannot be delivered.
- The restrictions will be eased or removed once the inflow situation improves sufficiently. The temporary water restriction can be viewed at <http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/temporary-water-restrictions>.

### Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for October to December indicates that the Namoi catchment is very likely to experience drier than average conditions across the catchment. Daytime temperatures over this period are very likely to be above average, while overnight temperatures are likely to be below average.

The Bureau indicates that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral. Modelling suggests that the ENSO is likely to remain neutral over the remainder of 2019. Positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are forecast for the remainder of spring. A positive IOD will likely result in below average spring rainfall and above average temperatures.

Details can be found in: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/>

### Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi regulated river water source will be available in early November 2019.