

7 April 2020

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

Water recovery in the Namoi catchment continues to improve due to continued rainfall and system inflows. However, after the extended period of extreme dry conditions, the improvement so far is insufficient to increase the current water allocations. As a result, Upper and Lower Namoi general security allocation this water year **remains unchanged at 0 per cent** and Upper and Lower Namoi high security allocation **remains at 75 percent of entitlement**.

The Namoi Regulated River Water Sources received average to above average rainfall during March. The upper catchment received between 50 to 100 mm of rain, resulting in inflows to the upper storages of about 7.5 gigalitres (GL). This resource improvement reduces the March 2020 resource shortfall from 43.0 GL to 35.0 GL.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Source	75%	0%	 Stage 3
Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source	75%	0%	 Stage 3

Keepit Dam storage volume today is at 61 GL, or 12.9 percent full storage capacity and Split Rock storage volume is at 20 GL, or 4.2 percent of full storage capacity.

Key facts

- Delivery of upper Namoi general security (carryover) water is available from Split Rock Dam.
- Despite the continued increase in Split Rock storage volume, no allocation to Upper Namoi general security users is allowed until high security licences are fully allocated.
- Critical requirements for Manilla and Barraba townships are now secure for the next 24 months under a minimum inflow scenario.
- The Pian Creek replenishment flow requirement has been met from flows below Keepit Dam.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances. Since February 2020, both Split Rock and Keepit storage volumes have been slowly increasing. Critical requirements are now secure with improved connectivity. Limited delivery of general security water is being met mainly from downstream tributary inflows. Both the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi drought stages currently remain at stage 3 (severe).

Further information on drought stages can be found at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that wetter than average conditions are likely for the Namoi catchment. Daytime temperatures over this period are likely to be warmer than average with night time temperatures very likely to be warmer than average for the catchment.

The Bureau of Meteorology states that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are currently neutral and likely to remain neutral into winter. The tropical ocean to the west of Australia is forecast to remain warmer than average and is likely to be the major influence on the climate over the coming season.

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

Resource Assessment data sheet as at 31 March 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	25.94	25.07	0.87	25.94
Essential Supplies	58.24	24.02	7.73	31.75
Upper Namoi General Security		1.38	0.00	1.38
Delivery Loss	3.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lower Namoi General Security		10.06	0.00	10.06
Peel Trade Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Additional Resource for Sharing	-	8.60	-8.60	0.00
Split Rock and Keepit active volumes	-	69.13		69.13

Inflow recovery

The historical minimum inflow for 32 months prior to current drought was 155 GL. The net reservoir inflows from the last allocation of August 2017 to end of March 2020 (32 months) were 105 GL. With the rain events that occurred in January 2020 through to the end of March 2020, water resources continue to improve and the deficit is reducing. This is shown below where the gap between actual inflow into storages (dashed line) and the minimum inflow budget since the last allocation, represents the shortfall in the amount of water that was assumed available and allocated, and the water that became available.

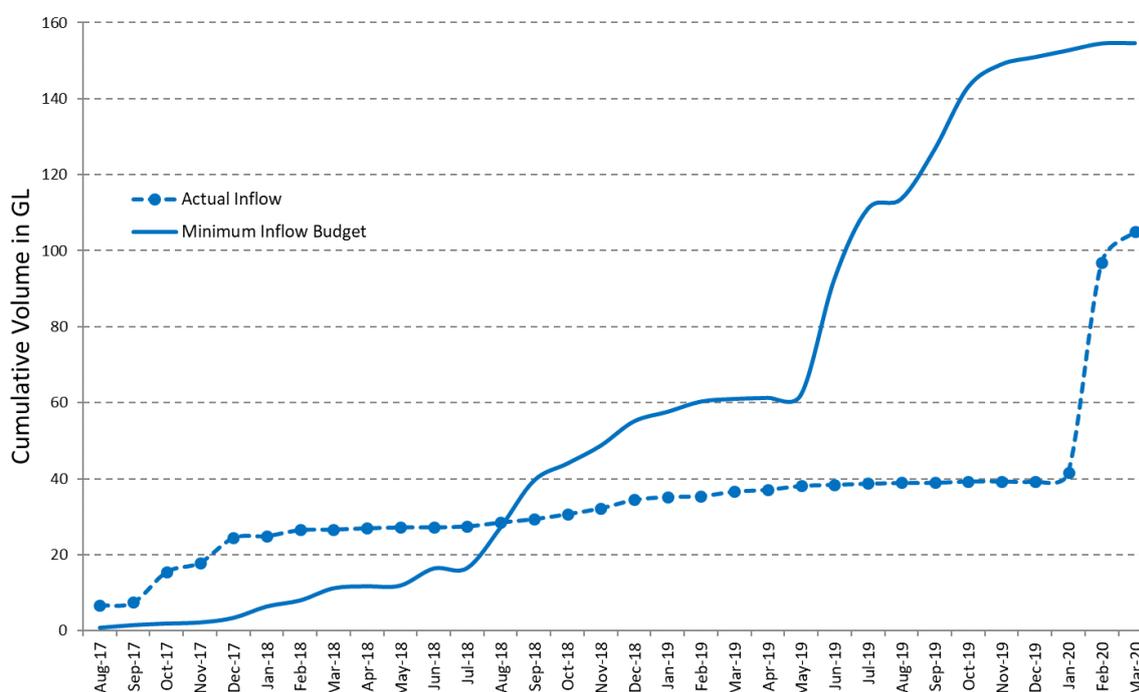


Figure 1: Cumulative inflows to the upper storages since August 2017 and the planned minimum inflow sequence (budget).

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available in early May 2020.

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