

7 April 2022

# Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

## Water allocation update

Average to highest on record rainfall continued to provide inflows into the Namoi catchment in March. An improvement to resources was observed and is mainly the result of downstream water usage freeing airspace in Keepit Dam, allowing for additional inflows to be captured. The improvement in resources allows for the following allocation:

- **Lower Namoi general security allocation to increase by 2.9% of entitlement,** resulting in a total allocation of 98.9% of entitlement for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source were assigned full allocations on 1 July and remain unchanged.

## Current allocations

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Upper Namoi Regulated River	100%	100%
Lower Namoi Regulated River	100%	98.9%

## Resource outlook for 2022-23

This forecast is provided to assist water users in their planning for the 2022-23 water year. Conditions are being closely monitored and water users will be provided monthly updates, up until the start of the new water year, on catchment and inflow conditions so that risks can be assessed.

- Water for all critical needs is secure for the 2022-23 water year.
- **Local water utility, domestic** and **stock** water access licences will receive full (100%) allocations on 1 July for the 2022-23 water year.
- **High security** licence holders are likely to start the new water-year with a 100% allocation.
- **General security** entitlement holders in the **Upper Namoi** can expect to receive full (100%) allocations on 1 July, should Split Rock volume stay above 10%.
- Water remaining in the **Upper Namoi general security** account may be carried over from one water year to the next, however; the maximum volume that may be held is 1 megalitre per unit share.
- Water held in the **Lower Namoi general security** accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward in full into new water year. The maximum volume that may be held at any time is 2 ML/share.

- **Supplementary** licence holders are likely to start the new water-year with at 100% allocation.

### Dam levels (as of 6 April 2022)

- Split Rock Dam is about 71% full – holding approximately 284 gegalitre (GL).
- Keepit Dam is 99% full – holding approximately 423 GL.

### Key information

- In March 2022, the Namoi catchment experienced average rainfall to highest on record, receiving between 25 to 200 mm of rain.
- Inflows to headwater storages were 29.8 GL for Keepit Dam and 4.5 GL for Split Rock Dam.
- Critical requirements for Manilla and Barraba townships are secure for the next 24 months and beyond, based on assumed minimum future inflows to Split Rock Dam.

### Climate and streamflow outlooks

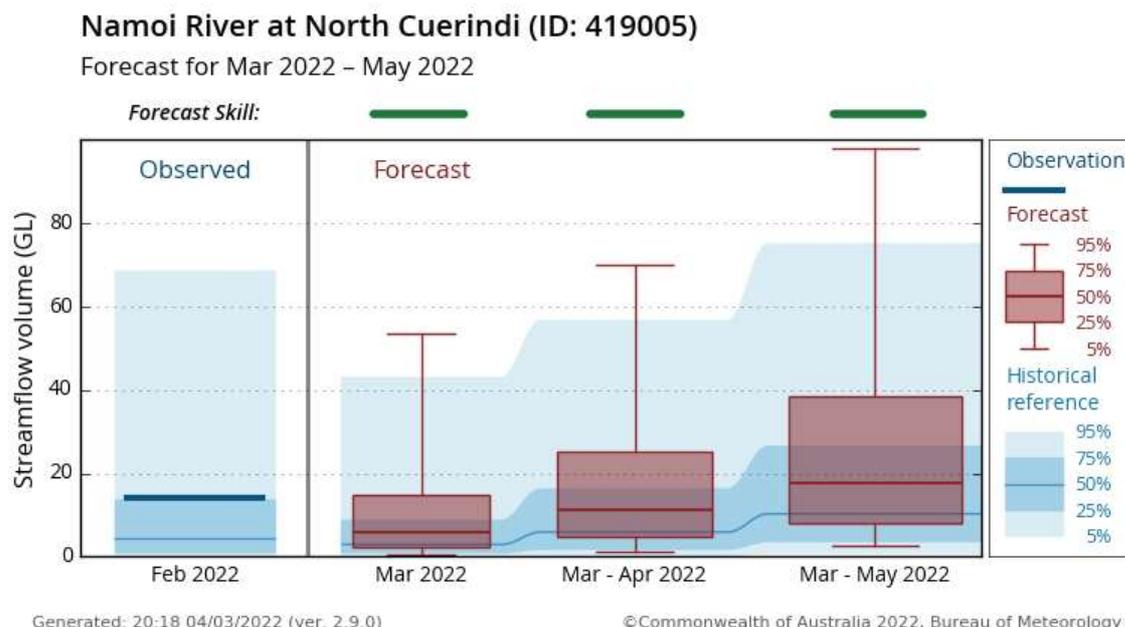
The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for April to June indicates above median rainfall for the upper catchment. Additionally, daytime temperatures are likely to be below median and minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the catchment.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the unregulated Namoi River at North Cuerindi (see Figure 1). This may provide an indication of potential future inflows into Keepit Dam.

The forecast quartiles of total streamflow volume from March to May are higher than the historical quartile references, indicating likely higher flow than historical streamflow conditions for the next few months.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005)



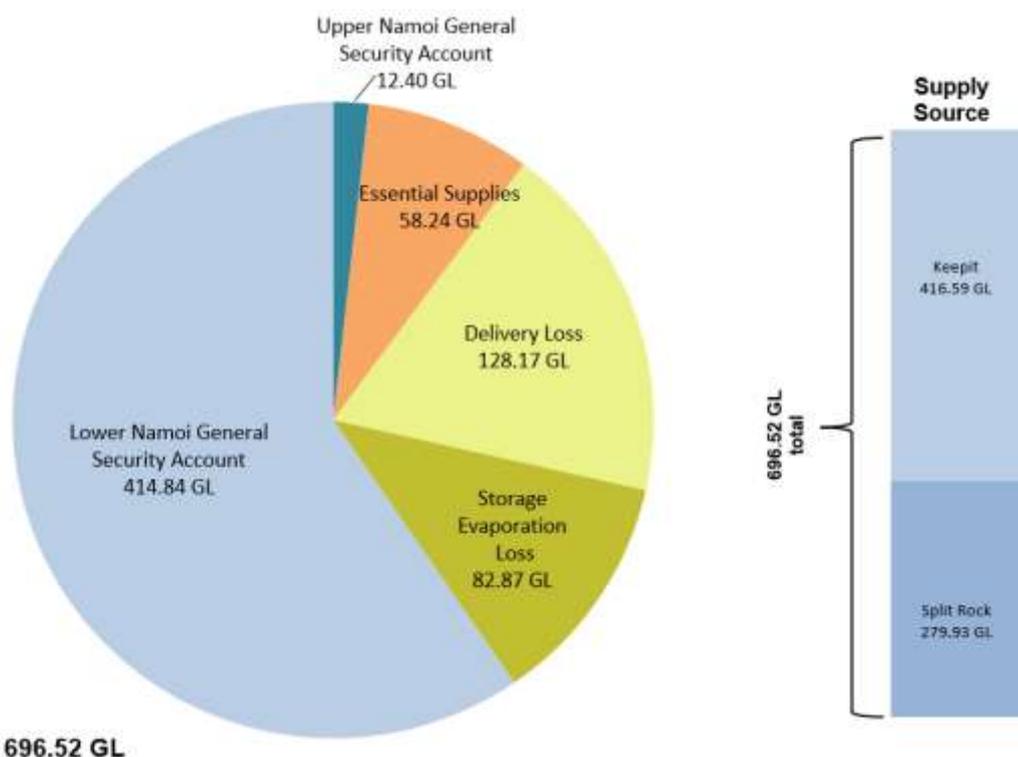
## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as at 31 March 2022)	Volume (GL)
Keepit and Split Rock Active Volumes	696.52
less	
Storage Evaporation Loss <sup>(1)</sup>	82.87
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	58.24
Lower Namoi General Security Account	414.84
Upper Namoi General Security Account	12.40
Delivery Loss <sup>(3)</sup>	128.17
Surplus (deficit) <sup>(4)</sup>	0.00

### Notes:

- (1) Storage Evaporation Loss: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and maximum historical evaporation rates over 2 years.
- (2) Essential Supplies: water required to be set aside under water sharing plan to provide for stock & domestic, towns, 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.
- (3) Delivery Loss: this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. The budget is continually assessed and topped up if necessary, as a priority from resource improvements, to ensure that allocated water can be delivered.
- (4) All available water resources have been fully allocated (no surplus/deficit). The system is secure for 24 months and beyond.

### Resource Distribution as at 31 March 2022 Namoi Regulated River Water Sources



### Resource assessment data sheet as at 31 March 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	82.87	82.81	0.06	82.87
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.24	57.14	1.10	58.24
General Security Delivery Loss	128.17	106.71	21.46	128.17
Upper Namoi General Security (11.4 GL max)		12.40	0.00	12.40*
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		407.99	6.85	414.84
Additional Resource for Sharing		29.47	-29.47	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>696.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>696.52</b>

\*higher than maximum due to trade.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	6.85	GL
Available Water Determination	0.029	ML per unit share

## Water allocation guide

The department is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. One for the Namoi regulated river water source is now available.

Further details at: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

## Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Friday 6 May 2022**.

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

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

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