

9 April 2021



Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There have been significant improvements in resources in the Namoi system including the headwater storages allowing for the following allocation increase:

- **Lower Namoi general security allocation to increase by 43.3%** resulting in a total allocation of 82.6% for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source have been given full allocations and remain unchanged.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Source	100%	100%	 Stage 1
Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source	100%	82.6%	 Stage 1

Resource outlook for 2021-22

- Water for all critical needs is secure for the 2021-22 water year.
- **Local water utility, domestic and stock** water access licences will receive full (100%) allocations on 1 July for the 2021-22 water-year.
- **High security** licence holders are likely to start the new water-year with at 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%. Additionally, these licence holders can expect **full access to carry over water** in accounts, up to the maximum limit of 0.5 megalitre per unit share.
- Delivery of water held in Lower Namoi **general security** accounts is secure.

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

Storage levels (as at 8 April 2021)

- Split Rock Dam is 28.6% full – holding about 116, 000 megalitres (ML).
- Keepit Dam is 63.4% full – holding about 272,000 ML.

Key facts

- During March, the catchment experienced very wet conditions with rainfall ranging between 100 to 300 mm.
- Inflows into headwater storages included 95.8 gigalitres (GL) for Keepit and 56.6 GL for Split Rock Dam.
- In March, the department approved a supplementary event of 60 GL in the Lower Namoi.
- 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.

Drought stage

The Upper and Lower Namoi catchments are in Drought Stage 1; the least critical stage. Both the Upper and Lower Namoi returned to normal river operation in January and allocated water can be ordered and delivered under normal regulated river operations.

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

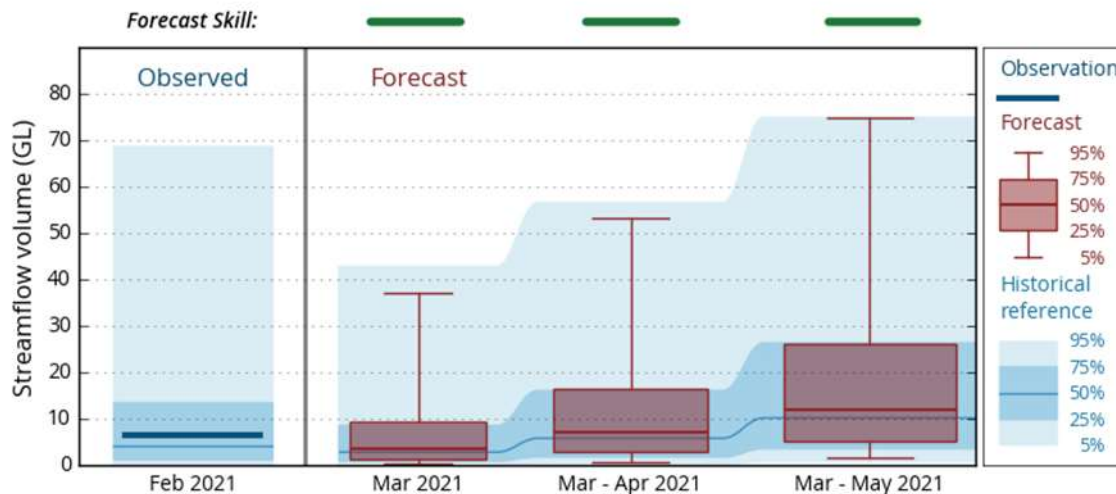
The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that rainfall is likely to be drier than average. Maximum temperatures over this period are likely to be warmer and minimum temperatures having roughly equal chances of being warmer or cooler than average across the catchment.

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

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 inflows into Keepit Dam. The forecast median of total streamflow volume from March to May is a bit higher than the historical median, indicating higher runoff than historical streamflow conditions in coming months.

Namoi River at North Cuerindi (ID: 419005)

Forecast for Mar 2021 – May 2021



Generated: 17:55 05/03/2021 (ver. 2.8.2)

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Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 April 2021)

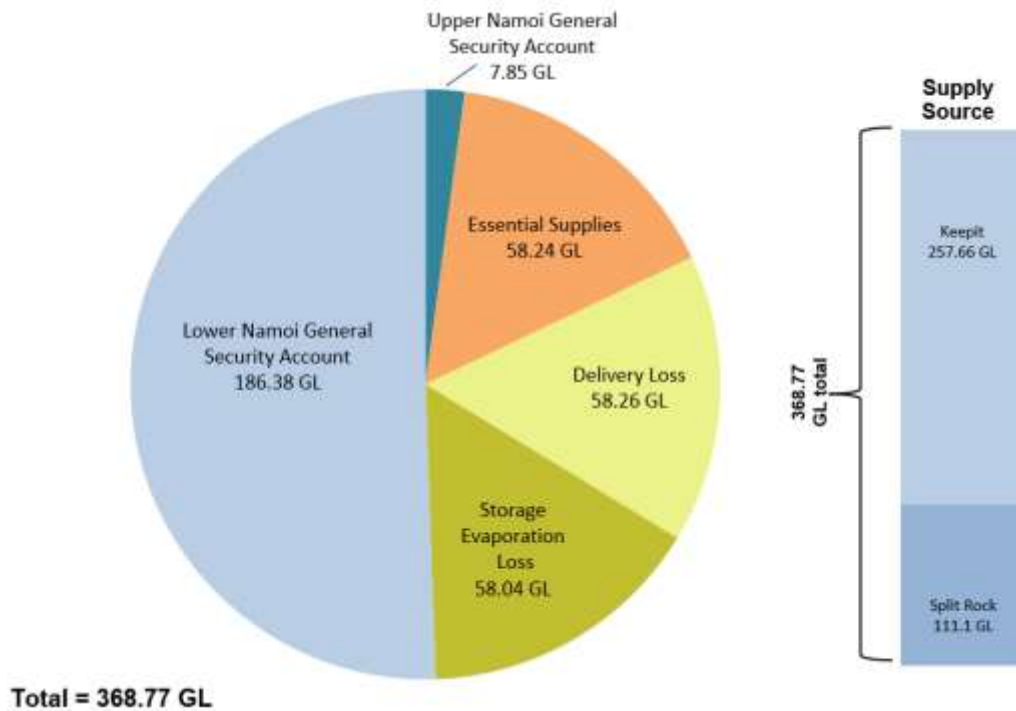
GL

Keepit and Split Rock Active Volumes	368.77
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	58.04
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.24
Lower Namoi General Security Account	186.38
Upper Namoi General Security Account	7.85
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	58.26

See notes below.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



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 plans 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.

Resource Assessment data sheet as at 1 April 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	58.04	43.16	14.88	58.04
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.24	57.65	0.59	58.24
Upper Namoi General Security (11.4 GL max)		7.85	0.00	7.85
General Security Delivery Loss	58.26	16.75	41.51	58.26
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		80.50	105.88	186.38
Additional Resource for Sharing		162.86	-162.86	0.00
Total		368.77	0.00	368.77

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



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

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	105.88	GL
Available Water Determination	0.433	ML per unit share

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Friday 7 May 2021**.

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