

6 August 2020

## Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

### Water allocation update

There is **no change to allocations** in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Sources.

Despite average to above average rainfall in July, and inflows to upper storages of around 14 gegalitres (GL), there remains a system deficit in the valley of approximately 20 GL. Inflows so far in August have not been included in this assessment, but will be reflected in the next update.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Source	90%	0%	 Stage 2
Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source	90%	0%	 Stage 3

Keepit Dam storage volume is approximately 90 GL, or nearly 20 per cent full, while Split Rock Dam is holding 21 GL, which is 4.6 per cent full.

### Key facts

- Minimal resource improvement despite average to above average July rainfall.
- There is **no change to allocations** in the Upper and Lower Namoi regulated systems.
- Critical requirements for Manilla and Barraba townships are now secure for the next 24 months under a minimum inflow scenario and current delivery arrangements.

### 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 and there is some improved flow connectivity. Drought Stage criticality for both the Upper and Lower Namoi remain unchanged at Stage 2 and Stage 3 respectively, but conditions are being closely monitored for improvement.

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

### Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for August indicates likely wetter than average conditions for the catchment. For the three months August to October, wetter than average conditions are also forecast. August to October days are likely to be warmer than average and nights are very likely to be warmer than average.

The central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean is expected to continue to cool in the coming months and it is expected that this cooling will reach or exceed the threshold for La Nina by the end of spring. Water to the northwest of Australia and in the tropical eastern Indian Ocean are likely to remain warmer than average – a typical component of a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) – and BOM models suggest a neutral IOD is most likely for the coming months. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is expected to become positive in early August. A positive SAM during winter can bring wetter conditions to northern NSW.

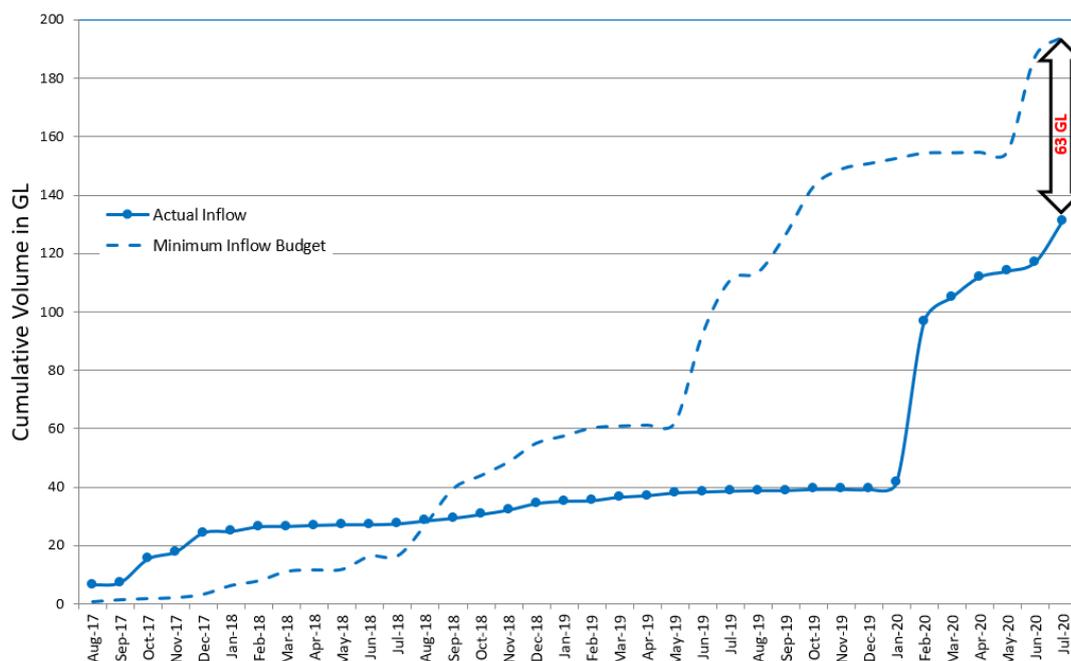
Details can be found at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/)

### Resource Assessment data sheet as at 31 July 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	28.87	27.25	1.62	28.87
Essential Supplies	58.24	32.96	12.83	45.79
Upper Namoi General Security	4.93	4.93	0.00	4.93
Delivery Loss	5.44	0.60	0.00	0.60
Lower Namoi General Security	13.20	13.20	0.00	13.20
Peel Trade Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Additional Resource for Sharing	-	14.45	-14.45	0.00
Split Rock and Keepit active volumes	-	93.38		93.38

## Inflow recovery

The historical minimum inflow for 36 months prior to the current drought was 194 GL. The net reservoir inflow that has occurred since the last allocation of August 2017 to the end of July 2020 (36 months) has been just 131 GL. With the rain events that have occurred since January this year to the end of July, inflow volumes continue to grow. This is shown below as a reduced gap between actual inflow into storages (solid line) and the minimum inflow budget since the last allocation (dashed line). The gap represents the shortfall in the amount of water that was assumed would inflow, and was allocated, under historical minimum inflows.



**Figure 1: Cumulative inflows to the headwater 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 Tuesday 8 September 2020.

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)

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