

7 December 2020

## Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

### Water allocation update

Small resource improvements and slow drought recovery continues in the Namoi regulated river water source. There is now enough water to allocate the following:

- **Lower Namoi general security entitlement to increase by 1%**, that is 0.01 megalitres (ML) per unit share, for a total allocation of 8% for the current water year.

Allocations to all other categories of licence in the Upper and Lower Namoi regulated river water source remain unchanged.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Source	100%	50%	 Stage 2
Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source	100%	8%	 Stage 2

During November, the catchment experienced well below average rainfall, receiving less than 25mm of rainfall. Net inflow into the headwater storages during this period was just 0.3 gigalitres (GL) for Split Rock Dam and 3.4GL for Keepit Dam. In November, the storage volume in Split Rock Dam decreased by 1.7GL, while for Keepit Dam the storage volume increased slightly (0.4 GL).

### Storage levels (as at 7 December 2020)

- Split Rock Dam is 4.4% full – decreasing – holding about 20,400 megalitres (ML).
- Keepit Dam is 26.4% full – steady – holding about 117,200 ML.

### Key facts

- There were minor resource improvements in the Namoi system for the month of November.
- In the Upper Namoi, critical requirements for Manilla and Barraba townships are secure for the next 24 months, based on assumed minimum future inflows to Split Rock Dam.
- Split Rock storage remains low and offers limited resilience if conditions again turn very dry. Should Split Rock Dam deplete to 15GL, drought contingency measures will be implemented. This may affect delivery to general security and high security users in the Upper Namoi.
- General security delivery in the Lower Namoi is planned around a single block release.
- If there are no further tributary flows in the Lower Namoi, it is expected that a Pian Creek replenishment release will be required in early 2021.
- The system continues to recover slowly from severe drought conditions.
- Water users should liaise with WaterNSW river operators about the deliverability of orders.

## 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 recovering. Critical requirements are now secure and there is improved river connectivity. With some storage inflows over the past few months resulting in increased storage volume in Keepit Dam, and a favourable seasonal rainfall outlook, the Lower Namoi River drought stage was eased in November from Stage 3 (Severe) to Stage 2 (Recovering). The drought stage criticality for the Upper Namoi River remains unchanged and is currently at Stage 2.

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)

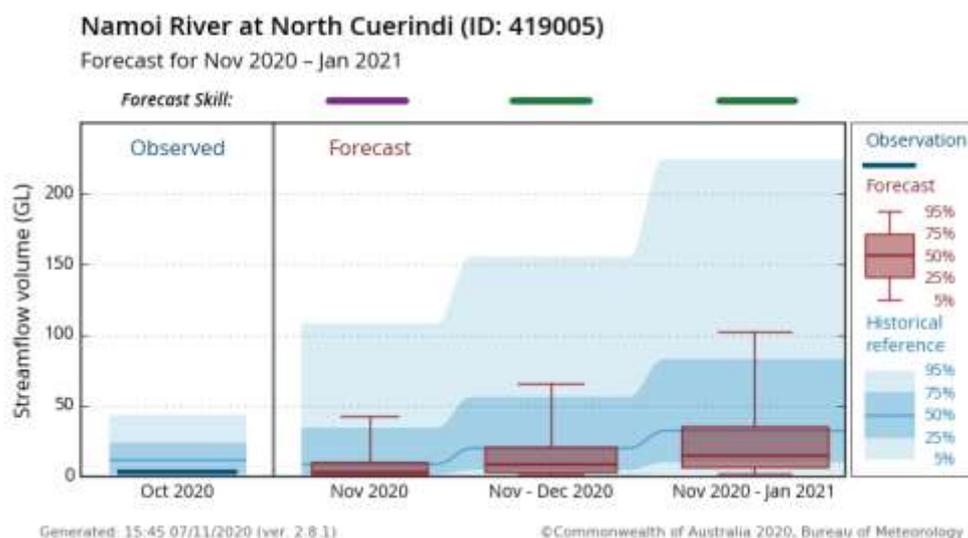
## Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for December 2020 to February 2021 indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be above the long-term mean and minimum temperatures are very likely to be above the long-term mean.

The Bureau of Meteorology's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook continues to be at La Niña, which is likely to persist until at least the end of February 2021. Current La Niña conditions and a positive SAM are contributing to the increased chances of rainfall over Australia.

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

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the unregulated Namoi River at North Cuerindi. This may provide an indication of potential inflows into Keepit Dam (see the figure below). The forecast total median streamflow volume from November 2020 to January 2021 is lower than the historical median streamflow volume, indicating lower runoff than historical streamflow conditions for the next few months.



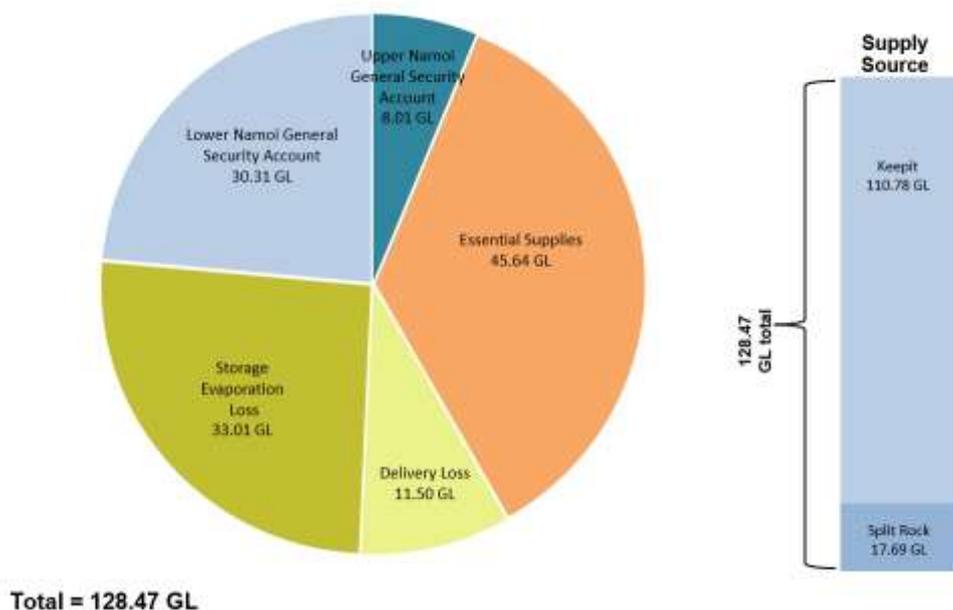
Details can be found at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/)

## Resource assessment data sheet

### Resource Distribution (as at 30 November 2020)

Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	128.47
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss <sup>(2)</sup>	33.01
Essential Supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	45.64
Lower Namoi General Security Account	30.31
Upper Namoi General Security Account	8.01
Peel Trade Account <sup>(4)</sup>	0.00
Delivery Loss <sup>(5)</sup>	11.50

See notes below.



### Notes:

- (1) Available Resource: includes total active storage behind Split Rock and Keepit Dams.
- (2) Storage Evaporation Loss: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and maximum historical evaporation rates over 2 years.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Peel Trade Account: A temporary trade trial was in place between the Peel catchment to the Lower Namoi catchment. This temporary trial ended on 1 July 2020. However, the Inter-valley share component trade account is still in place for permanent trade between the Peel catchment and the Lower Namoi catchment. For further information see Clause 32 of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010*.
- (5) Delivery Loss: This account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss is being budgeted for this river system.

# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



## Resource assessment data sheet as at 30 November 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	33.01	33.09	-0.08	33.01
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	45.64	45.64	0.00	45.64
Upper Namoi General Security (11.4 GL max)		8.01	0.00	8.01
General Security Delivery Loss	11.50	10.72	0.78	11.50
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		27.71	2.60	30.31
Additional Resource for Sharing		3.30	-3.30	0.00
Total		128.47	0.00	128.47

Upper Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.000	GL
Available Water Determination	0.000	ML per unit share

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	2.60	GL
Available Water Determination	0.010	ML per unit share

## Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Wednesday 13 January 2021**.

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