

7 July 2021

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There has been an improvement in resources in the Namoi catchment headwater storages to allow for the following allocation:

- **Lower Namoi general security allocation to increase by 9.8%** resulting in a total allocation of 9.8% of entitlement for the current water year.

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

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Upper Namoi Regulated River	100%	100%
Lower Namoi Regulated River	100%	9.8%

Storage levels (as at 5 July 2021)

- Split Rock Dam is 31.9% full – holding approximately 129 gigalitres (GL).
- Keepit Dam is 80.2% full – holding approximately 342 GL.

Drought recovery year 2020-21

A major improvement in water resources across the state has been observed since January 2021. The water year saw significant rainfall in the catchment, which resulted in the Upper and Lower Namoi regulated river system returning to normal operations by mid-January. Keepit Dam volume increased from approximately 68 GL to 331 GL and likewise Split Rock dam volume increased from approximately 21 GL to 125 GL.

By September 2020 general security water users on Lower Namoi received their first allocation since August 2017, a modest 4.2%. Afterward, monthly incremental increases continued, except for March, accumulating to a total closing general security allocation of 90.5% for the year. There was an approximate 26.5 GL usage over the year.

General security users on Upper Namoi commenced 2020-21 with no allocation, later rising to 50% by September. Initially, the department had advised the water users in December 2020 that restrictions would be applied to protect town supplies if Split Rock Dam fell to 15 GL. However, subsequent rainfall in the catchment increased the storage volume to 107 GL by mid-January 2021, enabling the allocation to rise to the maximum 100% with water security for critical needs fully restored. General security users extracted about 2.5 GL during the year in the Upper Namoi.

In the Lower Namoi, a total of 89.0 GL of supplementary water was extracted during the 2020-21 water year, some 77% of the total supplementary water access licence volume of 115.5 GL.

Key facts

- During June, the catchment experienced above average to very much above average rainfall, receiving approximately 50 to 200 mm of rain.
- Inflows into headwater storages included 43.9 GL for Keepit and 7.3 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.
- Downstream tributary flows continue to persist with supplementary access available.

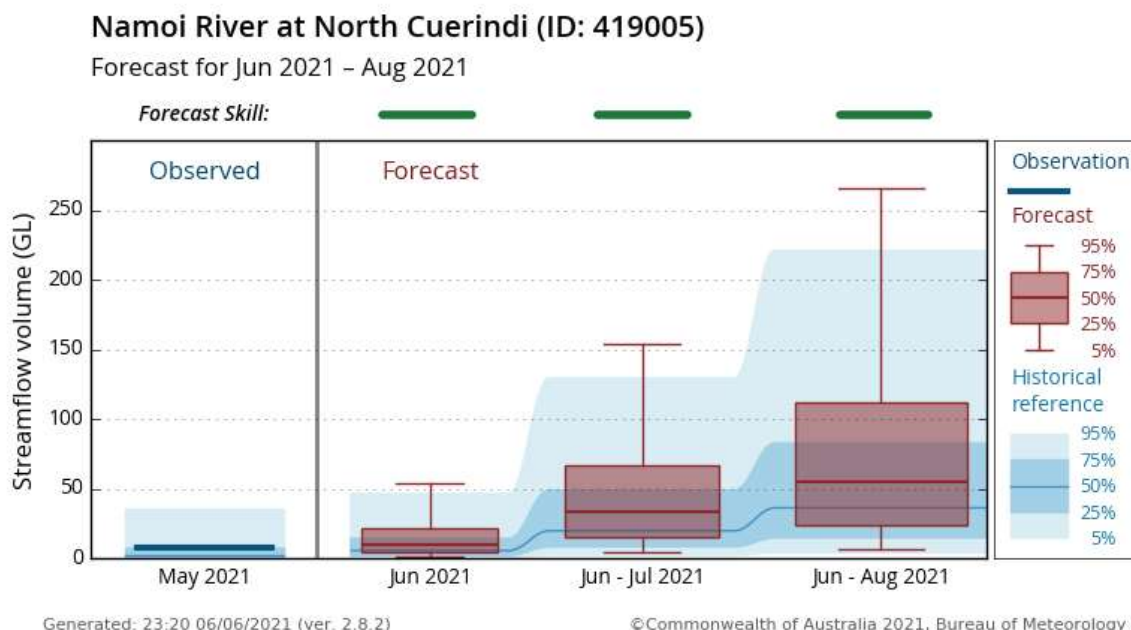
Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for next three months indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Both daytime and overnight temperatures are also likely to be above average.

For further details: 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 upstream of Keepit Dam (see Figure 1). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into Keepit Dam. All forecast quantiles of total streamflow volume from June to August are higher than the historical quantile references, indicating likely higher runoff than historical streamflow conditions for the next few months.

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

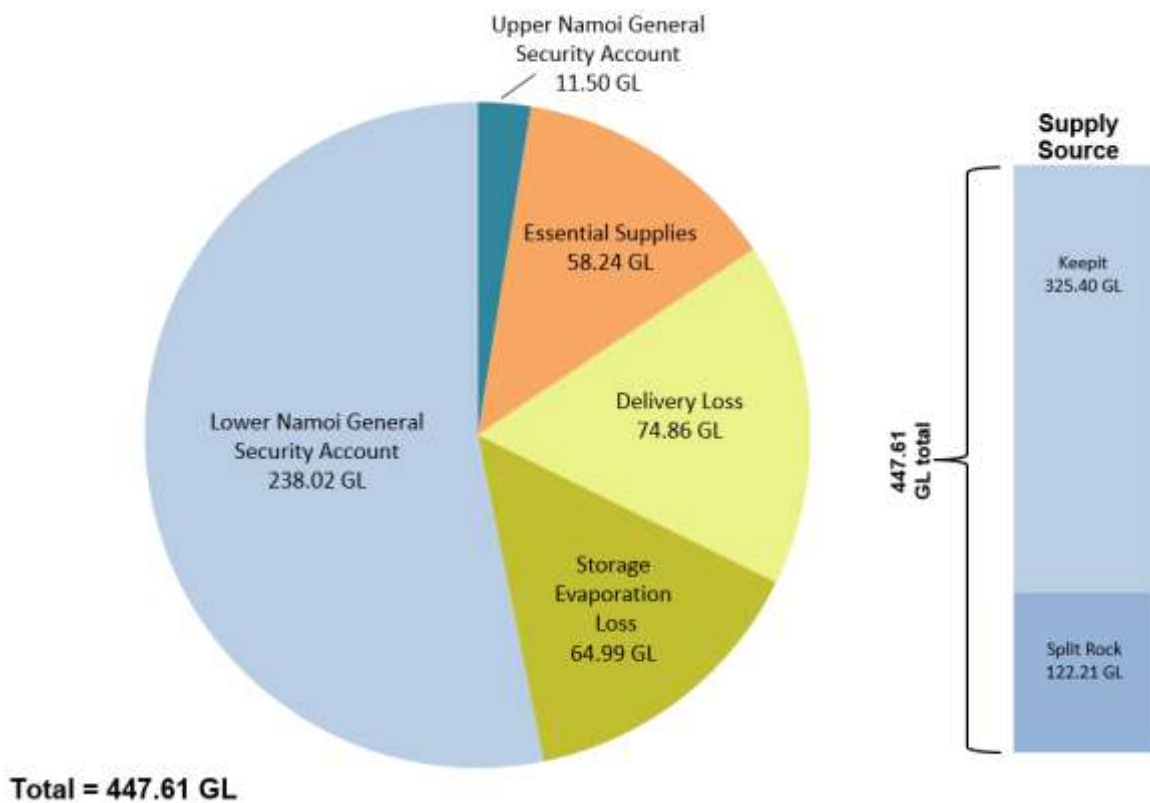


Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as at 30 June 2021)	GL
Keepit and Split Rock Active Volumes	447.61
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	64.99
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.24
Lower Namoi General Security Account	238.02
Upper Namoi General Security Account	11.50
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	74.86

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.



Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource assessment data sheet as at 30 June 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	64.99	60.71	4.28	64.99
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.24	57.17	1.07	58.24
General Security Delivery Loss	74.86	64.59	10.27	74.86
Upper Namoi General Security (11.5 GL max)		1.18	10.32	11.50
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		214.12	23.90	238.02
Additional Resource for Sharing		49.84	-49.84	0.00
Total		447.61	0.00	447.61

Upper Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	10.32	GL
Available Water Determination	1.00	ML per unit share

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	23.90	GL
Available Water Determination	0.098	ML per unit share

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Friday 6 August 2021**.

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