



9 October 2015

Namoi Valley:

Water availability and allocation update September 2015

Allocations

There has been insufficient improvement in resources in the past month to allow an allocation increase. No new allocation has been announced for Lower Namoi general security entitlement holders since September 2013, however water users have had access to carryover water in their accounts.

	High Security	General Security
Upper Namoi valley	100%	60%
Lower Namoi valley	100%	0%

Key facts

- Full (100 per cent) allocation was made to local water utilities, stock and domestic, and high security access licences on 1 July 2015. Delivery is assured this year.
- In the Upper Namoi, 0.5 ML/share (50 per cent) was allocated to general security access licences on 1 July and a further 0.1 ML/share (10 per cent) was added in September 2015.
- Normal regulated water delivery for Lower Namoi general security water users with carryover water remains suspended. It can resume when tributary flows and water availability improves significantly.
- Current resources are sufficient to allow one block release for the Lower Namoi to deliver water requirements. The most helpful timing for that release is currently being investigated.
- Recent tributary inflows below the storages are maintaining low flow connectivity and allowing essential supplies and some replenishment flows to be provided. Flows will cease with the hotter weather of summer unless there is more rainfall.
- Strategies are in place to ensure that essential supplies can be met under the current water shortage conditions.

Dam levels

- Split Rock Dam is currently 7 per cent full, holding 32,500 megalitres.
- Keepit Dam is 17 per cent full, holding 77,700 megalitres
- The combined storage volume has increased to around 110,200 megalitres from a low in late-May of 48,400 megalitres, but will begin fall as the weather warms.

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Seasonal Rainfall Outlook

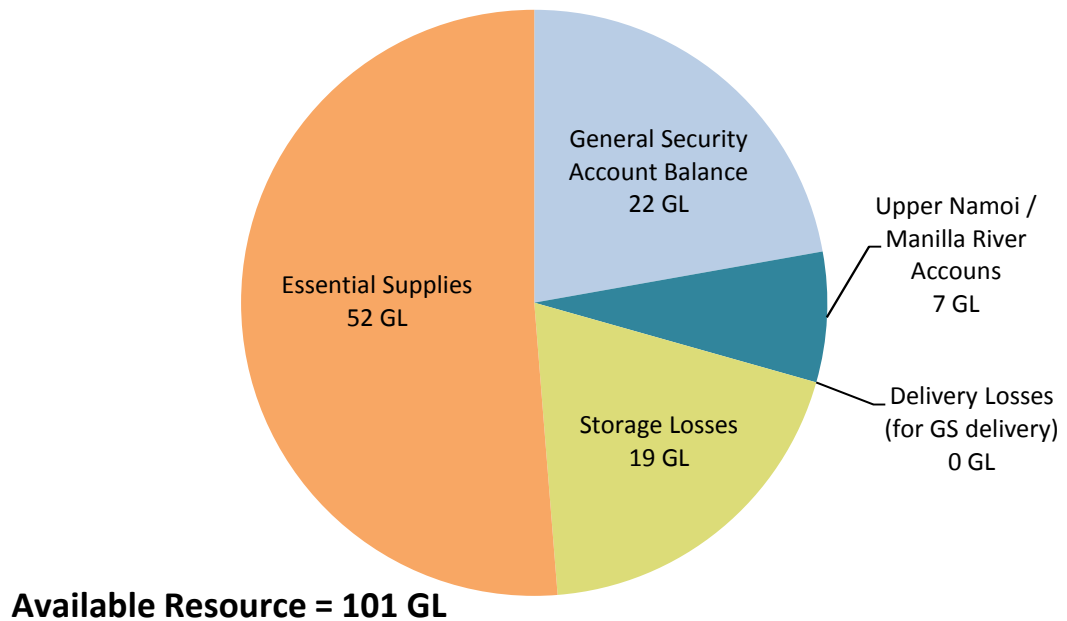
- An emerging positive Indian Ocean Dipole combined with a mature El Niño in the Pacific has caused the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to provide a special update of its climate outlook for October to December.
- The rainfall outlook for October has shifted significantly towards a drier month, especially for NSW. The regional outlook is for a less than 20 per cent chance of reaching median rainfall conditions coupled with a greater than 80 per cent chance of exceeding the median for maximum temperatures. Hot dry conditions are likely for the next three months

Namoi Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 October) for 2015/16 & 2016/17	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	100.56
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	19.46
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	51.56 (91% of budget)
General Security Account Balance	22.32
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts	7.22
Delivery Losses ⁽⁴⁾	0.00
Announced General Security Irrigation	0%

**See notes below*

Allocation Distribution 2015/16 & 2016/17 Namoi Valley - October 2015



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource - Total Active Storage volume (Split Rock & Keepit) at the day of assessment.
- (2) Storage Losses - evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour over 2 years.
- (3) Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for Towns, Stock, Domestic, High Security and riverine environments. Includes Gunidgera/Pian S&D replenishments, delivery loss allowance and end-of-system flow requirements. This commitment is reduced by minimum forecast inflows into the storages.
- (4) Normally delivery loss is budgeted at 30 per cent of the volume of water allocated to general security licences. Actual losses have been much higher thereby prematurely depleting this account.