

6 June 2019

## Namoi Valley

### Water allocation update

Rainfall in the Namoi catchment in May was insufficient to produce useful inflows to allow new water allocation to Lower Namoi general security users. All other users have already received their maximum allocation in 2018-2019.

The shortfall in meeting resource commitments remains stable. Storages need about 85,000 megalitres (ML) of inflow before normal regulated river operations can resume.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Valley	100%	100%	 Stage 3
Lower Namoi Valley	100%	0%	 Stage 4

Keepit Dam is less than 1 per cent full, holding about 10,500 ML, while Split Rock Dam is just 2.3 per cent full, holding about 12,300 ML.

This statement does not include the usual tables and graphs showing resource distribution. Their usefulness is limited due to the lack of water for distribution.

### Key facts

- Remaining Lower Namoi general security (GS) account water of 12.5 gigalitres (GL) cannot be delivered until the resource availability situation improves.
- Storage inflows since the last allocation in August 2017 to May 2019 were just 38 GL. This is below the historical minimum of 62 GL (August 1918 to May 1920).

### Water availability outlook for 2019-20

Forecast information is not guaranteed and should be used at one's own risk. This outlook for **1 July 2019** water availability is conservatively based on assumed historical minimum inflows for the remainder of this calendar year only. This reduced future inflow assumption improves water security for critical needs, especially given the current record dry conditions.

- Critical human and stock needs can be met into the next (2019-20) water year based on the conservative assumptions about future conditions.
- Adequate allocation can be expected for towns, domestic and stock access licences.
- At least 25 per cent opening allocation for high security entitlements can be expected.

- Despite this high security allocation, the reduced availability of water for conveyance impacts the delivery of high security orders in the Lower Namoi. WaterNSW should be consulted about local water deliverability.
- There will be no allocation to Upper Namoi general security entitlements if Split Rock Dam remains below 5 per cent full, in accordance with the water sharing plan and some restriction to Upper Namoi general security carryover water can be expected.
- Lower Namoi general security entitlements can expect no allocation.
- If extreme dry conditions continue, further restrictions during 2019-20 on delivering account water, replenishment flows and minimum releases, or a combination of these, will be needed to secure critical human needs for 2020-21.
- If conditions continue to deteriorate, Upper Namoi Valley is likely to advance to Stage 4 drought criticality.

## Further information

This is the final water allocation statement for the 2018-19 water year. State-wide opening allocations for the 2019-20 water year will be made on Monday 1 July 2019. The next routine water allocation statement for the Namoi regulated river will be available in early August 2019.

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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