

8 September 2020



Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

Resource improvements and drought recovery continue in the Namoi regulated river water source. There is now enough resource to allocate as follows:

- **High security entitlement to increase by 0.10 megalitres per unit share** for a cumulative allocation of 100% for the current water year.
- **General security entitlement to increase by 0.50 megalitres per unit share in the Upper Namoi**, for a cumulative allocation of 50% for the current water year.
- **General security entitlement to increase by 0.042 megalitres per unit share in the Lower Namoi**, for a cumulative allocation of 4.2% for the current water year.

This is the first allocation to general security entitlement holders in the Lower Namoi for over three years – since August 2017.

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%	4.2%	 Stage 3

The Namoi Valley experienced average rainfall during the month of August, receiving approximately 25 to 100 mm. Net inflow into the storages during this period was about 1.7 gigalitres (GL) for Split Rock Dam and 28 GL for Keepit Dam. Split Rock and Keepit storage volumes increased by approximately 1.4 GL and 27.2 GL respectively.

Catchment conditions continue to improve in response to periodic rainfall, producing reasonable streamflow responses and connectivity to the Barwon River.

Storage levels (as at 8 September 2020)

- Split Rock Dam is 4.9% full – steady – holding about 23,000 megalitres (ML).
- Keepit Dam is 24.8% full – steady – holding about 111,000 ML.

Key facts

- Minor resource improvement in Split Rock storage despite average August rainfall.
- Critical requirements for Manilla and Barraba townships are now 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.
- A block release strategy will be needed to meet general security orders.
- Pian replenishment for this season has been fully met from the tributary inflows.
- The drought is not over yet. The system is being managed to build reserves in headwater storages, with tributary flows meeting current orders where possible.

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. Drought Stage criticality for both the Upper and Lower Namoi systems remain unchanged at Stage 2 and Stage 3 respectively but are being closely monitored.

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

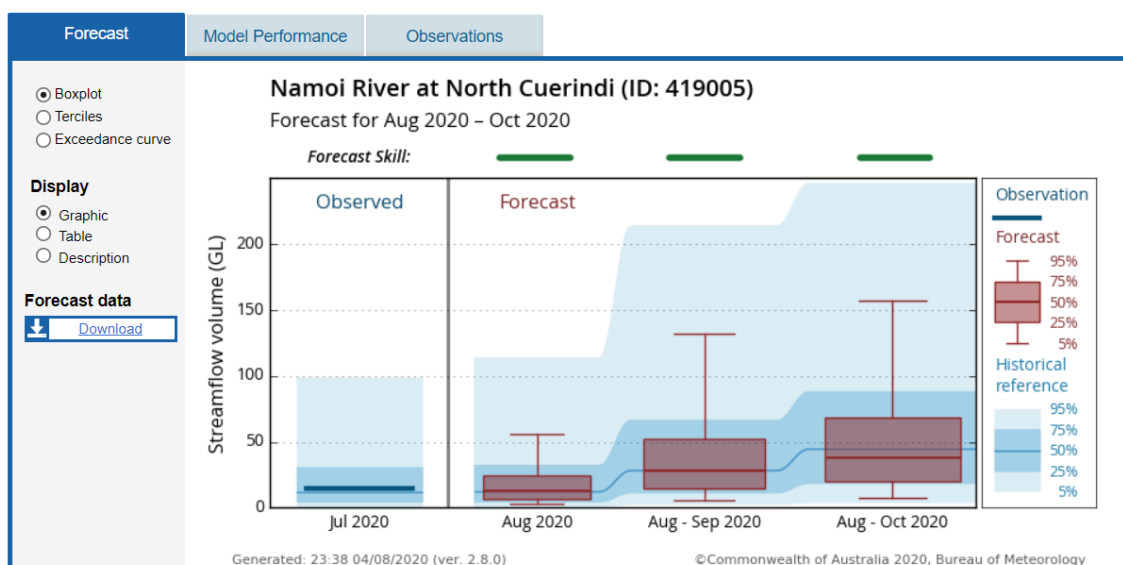
Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for September to November indicates a wetter than average three-month period for most of Australia. The outlook indicates slightly increased chances of cooler than average days across much of the southern half of the mainland, while nights are likely to be warmer than average over most of Australia.

A La Niña ALERT is active. ENSO indicators in the tropical Pacific Ocean are consistent with La Niña development. La Niña and warmer eastern Indian Ocean temperatures typically increase the likelihood of above average rainfall across much of Australia during spring.

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 chart below). The forecast total median flow from August to October is slightly lower than the historical median flow, indicating a shift back to drier than normal inflow conditions for the next few months.

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

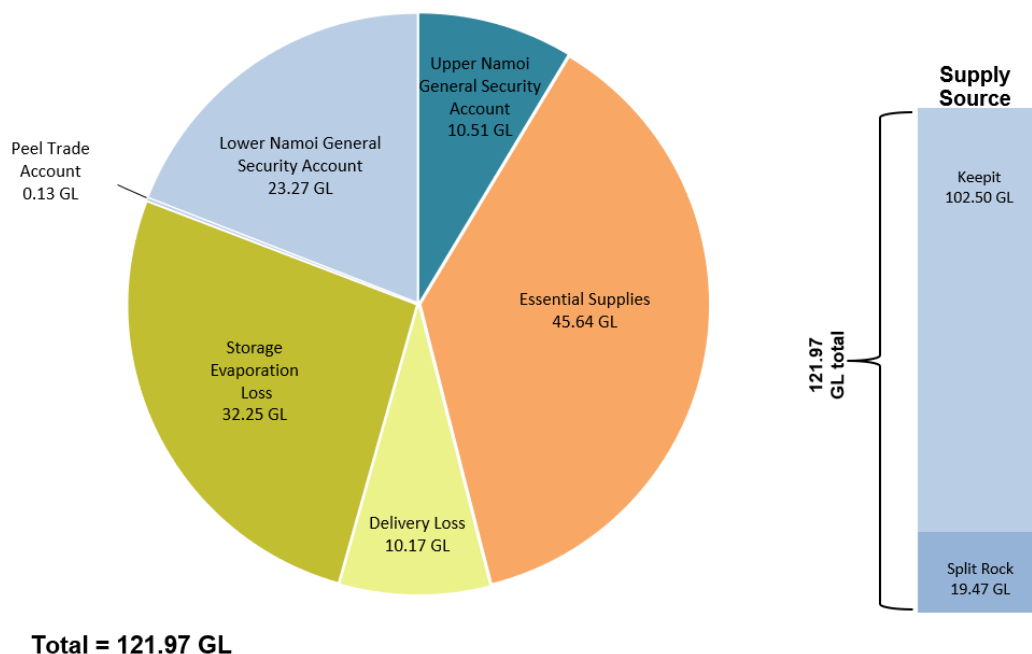


Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 August 2020)

Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	121.97
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽²⁾	32.25
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	45.64
Lower Namoi General Security Account	23.27
Upper Namoi General Security Account	10.51
Peel Trade Account ⁽⁴⁾	0.13
Delivery Loss ⁽⁵⁾	10.17

See notes below.



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource: includes total active storage (Split Rock & 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: The Peel water sharing plan, at Clause 86(4), provides for limited allocation assignment from the Peel to the Namoi valleys. It requires a volume to be set aside in Keepit Dam equal to the GS AWD times 3GL (maximum of 6GL), to supply water traded from the Peel valley.
- (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 31 August 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	32.25	28.87	3.38	32.25
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	45.64	45.30	0.34	45.64
Upper Namoi General Security		4.79	5.72	10.51
General Security Delivery Loss	10.17	0.60	9.57	10.17
Lower Namoi General Security		13.08	10.19	23.27
Peel Trade Account (6.0 GL max)		0.00	0.13	0.13
Additional Resource for Sharing		29.33	-29.33	0.00
Total		121.97	0.00	121.97

Upper Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	5.72	GL
Available Water Determination	0.5000	ML per unit share

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	10.19	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0419	ML per unit share

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Wednesday 7 October 2020**.

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