

5 February 2016

Namoi Valley

Water availability and allocation update - January 2016

Allocations

Some rainfall in January did little for inflows into the storages, resulting in no overall improvement in water availability. Therefore there is **no increase** in allocation for Namoi regulated river general security water users available at this time.

The system continues to be tightly operated as conditions remain dry.

Current allocations

	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.
- 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. Conditions are being continuously monitored to ensure that essential supplies are met under the current water shortage conditions.
- 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.
- Normal water delivery for the Lower Namoi general security water users remains suspended and will not resume until conditions improve significantly.
- The Lower Namoi has been operating under a drought management strategy since September 2013 and will continue that way until conditions improve significantly.
- Recent rainfall at the end of January in the Lower Namoi catchment produced access to some small, but useful volumes of supplementary water in lower reaches.

Dam levels (end January 2016)

- Split Rock Dam is 6 per cent full, holding 28 gigalitres.
- Keepit Dam is 11 per cent full, holding 54 gigalitres.
- The combined storage volume is very low at around 82 gigalitres.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

- The latest Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) seasonal outlook for February to April 2016 indicates above average rainfall across most of the catchment. Temperatures are likely to be cooler than average.

Media contact: James Muddle – 0407 103 507

www.water.nsw.gov.au

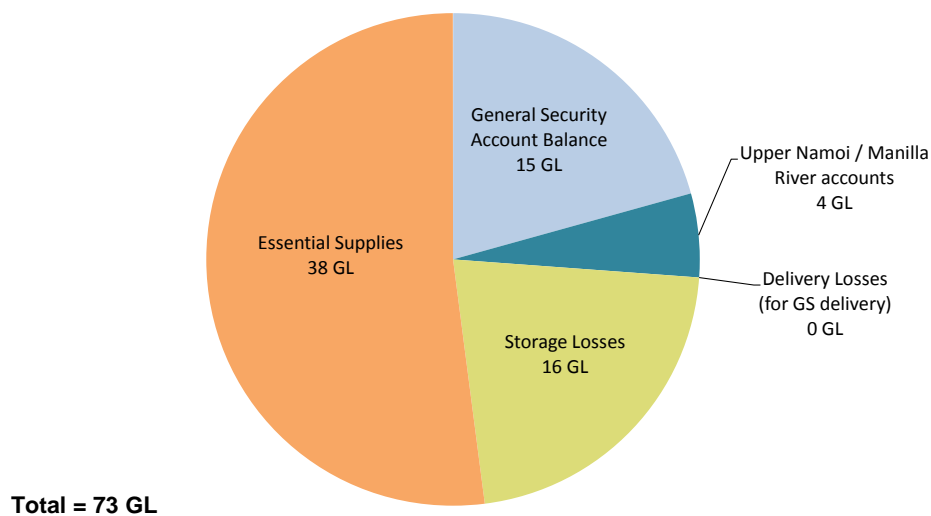
- Current climate influences continue to show a combination of a strong El Niño now in decline in the Pacific, record-warm Indian Ocean temperatures, and warm localised sea surface temperatures.

Namoi Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 February 2016) for 2015/16	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	72.66
Less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	15.82
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	37.82 (68% full)
General Security Account Balance	15.02
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts	4.00
Delivery Loss Account ⁽⁴⁾	0.00
New Allocation from this Assessment	Nil

*See notes below

**Resource Distribution for 2015/16
Namoi Valley - as at 1 February 2016**



Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Available Resource (73 GL) – is total active storage (Split Rock & Keepit) at time 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 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⁾ 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.

WaterNSW				
January 2015				
NAMOI RESOURCE ASSESSMENT				
Previous Assessment:		31 Dec, 2015		
Current Assessment:		31 Jan, 2016		GL
Storage volume				
Split Rock Dam			28.25	
Keepit Dam			54.11	
Total Storage				82.36
Dead storage (both dams)			9.70	72.66
Storage Loss Committed (projected 2 years)			19.12	53.54
Essential Supplies				
Brought forward			53.33	
Used and associated loss since last assessment			-2.84	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security			0.00	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account			0.00	
Current balance			50.49	3.04
Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers				
Brought forward			4.69	
Ordered since last assessment			-0.59	
Allocation Assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi			-0.10	
Current balance			4.00	-0.96
General Security (D/S Keepit)				
Brought forward			22.78	
Ordered since last assessment			-7.86	
Allocation Assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)			0.10	
Current balance			15.02	-15.98
Delivery Loss				
Brought forward			0.00	
Apparent Losses since last assessment			-12.60	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)			0.00	
Current balance (Max 30% of GS)			0.00	-15.98
Apparent Losses since last assessment				
Essential Supply Loss	25%		4.23	
General Security Loss	75%		12.60	
Resources available for sharing				-15.98
New balances				
	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Losses	15.82	19.12	-3.31	15.82
Essential Supplies	56.00	50.49	-12.67	37.82
Upper Namoi / Manilla River	9.69	4.00	0.00	4.00
Delivery Losses	150.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Security Irrigation	493.40	15.02	0.00	15.02
Uncommitted resources	-	-15.98	15.98	0.00
Total	-	72.66	0.00	72.66
Recommendations Upper Namoi				
General Security Incremental Increase	0.00	GL		
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share		
Recommendations Lower Namoi				
General Security Incremental Increase	0.00	GL		
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share		
Recommended by:		1 Feb, 2016		
Ken Gee, Water System Planner, Water NSW				
Checked by:		4 Feb, 2016		
Neeraj Maini, Natural Resource Officer, DPI Water				
Approved by:		5 Feb, 2016		
Brian Graham, A/Director Surface Water Assessment, DPI Water				