



12 January 2017

Namoi Valley

Water allocation update – end of December 2016

Allocations

There has been a small improvement in resources sufficient to announce **an increase in allocation for Lower Namoi general security licence holders of 0.80 per cent, bringing total general security allocations in the Lower Namoi Valley for the 2016/17 water year to 124.11 per cent of entitlement.**

This increase is possible due to small inflows to Keepit Dam from rainfall events in December.

All other categories of licences in the Lower and Upper Namoi valleys have already received the maximum allocation for the 2016/17 water year.

	High Security	General Security
Upper Namoi valley	100%	100%
Lower Namoi valley	100%	124.11%

Dam levels (as at 11 January)

- Keepit Dam is 84 per cent full – falling - holding 360,100 ML. This is much higher than at the same time last year, when the storage was only 14 per cent full.
- Split Rock Dam is 30 per cent full – falling - holding 122,800 ML, compared to 6 per cent full at the same time last year.

Key facts

- Despite the isolated showers during the month, below average rainfall was recorded across parts of the catchment during December 2016. This, combined with above average temperatures, contributed to a decrease in storage inflows.
- Unregulated inflows from the Peel catchment met some of the growing irrigation demand in the Lower Namoi. High delivery losses are expected if hot and dry conditions persist and inflows from the Peel catchment cease.
- Releases are increasing to meet rising demands, which are expected to peak in late-January or early-February.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology indicates that January 2017 is expected to be drier than average, while rainfall from January to March is likely to be below average across most of the Namoi catchment areas. Warmer days and nights are likely across eastern Australia.

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The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral, but continues to show some weak La Niña-like patterns. A northerly shift in the average position of westerly winds and high-pressure systems is forecast for January. This is typically associated with below average rainfall and higher temperatures.

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi regulated river water sources will be issued on **Tuesday 7 February 2017**.

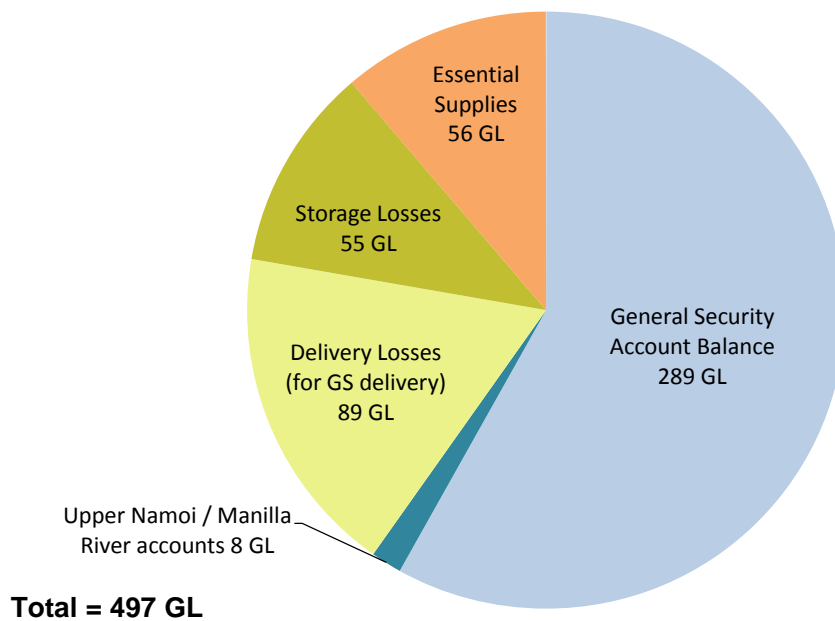
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Namoi Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 01 January 2017)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	497.24
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	54.66
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	56.00 (100%)
General Security Account Balance	289.05
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts	8.31
Delivery Loss Account	89.21 (30% of GS)

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 01 January 2017 Namoi Valley



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (497 GL) – includes total active storage (Split Rock & Keepit Dams).
- (2) Storage Losses – 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 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.

Namoi resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 30 November 2016
- Current Assessment date: 31 December 2016

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total (Split Rock plus Keepit)		506.94
Dead storage	9.70	497.24
Storage Loss Committed - projected 2 years (brought forward)	56.43	440.81

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	56.00	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-0.43	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	0.00	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	0.00	
Current balance	55.57	385.24

Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	9.56	
Ordered since last assessment	-0.69	
Allocation Assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-0.55	
Current balance	8.31	376.93

General Security (D/S Keepit)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	315.95	
Orders since assessment period	-29.39	
Allocation Assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)	0.55	
Current balance	287.11	89.82

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	97.66	
Apparent losses since last assessment	-9.42	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.00	
Current balance	88.23	1.58

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		9.52
Essential Supply Loss	1%	0.10
General Security Loss	99%	9.42

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	1.58

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
		GL	GL	
Storage Loss	54.66	56.43	-1.77	54.66
Essential Supplies	56.00	55.57	0.43	56.00
Upper Namoi / Manilla River	9.81	8.31	0.00	8.31
Delivery Loss	150.94	88.23	0.98	89.21
General Security Irrigation	493.40	287.11	1.94	289.05
Uncommitted resources	-	1.58	-1.58	0.00
Total	-	497.24	0.00	497.24

Recommendations Upper Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share

Recommendations Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	1.94	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0080	ML per unit share