

10 September 2018

Namoi Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

Lower Namoi general security allocation **remains unchanged at 0 per cent of entitlement**. Inflows into the storages were insignificant during the month despite about 30mm of rainfall. Dry catchment conditions meant little runoff was produced.

The 2018-19 inflows to headwater storages are tracking close to historical minimums. Similar to the last month, there is a shortfall of 63,000 megalitres (ML).

Apart from the Lower Namoi general security, all other categories of licence in the regulated river valley have received their maximum allocation for the 2018-19 water year.

	High Security	General Security
Upper Namoi Valley	100%	100%
Lower Namoi Valley	100%	0.0%

Dam levels (as at 10 September)

- Keepit Dam is just below 11 per cent full – steady – currently holding about 51,000 ML.
- Split Rock Dam is just below 14 per cent full – steady – currently holding about 58,000 ML.

Key facts

- The general security delivery loss account has been empty since January 2018. The essential supply reserve is supporting the remaining account deliveries.
- A bulk water transfer will be required from Split Rock Dam during the period October to November in order to deliver remaining water in accounts in the Lower Namoi.
- Under a minimum inflow scenario 2018-19 deliveries will be tightly managed. The forecast indicates that deliveries of general security account water can be provided in 2018-19 to limited river sections using a block release strategy.
- There will be one block release planned from Keepit, commencing mid to late October, with flows to arrive at Mollee Weir by about 1 November. Releases will continue in the November/December period unless the actual losses become more than the budgeted.
- Pian Creek deliveries will be constricted to partway along the system – likely to the property 'Greylands'.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology outlook for spring (September to November) indicates conditions are likely to continue to be dry and temperatures likely to be above average for the region. The Bureau's climate models show that while the El Niño-Southern Oscillation and Indian Ocean Dipole indicators are currently neutral, the current observations and model outlooks indicate El Niño could develop in spring. El Niño in spring typically brings below average rainfall in northern and eastern Australia.

For more details:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/archive/outlooks/latest-outlook.shtml>

Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Namoi regulated river will be available in early October 2018.

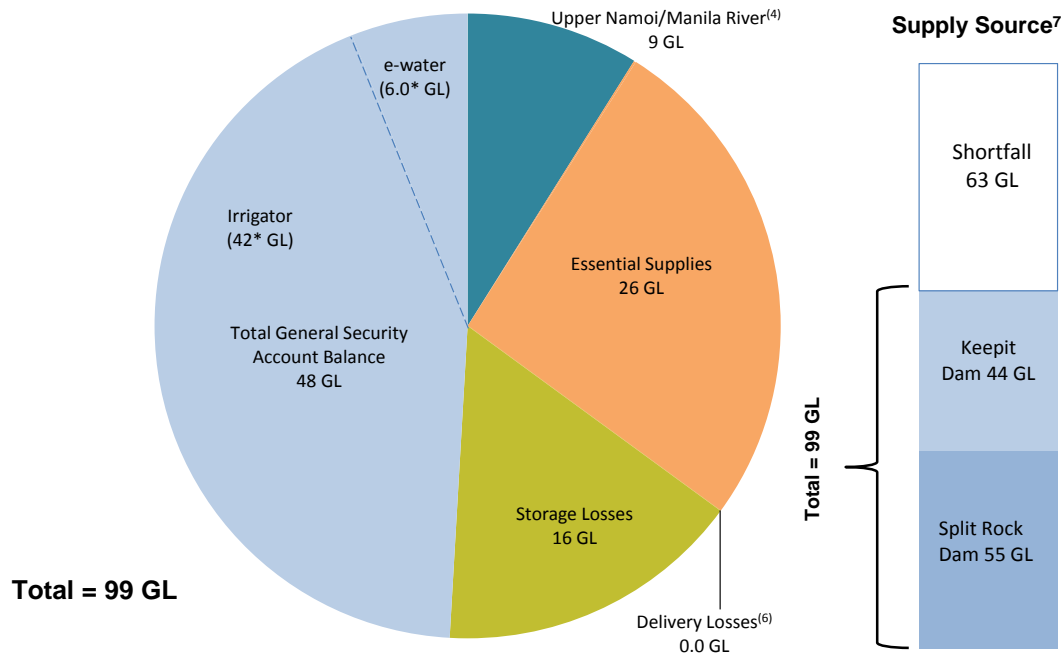
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 August 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	99.09
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	15.71
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	25.81
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	48.64
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts ⁽⁴⁾	8.93
Peel Trade Account ⁽⁵⁾	0.00
Delivery Loss Account ⁽⁶⁾	0.00

See notes below.

Resource Distribution (as at 31 August 2018)



* indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, CEWH), refer to note 4.

Notes:

- (1) Available Resource: 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.
- (4) Held environmental water (HEW): as a trial, water administered by environmental water holders is reported here, with the associated portions of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only and, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, estimated to be about 6 GL of GS in the Lower Namoi and 0.11 GL of GS in the Upper Namoi. No HS water is held. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) 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 AWD times 3,000 (maximum of 6,000 ML), for trade from the Peel valley. The current account balance is zero (0) ML meaning all available trade water has been delivered.
- (6) This account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water (delivery losses). Zero balance means that water must be borrowed to continue the delivery of general security water, in accordance with prior practice. It also means that payback of any borrow will occur before further general security allocation increase.
- (7) Supply Distribution – the distribution of supply includes active volumes in the dams at the time of the assessment, and it is also include any estimated shortfall in meeting the full account limits. High transmission losses create account shortfalls in very dry years. We estimate about 71 GL of inflow to cover the shortfall and extra evaporation prior to next GS allocation increment.

Resource Assessment as at 31 August 2018

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	29.55	15.84	-0.13	15.71
Essential Supplies	58.24	25.81	0.00	25.81
Upper Namoi / Manilla River	11.31	8.93	0.00	8.93
Delivery Loss	17.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Security Irrigation		48.64	0.00	48.64
Peel Trade Account		0.00	0.00	0.00
Additional Resource for Sharing		-0.13	0.14	0.01
Total		99.09	0.01	99.10

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

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