



6 May 2016

Namoi Valley

Water allocation update - April 2016

Allocations

Continued dry conditions and very low inflows across the upper storage catchments during April mean that there is **no improvement** in water resource availability and therefore **no increase** in allocation for Namoi regulated river general security water users at this time.

With extremely dry catchments across the valley, well above average rainfall will be required to replenish soil moisture, create runoff and improve inflows.

The seasonal rainfall outlook shows that we can expect above average rainfall conditions across most of NSW in the coming months of June and July.

	High Security	General Security
Upper Namoi valley	100%	60%
Lower Namoi valley	100%	0%

Key facts

- Critical needs are secure for the 2016/17 water year.
- Drought contingency measures will continue into 2016/17 and deliveries will be tailored to meet essential requirements.
- Normal water delivery in the Lower Namoi for general security water users remains suspended and will not resume until conditions improve significantly.
- Some releases from Keepit Dam will continue in May to meet demands.

Dam levels (end of April)

The current combined storage volume in Split Rock and Keepit is about 70 GL, compared to 51 GL at the same time last year. Split Rock Dam is around 5 per cent full, holding 22 GL, and Keepit Dam is 10 per cent full, holding 46 GL.

Seasonal Rainfall Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for May to July indicates roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier May, transitioning into greater chance of wetter conditions in June and July.
- Above average temperatures are expected in May, and are likely to remain above average in June and July for the eastern portion of the valley, with an increasing chance of average temperatures in the western portion of the valley.

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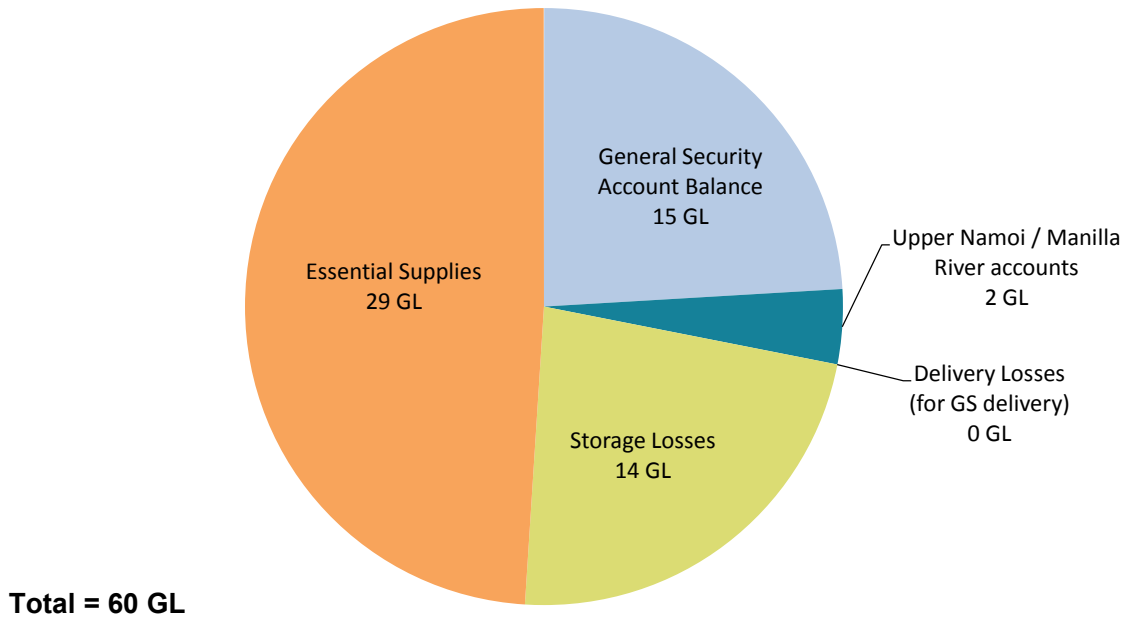
- The current outlook reflects the last stages of the strong 2015–16 El Niño. Historically after El Niño events, warmer days tend to persist over northern and eastern Australia, with warmer nights present across much of Australia.
- Recent changes in the tropical Pacific Ocean and atmosphere, combined with current climate model outlooks, suggest a 50 % chance of a La Niña event forming later in 2016, which is about double the normal chance. La Niña is often, but not always, associated with above-average winter-spring rainfall in this region.

Namoi Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 May 2016) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	60.12
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	13.77
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	29.45 (53% full)
General Security Account Balance	14.46
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts	2.44
Delivery Loss Account ⁽⁴⁾	0.00
New Allocation from this Assessment	Nil

*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution May 2016 to Jun 2016
Namoi Valley**



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (60 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. Currently delivery loss is borrowed from the essential supply account, which means that improvements in water availability will first replenish the loss accounts before accruing to further general security allocation.

Namoi resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 31 March 2016
- Current Assessment date: 30 April 2016

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total (Split Rock plus Keepit)		69.83
Dead storage	9.70	60.13
Storage Loss Committed (projected 2 years)	14.21	45.92

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	31.02	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-0.60	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	0.00	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	0.00	
Current balance	30.42	15.50

Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	2.89	
Ordered since last assessment	-0.41	
Allocation Assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-0.03	
Current balance	2.44	13.06

General Security (D/S Keepit)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	14.53	
Orders since assessment period	-0.10	
Allocation Assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)	0.03	
Current balance	14.46	-1.41

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	0.00	
Apparent losses since last assessment	-0.37	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.00	
Current balance	0.00	-1.41

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		0.80
Essential Supply Loss	54%	0.43
General Security Loss	46%	0.37

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	-1.41

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
		GL	GL	
Storage Loss	13.77	14.21	-0.44	13.77
Essential Supplies	56.00	30.42	-0.97	29.45
Upper Namoi / Manilla River	9.69	2.44	0.00	2.44
Delivery Loss	150.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Security Irrigation	493.40	14.46	0.00	14.46
Uncommitted resources	-	-1.41	1.41	0.00
Total	-	60.13	0.00	60.12

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	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share