

5 November 2015

Namoi Valley

Water availability and allocation update October 2015

Allocations

There has been insufficient improvement in resources in the past month to provide an allocation increase. October rainfall prompted only minor inflows from tributaries.

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

Key facts

- Two block releases from Keepit Dam are planned this water year to satisfy downstream requirements. The first block release is likely to commence on 7 November 2015 and will meet demand as far as Walgett. A second and final block release is planned in early January 2016 which will meet demand from the storage to Gunidgera Weir, including Gunidgera Creek, and will also provide a replenishment flow for Pian Creek.
- Rainfall in early November is generating limited runoff, but it is being captured in storages and weir pools where possible.
- Normal regulated water delivery for Lower Namoi water users remains suspended. It can resume when tributary flows and water availability improves significantly.
- The Lower Namoi has been operating under a drought management strategy since September 2014.
- Strategies are in place to ensure that essential supplies can be met even under extended water shortage conditions.

Dam levels

- Split Rock Dam is 7 per cent full, holding 31,200 megalitres.
- Keepit Dam is 17 per cent full, holding 78,400 megalitres
- The combined storage volume is steady at around 110,000 megalitres, after a low in May of 48,400 megalitres, but can be expected to fall through a hot, dry summer.

Seasonal Rainfall Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) latest outlook shows a drier than average November across most parts of southeast Australia is likely in the lead up to summer.
- The three month period from November to January 2016 is about an even chance of above average rainfall in the Namoi catchment. The current outlook reflects a combination of a strong El Niño in the Pacific, decaying positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.

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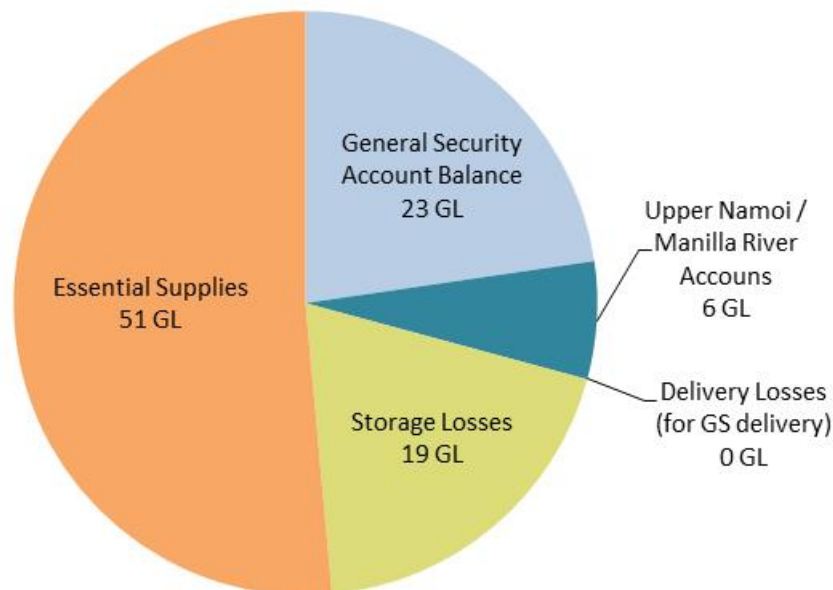
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Namoi Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 November) for 2015/16 & 2016/17	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	99.27
Less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	19.21
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	51.07 (91% of budget)
General Security Account Balance	22.53
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts	6.46
Delivery Losses ⁽⁴⁾	0.00
New Allocation from this Assessment	Nil

*See notes below

Allocation Distribution 2015/16 & 2016/17 Namoi Valley -1 November 2015



Total = 99 GL

Note: Data is for the 1st to the 31st of October 2015 period

Notes:

- (1) Available Resource - Total Active Storage volume (Split Rock & Keepit) at the day 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 S&D replenishments, delivery loss allowance and end-of-system flow requirements. This commitment is reduced 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.