

9 June 2016

Namoi Valley

Water allocation update – to end May 2016

Allocations

There has been **no improvement** in resources in the past month and no allocation increases in the regulated Namoi valley. May rainfall produced only minor inflows from tributaries and was inadequate to meet the reservoir evaporation demand.

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

Key facts

- Dam levels remain very low: however, critical needs are secure for the 2016/17 water year.
- Current resources are sufficient to allow limited block releases in 2016/17. Drought contingency measures will continue into next water year until weather systems bring relief, and deliveries will be tailored to meet essential requirements.
- Normal regulated river water delivery in the Lower Namoi for general security water users below Narrabri remains suspended and will only resume when conditions improve.
- A block release is planned in October 2016, to supply stock and domestic and riparian flows to Pian Creek, unless needs are met from a natural replenishment beforehand.

Dam levels (end of May)

The current combined storage volume in Split Rock and Keepit Dams is about 65 GL, compared to 48 GL at the same time last year. Currently, Split Rock Dam is around 5 per cent full, holding 22 GL, and Keepit Dam is 9 per cent full, holding 43 GL.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) June to August 2016 outlook indicates that well above average rainfall is likely across most of the region. Cooler than average winter days are likely in the western portion of the catchment, with closer to average daytime temperatures in the east. Nights are favoured to be warmer than average.
- The tropical Pacific has now returned to neutral levels, marking the end of the 2015–16 El Niño. The breakdown period of the El Niño cycle typically sees warmer nights across much of Australia. By July, modeling suggests the Pacific may reach borderline La Niña conditions, which is contributing towards the above average rainfall outlook.

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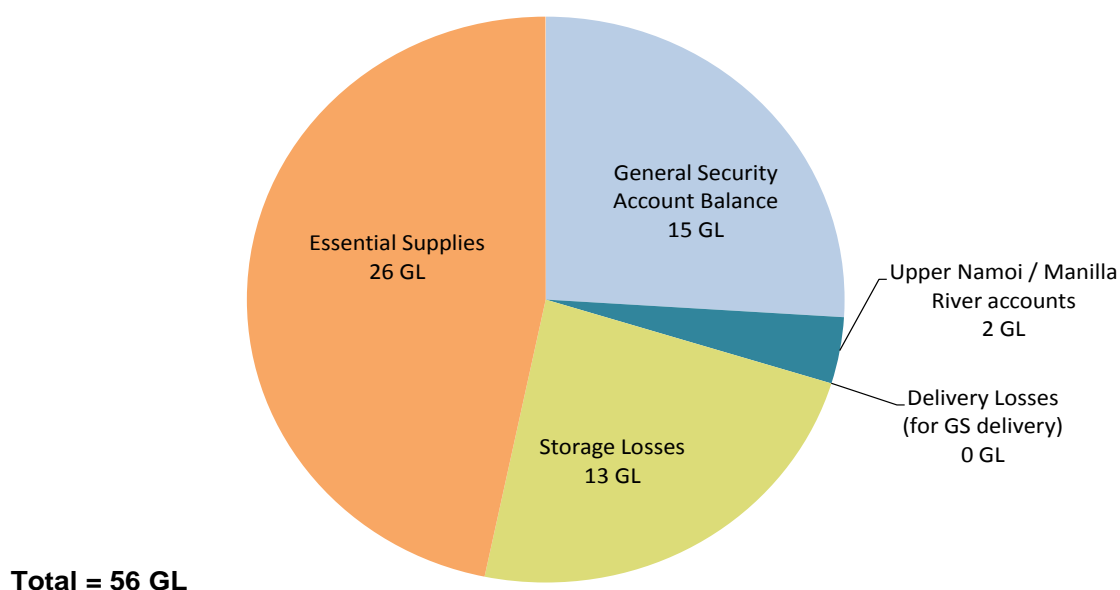
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Namoi Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 June 2016) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	55.95
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	13.15
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	26.13 (47% full)
General Security Account Balance	14.54
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts	2.12
Delivery Loss Account ⁽⁴⁾	0.00
New Allocation from this Assessment	Nil

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution June 2016 Namoi Valley



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (56 GL) – total active storage (Split Rock & Keepit Dams) 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: 30 April 2016
- Current Assessment date: 31 May 2016

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total (Split Rock plus Keepit)		65.65
Dead storage	9.70	55.95
Storage Loss Committed (projected 2 years)	13.77	42.17

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	29.45	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-0.26	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	0.00	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	0.00	
Current balance	29.19	12.99

Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	2.44	
Ordered since last assessment	0.00	
Allocation Assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-0.32	
Current balance	2.12	10.87

General Security (D/S Keepit)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	14.46	
Orders since assessment period	-0.24	
Allocation Assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)	0.32	
Current balance	14.54	-3.68

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	0.00	
Apparent losses since last assessment	-1.51	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.00	
Current balance	0.00	-3.68

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		3.11
Essential Supply Loss	51%	1.60
General Security Loss	49%	1.51

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	-3.68

New balances	Commitments			Balance
	Limit	Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	
Storage Loss	13.15	13.77	-0.62	13.15
Essential Supplies	56.00	29.19	-3.06	26.13
Upper Namoi / Manilla River	9.69	2.12	0.00	2.12
Delivery Loss	150.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Security Irrigation	493.40	14.54	0.00	14.54
Uncommitted resources	-	-3.68	3.68	0.00
Total	-	55.95	0.00	55.95

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