



7 April 2017

Namoi Valley

Water allocation update – to end March 2017

Allocations

Rainfall during March produced minor inflows to storage from upstream tributaries. However, there was insufficient resource improvement to provide an allocation increase.

The Lower Namoi general security allocation therefore remains **unchanged at 124.67 per cent of entitlement**

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

	High Security	General Security
Upper Namoi valley	100%	100%
Lower Namoi valley	100%	124.67%

Dam levels (as at 5 April 2017)

- Keepit Dam is 61 per cent full – steady – holding 263,000 megalitres (ML) compared to 10 per cent full at the same time last year.
- Split Rock Dam is 30 per cent full – steady – holding 121,000 ML, compared to 5 per cent full at the same time last year.

Key facts

- Essential supplies are secure for 2017/18.
- Modest inflows from the Peel Valley, combined with licensed environmental water releases from Keepit storage, are contributing to flows and riverine health outcomes along the length of the river to Walgett.
- Irrigation demand over winter is expected to remain low, with remaining water in accounts carried over for summer crop requirements.
- End of system targets in the next three months will likely be met from downstream tributaries and weir pools, allowing water to be conserved in Keepit Dam.
- A return to block release strategies is not anticipated in the foreseeable future, however; if dry conditions should occur for an extended period, consideration will be given to management options that will extend the longevity of critical supplies.

Media contact: James Muddle M 0407 103 507

www.water.nsw.gov.au

Seasonal rainfall outlook

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, April is more likely to have above average rainfall in the eastern and central portions of the catchment with average rainfall more likely in the western portion. April daytime temperatures are forecast to be below average.

The overall three month forecast from April to June indicates close to average rainfall and daytime temperatures in the eastern portion of the catchment, transitioning to below average rainfall and warmer than average daytime temperatures in the western portion of the catchment.

Although the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral, climate models suggest El Niño conditions are likely to develop during winter. The Bureau notes caution should be exercised as models have lower accuracy at this time of year in forecasting El Niño.

El Niño is often, but not always, associated with below average winter-spring rainfall over eastern Australia and warmer than average winter-spring maximum temperatures over the southern half of Australia.

Further information

The next monthly Water Allocation Statement for the Namoi regulated river water sources will be issued on **Monday 8 May 2017**.

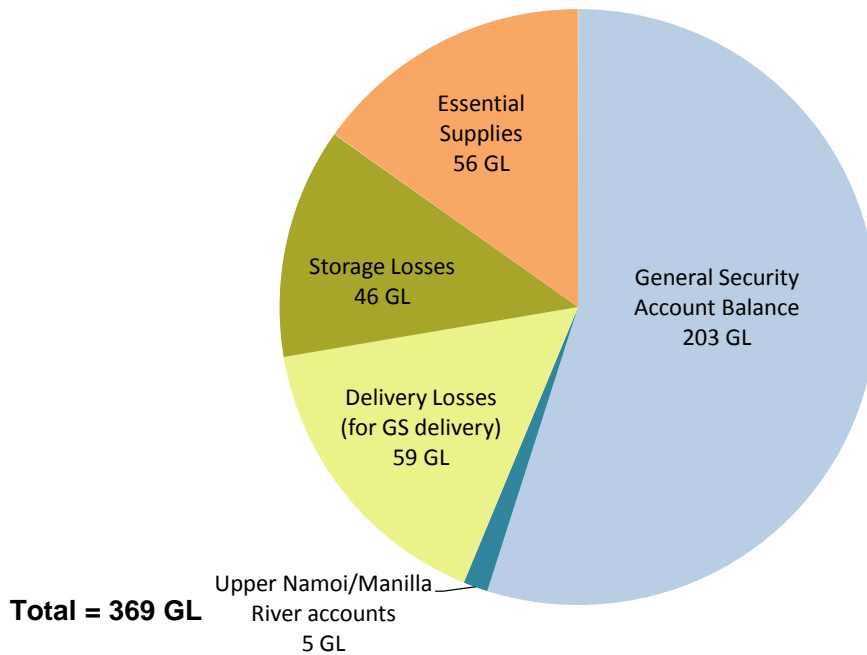
Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Namoi Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 01 April 2017)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	369.24
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	46.18
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	56.00
General Security Account Balance	202.77
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts	4.95
Peel Trade Account ⁽⁴⁾	0.00
Delivery Loss Account	59.35

**See notes below.*

Resource Distribution as at 01 April 2017 Namoi Valley



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (369 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.
- (4) Peel Trade Account – the Peel water sharing plan, at Clause 86(4), provides for limited allocation assignment (temporary trade) from the Peel to the Namoi valleys. It requires a volume to be set aside in Keepit resources equal to the AWD times 3,000 to support trade from the Peel valley. The trade account balance reduces as trade water is released from storage. The account increases with increases to Lower Namoi general security allocation. The current account balance is zero – all traded water has been delivered.

Namoi resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 28 February 2017
- Current Assessment date: 31 March 2017

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total (Split Rock plus Keepit)		378.94
Dead storage	9.70	369.24
Storage Loss Committed - projected 2 years (brought forward)	45.42	323.82

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	52.87	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-0.58	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	0.00	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	0.00	
Current balance	52.30	271.52

Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	5.68	
Ordered since last assessment	-0.32	
Allocation Assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-0.42	
Current balance	4.95	266.58

General Security (D/S Keepit)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	203.35	
Orders since assessment period	-1.88	
Allocation Assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi and Peel Trade)	1.30	
Current balance	202.77	63.81

Peel Trade Account	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	0.88	
Trade to general security since last assessment	0.88	
Current balance	0.00	63.81

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	51.42	
Apparent losses since last assessment	-0.74	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.00	
Current balance	50.68	13.13

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		0.88
Essential Supply Loss	16%	0.14
General Security Loss	84%	0.74

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	13.13

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	46.18	45.42	0.76	46.18
Essential Supplies	56.00	52.30	3.70	56.00
Upper Namoi / Manilla River	9.81	4.95	0.00	4.95
Delivery Loss	150.94	50.68	8.67	59.35
General Security Irrigation	493.40	202.77	0.00	202.77
Peel Trade Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uncommitted resources	-	13.13	-13.13	0.00
Total	-	369.24	0.00	369.24

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	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share