



6 November 2020

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

Small improvements and drought recovery continue in the Namoi regulated river water source. **General security allocation is increased by 1.4% of entitlement in the Lower Namoi**, bringing the total allocation to 7.0% for the current water year.

Allocations to all other categories of licence in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source remain unchanged.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Source	100%	50%	 Stage 2
Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source	100%	7.0%	 Stage 3

During October the catchment experienced above average to very much above average rainfall, receiving approximately 50 to 100mm of rain. However, net inflow into the headwater storages during this period was limited to approximately 0.8 gigalitre (GL) for Split Rock Dam and 3.1 GL for Keepit Dam. During the month, storage volume in Split Rock increased by 0.2 GL, while for Keepit, the storage volume increased by 1.9 GL. Downstream tributary inflows produced around 3.2 GL.

Storage levels (as at 6 November 2020)

- Split Rock Dam is 4.9% full – increasing slightly – holding about 23,000 megalitres (ML).
- Keepit Dam is 26.7% full – steady – holding about 119,000 ML.

Key facts

- Minor resource improvements in headwater storages in October.
- Critical requirements for Manilla and Barraba townships are secure for the next 24 months based on assumed minimum future inflows to Split Rock Dam.
- Split Rock storage remains low and offers limited resilience if conditions again turn very dry. Should Split Rock Dam deplete below 15 GL, drought contingency measures will need to be considered. This may affect delivery to general security water users in the Upper Namoi.
- At this stage, water deliveries in the Lower Namoi will be carried out in a single block release currently planned for December. This saves water by reducing delivery costs (losses).
- Pian replenishment for this season has already been met from tributary inflows.
- The system continues to recover from severe drought conditions. It is being managed to build reserves by allowing downstream tributary flows to meet system demands where possible.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances. Since February 2020, both Split Rock and Keepit storage volumes have been slowly recovering. Critical requirements are now secure and there is improved river connectivity. Drought stage criticality for both the Upper and Lower Namoi systems currently remain unchanged at Stage 2 (recovering) and Stage 3 (severe) respectively but are being closely monitored with Lower Namoi likely to ease to Stage 2 shortly.

Further information on drought stages can be found at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

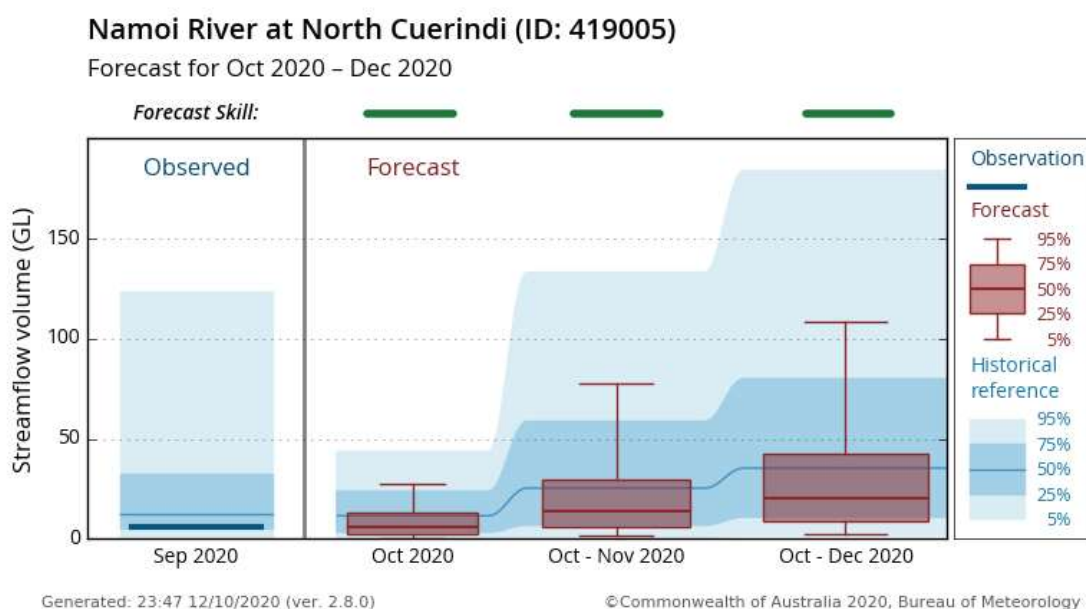
The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for November 2020 to January 2021 indicates a wetter than average three-month period for nearly all of Australia. The outlook indicates that the average maximum temperature for eastern NSW for November to January is likely to be cooler than the long-term average.

The Bureau of Meteorology's ENSO outlook is at La Niña and conditions are likely to persist until at least the end of summer. Generally positive values of Southern Annular Mode (SAM) are expected over the summer. Positive SAM during the spring and summer months typically enhances the wet signal of La Niña in parts of eastern Australia.

Details can be found at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/>

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the unregulated Namoi River at North Cuerindi. This may provide an indication of potential inflows into Keepit Dam (see the figure below). The forecast total median streamflow volume from October to December is lower than the historical median streamflow volume, indicating potential lower than historical streamflow conditions for the next few months.

Details can be found at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/>

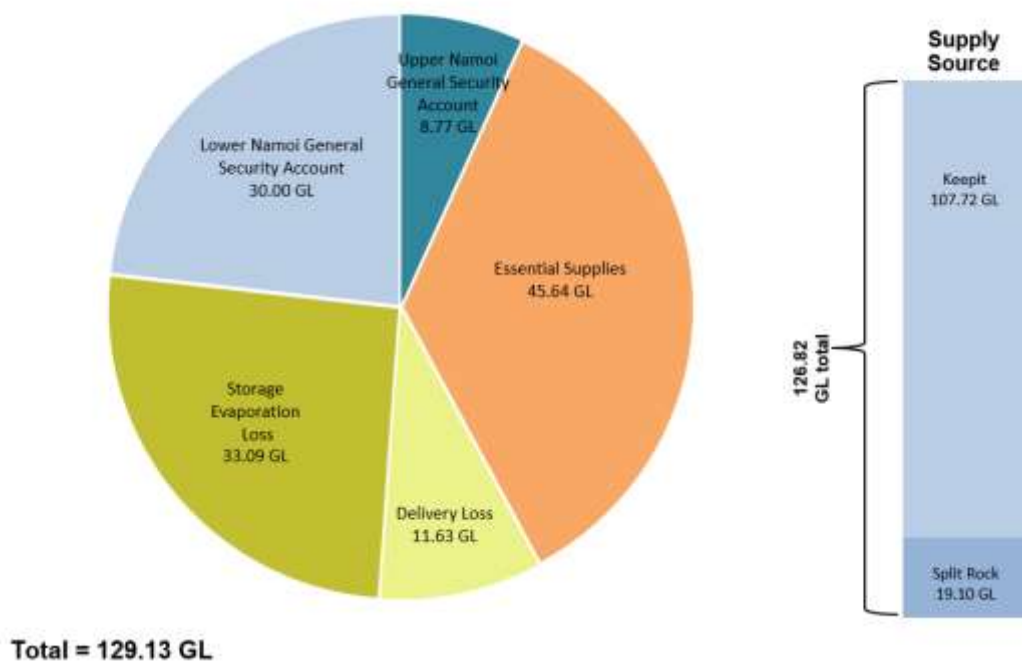


Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 October 2020)

Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	129.13
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽²⁾	33.09
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	45.64
Lower Namoi General Security Account	30.00
Upper Namoi General Security Account	8.77
Peel Trade Account ⁽⁴⁾	0.00
Delivery Loss ⁽⁵⁾	11.63

See notes below.



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource: includes total active storage behind Split Rock and Keepit Dams.
- (2) Storage Evaporation Loss: 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 Stock & Domestic, Towns, 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: A temporary trade trial was in place between the Peel catchment to the Lower Namoi catchment. This temporary trial ended on 1 July 2020. However, the Inter-valley share component trade account is still in place for permanent trade between the Peel catchment and the Lower Namoi catchment. For further information see Clause 32 of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010*.
- (5) Delivery Loss: This account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss is being budgeted for this river system.

Resource assessment data sheet as at 31 October 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	33.09	32.82	0.27	33.09
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	45.64	45.62	0.02	45.64
Upper Namoi General Security (11.4 GL max)		8.77	0.00	8.77
General Security Delivery Loss	11.63	10.59	1.04	11.63
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		26.55	3.45	30.00
Additional Resource for Sharing		4.78	-4.78	0.00
Total		129.13	0.00	129.13

Upper Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.000	GL
Available Water Determination	0.000	ML per unit share

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	3.45	GL
Available Water Determination	0.014	ML per unit share

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on Monday 7 December 2020.

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