

7 March 2022

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

Average rainfall continued to provide inflows into the Namoi catchment in February. An improvement to resources was observed; mainly the result of downstream water usage freeing airspace in Keepit Dam, allowing for additional resources to be captured. The improvement in resources allows for the following allocation:

- **Lower Namoi general security allocation to increase by 7.9%**, resulting in a total allocation of 96.0% for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source were assigned full allocations on 1 July and remain unchanged.

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Upper Namoi Regulated River	100%	100%
Lower Namoi Regulated River	100%	96.0%

Storage levels (as at 7 March 2022)

- Split Rock Dam is about 70% full – holding approximately 280 gigalitre (GL).
- Keepit Dam is 99% full – holding approximately 423 GL.

Key facts

- In February 2022, the Namoi catchment experienced average rainfall, receiving between 25 to 100 mm of rain.
- Inflows to headwater storages were 19.7 GL for Keepit Dam and 3.6 GL for Split Rock Dam.
- Critical requirements for Manilla and Barraba townships are secure for the next 24 months and beyond, based on assumed minimum future inflows to Split Rock Dam.

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for March to May indicates above median rainfall for the upper catchment. Additionally, daytime temperatures are likely to be below median and minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the catchment.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

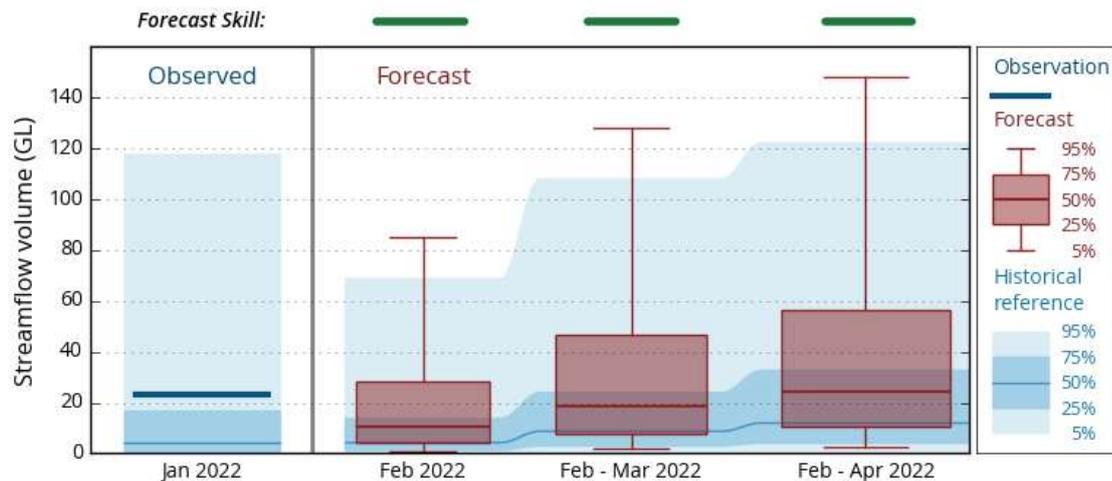
The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the unregulated Namoi River at North Cuerindi (see Figure 1). This may provide an indication of potential future inflows into Keepit Dam. The forecast quartiles of total streamflow volume from February to April are higher than the

historical quartile references, indicating likely higher runoff than historical streamflow conditions for the next few months.

Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005

Namoi River at North Cuerindi (ID: 419005)

Forecast for Feb 2022 – Apr 2022



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Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as at 28 February 2022)

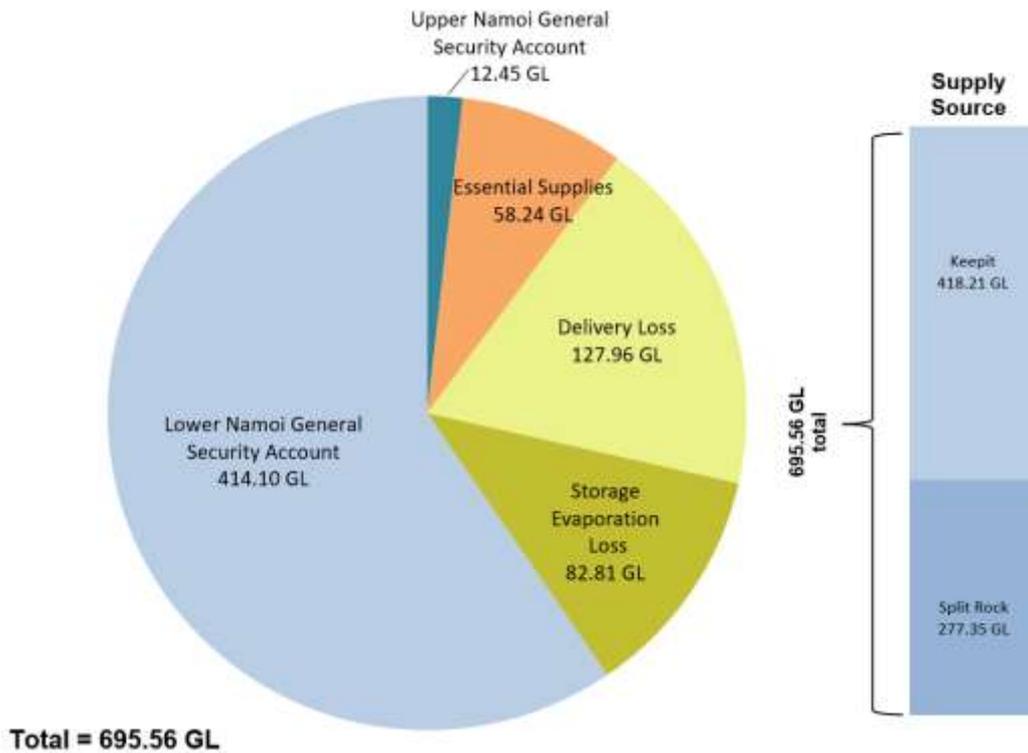
Volume (GL)

Keepit and Split Rock Active Volumes	695.56
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	82.81
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.24
Lower Namoi General Security Account	414.10
Upper Namoi General Security Account	12.45
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	127.96
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	0.0

Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Storage Evaporation Loss: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and maximum historical evaporation rates over 2 years.
- ⁽²⁾ Essential Supplies: water required to be set aside under water sharing plan 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.
- ⁽³⁾ Delivery Loss: This account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. The budget is continually assessed and topped up if necessary, as a priority from resource improvements, to ensure that allocated water can be delivered.
- ⁽⁴⁾ All available water resources have been fully allocated (no surplus/deficit). The system is secure for 24 months and beyond.

Resource Distribution as at 28 February 2022 Namoi Regulated River Water Sources



Resource assessment data sheet as at 28 February 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	82.81	82.66	0.15	82.81
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.24	57.85	0.39	58.24
General Security Delivery Loss	127.96	122.43	5.53	127.96
Upper Namoi General Security (11.4 GL max)		12.45	0.00	12.45
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		395.65	18.45	414.10
Additional Resource for Sharing		24.52	-24.52	0.00
Total		695.56	0.00	695.56

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	18.45	GL
Available Water Determination	0.079	ML per unit share

New water allocation guide

The department is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation methodology for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Namoi regulated river water source is now available and can be found on the department website.

Further details at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Thursday 7 April 2022**.

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