

5 February 2021



Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There has been an improvement in resources in the Namoi catchment, including in the headwater storages, allowing an allocation increase for the following:

- **Lower Namoi general security allocation to increase by 7.6%**, resulting in a total allocation of 39.3% for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source have been given full allocations and remain unchanged.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Source	100%	100%	 Stage 1
Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source	100%	39.3%	 Stage 1

Storage levels (as at 4 February 2021)

- Split Rock Dam is 12.6% full – holding about 52,900 megalitres (ML).
- Keepit Dam is 42.7% full – holding about 185,353 ML.

Key facts

- In January, the catchment experienced near average rainfall, receiving about 25 to 100 mm.
- Net inflow into the headwater storages for January was approximately 7.5 gigalitres (GL) for Split Rock Dam and 25.7 GL for Keepit Dam.
- Downstream tributary inflows during January were approximately 18.7 GL.
- The system returned to normal river operations last month and water ordering on-demand is available for both the Upper and Lower Namoi.
- 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.

Drought stage

The Namoi Valley catchment is being operated under normal conditions and the drought stage criticality is at its minimum, Stage 1, level.

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

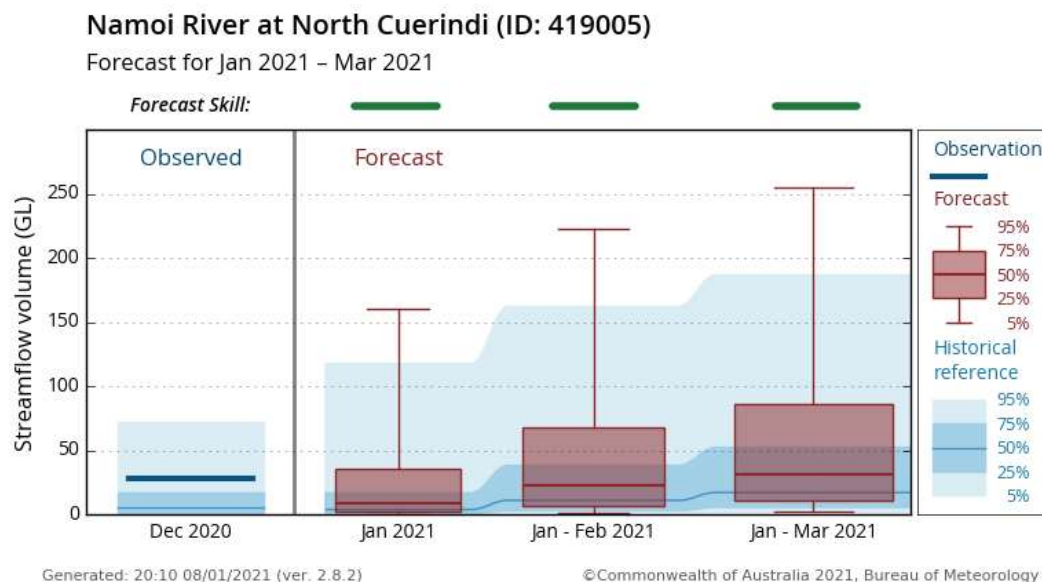
Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that the catchment is likely to be wetter than average. Maximum temperatures over this period show a higher chance of being above median maximum temperatures. Minimum temperatures for this period are very likely to be above the long-term average across the catchment.

La Niña remains active in the tropical Pacific. The event has likely reached its peak strength but is expected to continue to influence Australian rainfall patterns until at least early autumn.

Details can be found in: www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/

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



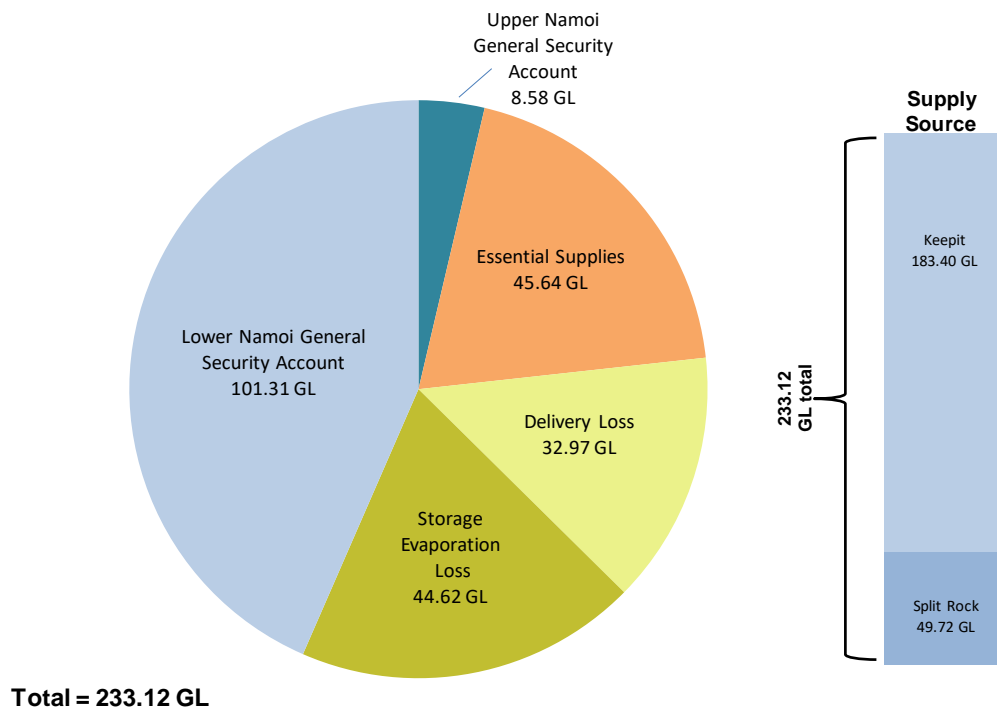
Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 February 2021)

Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	233.12
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽²⁾	44.62
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	45.64
Lower Namoi General Security Account	101.31
Upper Namoi General Security Account	8.58
Delivery Loss ⁽⁴⁾	32.97

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) 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.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Assessment data sheet as at 1 February 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	44.62	42.19	2.43	44.62
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	45.64	44.69	0.95	45.64
Upper Namoi General Security (11.4 GL max)		8.58	0.00	8.58
General Security Delivery Loss	32.97	26.05	6.92	32.97
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		82.71	18.61	101.31
Additional Resource for Sharing		28.90	-28.90	0.00
Total		233.12	0.00	233.12

Upper Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.000	ML per unit share

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	18.61	GL
Available Water Determination	0.076	ML per unit share

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Friday 5 March 2021**.

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