

8 August 2019

Namoi Valley

Water allocation update

Rainfall in the Namoi catchment in July was well below average with no net inflows to the storages. **Allocations remain unchanged for Lower Namoi water users.** Apart from general and high security users, all other entitlements have already received their maximum allocation in 2019-2020.

The shortfall in meeting resource commitments remains stable. Storages need about 85,000 megalitres (ML) of inflow before normal regulated river operations can resume.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Valley	75%	0%	 Stage 3
Lower Namoi Valley	75%	0%	 Stage 4

Keepit Dam is 1 per cent full, holding about 10,800 ML, while Split Rock Dam is just 2.1 per cent full, holding about 11,600 ML.

This statement does not include the usual tables and graphs showing resource distribution. Their usefulness is limited due to the lack of water for distribution.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances. Currently, the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi is at Stage 3 & 4 respectively.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Key facts

- Remaining Lower Namoi general security (GS) account water of 12.3 gigalitres (GL) cannot be delivered until the resource availability situation improves.
- Storage inflows since the last allocation in August 2017 to July 2019 have been just 39GL. This is well below the historical minimum of 111 GL (August 2013 to July 2015).
- Upper Namoi general security water access licence holders are only allowed to access 75 per cent of the volume of water in their accounts carried over from the previous water year.
- Lower Namoi general security water access license holders are restricted from accessing water in their accounts.

- The restrictions will be eased or removed if inflow situation improves in the future. The temporary water restriction can be viewed at - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/temporary-water-restrictions

Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that the Namoi catchment is likely to experience drier than average conditions. Temperatures over this period are likely to be above average.

The Bureau indicates that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral. Modelling suggests that the ENSO is likely to remain neutral over the remainder of 2019. Positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are forecast for the remainder of winter and spring. A positive IOD will likely mean below average winter-spring rainfall and above average temperatures.

Details can be found at - www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/

Further information

This is the first water allocation statement for the 2019-20 water year. The next water allocation statement for the Namoi regulated river will be available in early September 2019.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry, Planning and Environment website - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Operational updates can be found on the WaterNSW website - www.watnsw.com.au/supply/regional-nsw/customer-notices

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