



8 February 2019

Namoi Valley

Water allocation

Lower Namoi general security allocation **remains unchanged**.

Namoi storages are experiencing record low inflow. The storages will require about 85 gigalitres (GL) of inflow before regulated river operations can resume. For context, Split Rock and Keepit dams have received a total of 7.5 GL of inflow in this water year, compared with a long term average inflow of around 338 GL per year.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Valley	100%	100%	 Stage 3
Lower Namoi Valley	100%	0%	 Stage 4

Dam levels (as at 8 February 2019)

- Keepit Dam is below 0.5 per cent full – effectively empty – holding 8.8 GL.
- Split Rock Dam is below 4 per cent full – falling – holding 17.6 GL.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduces a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The Lower Namoi water source has deteriorated to Stage 4, reflecting the critical water shortage. Further operational measures will be employed to manage critical water supplies.

More information on drought stages can be found at:

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

Key facts

- Keepit Dam is effectively empty. Split Rock Dam will be operated for critical needs only.
- Upper Namoi essential requirement is secured for the remainder of the water year.
- The Namoi Valley has entered the lowest inflow (worst drought) since 1918. Net reservoir inflows since the last allocation in August 2017 to the end of December 2019 were just 35 GL. This is below the historical minimum from August 1918 to January 1920 of 58 GL.
- The environmental water released from Gundigera Weir in December and January trickled down to Walgett for a few days in January 2019.
- In January, 2,600 ML was released from Split Rock Dam to meet 770 ML general security and 60 ML of high priority demands.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for February to April shows no clear indication of drier or wetter conditions. Temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño WATCH as key atmospheric and ocean indicators are neutral. There is an even chance of an El Niño event forming in autumn or winter. The Indian Ocean Dipole, which has little influence on the Australian climate from December to April, is neutral.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Namoi regulated river will be available on **Friday 8 March 2019**.

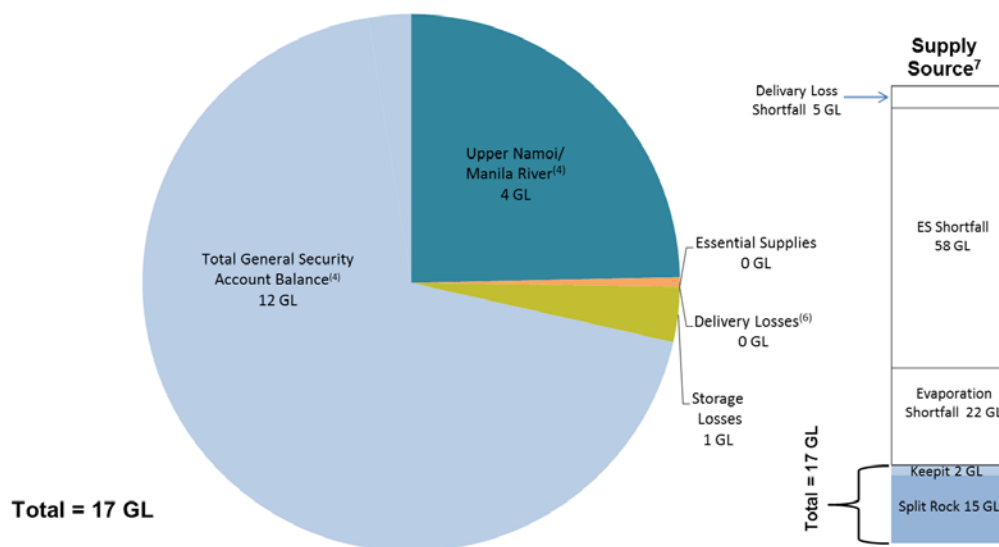
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 January 2019)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	17.55
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	0.58
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	0.00
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	12.54
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts ⁽⁴⁾	4.43
Peel Trade Account ⁽⁵⁾	0.00
Delivery Loss Account ⁽⁶⁾	0.00

See notes below.

Resource Distribution (as at 31 January 2019)



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource: 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. The current shortfall is 18.92GL.
- (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. The current shortfall is 58.24GL.
- (4) Held Environmental Water (HEW): water administered by environmental water holders is reported here. Associated portions of general security allocation are normally identified in the above pie chart. However, in this assessment, the environmental water portion of general security allocation is very small. Thus it is not shown in the pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only and, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, estimated to be about 0.45 GL of GS in the Lower Namoi and 0.11 GL of GS in the Upper Namoi. No HS entitlement is held. These

entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).

- (5) Peel Trade Account: the Peel water sharing plan, at Clause 86(4), provides for limited allocation assignment from the Peel to the Namoi valleys. It requires a volume to be set aside in Keepit Dam equal to the AWD times 3,000 (maximum of 6,000 ML), for trade from the Peel valley. The current account balance is zero (0) GL meaning all available trade water has been delivered.
- (6) This account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water (delivery losses). Zero balance means that water must be borrowed to continue the delivery of general security water, in accordance with prior practice. The payback of any borrow will occur before further general security allocation increase. The current shortfall is about 5GL.
- (7) Supply Distribution: the distribution of supply includes active volumes in the dams at the time of the assessment, and it is also include any estimated shortfall in meeting the full account limits. High transmission losses create account shortfalls in very dry years. It is estimated that 85 GL of inflow is needed to overcome the shortfall, including evaporation losses, prior to next GS allocation increment.

Resource Assessment as at 31 January 2019

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Losses	19.50	2.29	-1.71	0.58
Essential Supplies	58.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
Upper Namoi (11.3GL max)		4.43	0.00	4.43
Delivery Losses	5.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
LN General Security (491.8GL max)		12.54	0.00	12.54
Peel Trade Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uncommitted resources	-	-1.71	1.71	0.00
Total	-	17.55	0.00	17.55

Upper Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share