

13 January 2021



Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There has been a significant improvement in resources in the Namoi catchment headwater storages to allow an allocation increase for the following:

- **Upper Namoi general security** allocation to **increase by 50%** resulting in 100% allocation for the current water year.
- **Lower Namoi general security** allocation to **increase by 23.7%** resulting in 31.7% allocation for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source have full allocation 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%	31.7%	 Stage 1

Storage levels (as at 11 January 2021)

- Split Rock Dam is 12.6% full – holding about 52,698 megalitres (ML)
- Keepit Dam is 43.6% full – holding about 188,938 ML.

Key facts

- During December, the catchment experienced very much above average to very high rainfall, receiving approximately 100 to 300 mm.
- Net inflow into the headwater storages during this period was approximately 26.6 gigalitres (GL) for Split Rock Dam and 67.1 GL for Keepit Dam.
- Downstream tributary flows during December were approximately 47 GL.
- During the month, the storage volumes increased by 26.4 GL and 56.2 GL for Split Rock Dam and Keepit Dam, respectively.
- The system has returned to normal operations and order 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.
- Namoi River is running from downstream tributary flows past Walgett.

Drought stage

With the significant storage inflows over December resulting in increased storage volume in both headwater storages and the resumption of normal river operations, the drought stage criticality levels for the Upper and Lower Namoi have been downgraded from Stage 2 (recovering) to Stage 1 (normal operations).

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

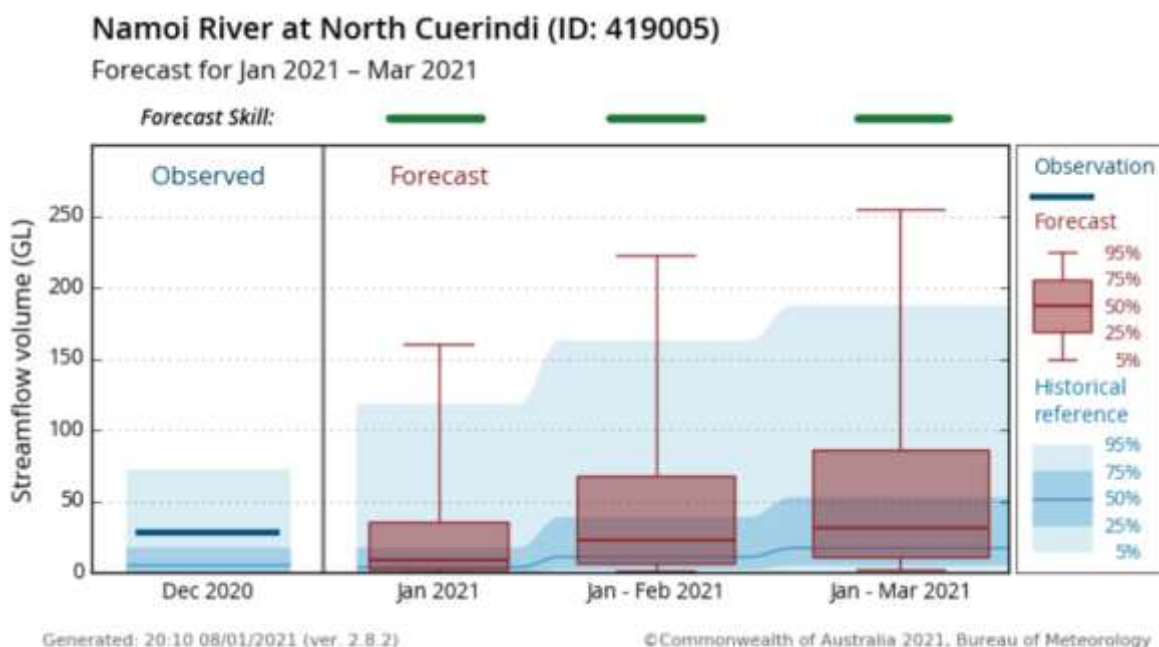
Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for January to March indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Maximum temperatures over this period show little shift towards being above or below average. Minimum temperatures for this period are very likely to be above average across the catchment.

La Niña remains active, but is likely to be nearing its peak. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is positive and likely to remain so over the 2020-21 summer. This typically enhances the La Niña wet signal in parts of eastern Australia.

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. All forecast quartiles of total streamflow volumes from January to March are higher than the historical streamflow volumes, indicating higher inflow potential than historical streamflow for the next few months.



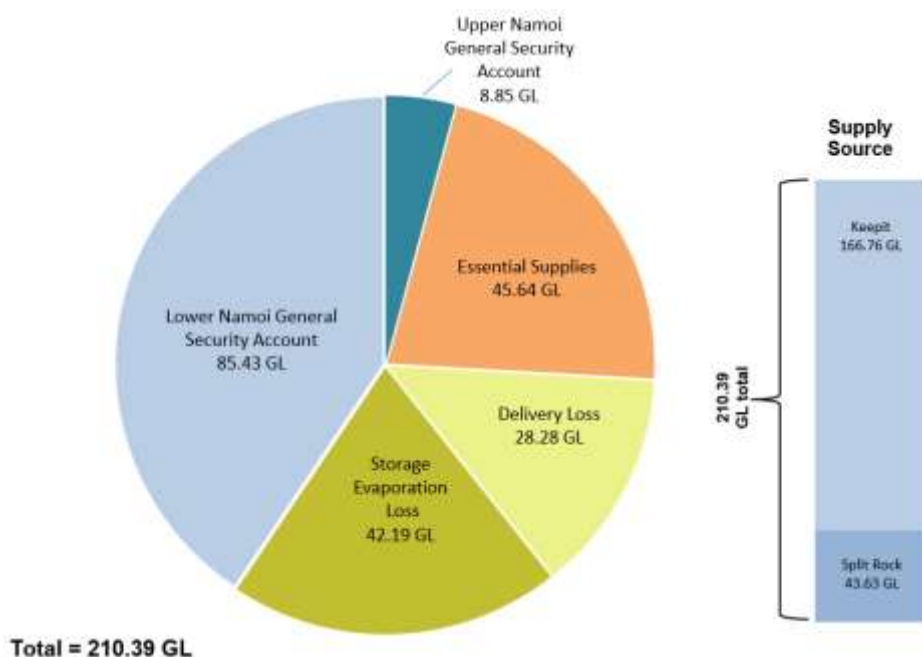
Details can be found in: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 5 January 2021)

Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	210.39
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽²⁾	42.19
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	45.64
Lower Namoi General Security Account	85.43
Upper Namoi General Security Account	8.85
Delivery Loss ⁽⁴⁾	28.28

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 is being budgeted for this river system.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Assessment data sheet as at 5 January 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	42.19	33.01	9.18	42.19
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	45.64	44.72	0.92	45.64
Upper Namoi General Security (11.4 GL max)		6.44	2.41	8.85
General Security Delivery Loss	28.28	5.00	23.28	28.28
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		27.59	57.84	85.43
Additional Resource for Sharing		93.63	-93.63	0.00
Total		210.39	0.00	210.39

Upper Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	2.41	GL
Available Water Determination	0.500	ML per unit share

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	57.84	GL
Available Water Determination	0.237	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 February 2021**.