

6 April 2023

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There has been enough resource improvement in the Lower Namoi regulated river water source in March to allow an allocation increase of 30% to general security entitlement.

The total Lower Namoi general security account balance is now 465 gigalitres (GL) or about 190% on average. All other licence categories in the Upper and Lower Namoi regulated systems have received their full allocation for the current water year.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 March 2023. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocations and average account balance

2022/23	Cumulative GS Allocation	Average GS Account Balance
Upper Namoi Regulated River	100%	94%
Lower Namoi Regulated River	143%	190%

Dam levels (as of 5 April 2023)

- Split Rock Dam is about 101% full, falling slowly, holding around 400 GL.
- Keepit Dam is about 93% full – holding around 396 GL.

Key information

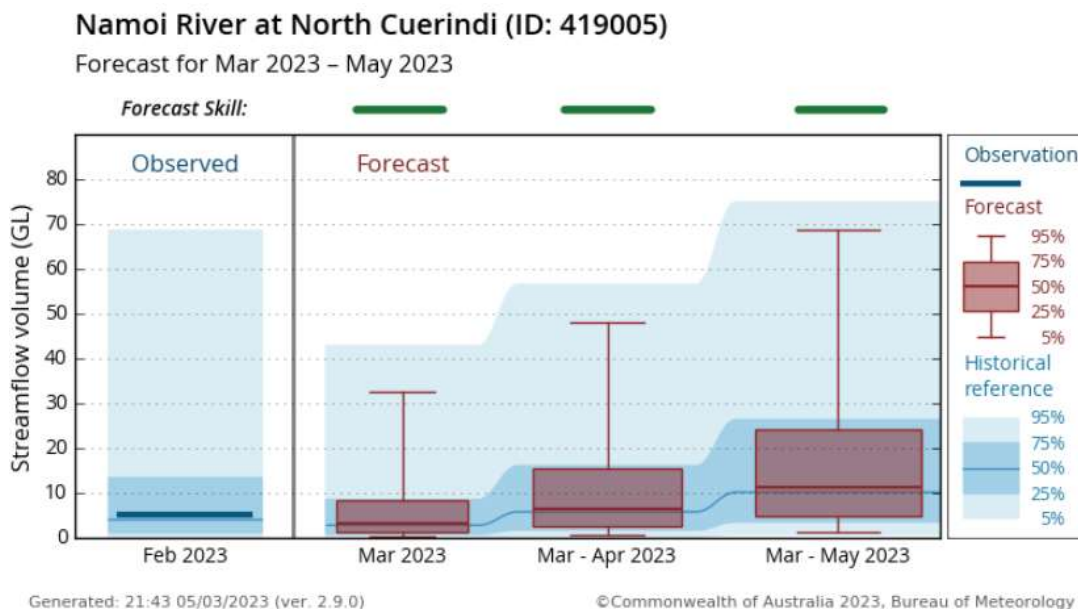
- During March, the Namoi catchment experienced average to highest on record rainfall.
- Inflows from the upper catchment continued in March, with Keepit and Split Rock dams receiving 36 GL and 16.3 GL respectively.
- Supplementary access usage has been about 15% of the water allocated, some 115GL.
- Based on the current assessment, essential supplies are secure for 24 months and beyond. This includes demands from Manilla and Barraba townships.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that rainfall in the Namoi valley is likely to be below median. Over this period, maximum temperatures are likely to be above median in the catchment and there is no clear indication of cooler than median or warmer than median for the minimum temperatures.

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. This may indicate potential future inflows into Keepit Dam. The median total streamflow volumes from March to May are similar to the historical median references. The graph for March to May is given below and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005



Resource assessment data sheet

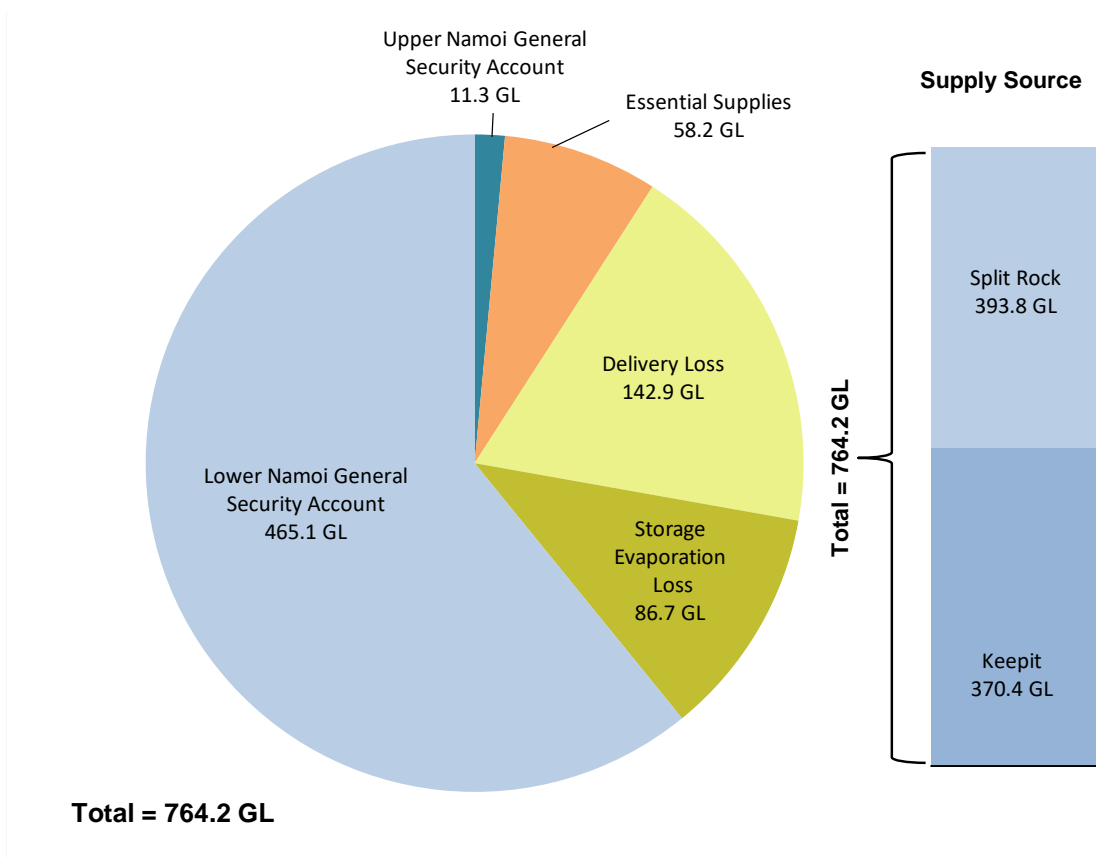
Resource distribution (as at 31 March 2023)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	764.2
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	86.7
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.2
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	465.1
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	11.3
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	142.9
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) Storage Evaporation Loss: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and maximum historical evaporation rates over 24 months.
- (2) Essential Supplies: water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for domestic, stock, 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. This reserve is for essential supplies for next 24 months.

- (3) Delivery Loss: this account reflects the water estimated needed to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. The budget is continually assessed and, if necessary, topped-up as a priority from resource improvements, to ensure that allocated water can be delivered in most circumstances.
- (4) Zero means that all available water resources have been allocated, and there is no resource deficit. The system is secure for delivery of all essential supplies for at least 24 months.

**Resource Distribution as at 31 March 2023
Namoi Regulated River Water Sources**



Namoi resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 28 February 2023
- Current Assessment date: 31 March 2023

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Split Rock plus Keepit		773.9
Dead storage	9.7	764.2
Storage evaporation loss	86.0	678.2
Essential Supplies		
Brought forward from last assessment	58.2	
Uses and associated loss since last assessment	-0.1	
Allocation assignment from High Security to General Security	0.0	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss	0.0	
Current balance	58.1	620.1
Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers		
Brought forward from last assessment	11.8	
Ordered since last assessment	-0.2	
Allocation assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-0.3	
Current balance	11.3	608.8
General Security (D/S Keepit)		
Brought forward from last assessment	455.3	
Orders since assessment period	-33.1	
Allocation assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)	0.3	
Current balance	422.6	186.2
Delivery Loss		
Brought forward from last assessment	140.1	
Apparent losses since last assessment	0.0	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for allocation assignments to GS)	0.0	
Current balance	130.2	56.1
Apparent Losses since last assessment		
Total		0.0

Essential supply loss	0%	0.0
General Security loss	100%	0.0
Resource available for sharing		
Total		56.1

Resource assessment data sheet as at 31 March 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	86.7	86.0	0.7	86.7
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.2	58.1	0.1	58.2
General Security Delivery Loss	142.9	130.2	12.8	142.9
Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)*		11.3	0.00	11.3
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)*		422.6	42.5	465.1
Additional Resource for Sharing		56.1	-56.1	0.00
Total		764.2	0.00	764.2

*Temporary trade may exceed this limit.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	42.5	GL
Available Water Determination	0.3	ML per unit share

Upper Namoi water allocation history for 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*
1-Jul	General Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*

* Maximum allowable.

Average account balance as of 31 March 2023

Lower Namoi water allocation history for 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Cumulative Allocation
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*
7-Sep	General Security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.05 ML/unit share
10-Oct	General Security	0.35 ML/unit share	0.40 ML/unit share
7-Dec	General Security	0.30 ML/unit share	0.70 ML/unit share
12-Jan	General Security	0.16 ML/unit share	0.86 ML/unit share
07-Mar	General Security	0.27 ML/unit share	1.13 ML/unit share
06-Apr	General Security	0.30 ML/unit share	1.43 ML/unit share

* Maximum allowable.

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Namoi regulated river water source is available 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 **Friday 5 May 2023**.

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

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