

7 September 2023

# Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

## Water allocation update

General security licences in the Lower Namoi regulated river water source have received an allocation of **85% of entitlement**. This large allocation is achieved with a small volume of water, about 14 gigalitres (GL), because most accounts are already full or near full. The total Lower Namoi general security account balance is now about 490 GL, which is the maximum 200% of entitlement.

All other licence categories in the Upper and Lower Namoi regulated systems have received their maximum allocation for the current water year.

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

## Current general security allocations and average account balance

7 September 2023	Allocation increment	Average Account Balance
Upper Namoi Regulated River	0%	*100%+
Lower Namoi Regulated River	85%	*200%

\* Reached its maximum balance. Excludes adjustments for temporary trade.

## Dam levels (as of 6 September 2023)

- Split Rock Dam is about 100% full, holding around 397 GL.
- Keepit Dam is about 97% full, holding around 413 GL.

## Key information

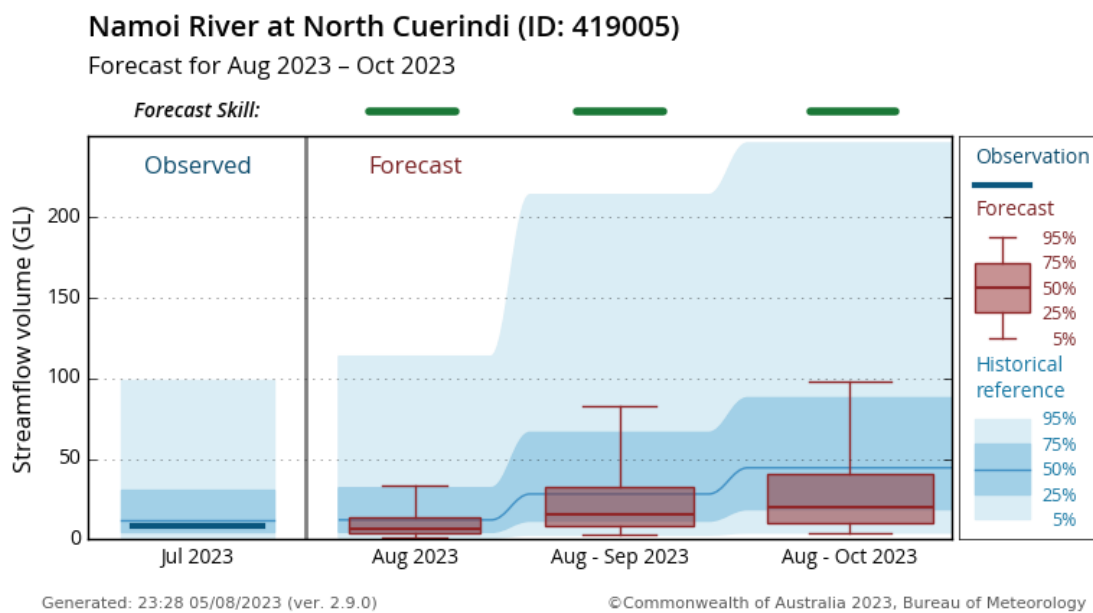
- There were reduced inflows from the upper catchment in August, with Keepit and Split Rock dams receiving just 1.9 GL and 0.5 GL respectively. Lower than median inflows could be experienced through spring, particularly if El Nino conditions develop.
- The large allocation (85%) to Lower Namoi general security accounts was required to allocate a small volume of water as most accounts were full (200%) or near full prior to this allocation as significant irrigation demand is yet to commence.
- 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 September to November indicates that rainfall in the Namoi Valley is likely to be below median. Over this period, maximum temperatures and minimum temperatures are likely to be above median in the catchment.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://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 (see the figure below). This may indicate potential future inflows into Keepit Dam. The median and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile forecast quartiles of total flow volume for August to October are both below the historical reference median, indicating flows to October may be lower than the historical median flows. The graph for August to October is given below and updates can be found at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005)



## Resource assessment data sheet

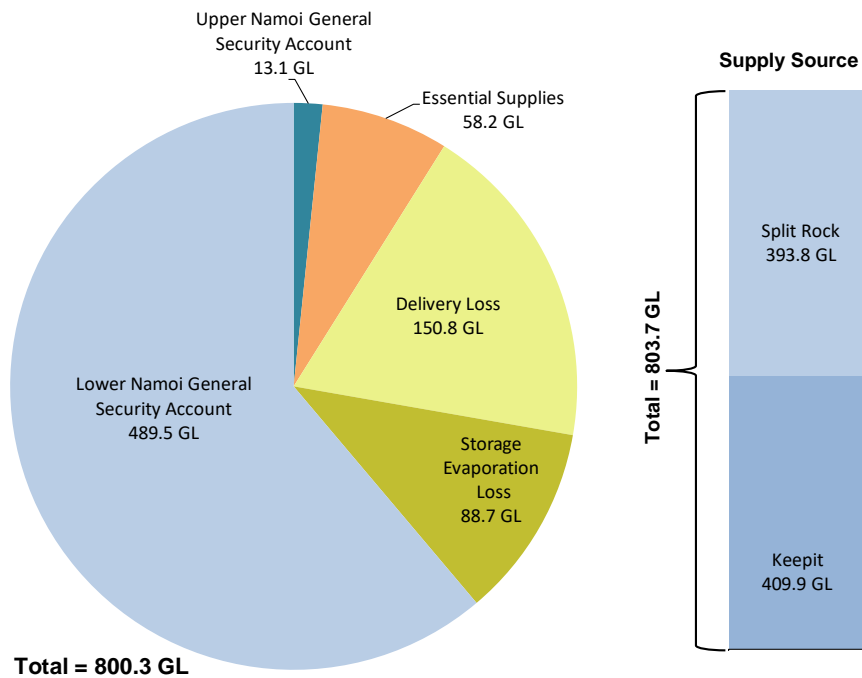
Resource distribution (as at 31 August 2023)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	803.7
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss <sup>(1)</sup>	88.7
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	58.2
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	489.5
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	13.1
Delivery Loss <sup>(3)</sup>	150.8
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) <sup>(4)</sup>	3.4

**Notes:**

(1) Storage Evaporation Loss: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and the 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 reserved to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. The loss reserve 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) Surplus or deficit: There is a small surplus after allocating all accounts to their full capacity. The system is secure for delivery of all essential supplies for at least 24 months.

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



### Namoi resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 31 July 2023
- Current Assessment date: 31 August 2023

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Split Rock plus Keepit		813.4
Dead storage	9.7	803.7
Storage evaporation loss	88.7	714.9
<b>Essential Supplies</b>		
Brought forward from last assessment	58.2	
Uses and associated loss since last assessment	-1.3	

Allocation assignment from High Security to General Security	0.0	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss	0.0	
Current balance	57.0	658.0
<b>Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers</b>		
Brought forward from last assessment	13.5	
Ordered since last assessment	-0.2	
Allocation assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-0.2	
Allocation Assignments from Lower Namoi to Upper Namoi	0.1	644.8
Current balance	13.2	
<b>General Security (D/S Keepit)</b>		
Brought forward from last assessment	489.5	
Orders since assessment period	-9.9	
Allocation assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS)	0.2	
Allocation assignments to Upper Namoi (from Lower Namoi g/s)	-0.1	165.2
Current balance	479.7	
<b>Delivery Loss</b>		
Brought forward from last assessment	150.9	
Apparent losses since last assessment	0.0	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for allocation assignments to GS)	0.0	
Current balance	147.8	17.3
<b>Apparent Losses since last assessment</b>		
	<b>% of loss</b>	<b>GL</b>
Total		0.0
Essential supply loss	11%	0.0
General Security loss	89%	0.0
<b>Resource available for sharing</b>		
Total		17.3

**Resource assessment data sheet as at 31 August 2023**

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	88.7	88.7	-0.1	88.7
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.2	57.0	1.3	58.2

General Security Delivery Loss	150.8	147.8	3.0	150.8
Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)*		13.1	0.0	13.1
Lower Namoi General Security (489.5 GL max)*		479.7	9.8	489.5
Additional Resource for Sharing		17.3	-14.0	3.4
Total		803.7	0.0	803.7

\*Temporary trade may exceed this limit.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	9.8	GL
Available Water Determination	0.85	ML per unit share

### Upper Namoi water allocation history for 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24
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.

### Lower Namoi water allocation history for 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Account balance
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.36 ML/unit share	36%
7-Jul	General Security	0.15 ML/unit share	199%
7-Aug	General Security	1.86 ML/unit share	200%*
7-Sep	General Security	0.85 ML/unit share	200%*

\* Maximum allowable.

## Storage volume prediction

Storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current commitments and an assumed repeat of historical minimum inflows, together with forecast demands, the combined storage of Keepit and Split Rock dams will reduce to a minimum by the end of March 2025, then begin to recover.

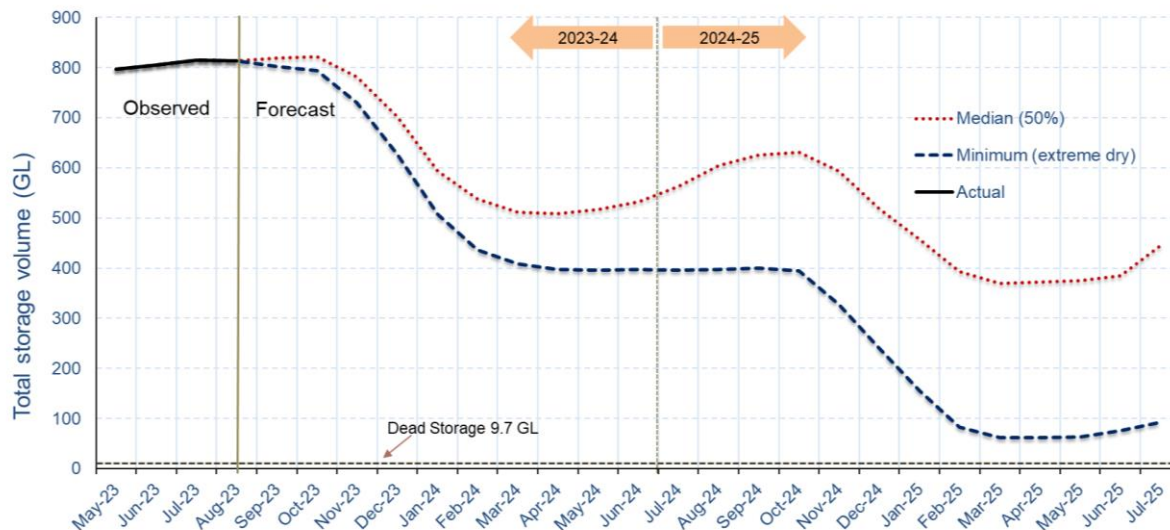


Figure 1: Combined storage volumes (Keepit + Split Rock)

## Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water 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](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

## Further information

The next routine water allocation statement for this water source will be available on **Monday 9 October 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](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

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