



5 March 2021

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There is **no increase in allocations to general security entitlement holders in the Lower Namoi for March 2021**. The total allocation to GS entitlement holders remains at 39.3% for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source have been given full allocations 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%	39.3%	 Stage 1

Storage levels (as at 5 March 2021)

- Split Rock Dam is 15.2% full – holding about 62,900 megalitres (ML).
- Keepit Dam is 40.4% full – holding about 175,800 ML.

Key facts

- During February, the catchment experienced above average rainfall, receiving approximately 50 to 200 mm.
- Inflows into the headwater storages for February were approximately 8.0 gigalitres (GL) for Split Rock Dam and 8.6 GL for Keepit Dam. This inflow helped to cover the high delivery losses in February and also secures domestic and stock replenishment flows for the next 24 months as required under the water sharing plan.
- Releases from Keepit and Split Rock dams were about 26.3 GL and 1.4 GL respectively. In February, total Essential Supply demand was about 0.9 GL, about 11.9 GL demand for Lower Namoi GS, and 0.3 GL demand for Upper Namoi GS.
- The system returned to normal operations in January and water ordering 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.

Drought stage

The Upper and Lower Namoi catchments are in Drought Stage 1; the least critical stage. Both the Upper and Lower Namoi returned to normal river operation in January and allocated water can be ordered and delivered under normal regulated river operations.

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

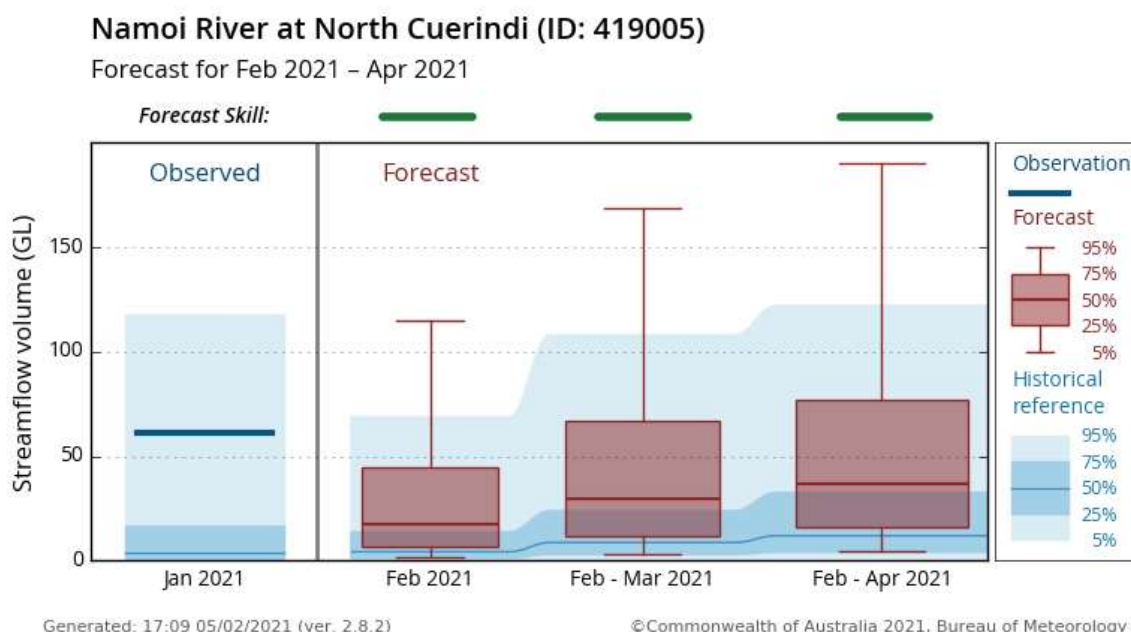
Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for March to May indicates that the catchment is likely to be wetter than average. Maximum temperatures over this period show a higher chance of being below median maximum temperatures. Minimum temperatures for this period are very likely to be above the long-term average across the catchment.

La Niña remains active in the tropical Pacific, however; it appears to have reached its peak strength. La Niña typically increases the likelihood of above average rainfall across eastern Australia during early autumn.

Details can be found at: 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 volume from February to April are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating potentially higher runoff than historical streamflow conditions for the next few months.



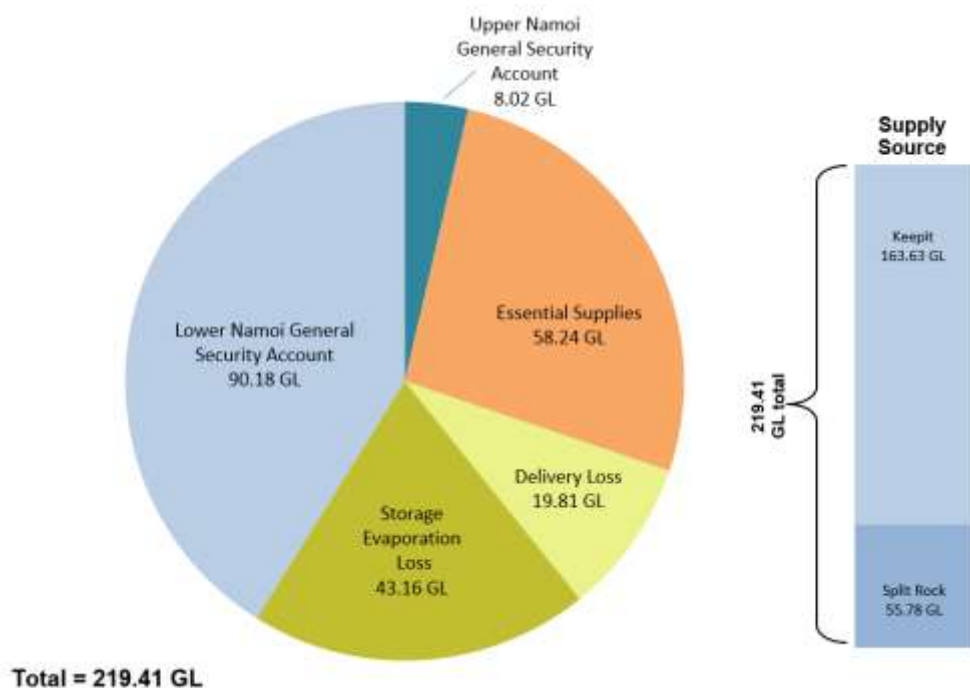
Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 March 2021)

Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	219.41
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽²⁾	43.16
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	58.24
Lower Namoi General Security Account	90.18
Upper Namoi General Security Account	8.02
Delivery Loss ⁽⁴⁾	19.81

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 has been budgeted for this river system.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Assessment data sheet as at 1 March 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	43.16	44.62	-1.46	43.16
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.24	43.17	15.07	58.24
Upper Namoi General Security (11.4 GL max)		8.02	0.00	8.02
General Security Delivery Loss	29.46	19.43	0.37	19.81
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		90.18	0.00	90.18
Additional Resource for Sharing		13.98	-13.98	0.00
Total		219.41	0.00	219.41

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

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

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Friday 9 April 2021**.

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