

7 November 2023

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There is no increase in allocation to general security licenses in the Namoi regulated river water sources this time. The total Lower Namoi general security account balance is now about 442.4 gigalitres (GL), or 181% of entitlement.

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

Inflows from the upper catchment were minor in October, with Keepit and Split Rock dams receiving inflows of 1 GL or less. Lower than median inflows could be experienced through the remainder of spring into summer, particularly as El Niño conditions are forecast to continue.

Based on the current assessment, essential supplies are secure for 24 months and beyond. This includes demands from Manilla and Barraba townships.

A bulk water transfer from Split Rock Dam to Keepit Dam may be required in January 2024.

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

Current general security allocations

7 November 2023	Allocation increment	Average Account Balance
Upper Namoi Regulated River	0%	*100%+
Lower Namoi Regulated River	0%	181%

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

Dam levels (as of 6 November 2023)

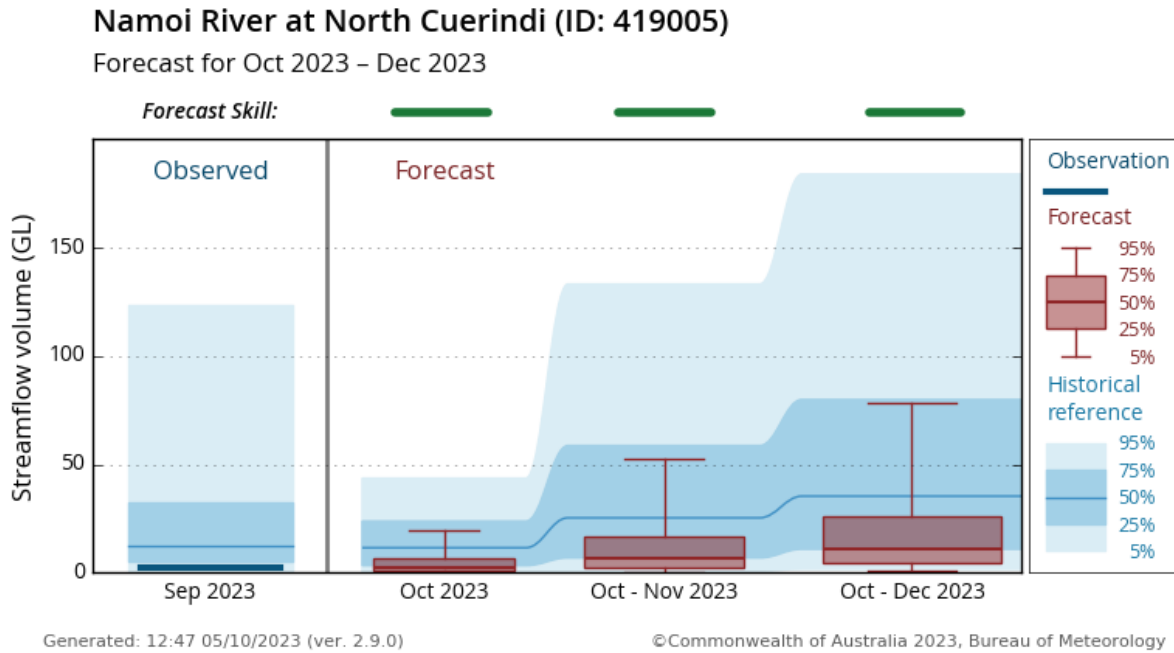
- Split Rock Dam is 98.6% full, holding around 392 GL.
- Keepit Dam is 80% full, holding around 340 GL.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November 2023 to January 2024 indicates that rainfall in the Namoi valley is likely to be below median. Over this period, maximum temperatures and minimum temperatures are very likely to be above median in the catchment.

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 (see the figure below). This may indicate potential future inflows into Keepit Dam. All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from October to December are well below the historical quantile references, indicating likely lower inflows than historical conditions. The graph for October to December is given below, and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005



Resource assessment data sheet

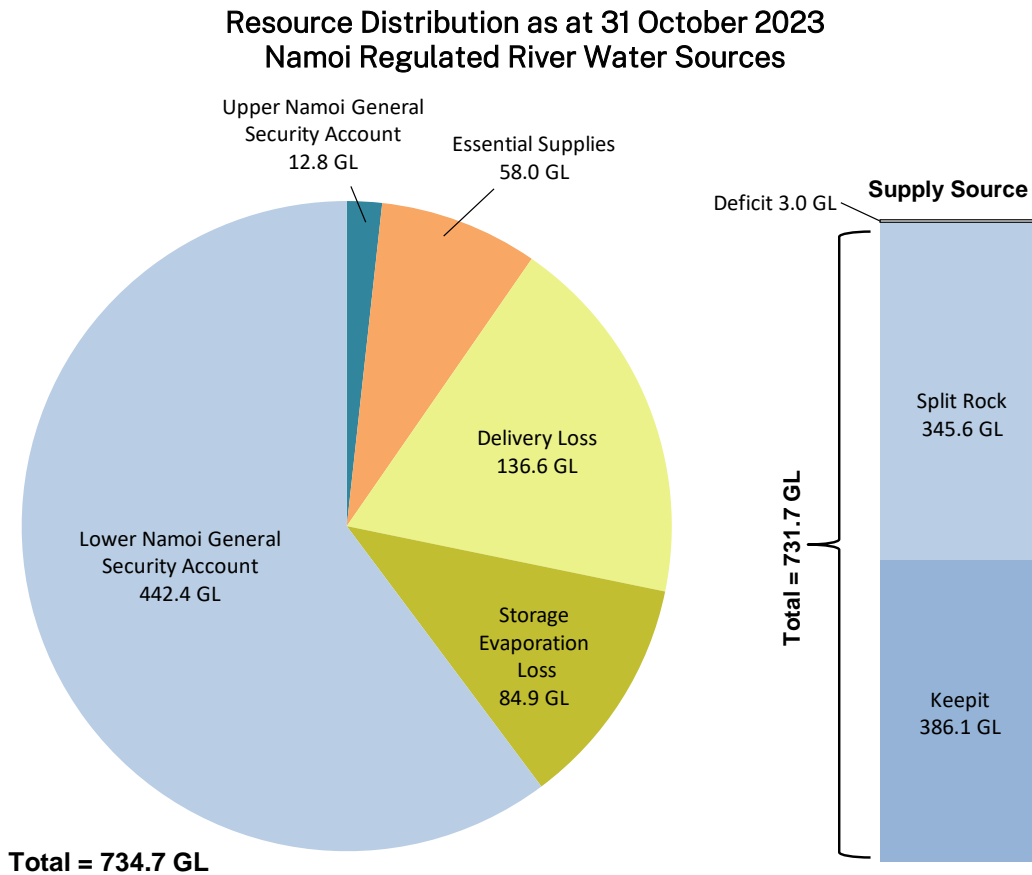
Resource distribution (as at 31 October 2023)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	731.7
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	84.9
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.0
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	442.4
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	12.8
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	136.6
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	(3.0)

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. The full reserve is 58.2 GL, of which 0.2 GL is used. This will be topped up first at the next opportunity. 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 resource deficit in is General Security delivery loss budget. This will be closely monitored.



Namoi resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 30 September 2023
- Current Assessment date: 31 October 2023

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Split Rock plus Keepit		741.4
Dead storage	9.7	731.7
Storage evaporation loss	87.1	644.6
Essential Supplies		
Brought forward from last assessment	58.2	

Uses and associated loss since last assessment	-0.2	
Allocation assignment from High Security to General Security	0.0	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss	0.0	
Current balance	58.0	586.6
Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers		
Brought forward from last assessment	13.0	
Ordered since last assessment	-0.3	
Allocation assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	0.0	
Allocation Assignments from Lower Namoi to Upper Namoi	0.1	
Current balance	12.8	573.8
General Security (D/S Keepit)		
Brought forward from last assessment	470.0	
Orders since assessment period	-27.5	
Allocation assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS)	0.0	
Allocation assignments to Upper Namoi (from Lower Namoi g/s)	-0.1	
Current balance	442.4	131.4
Delivery Loss		
Brought forward from last assessment	144.9	
Apparent losses since last assessment	-6.7	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for allocation assignments to GS)	0.0	
Current balance	136.6	-5.2

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		6.7
Essential supply loss	1%	0.0
General Security loss	99%	6.7
Resource available for sharing		
Total		-5.2

Resource assessment data sheet as at 31 October 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	84.9	87.1	-2.2	84.9

Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.2	58.0	0.0	58.0
General Security Delivery Loss	136.6	136.6	-3.0	133.6
Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)*		12.8	0.0	12.8
Lower Namoi General Security (489.5 GL max)*		442.4	0.0	442.4
Additional Resource for Sharing		-5.2	5.2	0.0
Total		731.7	0.0	731.7

*Temporary trade may exceed this limit.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.0	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0	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%*
9-Oct	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	192%

* 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 April 2025 then begin to recover.

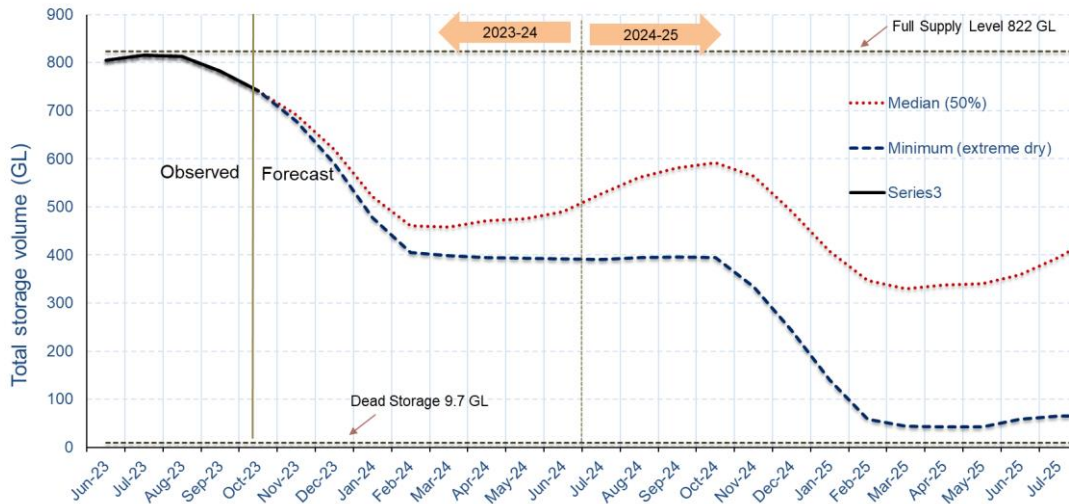


Figure: Combined storage volumes (Keepit + Split Rock dams)

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: water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/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 **Thursday 7 December 2023**.

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

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