

7 June 2023

# Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

## Water allocation update

There has been enough resource improvement in the Lower Namoi regulated river water source in May to allow an allocation increase of 11% to general security (GS) entitlement.

The total Lower Namoi general security account balance is now 484 gigalitres (GL) or about 198% of entitlement on average, just short of the maximum allowable of 200%. 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 May 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%	78%
Lower Namoi Regulated River	218%	198%

## Dam levels (as of 6 June 2023)

- Split Rock Dam is about 100% full, holding around 397 GL.
- Keepit Dam is about 94% full, holding around 400 GL.

## Key information

- Inflows from the upper catchment continued in May, with Keepit and Split Rock dams receiving 8.9 GL and 2.6 GL respectively.
- Supplementary access usage has been very low, about 25 GL or 22% of the total volume allocated to supplementary entitlement so far this 2022/23 water year.
- Based on the current assessment, essential supplies are secure for 24 months and beyond. This includes demands from Manilla and Barraba townships.

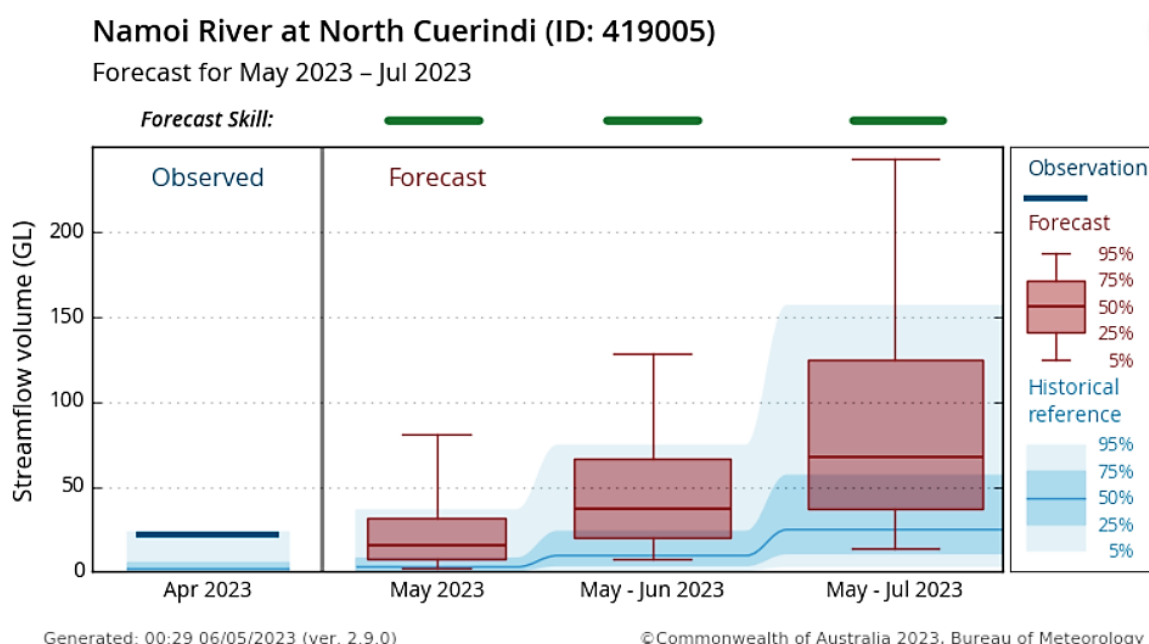
## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for June to August 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. There is no clear indication of cooler than

median or warmer than median conditions for minimum temperatures for some parts of the catchment, with other parts possibly experiencing cooler than median conditions.

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. All forecast quartiles of total flow volume from May to July are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating flows to July are likely be higher than the historical flows. The graph for May to July 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 outlook for 2023/24

- Water for all critical needs is secure for the 2023/24 water year.
- **Local water utility, domestic and stock and high security** water access licences can expect to receive maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July for the 2023/24 water year.
- **General security** entitlement holders in the **Upper Namoi** should receive maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July as the forecast volume of Split Rock Dam is above 10% full.
- Water remaining in **Upper Namoi general security** accounts will be carried forward into the new water year up to a limit of 0.5 megalitres (ML)/unit share. However, given the account limit of 1ML/share, and an impending allocation of 100% (1ML/share), carryover will be forfeited.
- Water held in the **Lower Namoi general security** accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward into the new water year. The maximum volume that may be held in a water account at any time is 2 ML/unit share.
- Lower Namoi **general security** users can expect full access to their carried over water, but no opening allocation will be announced on 1 July 2023. Instead, the usual monthly resource assessment will continue, commencing in Friday 7 July 2023, and any new allocation will be announced in the routine allocation statements throughout 2023/24.

- **Supplementary access** entitlement holders are advised of a likely significant reduction in opening allocations to manage growth-in-use, in accordance with the water sharing plan. The opening allocation for supplementary access licenses is expected to be 36% of entitlement. The expected creation of floodplain harvesting licences during 2023/24 will offset some of that growth, meaning allocations for supplementary access license holders may then be increased.

Water users are reminded to check their license account limits and the carryover provisions, noting the risk of forfeiture of water from some accounts at the end of the water year.

Water users are advised that outlooks are indicative only, may change, and should be used with caution. They aim to guide water users in their end of year management decisions.

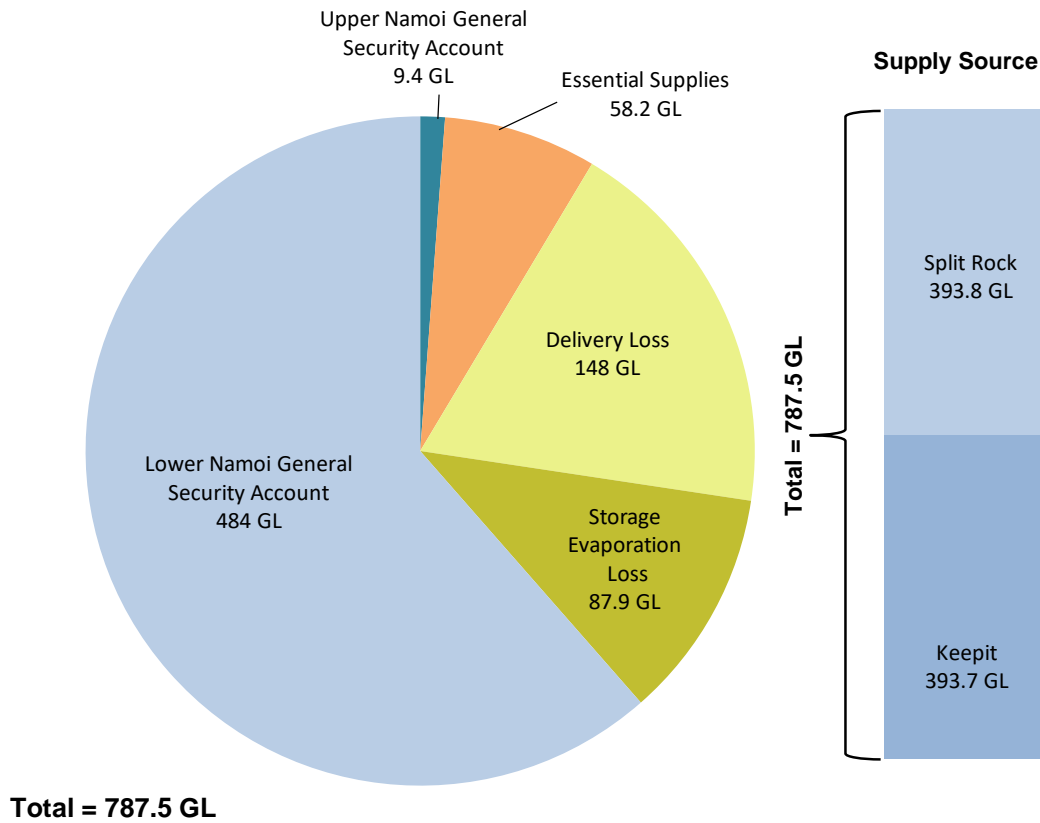
## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as at 31 May 2023)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	787.5
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss <sup>(1)</sup>	87.9
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	58.2
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	484.0
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	9.4
Delivery Loss <sup>(3)</sup>	148.0
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) <sup>(4)</sup>	0.0

### 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) Surplus or deficit: 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 May 2023  
Namoi Regulated River Water Sources**



**Namoi resource assessment**

- Previous Assessment date: 30 April 2023
- Current Assessment date: 31 May 2023

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Split Rock plus Keepit		797.2
Dead storage	9.7	787.5
Storage evaporation loss	88.5	699.0
<b>Essential Supplies</b>		
Brought forward from last assessment	58.2	
Uses and associated loss since last assessment	-0.4	
Allocation assignment from High Security to General Security	-1.2	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss	-0.4	

Current balance	56.2	642.8
<b>Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers</b>		
Brought forward from last assessment	10.7	
Ordered since last assessment	-0.2	
Allocation assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-1.2	
Current balance	9.4	633.4
<b>General Security (D/S Keepit)</b>		
Brought forward from last assessment	491.9	
Orders since assessment period	-22.1	
Allocation assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)	2.4	
Current balance	472.3	161.1
<b>Delivery Loss</b>		
Brought forward from last assessment	150.8	
Apparent losses since last assessment	0.0	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for allocation assignments to GS)	0.4	
Current balance	144.5	16.6
<b>Apparent Losses since last assessment</b>		
	<b>% of loss</b>	<b>GL</b>
Total		0.0
Essential supply loss	2%	0.0
General Security loss	98%	0.0
<b>Resource available for sharing</b>		
Total		16.6

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

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	87.9	88.5	-0.6	87.9
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.2	56.2	2.0	58.2
General Security Delivery Loss	148.0	144.5	3.5	148.0
Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)*		9.4	0.0	9.4
Lower Namoi General Security (492 GL max)*		472.3	11.7	484.0
Additional Resource for Sharing		16.6	-16.6	0.0

Total 787.5 0.0 787.5

\*Temporary trade may exceed this limit.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	11.7	GL
Available Water Determination	0.11	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.

### 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
05-May	General Security	0.64 ML/unit share	2.07 ML/unit share
07-June	General Security	0.11 ML /unit share	2.18 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](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

## Further information

The next water allocation information for this water source will be included in the state-wide opening allocation statement on 1 July 2023, then the routine statements for this water source will resume next water-year, commencing on **Friday 7 July 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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