

7 July 2023

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There has been enough resource improvement in the Lower Namoi regulated river water source in June to allow an allocation increase of 15% to general security entitlement.

The total Lower Namoi general security account balance is now 486.8 gegalitres (GL) or about 199% 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 maximum allocation for the current water year.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 June 2023. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocations and average account balance

2023/24	Cumulative GS Allocation	Average GS Account Balance
Upper Namoi Regulated River	100%	100%*
Lower Namoi Regulated River	15%	199%

*Maximum allowable

Dam levels (as of 5 July 2023)

- Split Rock Dam is about 100% full, holding around 398 GL.
- Keepit Dam is about 96% full, holding around 409 GL.

Key information

- All higher priority water users received their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2023.
- General security licence holders on the Upper Namoi regulated river received their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2023.
- The unused water held in Lower Namoi general security accounts, about 477 megalitres (ML), has been carried forward in full for 2023/24 water year.
- Supplementary licence holders have received a reduced allocation of 0.36 ML/unit share due to the required implementation of growth-in-use measures.
- Inflows from the upper catchment continued in June, with Keepit and Split Rock Dams receiving 11.4 GL and 1.7 GL respectively.
- Based on the current assessment, essential supplies are secure for 24 months and beyond. This includes demands from Manilla and Barraba townships.

Summary of last water year (2022/23)

Last year (2022/23) continued with generally wet conditions. Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam remained, on average, above 90% full. General security entitlements on the Lower Namoi started 2022/23 with a total of 429 GL and no new allocation in July 2022. The allocation increment commenced in September 2022 at 0.05 ML/unit share and another seven increments followed. The total closing balance for Lower Namoi general security licenses was 477 GL or an average 195% of entitlement.

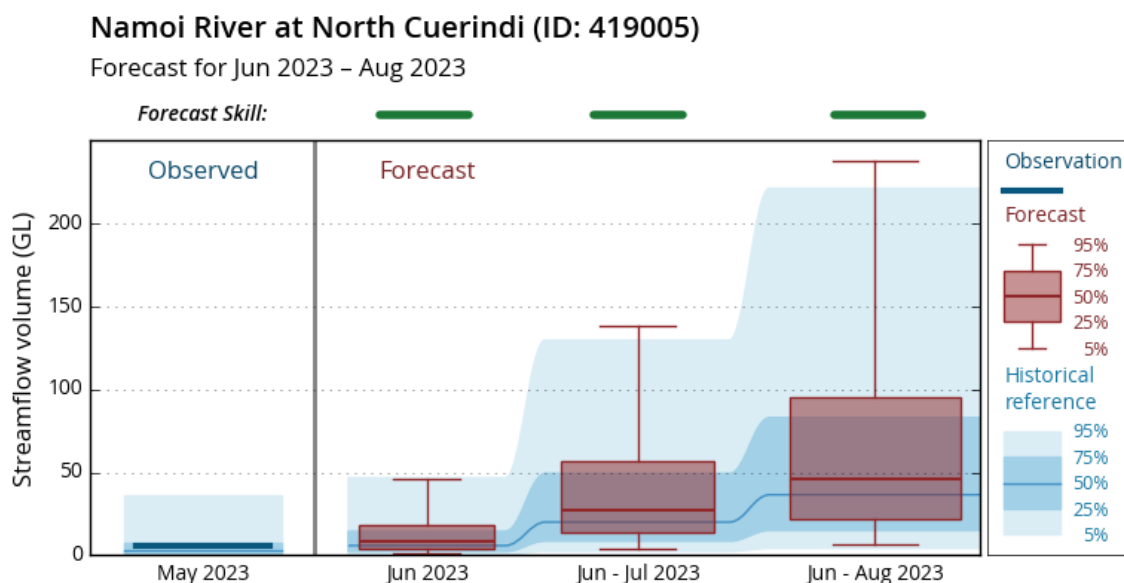
The Bureau of Meteorology declared an end to La Nina event in the first quarter of 2023, and the ENSO status is now El Niño alert indicating a likely shift away from wet conditions.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for July to September 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

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 June to August are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating flows to August are likely be higher than the historical flows. This suggests that after the prolonged wet period, flow recessions may persist despite reduced rainfall. The graph for June to August is given below and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005



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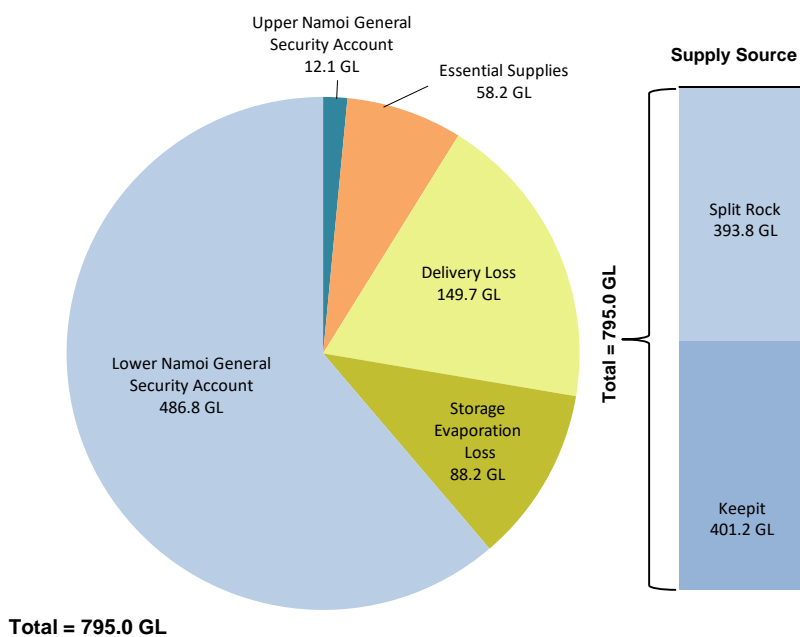
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as at 30 June 2023)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	795.0
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	88.2
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.2
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	486.8
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	12.1
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	149.7
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	0.0

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. 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: 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 30 June 2023
Namoi Regulated River Water Sources**



Namoi resource assessment

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

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Split Rock plus Keepit		804.7
Dead storage	9.7	795.0
Storage evaporation loss	87.9	707.2
Essential Supplies		
Brought forward from last assessment	58.2	
Uses and associated loss since last assessment	-1.7	
Allocation assignment from High Security to General Security	-1.7	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss	-0.5	
Current balance	54.3	652.9
Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers		
Brought forward from last assessment	9.4	
Ordered since last assessment	-0.1	
Allocation assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-5.7	
Current balance	3.6	649.3
General Security (D/S Keepit)		
Brought forward from last assessment	484.0	
Orders since assessment period	-14.2	
Allocation assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)	7.3	
Current balance	477.2	172.1
Delivery Loss		
Brought forward from last assessment	148.0	
Apparent losses since last assessment	0.0	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for allocation assignments to GS)	0.5	
Current balance	144.2	27.9
Apparent Losses since last assessment		
	% of loss	GL
Total		0.0
Essential supply loss	11%	0.0

General Security loss	89%	0.0
Resource available for sharing		
Total		27.9

Resource assessment data sheet as at 30 June 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	88.2	87.9	0.4	88.2
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.2	54.3	3.9	58.2
General Security Delivery Loss	149.7	144.2	5.4	149.7
Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)*		3.6	8.5	12.1
Lower Namoi General Security (492 GL max)*		477.2	9.7	486.8
Additional Resource for Sharing		27.9	-27.9	0.0
Total		795.0	0.0	795.0

*Temporary trade may exceed this limit.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	9.7	GL
Available Water Determination	0.15	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	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	0.36 ML/unit share	0.36 ML/share
7-Jul	General Security	0.15 ML/unit share	0.15 ML/unit share

* Maximum allowable.

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

Further information

The next routine water allocation statement for this water source will be available on **Monday 7 August 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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