

7 March 2023

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There has been enough resource improvement in the Lower Namoi water source in February to allow an allocation increase of 27% to general security entitlement.

The total Lower Namoi general security account balance is now 455.3 gegalitres (GL) or about 186% on average. 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 28 February 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%	98%
Lower Namoi Regulated River	113%	186%

Dam levels (as of 6 March 2023)

- Split Rock Dam is about 99% full, falling slowly, holding around 395 GL.
- Keepit Dam is about 84% full – holding around 356 GL.

Key information

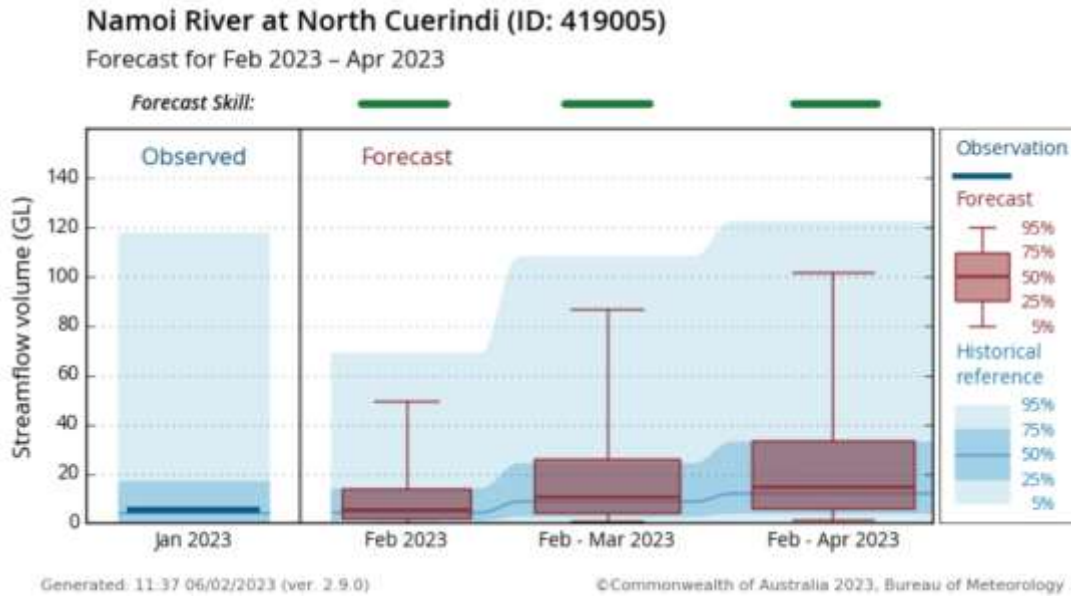
- During February, the Namoi catchment experienced below average to average rainfall.
- Inflows from the upper catchment continued in February, with Keepit and Split Rock Dams receiving 4.3 GL and 2.3 GL respectively.
- Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam release was 34 GL and 0.96 GL respectively in February.
- Based on the current assessment, essential supplies are secure for 24 months and beyond. This includes demands from Manilla and Barraba townships.
- Climatic and streamflow information (below) indicates possible drying conditions.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for March to May indicates that rainfall in the Namoi valley is likely to be below median. Over this period, maximum 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. This may indicate potential future inflows into Keepit Dam. Median total streamflow volumes from February to April are slightly higher than the historical median references. The graph to April is given below and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005



Resource assessment data sheet

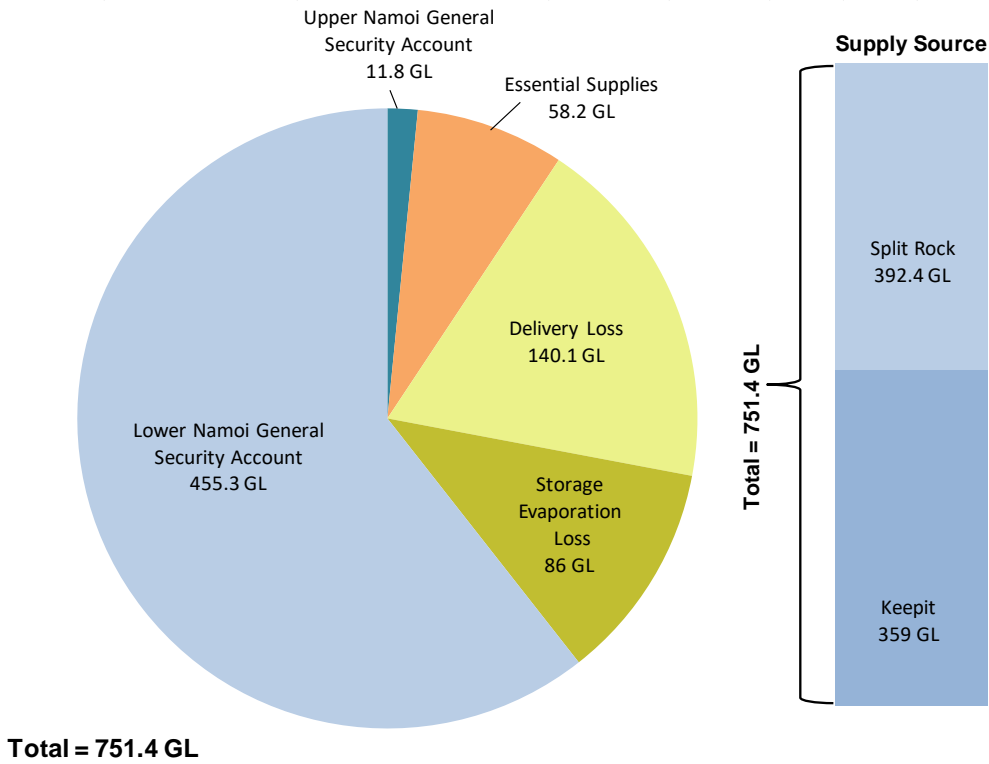
Resource distribution (as at 28 February 2023)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	751.4
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	86.0
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.2
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	455.3
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	11.8
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	140.1
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	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) 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 28 February 2023
Namoi Regulated River Water Sources**



Resource assessment data sheet as at 28 February 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	85.98	87.62	-1.64	85.98
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.24	57.74	0.50	58.24
General Security Delivery Loss	140.13	126.01	14.12	140.13
Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)*		11.80	0.00	11.80
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)*		408.23	47.07	455.30
Additional Resource for Sharing		60.06	-60.06	0.00
Total		751.45	0.00	751.45

*Temporary trade may exceed this limit.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	47.07	GL
Available Water Determination	0.27	ML per unit share

Upper Namoi water allocation history for 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
1-Jul	General Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*	100%*

* Maximum allowable.

Lower Namoi water allocation history for 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Cumulative Allocation	Av. Account Balance
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*	

Date	License Category	Increment	Cumulative Allocation	Av. Account Balance
7-Sep	General Security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.05 ML/unit share	178%
10-Oct	General Security	0.35 ML/unit share	0.40 ML/unit share	195%^
7-Dec	General Security	0.30 ML/unit share	0.70 ML/unit share	~200% [*]
12-Jan	General Security	0.16 ML/unit share	0.86 ML/unit share	~200% [*]
07-Mar	General Security	0.27 ML/unit share	1.13 ML/unit share	~186%^

* Maximum allowable.

^ Approximate average account balance.

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

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Thursday 6 April 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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