

7 October 2020



Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

Resource improvements and drought recovery continue in the Namoi regulated river water source. The small resource improvement from the latest assessment has been allocated as follows:

- **General security allocation to increase by 0.014 megalitres (ML) per unit share in the Lower Namoi**, for a cumulative allocation of 5.6 per cent for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source remain unchanged.

| 2020-21 | High Security | General Security | Drought Stage |
|--|---------------|------------------|---|
| Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Source | 100% | 50% |  Stage 2 |
| Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source | 100% | 5.6% |  Stage 3 |

The Namoi valley experienced below average to average rainfall during September, receiving between 10 to 50 mm of rain. Inflow into the headwater storages during this period was approximately 0.39 gegalitre (GL) for Split Rock Dam and 6.41 GL for Keepit Dam. There was an overall decreased in storage volume in Split Rock Dam of 0.38 GL in September and an increase at Keepit Dam of 5.2 GL. Downstream tributary inflows contributed approximately 3.98 GL.

Storage levels (as at 6 October 2020)

- Split Rock Dam is 4.8 per cent full – increasing – holding about 22.1 GL
- Keepit Dam is 25.8 per cent full – steady – holding about 114.8 GL

Key facts

- Minor resource improvement, mainly in Keepit Dam, during September.
- Critical requirements for Manilla and Barraba townships are secure for the next 24 months based on assumed minimum future inflows to Split Rock Dam.
- Split Rock storage remains low and offers limited resilience if conditions again turn very dry.
- General security deliveries in Lower Namoi to be carried out in a single block release to reduce transmission delivery losses.
- Pian replenishment for this season has been fully met from tributary inflows.
- The system continues to recover from severe drought conditions. It is being managed to build reserves in headwater storages, with tributary flows meeting current orders where possible.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances. Since February 2020, both Split Rock and Keepit storage volumes have been slowly recovering. Critical requirements are now secure and there is improved river connectivity. Drought Stage criticality for both the Upper and Lower Namoi systems remain unchanged at Stage 2 and Stage 3 respectively but are being closely monitored.

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

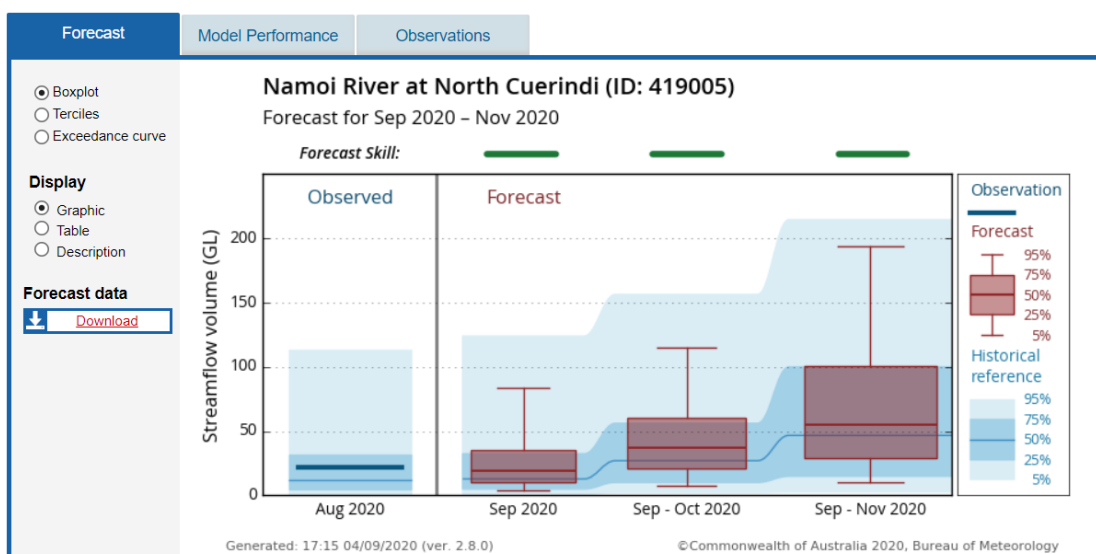
Seasonal Climate and Streamflow Outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for October to December indicates a wetter than average three-month period for most of Australia. The outlook indicates warmer than average days over most parts of central and south-east Australia for the remainder of the year. Nights are very likely to be warmer than average for most of Australia for the remainder of 2020.

The Bureau of Meteorology's ENSO outlook is now at La Niña, favouring a wetter future. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) index is currently within negative IOD thresholds. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is currently negative but is expected to increase to weakly positive values in the coming week. Positive SAM during spring is typically associated with wetter and cooler than average conditions in parts of eastern Australia.

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the unregulated Namoi River at North Cuerindi. This may provide an indication of potential inflows into Keepit Dam (see the chart below). The forecast total median flow from September to November is slightly higher than the historical median flow, indicating potential wetter than normal inflow conditions for the next few months.

Details can be found in: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/>

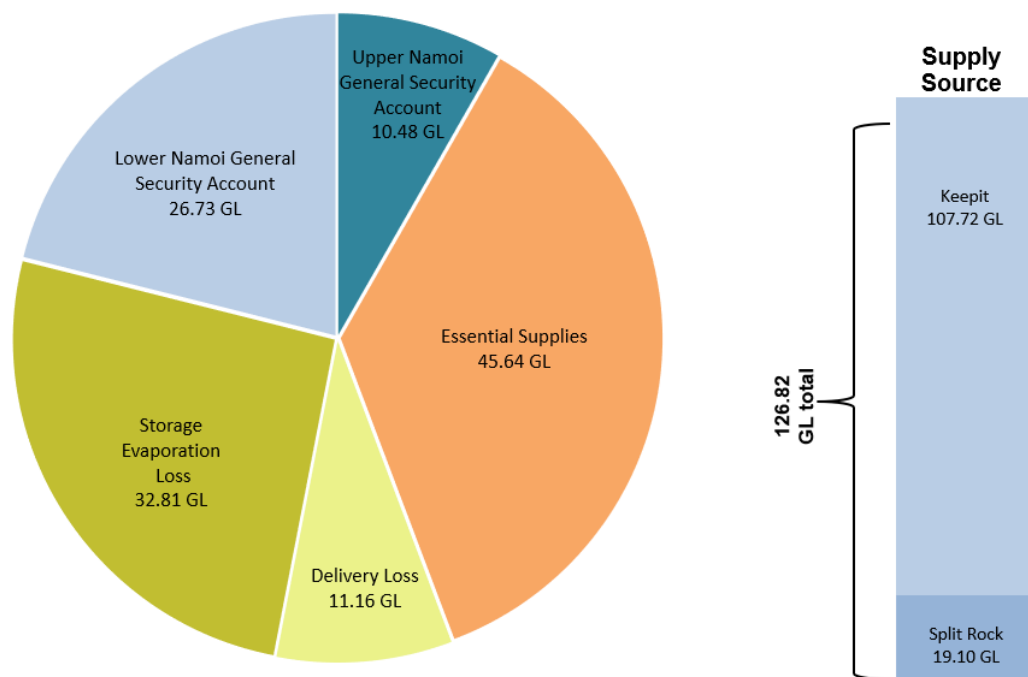


Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 30 September 2020)

| | |
|---|--------|
| Available Resource ⁽¹⁾ | 126.82 |
| <i>less</i> | |
| Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽²⁾ | 32.81 |
| Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾ | 45.64 |
| Lower Namoi General Security Account | 26.73 |
| Upper Namoi General Security Account | 10.48 |
| Peel Trade Account ⁽⁴⁾ | 0.00 |
| Delivery Loss ⁽⁵⁾ | 11.16 |

See notes below.



Total = 126.82 GL

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. Peel Trade Account: A temporary trade trial was in place between the Peel catchment to the Lower Namoi catchment. This temporary trial ended on 1 July 2020. However, the Inter-valley share component trade account is still in place for permanent trade between the Peel catchment and the Lower Namoi catchment. For further information see Clause 32 of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010*.
5. Delivery Loss: This account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss is being budgeted for this river system.

Resource Assessment data sheet as at 30 September 2020

| Volumes in GL | Budget | Current | Additional | Balance |
|---|--------|---------|------------|---------|
| Storage Evaporation Loss | 32.82 | 32.25 | 0.56 | 32.81 |
| Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max) | 45.64 | 45.64 | 0.00 | 45.64 |
| Upper Namoi General Security (11.4 GL max) | | 10.48 | 0.00 | 10.48 |
| General Security Delivery Loss | 11.16 | 9.87 | 1.29 | 11.16 |
| Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max) | | 23.23 | 3.50 | 26.73 |
| Additional Resource for Sharing | | 5.35 | -5.35 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 126.82 | 0.00 | 126.82 |

| Upper Namoi (General Security) | Value | Unit |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Incremental Increase CREDITED | 0.000 | GL |
| Available Water Determination | 0.000 | ML per unit share |

| Lower Namoi (General Security) | Value | Unit |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Incremental Increase CREDITED | 3.500 | GL |
| Available Water Determination | 0.014 | ML per unit share |

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on Friday 6 November 2020.