

5 May 2023

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There has been enough resource improvement in the Lower Namoi regulated river water source in April to allow an allocation increase of 64% to general security (GS) entitlement.

The total Lower Namoi general security account balance is now 492.9 GL or about 200% of entitlement, which is the account limit. 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 30 April 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%	91%
Lower Namoi Regulated River	207%	200%*

* Maximum allowable is 200%.

Dam levels (as of 3 May 2023)

- Split Rock Dam is about 100% full, holding around 398 gigalitres (GL).
- Keepit Dam is about 97% full, holding around 412 GL.

Key information

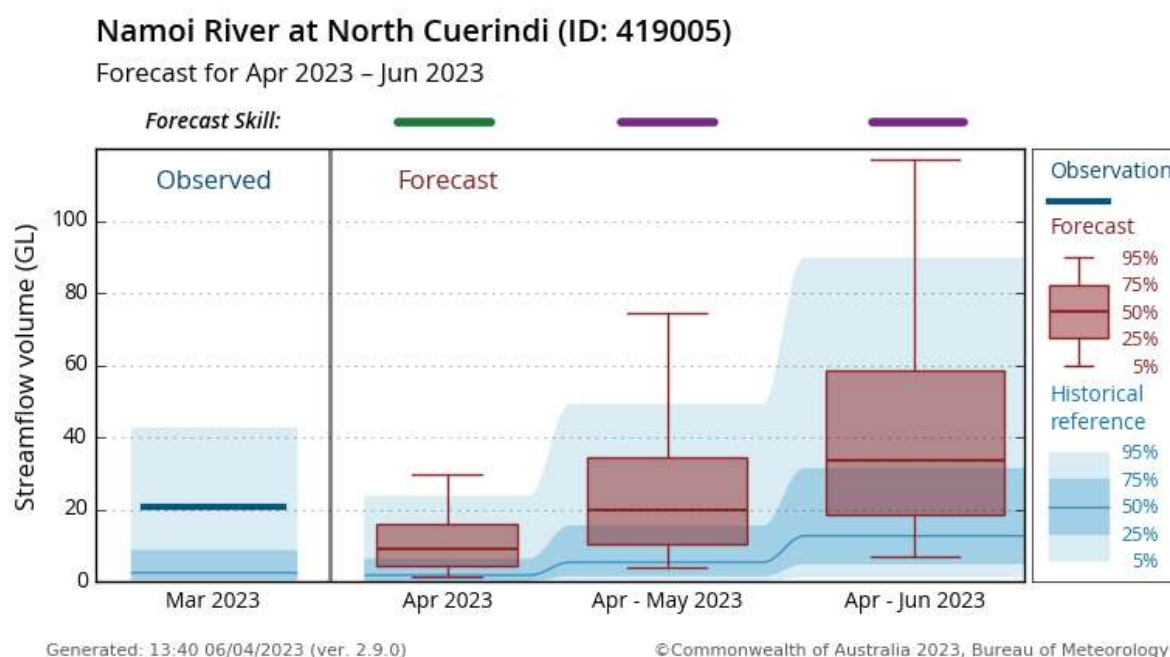
- Inflows from the upper catchment continued in April, with Keepit and Split Rock dams receiving 47 GL and 6.1 GL respectively.
- Supplementary access usage has been very low, about 25 GL or 22% of the total volume allocated to supplementary entitlement so far this 2022/23 water year.
- Based on the 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 May to July 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

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 April to June are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating flows to June are likely be higher than the historical flows. The graph for April to June is given below and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005



Indicative outlook for opening allocations 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 will likely receive full (100%) allocations on 1 July for the 2023/24 water year.
- **General security** entitlement holders in the **Upper Namoi** should receive full (100%) allocations on 1 July as the forecast volume of Split Rock Dam is above 10% full.
- Water remaining in the **Upper Namoi general security** account may be carried over from one water year to the next, up to a limit of 0.5 megalitres (ML)/unit share and the maximum volume that may be held at any time is 1 ML/unit share.
- 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 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 early July and any new allocation will be announced in the routine allocation statements throughout 2023/24.
- Allocation to **supplementary access** licences on 1 July in the Lower Namoi will depend on the proposed creation of Floodplain Harvesting access licences in this water source.

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.

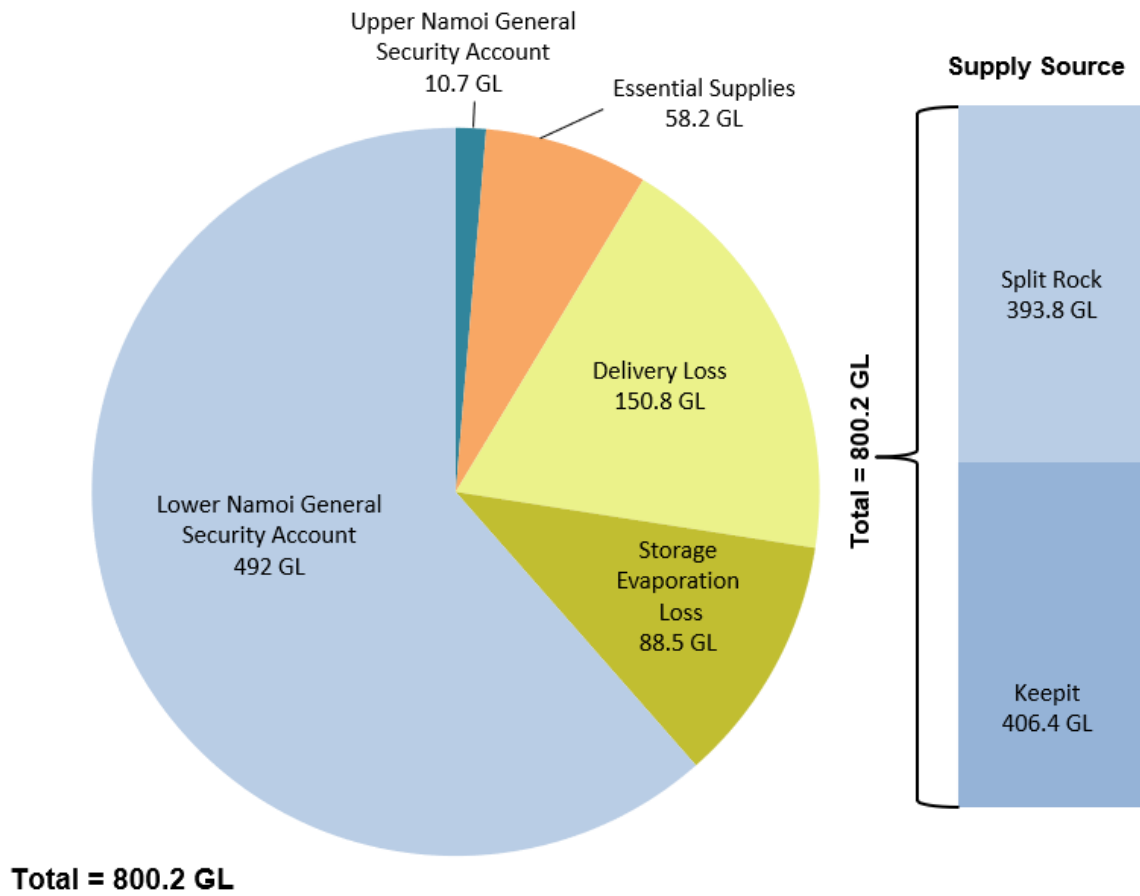
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as at 30 April 2023)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	800.2
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	88.5
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.2
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	492.0
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	10.7
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	150.8
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	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 30 April 2023 Namoi Regulated River Water Sources



Namoi resource assessment

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

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Split Rock plus Keepit		809.9
Dead storage	9.7	800.2
Storage evaporation loss	86.7	713.5
Essential Supplies		
Brought forward from last assessment	58.2	
Uses and associated loss since last assessment	-0.6	
Allocation assignment from High Security to General Security	0.0	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss	0.0	
Current balance	57.6	655.9
Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers		
Brought forward from last assessment	11.3	
Ordered since last assessment	0.0	
Allocation assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-0.6	
Current balance	10.7	645.2
General Security (D/S Keepit)		
Brought forward from last assessment	465.1	
Orders since assessment period	-20.5	
Allocation assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)	0.6	
Current balance	445.2	200.1
Delivery Loss		
Brought forward from last assessment	142.9	
Apparent losses since last assessment	0.0	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for allocation assignments to GS)	0.0	
Current balance	136.8	63.3
Apparent Losses since last assessment		
Total		0.0
Essential supply loss	3%	0.0

General Security loss	97%	0.0
Resource available for sharing		
Total		63.3

Resource assessment data sheet as at 30 April 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	88.5	86.7	1.8	88.5
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.2	57.6	0.6	58.2
General Security Delivery Loss	150.8	136.8	14.0	150.8
Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)*		10.7	0.0	10.7
Lower Namoi General Security (492 GL max)*		445.2	46.8	491.9
Additional Resource for Sharing		63.3	-63.3	0.0
Total		800.2	0	800.2

*Temporary trade may exceed this limit.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	46.8	GL
Available Water Determination	0.64	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*

Date	License Category	Increment	Cumulative Allocation
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

* 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

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Namoi Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Wednesday 7 June 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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