



11 January 2019

Namoi Valley

Water allocation update

Lower Namoi general security allocation **remains unchanged**.

Isolated showers in December resulted in 70mm of rain being recorded at Split Rock Dam and just 4mm at Keepit Dam; however, there was no improvement in available water resources. The current resource shortfall, some 81 gigalitres (GL), must be met before regulated river operations can resume.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Upper Namoi Valley	100%	100%	 Stage 3
Lower Namoi Valley	100%	0%	 Stage 3

Dam levels (as at 11 January)

- Keepit Dam is below 1 per cent full – steady – holding 8,652 megalitres (ML).
- Split Rock Dam is below 5 per cent full – falling – holding 21,025 ML.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduces a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, both Lower and Upper Namoi water sources are assessed to be in Stage 3, due to drought contingency operations and limited future supplies. Further operational measures will be employed to extend longevity of critical water supplies.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Key facts

- From October to December, 34.5 GL was transferred from Split Rock to Keepit Dam.
- Sufficient water has been retained behind Split Rock Dam to meet high priority commitments in 2019/20.
- Keepit Dam is effectively empty. Summer deliveries have ceased.
- The Namoi Valley has entered the lowest inflow (worst drought) since 1918, and there is no indication of relief at this stage. The last general security allocation in the Lower Namoi was in August 2017. Net reservoir inflows since then to the end of December 2018 were just 34 GL, compared with the minimum from August 1918 to December 1919 of 55 GL.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for January to March indicates drier conditions for the lower parts of the catchment, with upper parts showing neither drier nor wetter conditions. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño ALERT and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event, which was present late in 2018, has ended. Ocean surface temperatures have reduced to neutral ENSO levels but remain above average. Atmospheric ENSO indicators continue to remain neutral.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Namoi regulated river will be available early February 2019.

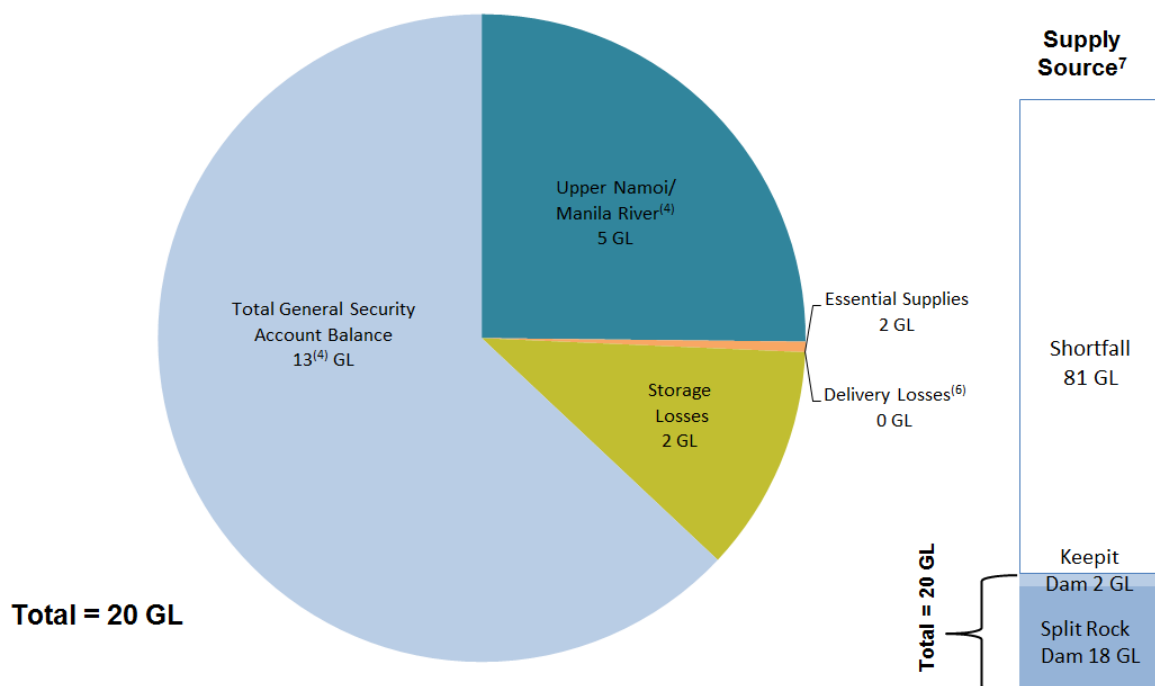
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 December 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	20.24
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	2.29
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	0.00
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	12.75
Upper Namoi/Manilla River accounts ⁽⁴⁾	5.20
Peel Trade Account ⁽⁵⁾	0.00
Delivery Loss Account ⁽⁶⁾	0.00

See notes below.

Namoi Valley Resource Distribution (as at 31 December 2018)



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource: includes total active storage (Split Rock & Keepit Dams).
- (2) Storage Losses: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and maximum historical evaporation rates over 2 years. The current shortfall is 17.56GL.
- (3) Essential Supplies: water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for Towns, Stock & Domestic, 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. The current shortfall is 58.24GL.

- (4) Held Environmental Water (HEW): water administered by environmental water holders is reported here. Associated portions of general security allocation are normally identified in the above pie chart. However, in this assessment, the environmental water portion of Lower Namoi general security allocation is zero in the account. Thus it is not shown in the pie chart. Currently, all general security account water is held by the irrigators. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only and, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, estimated to be about 0.0 GL of GS in the Lower Namoi and 0.11 GL of GS in the Upper Namoi. No HS entitlement is held. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) Peel Trade Account: the Peel water sharing plan, at Clause 86(4), provides for limited allocation assignment from the Peel to the Namoi valleys. It requires a volume to be set aside in Keepit Dam equal to the AWD times 3,000 (maximum of 6,000 ML), for trade from the Peel valley. The current account balance is zero (0) GL meaning all available trade water has been delivered.
- (6) This account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water (delivery losses). Zero balance means that water must be borrowed to continue the delivery of general security water, in accordance with prior practice. The payback of any borrow will occur before further general security allocation increase. The current shortfall is 5.38GL.
- (7) Supply Distribution: the distribution of supply includes active volumes in the dams at the time of the assessment, and it is also include any estimated shortfall in meeting the full account limits. High transmission losses create account shortfalls in very dry years. It is estimated that 81 GL of inflow is needed to overcome the shortfall, including evaporation losses, prior to next GS allocation increment.

Resource Assessment as at 31 December 2018

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	19.85	3.41	-1.12	2.29
Essential Supplies	58.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
Upper Namoi / Manilla River (11.3 GL max)		5.20	0.00	5.20
Delivery Loss	5.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
LN General Security (491.8 GL max)		12.75	0.00	12.75
Peel Trade Account		0.00	0.00	0.00
Additional Resource for Sharing		-1.13	1.13	0.00
Total		20.23	0.01	20.24

Upper Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share