

7 May 2024

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There is no increase to allocation for General security (GS) licenses in the Namoi regulated river water sources at this time. The total Lower Namoi general security account balance is approximately 305 gigalitres (GL), or 124% of entitlement.

All other licence categories in the Upper and Lower Namoi regulated river water sources received their maximum allocation for the current water year apart from supplementary water access licence holders, who received a 36% allocation due to growth-in-use measures.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 April 2024. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

GS allocation 2023/24

7 May 2024	Allocation increment	Average Account Balance
Upper Namoi Regulated River	0%*	65%+
Lower Namoi Regulated River	0%	124%

* Fully allocated (100%) on 1 July. +Account Balance excludes adjustments for temporary trade.

Dam levels (as of 6 May 2024)

- Split Rock Dam is 95.7% full, holding around 380.2 GL.
- Keepit Dam is 38.2% full, holding around 166.5 GL.

Key information

- In April, the Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam inflows were about 8.3 GL and 2.7 GL.
- Depending on inflows in coming months, a bulk water transfer from Split Rock Dam to Keepit Dam may not be required before November 2024.
- General security usage for April was about 0.25 GL for the Lower Namoi river water source.
- Based on the current assessment, essential supplies are secure for 24 months and beyond. This includes demands from Manilla and Barraba townships.

Resource outlook for 2024/25

- Water for all critical needs is secure for the 2024/25 water year.
- **Local water utility, domestic and stock** and **high security** water access licences can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July for the 2024/25 water year.
- **General security** entitlement holders in the **Upper Namoi** can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July as the forecast volume of Split Rock Dam is well above the 10% full threshold.
- Water remaining in the **Upper Namoi general security** account will be carried over into the new water year, up to a limit of 0.5 megalitres (ML)/unit share. However, 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 the account balance 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 2024. Instead, the usual monthly resource assessments will continue, commencing in early July and any new allocation will be announced in the routine allocation statements throughout 2024/25.
- **Supplementary** access entitlement holders are advised of the expected need to continue growth-in-use management actions. The opening allocation for supplementary access licenses on 1 July 2024 is therefore likely to be similar to last year's opening announcement.

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.

Climate and Streamflow Outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for May 2024 to July 2024 indicates that rainfall in the Namoi valley is likely to be below median. It also shows that over this period, maximum temperatures and minimum temperatures are likely to be above median in the catchment.

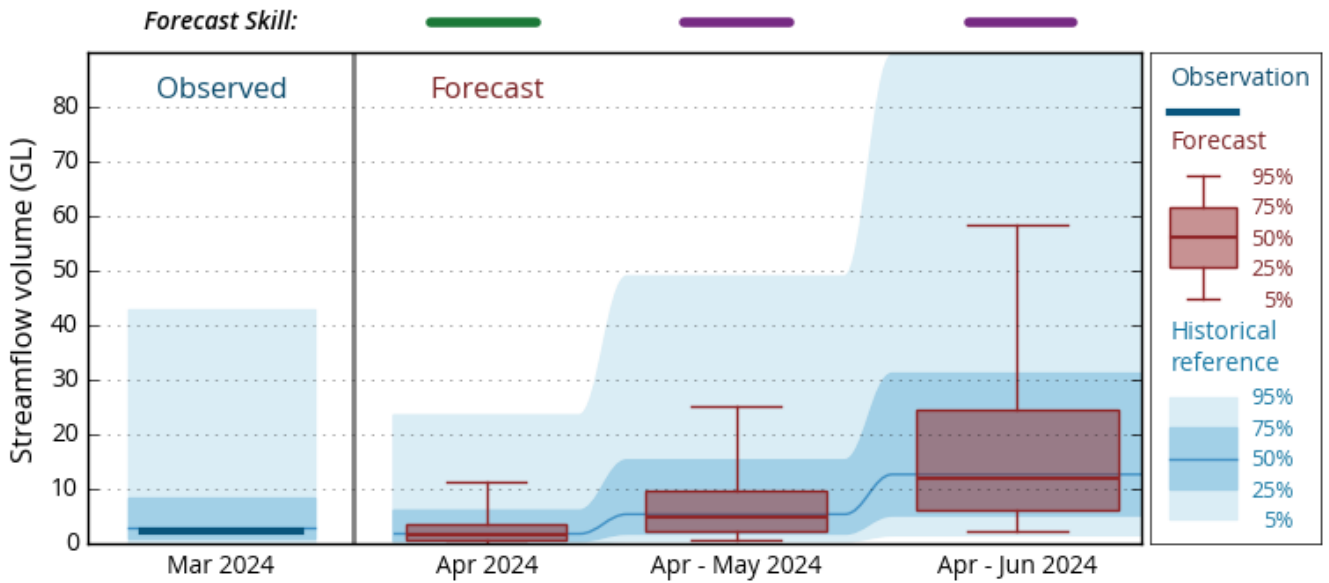
For further details, see: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

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. The median forecast of total flow volumes from April to June 2024 is slightly lower than the historical flows. The graph for April to June 2024 is given below, and updates can be found at:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005>

Namoi River at North Cuerindi (ID: 419005)

Forecast for Apr 2024 – Jun 2024



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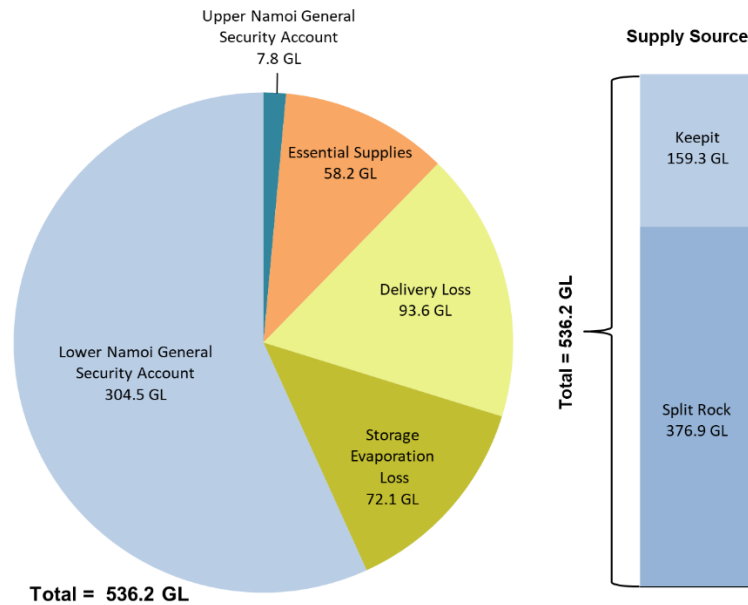
Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource distribution (as at 30 April 2024)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	536.2
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	72.1
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.2
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	304.5
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	7.8
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	93.6
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	0.0

Notes:

- (1) Evaporation loss is based on forecast storage depletion and the maximum historical evaporation rates over 24 months.
- (2) Water is 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.
- (3) This volume 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) There is a very small resource deficit (0.04 GL) which is within the numerical uncertainty.

**Resource Distribution as at 30 April 2024
Namoi Regulated River Water Sources**



Namoi resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 31 March 2024
- Current Assessment date: 30 April 2024

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Split Rock plus Keepit		546.0
Dead storage	9.7	536.3
Storage evaporation loss	71.5	464.7
Essential Supplies		
Brought forward from last assessment	57.0	
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	56.4	408.3
Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers		
Brought forward from last assessment	7.8	
Ordered since last assessment	0.0	
Allocation assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-0.2	
Allocation assignments from Lower Namoi to Upper Namoi	0.1	

Current balance	7.8	400.5
General Security (D/S Keepit)		
Brought forward from last assessment	304.7	
Orders since assessment period	-0.2	
Allocation assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)	0.2	
Allocation assignments to Upper Namoi (from Lower Namoi g/s)	-0.1	
Current balance	304.5	96.0
Delivery Loss		
Brought forward from last assessment	88.0	
Apparent losses since last assessment	-0.2	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for allocation assignments to GS)	0.0	
Current balance	87.8	8.2
Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		0.5
Essential supply loss	56%	0.3
General Security loss	44%	0.2
Resource available for sharing		
Total		8.2

Resource assessment data sheet as at 30 April 2024

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	72.1	71.5	0.5	72.1
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.2	56.4	1.8	58.2
General Security Delivery Loss	93.7	87.8	5.9	93.7
Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)*		7.8	0.0	7.8
Lower Namoi General Security (490.8 GL max)*		304.5	0.0	304.5
Additional Resource for Sharing		8.2	-8.2	0.0
Total		536.3	0.0	536.3

*Temporary trade may exceed this limit.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.0	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0	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

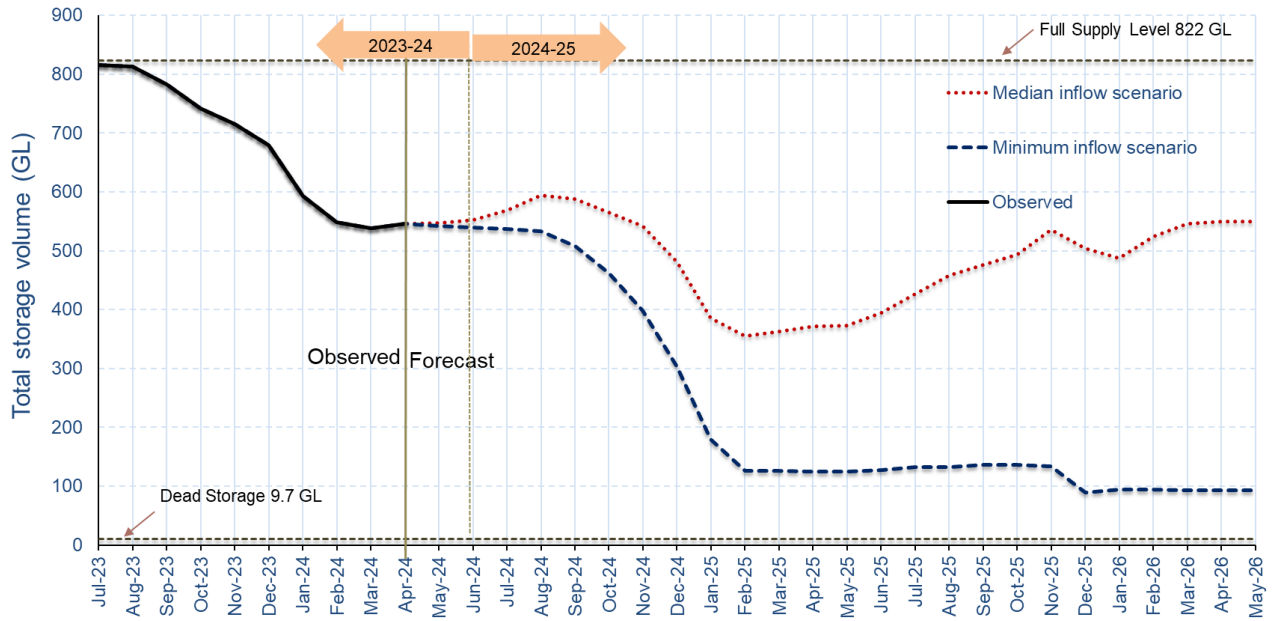
Date	License Category	Increment	Account balance
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.36 ML/unit share	36%
7-Jul	General Security	0.15 ML/unit share	199%
7-Aug	General Security	1.86 ML/unit share	200%*
7-Sep	General Security	0.85 ML/unit share	200%*
9-Oct	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	192%
7-Dec	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	171%
8-Jan	General Security	0.04 ML/unit share	161%
7-Feb	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	137%

* Maximum allowable.

Storage volume prediction

Storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current commitments and an assumed repeat of historical minimum inflows and median inflows together with forecast demands, the combined storage of Keepit and Split Rock Dams will reduce to a minimum by the end of December 2025 after which recovery would be expected.

Figure: Combined Keepit and Split Rock storage volumes



Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this water source is available at the following link:

<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process>

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be available on **Friday, 7 June 2024**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website: www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew

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