

5 August 2022

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for Lower Namoi general security entitlements this month. The total Lower Namoi general security account balance is approximately 427 gegalitres (GL), with an average account balance of 175%. All other licence categories in the Upper and Lower Namoi regulated systems received their full allocation at the start of the current water year.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 July 2022. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the September resource assessment.

Current allocations

2022/23	General Security	Account Balance
Upper Namoi Regulated River	100%	100%*
Lower Namoi Regulated River	0%	175%^

*Maximum allowable account balance, excluding trade, is 100%. Trade may increase the individual account balance of water licence above 100%.

^Average account balance, maximum allowable is 200%.

Dam levels (as of 4 August 2022)

- Split Rock Dam is about 75% full – holding approximately 297 GL.
- Keepit Dam about 98% full – holding approximately 416 GL.

Key information

- For the month of July, the Namoi catchment experienced below average to average rainfall, receiving between 10 to 50 mm.
- Inflows from the upper catchment continued in July, with Keepit and Split Rock dams receiving approximately 27.9 GL and 5.3 GL respectively.
- Approximately 26.4 GL was released in July from Keepit Dam for airspace operations.
- It is forecast, based on the current assessment, that essential supplies are secure for the next 24 months.
- Critical requirements for Manilla and Barraba townships are secure for the next 24 months, based on assumed minimum future inflows to Split Rock Dam.
- In response to increases in Upper Namoi general security share components, the department has issued an Order¹ (effective from 1 July 2022) prohibiting trade from

¹ <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/sl-2022-354>

Lower Namoi to Upper Namoi if, as a result of the trade, the sum of share components of all access licences in the Upper Namoi would to exceed 12,760 shares.

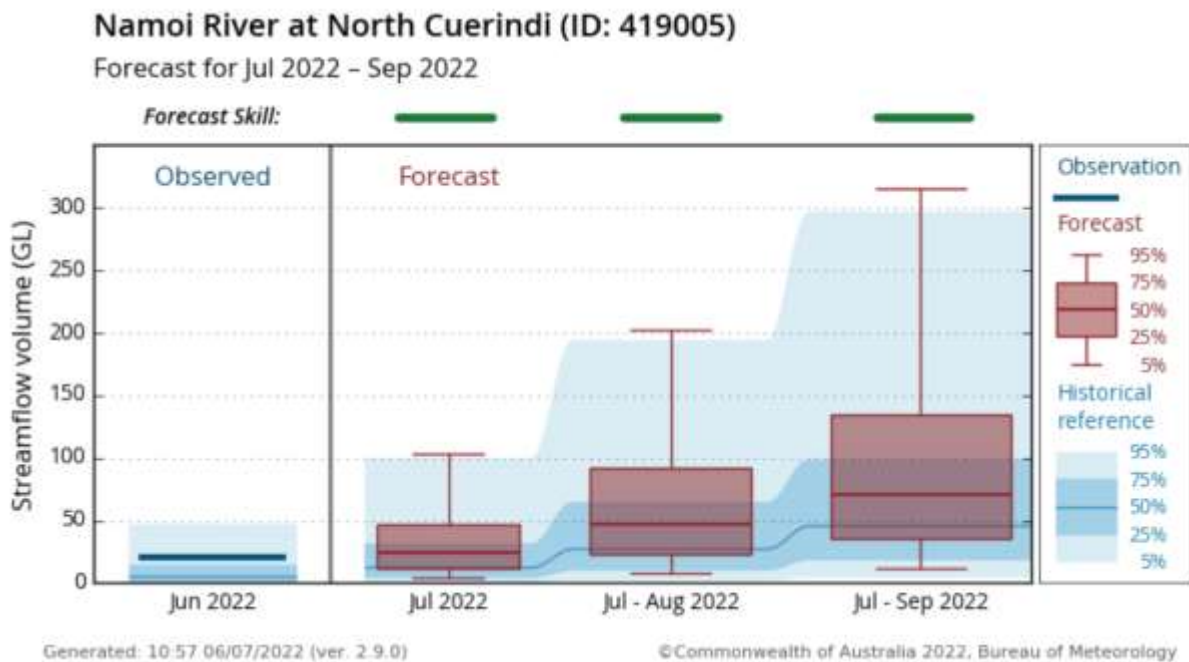
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for August to October indicates rainfall is likely to be above median across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be below median, while overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over this period.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau of Meteorology also issues a seasonal flow forecast for the unregulated Namoi River at North Cuerindi. This may provide an indication for potential future inflows into Keepit Dam. The forecast quantiles over July to September are higher than the historical reference quantiles, with the forecast indicating a high chance of above median flows.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005



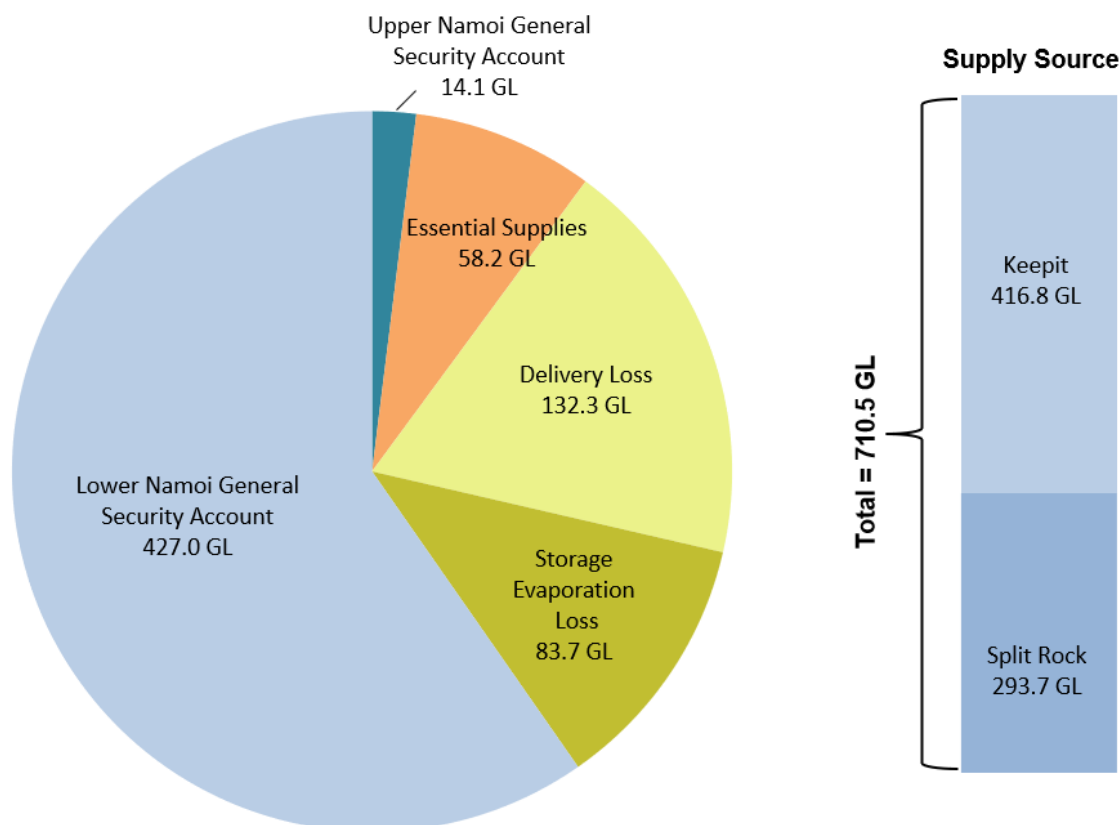
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as at 31 July 2022)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	710.5
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	83.7
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.2
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	427.0
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	14.1
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	132.3
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	(4.8)

Notes:

- (1) Storage Evaporation Loss: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and maximum historical evaporation rates over 2 years.
- (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.
- (3) Delivery Loss: this account reflects the water 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.
- (4) All available water resources have been allocated, and there is a minor resource deficit of 4.8 GL, which is expected to be resolved in the coming months from higher than minimum inflows. The system can assure essential supplies for 24 months.

Resource Distribution as at 31 July 2022 Namoi Regulated River Water Sources



Total = 715.3 GL

Resource assessment data sheet as at 31 July 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	83.69	83.41	0.28	83.69
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.24	45.69	12.55	58.24
General Security Delivery Loss	132.33	108.89	18.56	127.45
Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)		14.06	0.00	14.06
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)		427.04	0.00	427.04
Additional Resource for Sharing		31.39	-31.39	0.00
Total		710.48	0.00	710.48

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

Upper Namoi water allocation history for 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Average/Maximum 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	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	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
1-Aug	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	175% [^]

*Maximum allowable

[^]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 the following link:

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 September 2022**.

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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