

7 March 2024

Namoi Regulated River Water Source

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 now about 307.4 gigalitres (GL), or 125% of entitlement.

All other licence categories in the Upper and Lower Namoi regulated systems 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 29 February 2024. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

GS allocation 2023/24

7 March 2024	Allocation increment	Average Account Balance
Upper Namoi Regulated River	0%*	71% ⁺
Lower Namoi Regulated River	0%	125%

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

Dam levels (as of 6 March 2024)

- Split Rock Dam is 96.4% full, holding around 383 GL.
- Keepit Dam is 36.6% full, holding around 159 GL.

Key information

- There were some small inflows from the upper catchment during February, with Keepit and Split Rock Dams receiving an extra 2.6 GL and 0.7 GL, respectively.
- Based on the current assessment, essential supplies are secure for 24 months and beyond. This includes demands from Manilla and Barraba townships.
- A bulk water transfer from Split Rock Dam to Keepit Dam may be required as early as November 2024, depending on inflows in coming months.
- General security usage for February was about 0.7 GL and 30 GL for Upper and Lower Namoi regulated systems respectively.

Climate and Streamflow Outlooks

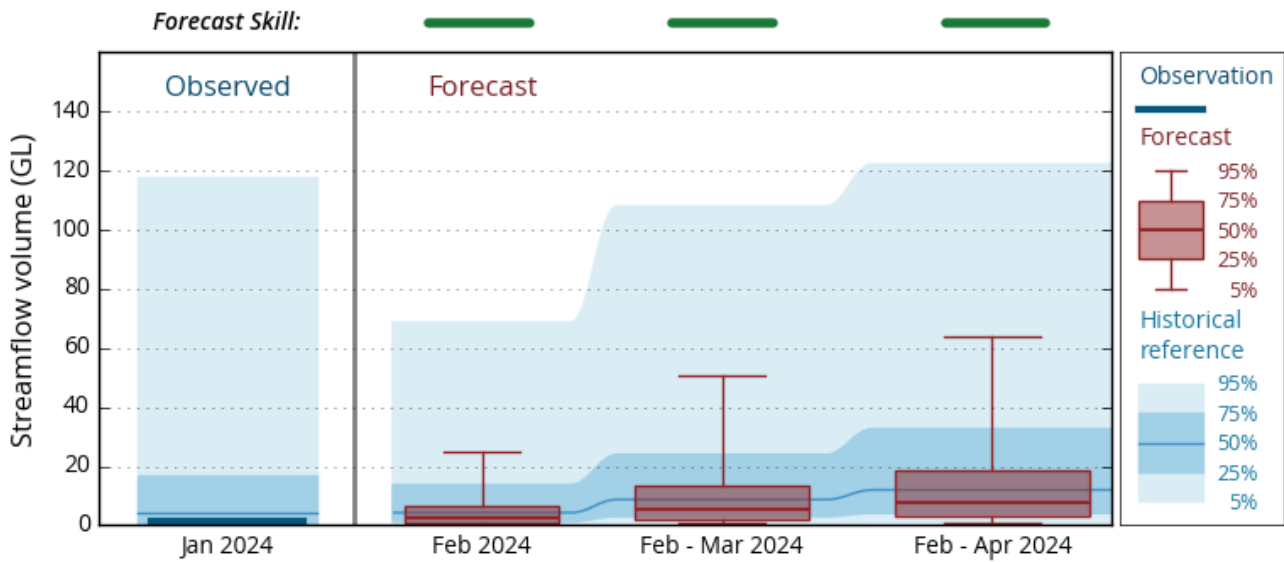
The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for March 2024 to May 2024 indicates that rainfall in the Namoi valley is likely to be below median. Over this period, maximum temperatures and minimum temperatures are likely to be above median in the catchment.

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. All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from February to April 2024 are lower than the historical flows, indicating likely lower inflows than historically over this period. The graph for February to April 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 Feb 2024 – Apr 2024



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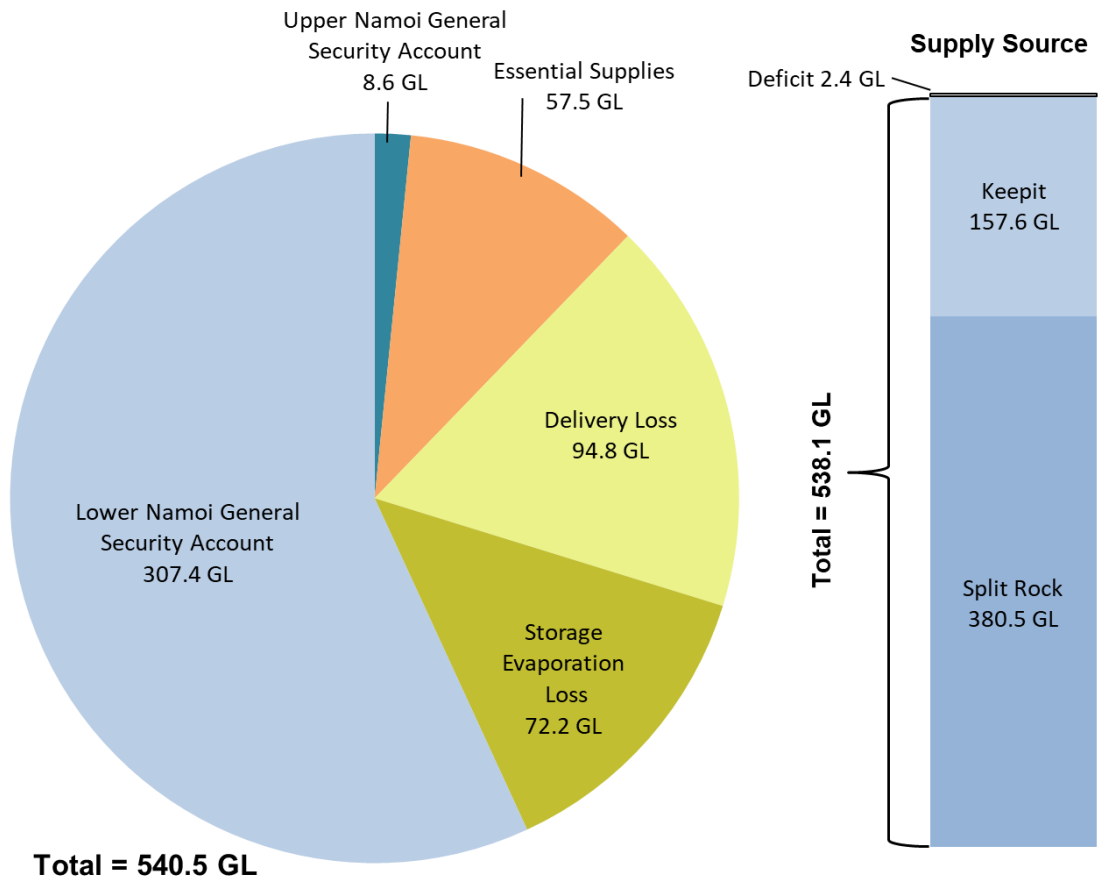
Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource distribution (as at 29 February 2024)	Volume (GL)
Keelit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	538.1
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	72.2
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	57.5
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	307.4
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	8.6
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	94.8
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	(2.4)

Notes:

- (1) Storage Evaporation Loss: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and the 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. The full reserve is 58.2 GL. The current balance is 57.5 GL will be topped up from the first available inflows to provide for essential supplies for next 24 months.
- (3) Delivery Loss: this account 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) Surplus or deficit: The general security delivery budget has a small deficit (2.4 GL), which will be closely monitored.

**Resource Distribution as at 29 February 2024
Namoi Regulated River Water Sources**



Namoi resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 31 January 2024
- Current Assessment date: 29 February 2024

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Split Rock plus Keepit		547.8
Dead storage	9.7	538.1
Storage evaporation loss	75.5	462.6
Essential Supplies		
Brought forward from last assessment	58.2	
Uses and associated loss since last assessment	-0.7	
Allocation assignment from High Security to General Security	-1.0	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss	-0.3	
Current balance	56.3	406.3
Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers		

Brought forward from last assessment	10.1	
Ordered since last assessment	-0.7	
Allocation assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-0.8	
Allocation assignments from Lower Namoi to Upper Namoi	0.0	
Current balance	8.6	397.7
General Security (D/S Keepit)		
Brought forward from last assessment	335.6	
Orders since assessment period	-30.0	
Allocation assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)	1.8	
Allocation assignments to Upper Namoi (from Lower Namoi g/s)	0.0	
Current balance	307.4	90.3
Delivery Loss		
Brought forward from last assessment	103.7	
Apparent losses since last assessment	-11.7	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for allocation assignments to GS)	0.3	
Current balance	92.3	-2.0
Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		11.9
Essential supply loss	2%	0.2
General Security loss	98%	11.7
Resource available for sharing		
Total		-2.0

Resource assessment data sheet as at 29 February 2024

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	72.2	75.5	-3.3	72.2
Essential Supplies (for 24 months (58.2 GL max))	58.2	56.3	1.3	57.5
General Security Delivery Loss	94.8	92.3	0.0	92.3

Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)*	8.6	0.0	8.6
Lower Namoi General Security (490.7 GL max)*	307.4	0.0	307.4
Additional Resource for Sharing	-2.0	2.0	0.0
Total	538.1	0.0	538.1

*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

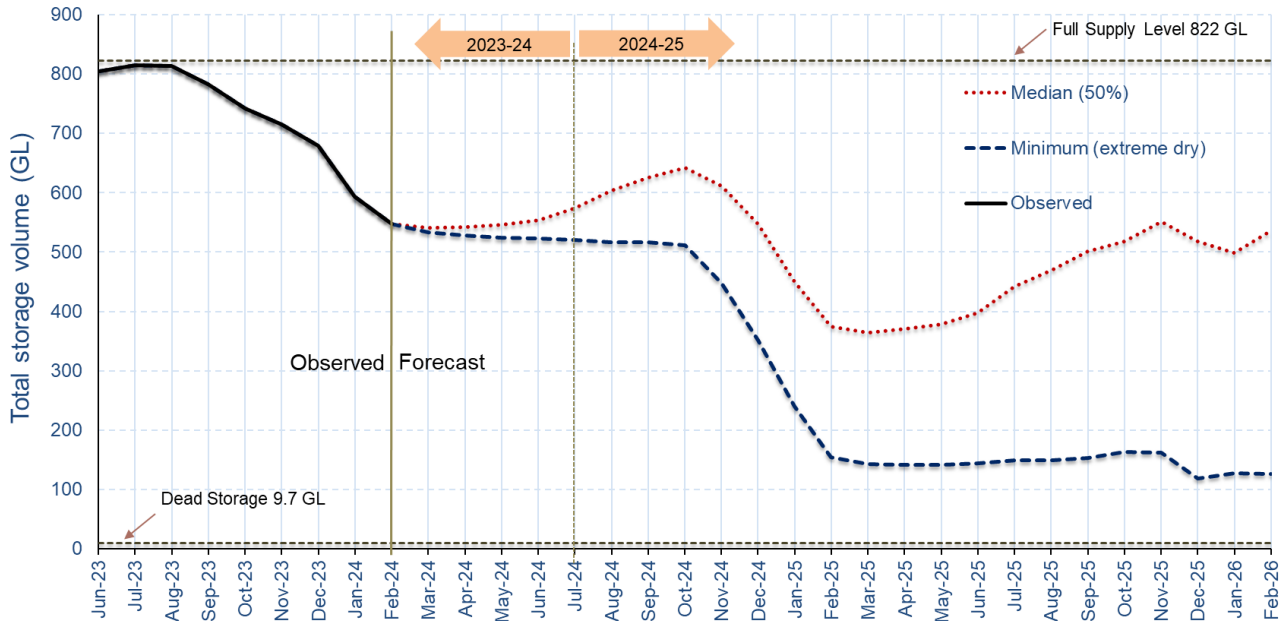
Date	License Category	Increment	Account balance
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.36 ML/unit share	36%
7-Jul	General Security	0.15 ML/unit share	199%
7-Aug	General Security	1.86 ML/unit share	200%*
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 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 the Namoi regulated river 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 water allocation statement for this water source will be available on **Monday 8 April 2024**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/>

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

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