

8 January 2024

Namoi Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General security (GS) licences in the Lower Namoi regulated river water source have received an allocation of 4% of entitlement. The total water allocated to Lower Namoi general security is now 395.9 gigalitres (GL), or 161% of entitlement.

All other licence categories in the Upper and Lower Namoi regulated systems have received their maximum allocation for the current water year.

Resource improvements are largely due to reduced delivery losses and tributary contribution. In addition, there were some small inflows from the upper catchment during December, with Keepit and Split Rock Dams receiving around 7.9 GL and 2.4 GL, respectively.

Based on the current assessment, essential supplies are secure for 24 months and beyond. This includes demands from Manilla and Barraba townships.

As a result of recent inflows, a bulk water transfer from Split Rock Dam to Keepit Dam is unlikely to be required to meet this growing season's lower Namoi demand.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 December 2023. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

General security allocation 2023/24

8 January 2024	Allocation increment	Average Account Balance
Upper Namoi Regulated River	n/a*	96%
Lower Namoi Regulated River	4%	161%

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

Dam levels (as of 8 January 2024)

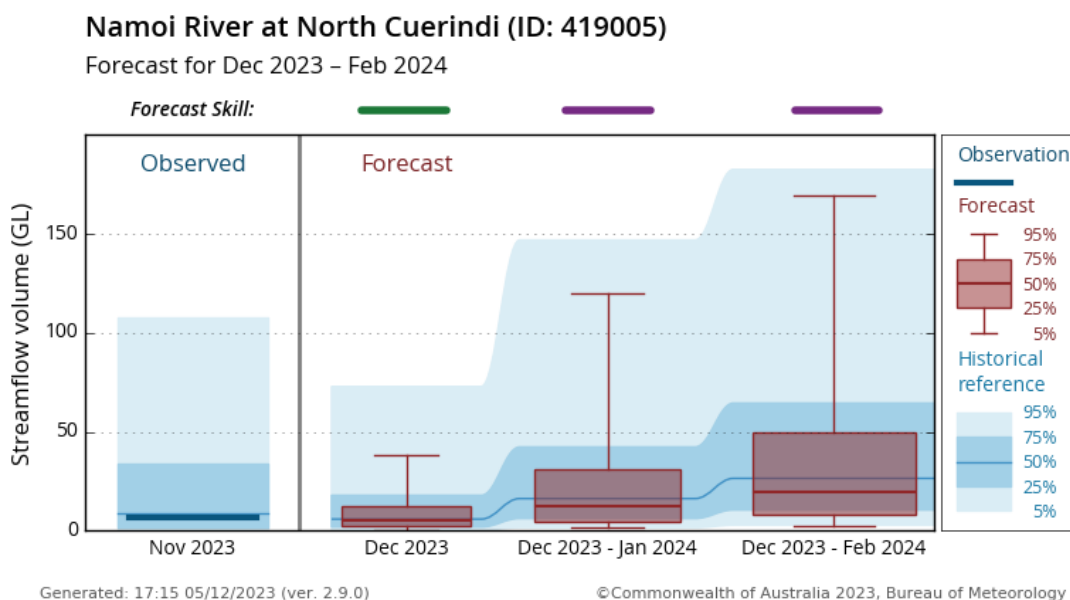
- Split Rock Dam is 98% full, holding around 386 GL.
- Keepit Dam is 63% full, holding around 262 GL.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

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

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 quantiles of total flow volumes from December 2023 to February 2024 are lower than the historical flows, indicating likely lower inflows than historically over this period. The graph for December 2023 to February 2024 is given below, and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=419005



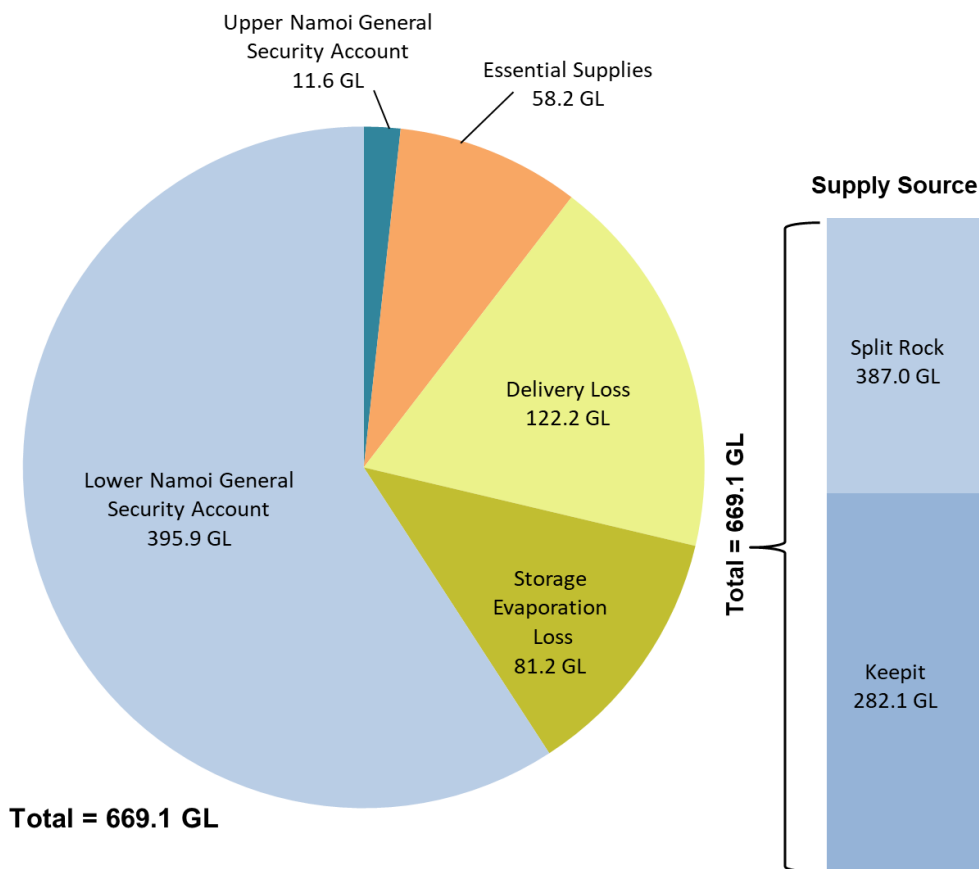
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as at 31 December 2023)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	669.1
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Loss ⁽¹⁾	81.2
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	58.2
Lower Namoi General Security account balance	395.9
Upper Namoi General Security account balance	11.6
Delivery Loss ⁽³⁾	122.2
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	0

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.
- (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: There is no deficit, and the system is secure for delivery of all essential supplies for at least 24 months.

Resource Distribution as at 31 December 2023
 Namoi Regulated River Water Sources



Namoi resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 30 November 2023
- Current Assessment date: 31 December 2023

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Split Rock plus Keepit		678.8
Dead storage	9.7	669.1
Storage evaporation loss	83.4	585.8
Essential Supplies		
Brought forward from last assessment	58.2	
Uses and associated loss since last assessment	-0.3	
Allocation assignment from High Security to General Security	0.0	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss	0.0	
Current balance	58.0	527.8

Upper Namoi/Manilla Rivers		
Brought forward from last assessment	12.2	
Ordered since last assessment	-0.3	
Allocation assignments from Upper Namoi to Lower Namoi	-0.3	
Allocation assignments from Lower Namoi to Upper Namoi	0.0	
Current balance	11.6	516.2
General Security (D/S Keepit)		
Brought forward from last assessment	421.4	
Orders since assessment period	-36.8	
Allocation assignments into Lower Namoi (from HS & Upper Namoi)	0.3	
Allocation assignments to Upper Namoi (from Lower Namoi g/s)	0.0	
Current balance	384.9	131.4
Delivery Loss		
Brought forward from last assessment	130.1	
Apparent losses since last assessment	-1.1	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for allocation assignments to GS)	0.0	
Current balance	118.9	12.5
Apparent Losses since last assessment		
Total	% of loss	GL
		1.1
Essential supply loss	1%	0.0
General Security loss	99%	1.1
Resource available for sharing		
Total		12.5

Resource assessment data sheet as at 31 December 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	81.2	83.4	-2.2	81.2
Essential Supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58.2	58.0	0.3	58.2
General Security Delivery Loss	122.2	118.9	3.3	122.2
Upper Namoi General Security (12.07 GL max)*		11.6	0.0	11.6
Lower Namoi General Security (491.8 GL max)*		384.9	11.1	395.9
Additional Resource for Sharing		12.5	-12.5	0.0
Total		669.1	0.0	669.1

*Temporary trade may exceed this limit.

Lower Namoi (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	11.1	GL
Available Water Determination	0.04	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%*

Date	License Category	Increment	Account balance
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%

* 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 March 2025 then begin to recover.

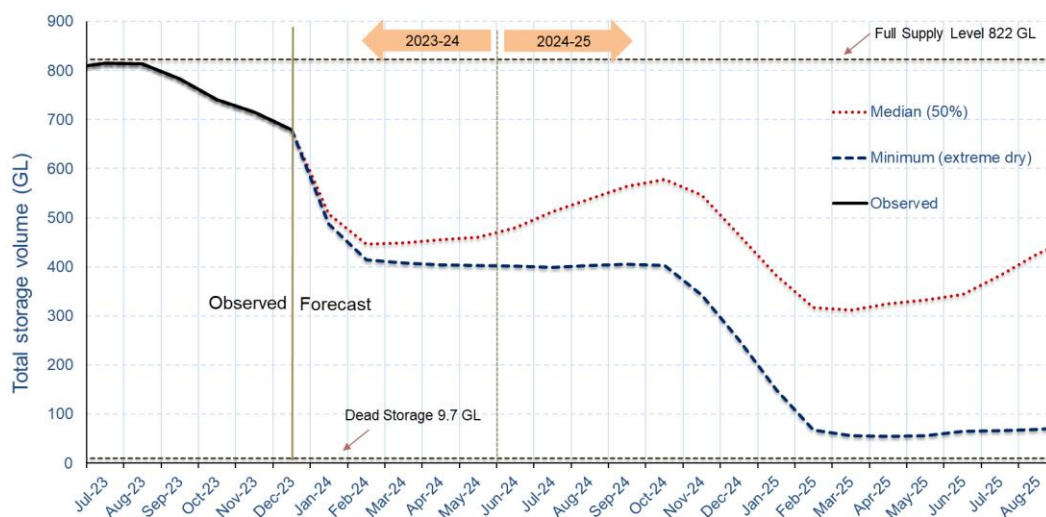


Figure: Combined Keepit and Split Rock storage volumes

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: 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 **Wednesday 7 February 2024**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website: 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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