

7 May 2026

# Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

## Water allocation update

There is **no change to allocations** in the Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source at this time. The Lower Namoi general security (GS) account balance is approximately 337 gigalitres (GL), or 137% of entitlement.

Based on the current resource assessment, essential supplies are secure for 24 months and beyond. This includes demands from Manilla and Barraba townships. This resource assessment is based on information to 30 April 2026. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

## Current allocation

7 May 2026	Allocation increment	Average account balance
Upper Namoi regulated river	-	80%*
Lower Namoi regulated river	-	137%

\* excludes adjustments for temporary trade.

## Key information

- A Section 324 Order is in place from 17 April 2026 to 30 September 2026, restricting supplementary water access in the Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source. Further details can be found at: [Temporary water restrictions](#)
- Permanent trade dealings from Lower Namoi to the Upper Namoi Regulated water source are not currently permitted as entitlement in the Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Source is now at capacity. Refer to clause 14(3B) of the Access Licence Dealing Principles and clause 50(b) of the water sharing plan.

## Resource outlook for 2026–27

The outlook for likely 1 July 2026 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution. It aims to broadly guide water users with their end of water year water management decisions.

Water users are reminded to check account limits and the carryover provisions on their entitlements, noting that water can be forfeit from some accounts after 30 June 2026.

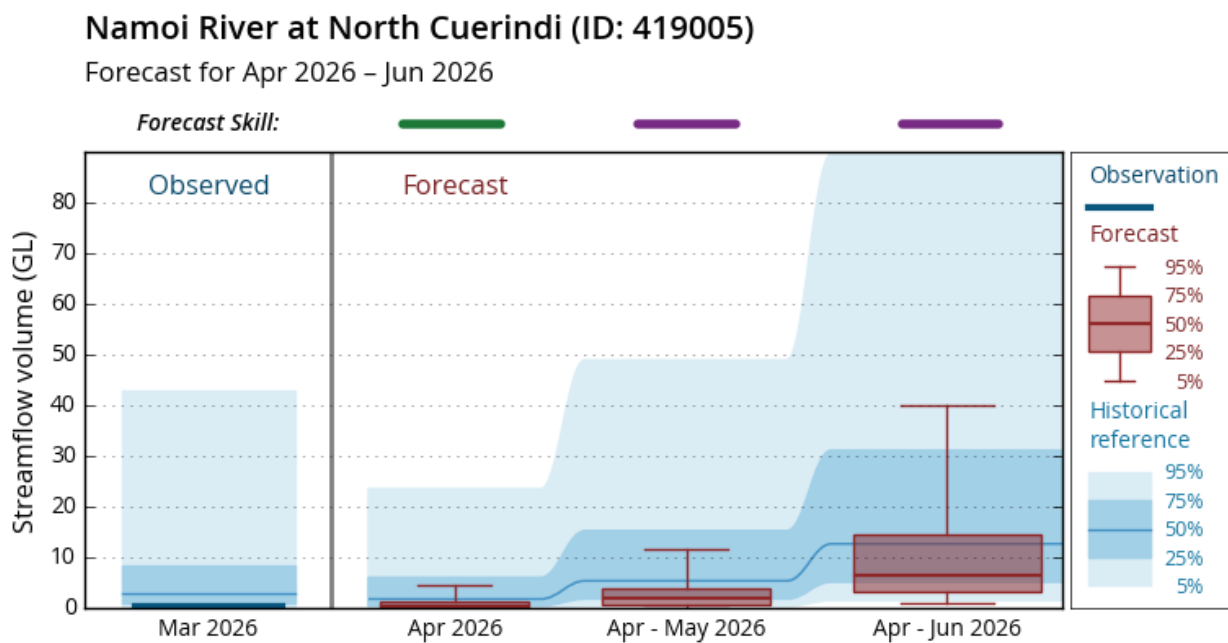
- Water for all critical needs is secure for the 2026–27 water year.
- Local water utility, domestic and stock and high security water access licences can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July for the 2026–27 water year.
- General security entitlement holders in the Upper Namoi can expect their maximum (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 50% of entitlement, while the total account balance must not exceed 150% of entitlement.
- Water held in the Lower Namoi general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and the account balance is carried forward in full into the new water year. The total account balance must not exceed 200% of entitlement.
- Lower Namoi general security users will have full access to any water they carry over. No opening allocation will be announced on 1 July. Instead, monthly resource assessments will continue from early July, with any new allocations announced through routine allocation statements during 2026–27 water year.
- The likely opening allocation for supplementary water licence holders is still being reviewed. Water users will be advised as soon as the likely allocation has been determined.

## Inflow outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the unregulated Namoi River at North Cuerindi (see the figure below). Though preliminary, this may suggest potential future inflows to Keepit Dam in the coming months.

Flow at North Cuerindi in March was well below historical reference, reflecting dry conditions. For the April to June 2026 period, all forecast quantiles sit below their historical equivalents, suggesting a high likelihood of lower than historical streamflow volumes. However, please note the forecast skill for April to June has been historically low.

The graph for April to June 2026 is given below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/water/forecasts/seasonal-streamflow-forecasts/)



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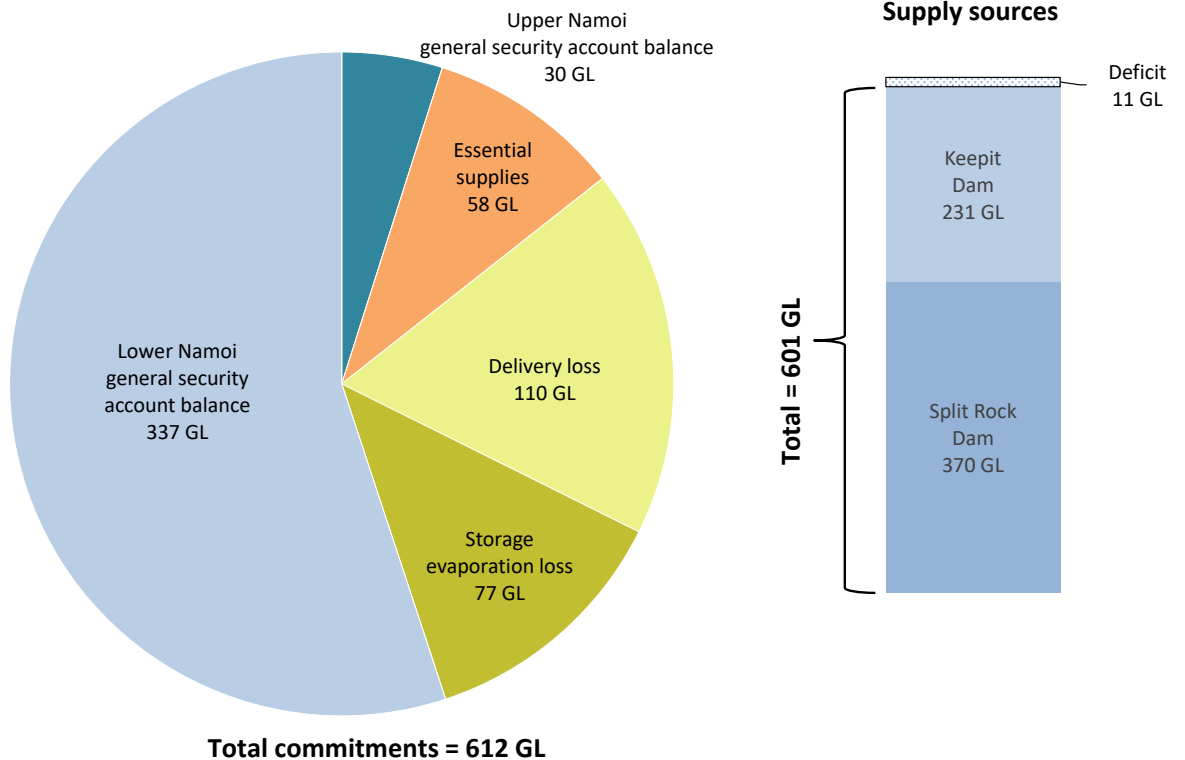
## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 1 May 2026)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	601
<i>less</i>	
Storage evaporation loss <sup>(1)</sup>	77
Essential supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	58
Lower Namoi general security account balance	337
Upper Namoi general security account balance	30
Delivery loss <sup>(3)</sup>	110
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(4)</sup>	(11)

### Notes:

- (1) Storage evaporation loss is based on projected storage depletion over the next 24 months, assuming high evaporation rates corresponding to the minimum inflow period from June 1918 to May 1920.
- (2) Water is required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to secure domestic and stock, local water utility, high security entitlements and provide for riverine environments. Includes Gunidgera/Pian domestic and stock replenishments, associated delivery loss allowances and end-of-system flow requirements. This is offset by the minimum 24 months inflow into storages recorded over June 1918 to May 1920.
- (3) Delivery loss budget reflects the water reserved to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. The loss reserve continues to be assessed and, where necessary, is prioritised for top-up from resource improvements to ensure that allocated water can be delivered under most circumstances.
- (4) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. A notional deficit in delivery loss is identified in this assessment, which will be monitored closely.

**Resource distribution as of 1 May 2026  
Namoi Regulated River Water Sources**



Resource assessment as of 1 May 2026

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage evaporation loss	77	78	-1	77
Essential supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58	57	1	58
General security delivery loss	110	100	10	110
Upper Namoi general security (12.1 GL) *		30	0	30
Lower Namoi general security (491.6 GL max)		337	0	337
Additional resource for sharing		-1	-10	-11
<b>Total</b>		<b>601</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>601</b>

\*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 in 2025–26

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26
1-Jul	Domestic and 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 in 2025–26

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26	Account balance
1-Jul	Domestic and stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local water utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.37 ML/unit share	0.37 ML/unit share	37%
7-Jul	General security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.05 ML/unit share	151%
7-Aug	General security	0.35 ML/unit share	0.40 ML/unit share	177%
5-Sep	General security	0.58 ML/unit share	0.98 ML/unit share	198%
5-Dec	General security	0.02 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	188%
12-Jan	General security	0.06 ML/unit share	1.06 ML/unit share	177%
6-Feb	General security	0.06 ML/unit share	1.12 ML/unit share	155%

\* Maximum allowable.

## Storage volume simulation

Storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current commitments and an assumed repeat of historical minimum inflows with forecast demands, the combined storage of Keepit and Split Rock dams will reduce to a minimum around April–May 2028, before beginning to recover.

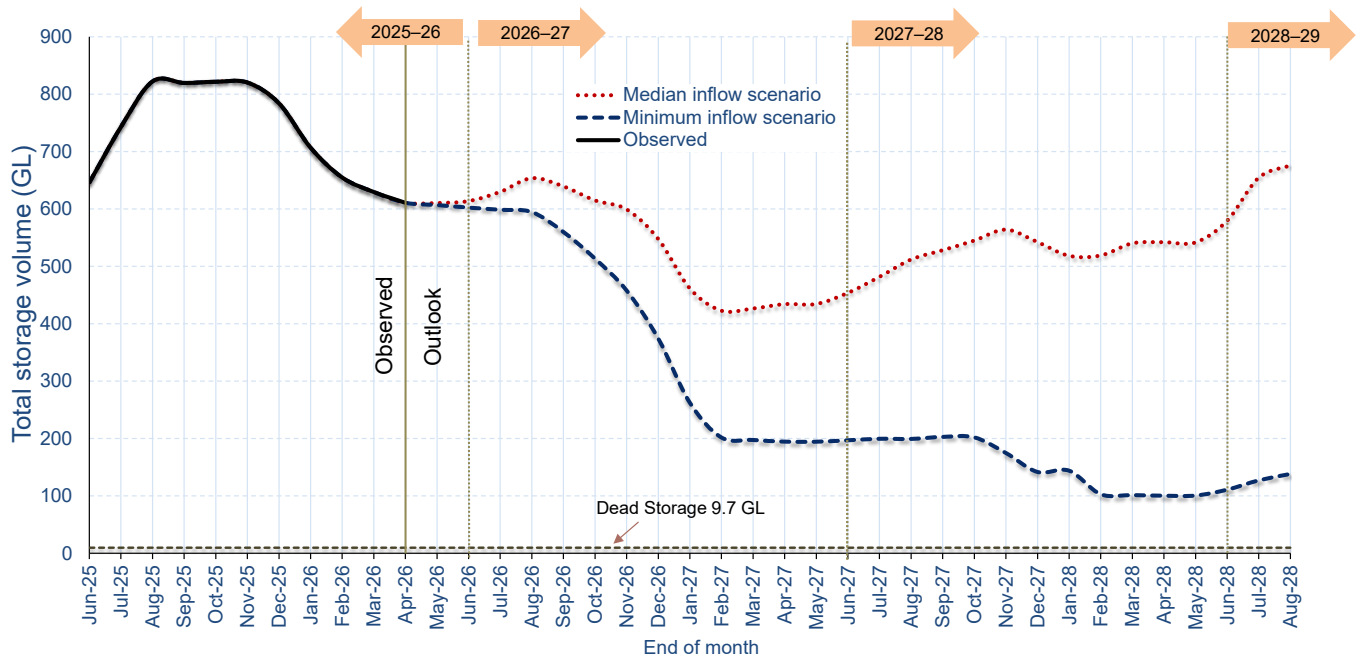


Figure 1: Combined Keepit and Split Rock storage volumes

## Water sharing plan rules

This statement includes plain language information on the plan rules relevant to water allocation below. This is based on our knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Water users should verify the information as required before making any water management decision.

- Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security access licences in both Lower and Upper Namoi are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year. These licence categories cannot carryover the closing balance into the next water year.
- General security access licences are to receive allocations after all higher priority requirements in both Lower and Upper Namoi have been fully allocated.
- In the Upper Namoi, the general security maximum allocation is scaled based on the storage level in Split Rock Dam but cannot exceed 100% of entitlement. Carryover of up to 50% of entitlement is permitted, while the total account balance must not exceed 150% of entitlement.
- In Lower Namoi, any remaining general security balances can be carried over to the next water year, but the total account balance must not exceed 200% of entitlement.
- Supplementary water access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance cannot be carried over into the next water year.

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## Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for these water sources is available at the following link: [Resource assessment process | Water](#)
- Water allocation statement – The water allocation statement for all water sources is available at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources is available at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water sharing plan – The water sharing plan for these water sources is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Sources 2016](#)

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## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for these water sources will be published on **Friday 5 June 2026**.

Subscribe [here](#) to receive water allocation statement and email updates from Water Group of the department.

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