

12 January 2026

Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

Water allocation update

General security (GS) licences in the **Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Source** have received an **allocation increase of 6% of entitlement**. The increment brings the cumulative GS allocation in the Lower Namoi for the 2025–26 water year to 106% and takes the total Lower Namoi GS account balance to about 434 gigalitres (GL), or 177% of entitlement.

The improvement in resources comes from inflow received in both storages and efficient delivery of orders supported by downstream tributary inflows.

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 31 December 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

12 January 2026	Allocation increment	Average account balance
Upper Namoi regulated river	-	100%*
Lower Namoi regulated river	6%	177%

* Reached maximum (100%) on 1 July 2025, and account balance excludes adjustments for temporary trade.

Upper Namoi trade limits

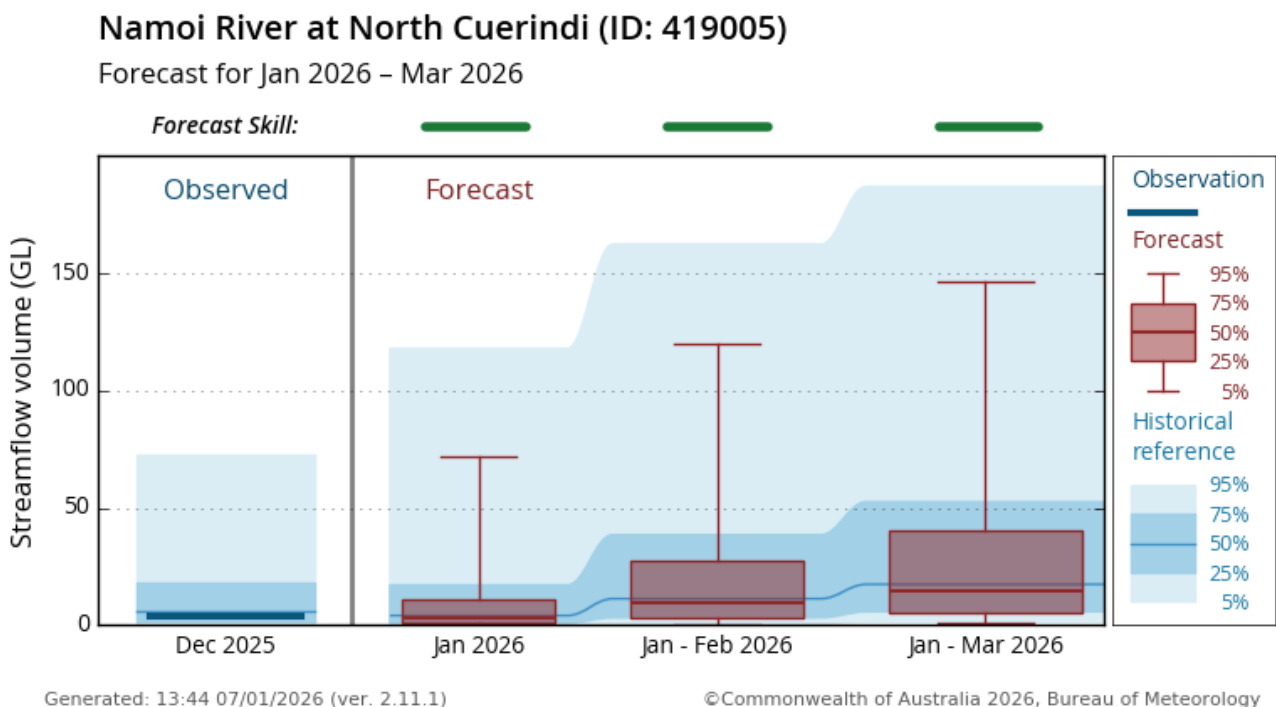
Permanent trade dealings from Lower Namoi to the Upper Namoi Regulated water source are not currently permitted as entitlement in the Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Source is now at capacity. Refer to clause 14(3B) of the Access Licence Dealing Principles and clause 50(b) of the water sharing plan.

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.

For the January to March 2026 period, the higher flow forecast quantiles sit below their historical equivalents, but the median and lower forecast is similar to the historical reference. Overall, the forecast suggests average inflow conditions are likely for this period.

The graph for January to March 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/seasonal-forecast/seasonal-streamflow-forecasts/water-information/)



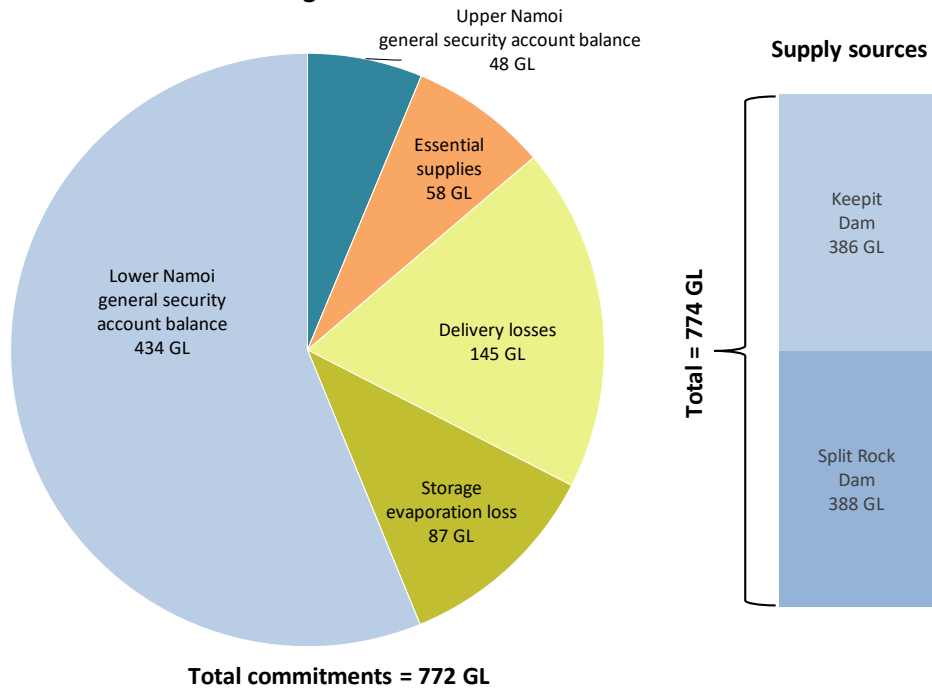
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 December 2025)	Volume (GL)
Keepit Dam and Split Rock Dam active volumes	774
<i>less</i>	
Storage evaporation loss ⁽¹⁾	87
Essential supplies ⁽²⁾	58
Lower Namoi general security account balance	434
Upper Namoi general security account balance	48
Delivery loss ⁽³⁾	145
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁴⁾	2

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. There is a small surplus which will be rolled over to the next resource assessment.

**Resource distribution as of 31 December 2025
Namoi Regulated River Water Sources**



Resource assessment as of 31 December 2025

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage evaporation loss	87	89	-2	87
Essential supplies for next 24 months (58.2 GL max)	58	57	1	58
General security delivery loss	145	142	3	145
Upper Namoi general security (12.1 GL max) *		48	0	48
Lower Namoi general security (491.8 GL max) *		422	12	434
Additional resource for sharing		16	-14	2
Total		774	0	774

*Temporary trade may exceed this limit.

Lower Namoi (general security)	Value	Unit
Incremental increase credited	11.81	GL
Available water determination	0.06	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%

* 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 by the end of January 2028 then begin to recover from February 2028.

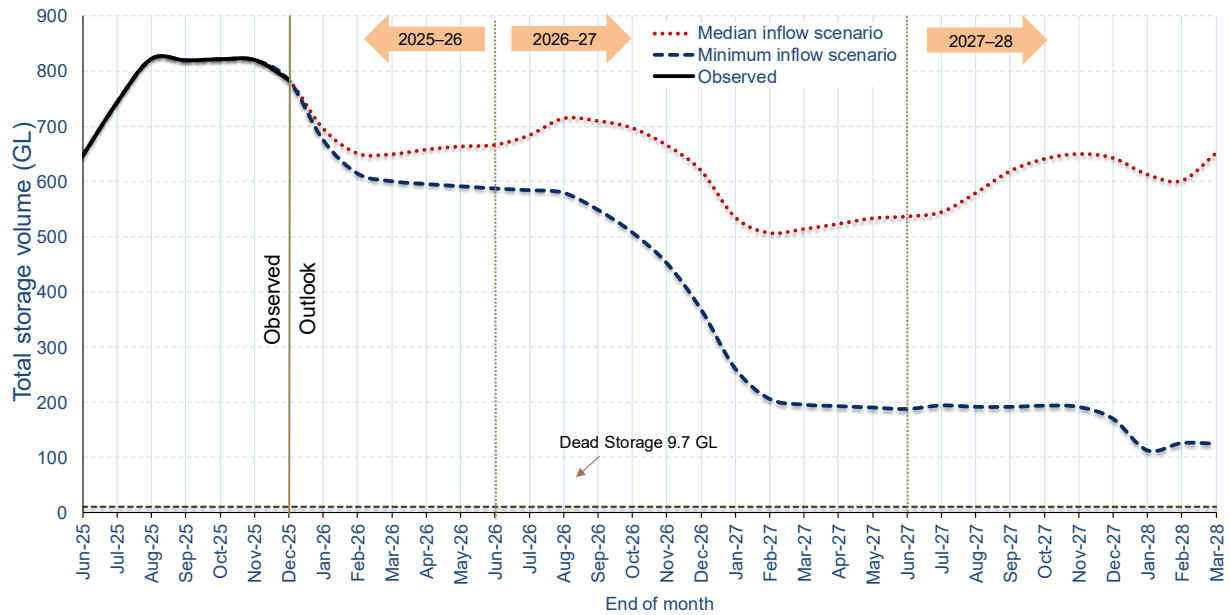


Figure 1: Combined Keelit and Split Rock storage volumes

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 have been fully allocated. In the Upper Namoi, 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 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.

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](#)

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for these water sources will be published on **Friday 6 February 2026**.

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

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