



Water Reporting Summary – Namoi Catchment

15 December 2020



Overview

- In the last month, most of the central and upper Namoi catchment received 25 to 50 mm rainfall, while areas near Chaffey Dam and east of Split Rock Dam received 50 to 100 mm. In contrast, other areas of the catchment received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall, with areas near Walgett receiving less than 10 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 31 mm for the last 30 days. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Namoi catchment very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- The recent rainfall has maintained average root zone soil moisture across most of the Namoi catchment. However, the recent rainfall has not translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3) with Drought Stage 2 conditions continuing for the Namoi catchment. Drought Stage 2 (emerging drought or drought recovery) reflects limited water resources and multiple years of low flows. As a result, there are zero or low allocations for some entitlement holders and water trade is limited (Figures 3 and 4).
- Allocations announced on 6 November for general security entitlement holders in the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi were 50% and 8% respectively. Allocations for general security entitlement holders in the Peel remain at 0%. Limited water availability has resulted in limited water trading activity for the Namoi catchment (Table 1).

Recent conditions

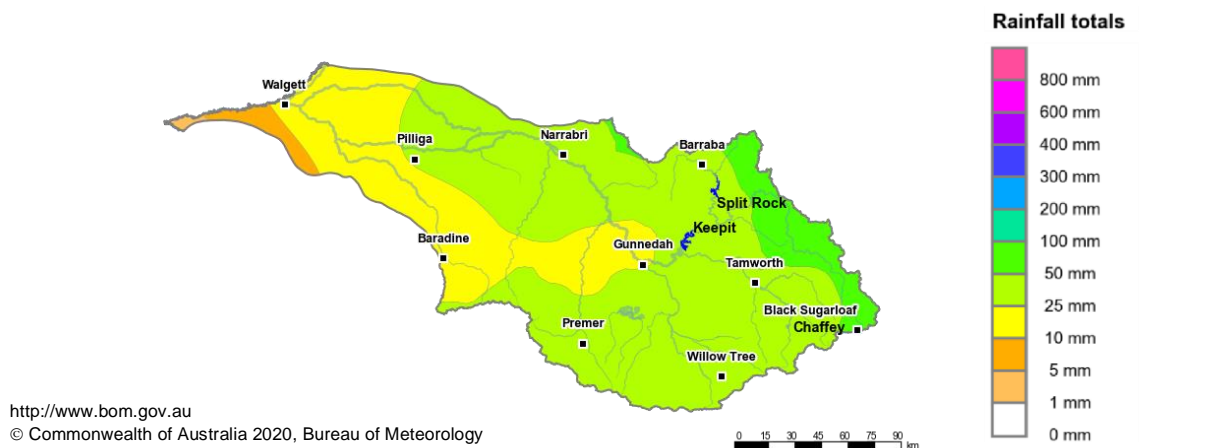


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 Nov to 15 Dec 2020)

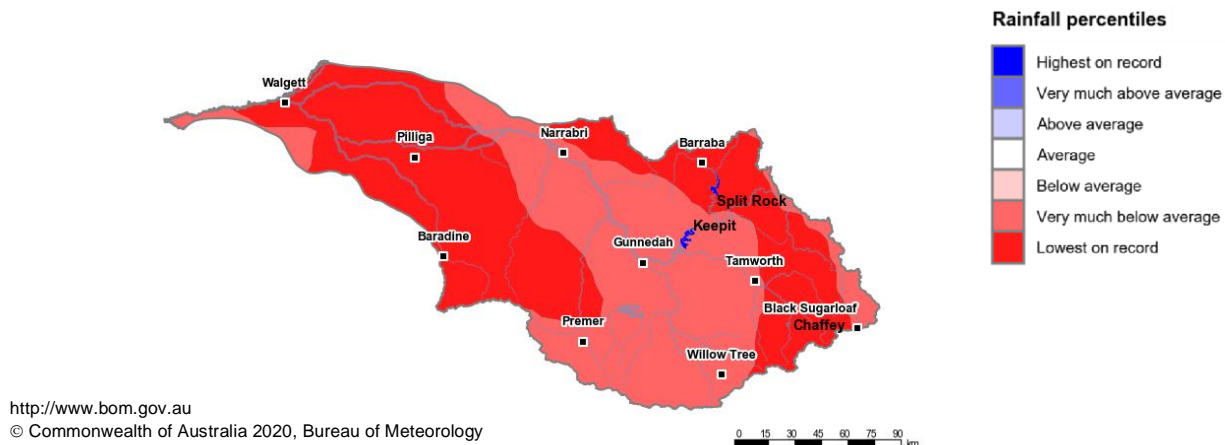


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Nov 2020)

Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia

How much water is in the storages?

Storage volume: Split Rock, Keepit and Chaffey storages as at 15 December 2020

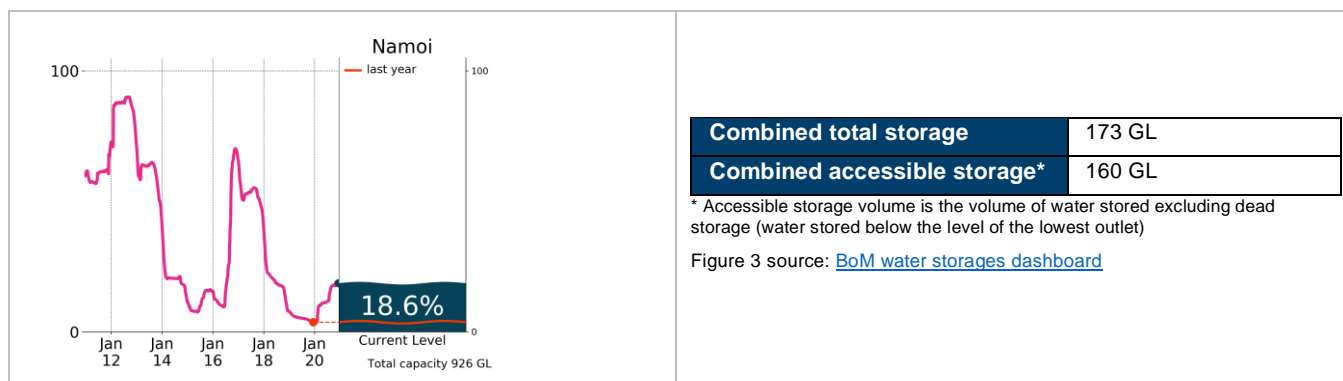


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Who is the water for?

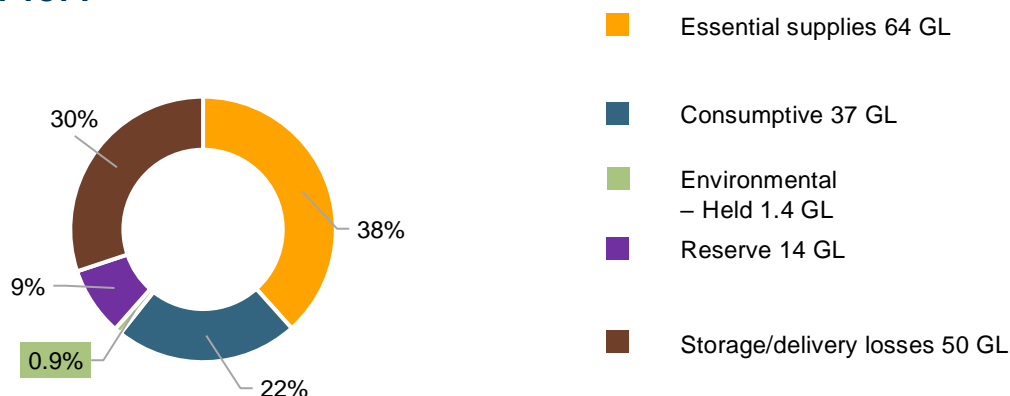


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 30 November and 2 December 2020)

Source: [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#) and [CEWO](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes in the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi regulated river water sources as at 30 November 2020, and the Peel regulated river water source as at 2 December 2020. It does not represent remaining available allocated water as it does not allow for water used, traded or new storage inflows (in excess of minimum assumptions).

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) and market prices – selected licence categories as at 15 December 2020

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement prices (monthly median)	Allocation price (median – last 7 days)
Stock & Domestic, Local Utility	100% (Upper & Lower Namoi) 90% (Peel)	Typically 100%	n/a	\$313/ML* (Lower Namoi) \$275/ML* (Upper Namoi)
High Security	100% (Upper & Lower Namoi) 50% (Peel)	Typically 100%	n/a	
General Security	50% (Upper Namoi) 8% (Lower Namoi) 0% (Peel)	8% is the highest allocation for this time of year since 2017. 0% has occurred three times for the Peel for this time of year in the last ten years.	n/a	
Average Carryover or Starting balance on 1 July (General Security)	40% (Upper Namoi) 6% (Lower Namoi) n/a (Peel)	23% last year (Upper Namoi) 5% last year (Lower Namoi) n/a (Peel)	n/a	

*Indicative - limited trade data

Source: [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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