



# Water Reporting Summary - Namoi Catchment

2 March 2020



## Overview

- In the last month, most of the Namoi catchment received significant and very much needed rainfall (Figure 1). Between 100 to 300 mm was received with a total area-average rainfall across the catchment of 174 mm. However, this recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the majority of the Namoi catchment being lowest on record (Figure 2).
- With very dry catchment conditions, recent rainfall has not translated into higher inflows and storage volumes, with a continuation of Drought Stage 4 conditions for the Namoi catchment. For Stage 4, there has been extremely low water resources and extreme drought with restrictions in place to manage remaining resources to meet critical human needs (NSW DPIE). Consequently, there have been low or no allocations for some entitlement holders (Figure 3 and Table 1).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders are currently 0%, which for this time of year, is unprecedented for the Upper Namoi. For the Peel and Lower Namoi catchments, 0% general security allocations have occurred twice and four times, respectively, in the last ten years.

## Recent conditions

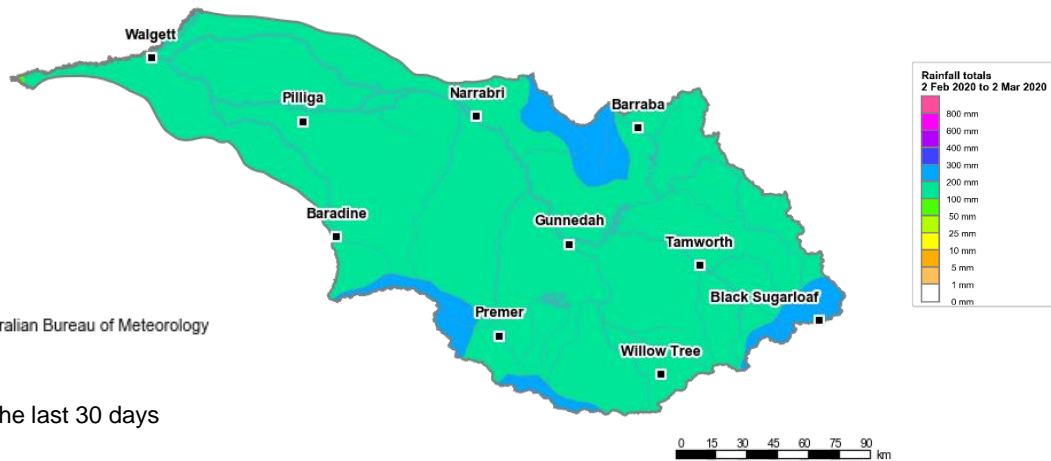


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

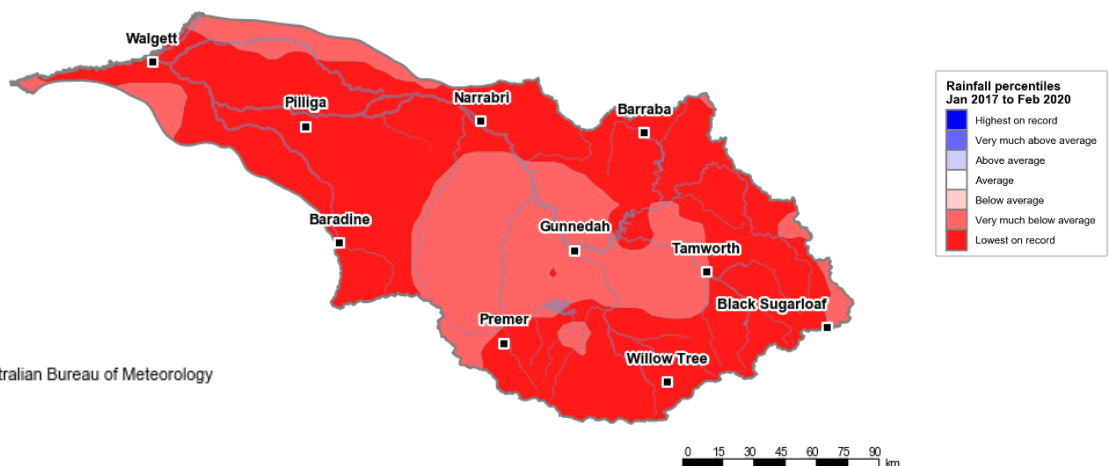


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average). Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

## How much water is in the storages (as at 2 March 2020)?

Storage volume: Split Rock, Keepit and Chaffey storages

<b>Combined total storage</b>	89 GL
<b>Combined accessible storage*</b>	77 GL
<b>%Full (total storage capacity)</b>	10%
<b>%Full (same time last year)</b>	6%

\*Accessible storage volume is the volume of water stored excluding dead storage (water stored below the level of the lowest outlet)

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

## Who is the water for?

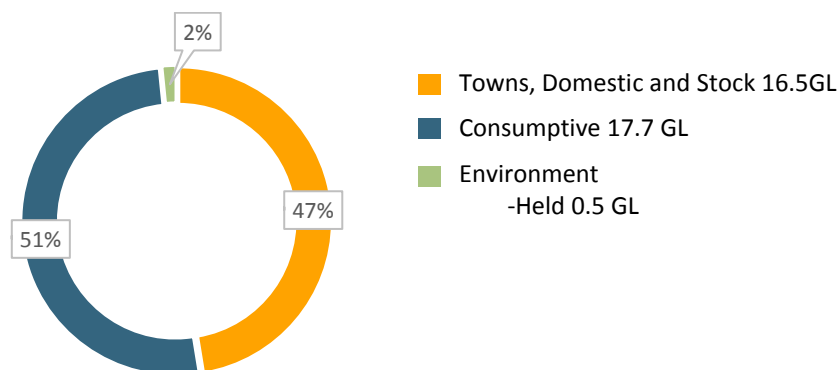


Figure 3: Volumes of water held in accounts for the 2019-20 water year (as at 2 March 2020)

Source: [NSW Water Register](#) and [CEWO](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated, but not necessarily available, for various purposes as at 2 March 2020. Due to Drought Stage 4 conditions, the extremely limited available water is being directed towards critical human needs.

Water allocation figures shown here differ to those on WaterNSW's [Water Insights](#), which shows estimated water available over a two-year planning period (2019 to 2021).

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) - Selected licence categories as at 2 March 2020

Licence category	Current announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)
Stock & Domestic, Local Utility	100%	Same as most years
Upper & Lower Namoi High Security	75%	100% in most years
Peel High Security	50%	100% in most years
Upper Namoi General Security	0%	Lowest on record (since 2004-05)
Lower Namoi General Security	0%	Has occurred in four out of the last ten years
Peel General Security	0%	Has occurred in two out of the last ten years
Average Carryover (General Security)	23% Upper Namoi 5% Lower Namoi N/A Peel	7% last year (Upper Namoi) 19% last year (Lower Namoi) N/A Peel

Source: [Allocation dashboard- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email [water@bom.gov.au](mailto:water@bom.gov.au)



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