



Water Reporting Summary - Namoi Catchment

15 May 2020



Overview

- In the last month, most of the upper Namoi catchment received 25 to 50 mm, with the central and lower parts of the catchment and the Split Rock catchment receiving less than 25 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 26 mm for the last 30 days. This recent patchy rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Namoi catchment being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- The patchy rainfall received so far in May has followed above average rainfall during April, resulting in above average to very much above average root zone soil moisture currently for most of the Namoi catchment. The wetting of the catchment has translated into some runoff and inflows into storages. However, Drought Stage 2 and 3 conditions continue for the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi catchments, respectively. Drought Stage 2 reflects limited water resources and multiple years of low flows while for Stage 3 there have been severe water shortages (NSW DPIE). As a result, there are no or low allocations for some entitlement holders and water trade is limited (Figures 3 and 4).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders in the Upper Namoi are currently 50% which, for this time of year, is the lowest since 2009-10. For the Lower Namoi catchments, allocations remain at 0% which has occurred four times in the last ten years (Table 1).

Recent conditions

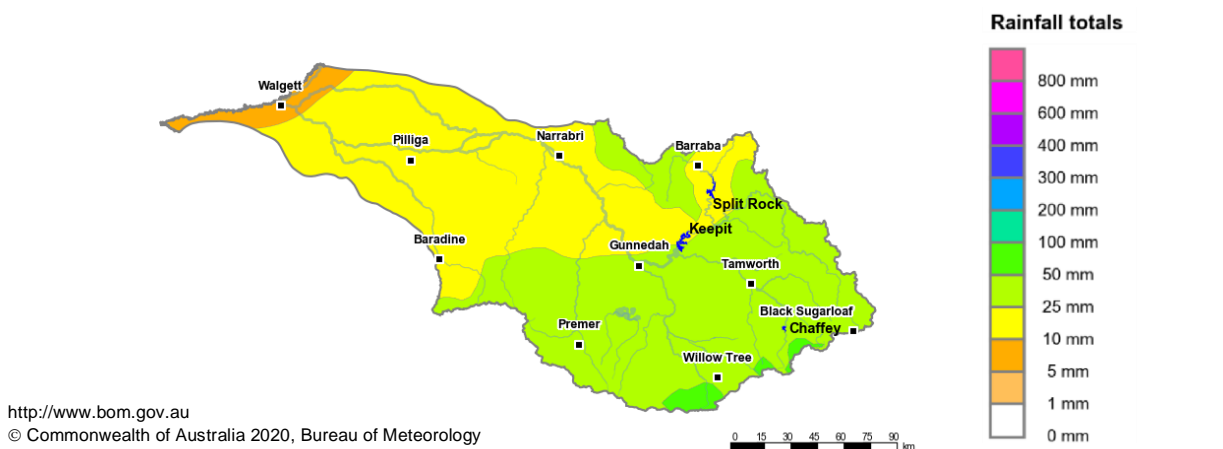


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 April to 15 May 2020)

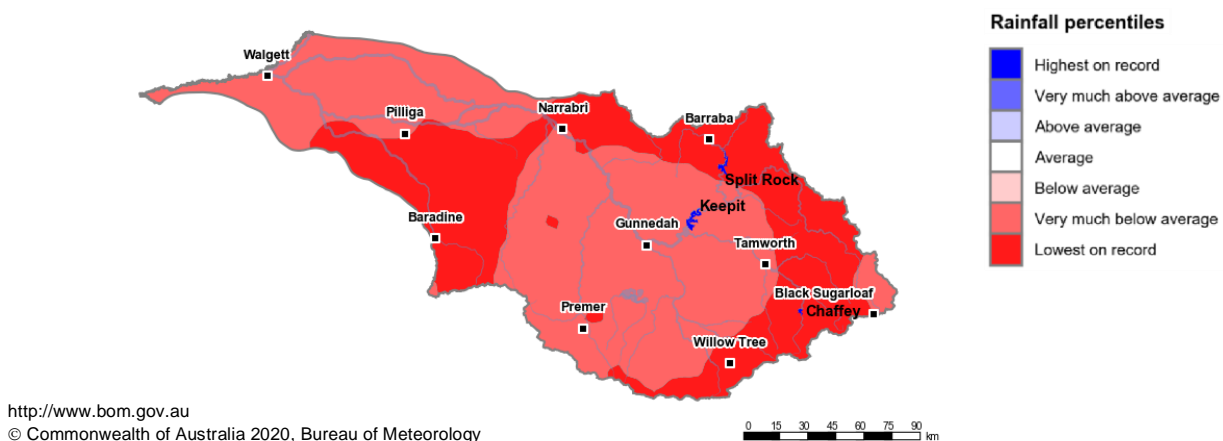


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Apr 2020)

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 May 2020

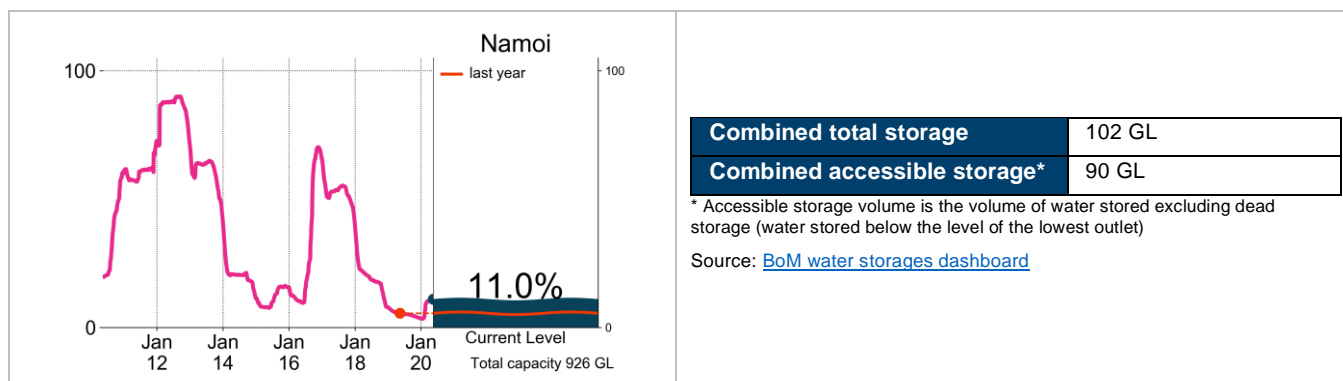


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Who is the water for?

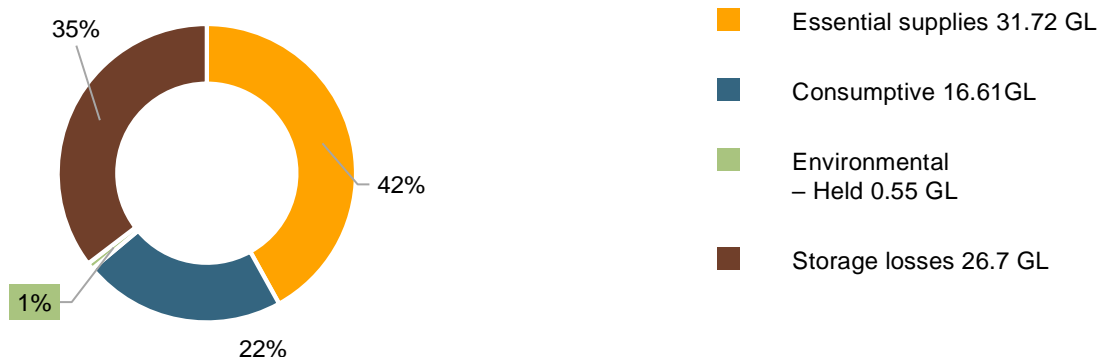


Figure 4: Volumes of water held in accounts for the 2019-20 water year (as at 30 April 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated, but not necessarily available, for various purposes as at 30 April 2020. 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 (%) and market prices – Selected licence categories as at 15 May 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%	Same as most years	n/a	\$200/ML*
Upper & Lower Namoi High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
Upper Namoi General Security	50%	Lowest since 2009-10	n/a	
Lower Namoi General Security	0%	Has occurred in four out of the last ten years	n/a	
Average Carryover or Starting balance on 1 July (General Security)	23% Upper Namoi 5% Lower Namoi	7% last year (Upper Namoi) 19% last year (Lower Namoi)	n/a	

*Indicative - limited trade data

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

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



With the exception of logos, photography and data referenced as being from other organisations, this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence. The terms and conditions of the licence are available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au>. Attribution for this publication should be: © Commonwealth of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology) 2020.