



Water Reporting Summary - Namoi Catchment

17 August 2020



Overview

- In the last month, most of the lower Namoi catchment received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall while the central and upper parts received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. The area near Chaffey Dam received up to 200 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 62 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 being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- The rainfall received during the last 30 days has helped to maintain root zone soil moisture at average to above average levels for most of the Namoi catchment. Recent rainfall has translated into some runoff and inflows into storages. However, Drought Stage 2 and 3 and 4 conditions continue for the Upper Namoi, Lower Namoi and Peel Rivers, respectively. Drought Stage 2 reflects limited water resources and multiple years of low flows. For Stage 3 there have been severe water shortages and 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). As a result, there are zero 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, Lower Namoi and Peel are currently 0%. This is common for the Lower Namoi for this time of year but has only occurred twice in the last ten years in the Upper Namoi and three times in the Peel (Table 1).

Recent conditions

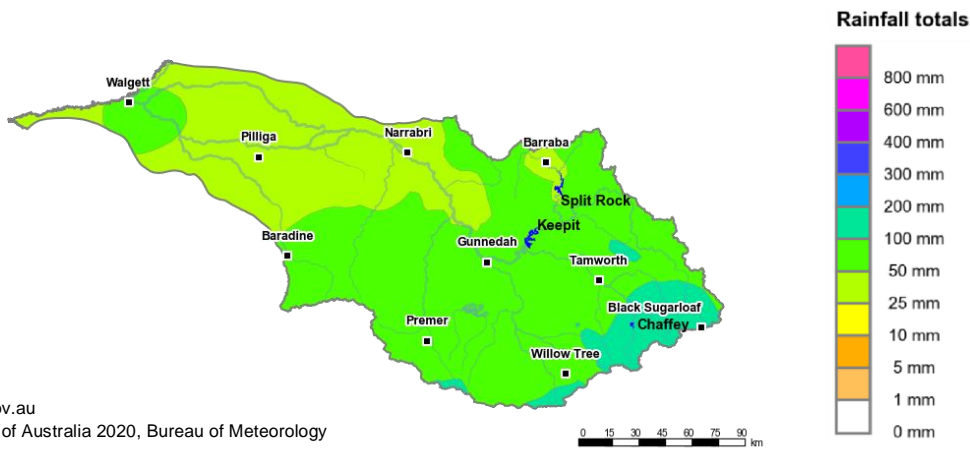


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (19 July to 17 Aug 2020)

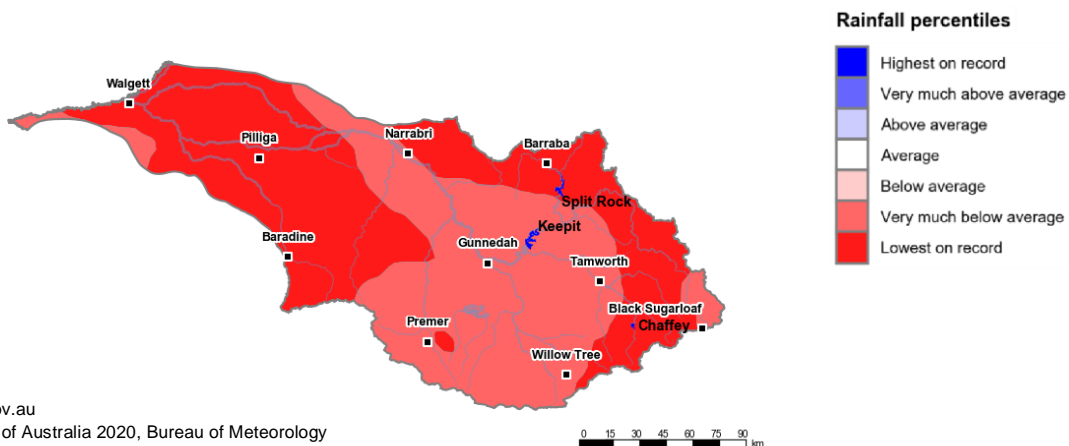


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to July 2020)

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 17 August 2020

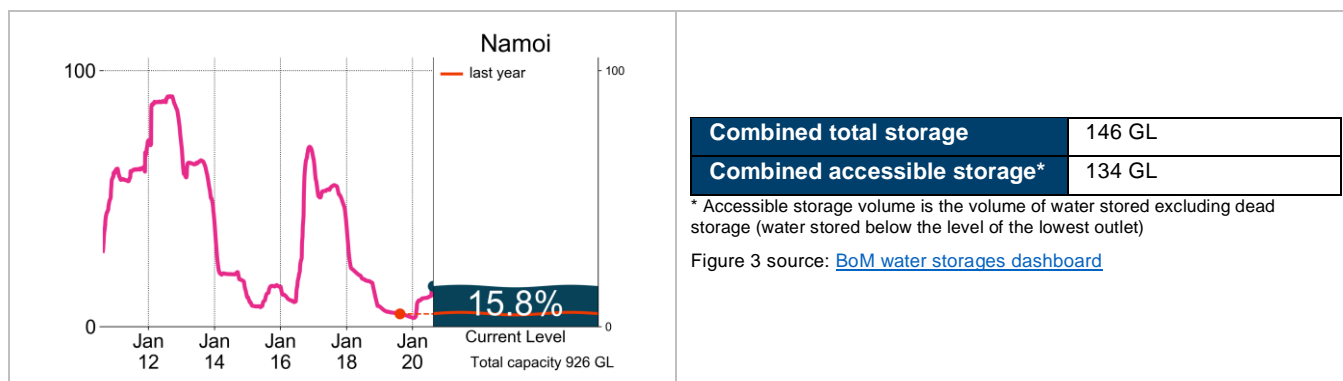


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Who is the water for?

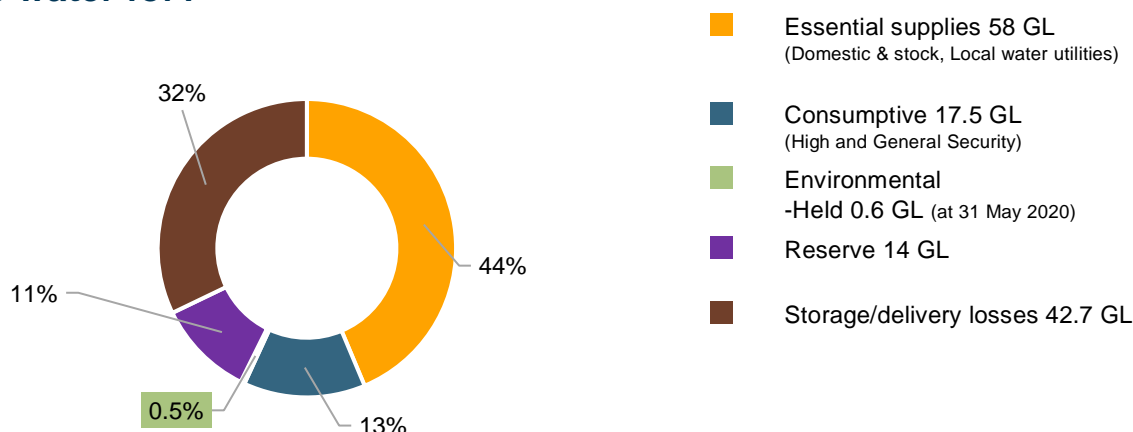


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020-21 water year (as at 6 August 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes in the Upper Namoi, Lower Namoi and Peel regulated river water sources as at 6 August 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 17 August 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) 70% (Peel) | Typically 100% | \$600/ML* (Lower Namoi) | n/a |
| High Security | 90% (Upper & Lower Namoi) 50% (Peel) | Typically 100% | n/a | |
| General Security | 0% (Upper & Lower Namoi, Peel) | 0% has occurred twice in the Upper Namoi, five times for the Lower Namoi and 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](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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