



# Water Reporting Summary - Namoi Catchment

1 July 2020



## Overview

- In the last month, most of the central and upper Namoi catchment received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall. Less than 25 mm of rain fell in the downstream parts of the catchment. In contrast, the area near Black Sugarloaf received up to 100 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 29 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 during June has helped to maintain root zone soil moisture at above average levels for most of the Namoi catchment. However, rainfall received in the last month has not translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages. 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 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 and Lower Namoi opened at 0%, which is typical for the Lower Namoi but has only occurred twice in the last ten years for the Upper Namoi (Table 1).
- A comprehensive water allocation statement will be available in August 2020 (NSW DPIE)

## Recent conditions

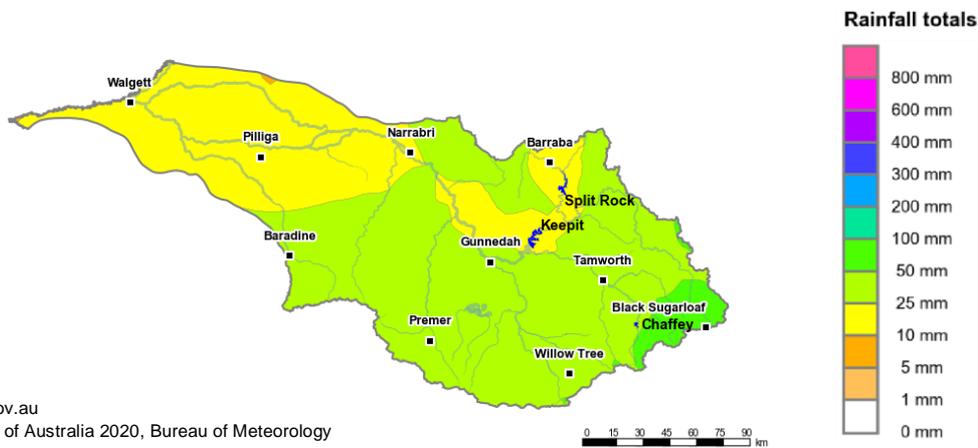


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (2 June to 1 July 2020)

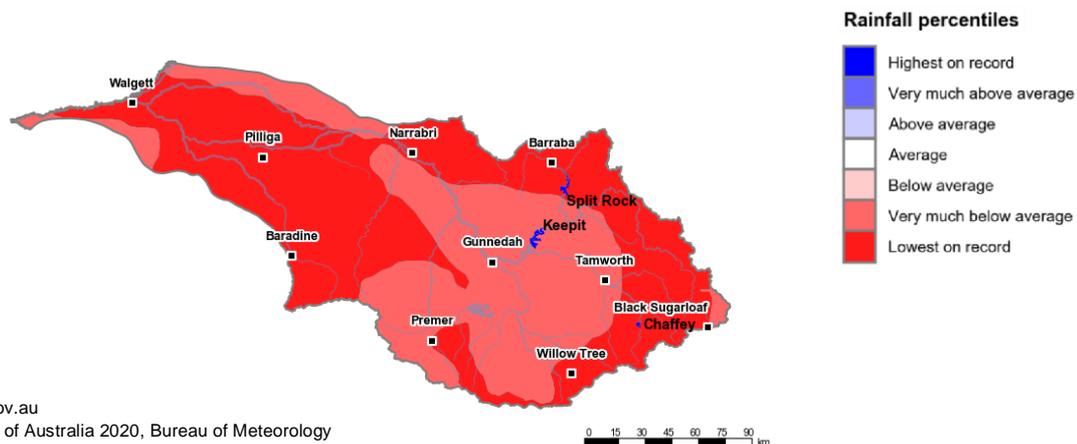


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to June 2020)

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 1 July 2020

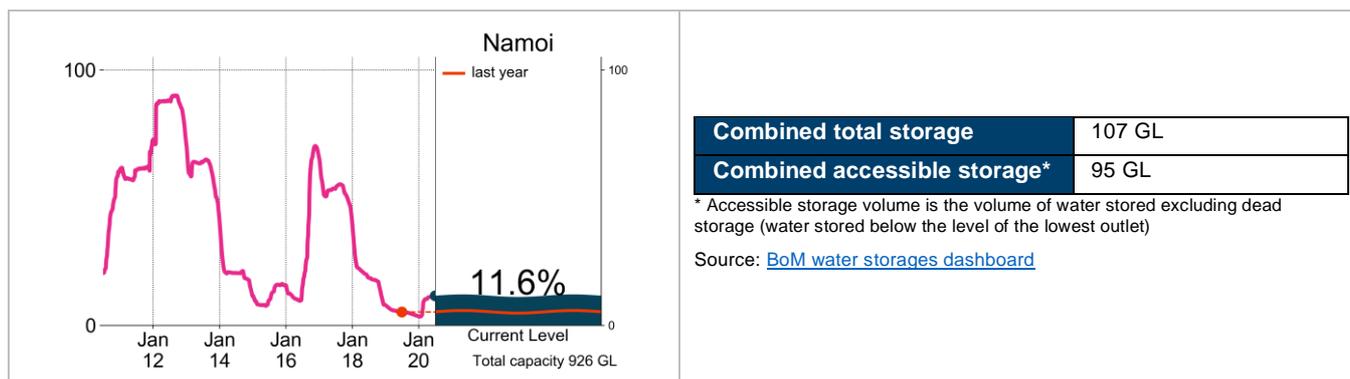


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

## Who is the water for?



Figure 4: Volumes of water held in accounts for the 2020-21 water year (as at 1 July 2020)

Source: [WaterNSW Water register](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated, but not necessarily available, for various purposes as at 1 July 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 (2020 to 2022).

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) and market prices – Selected licence categories as at 1 July 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                                  | 90%                                  | Typically opens with 100%                                             | n/a                                 |                                         |
| Upper Namoi General Security                                       | 0%                                   | Opening allocation of 0% has occurred twice out of the last ten years | \$3,000/ML*                         |                                         |
| Lower Namoi General Security                                       | 0%                                   | Opening allocation of 0% has occurred eight out of the last ten years | \$3,600/ML*                         |                                         |
| Average Carryover or Starting balance on 1 July (General Security) | TBA- Upper Namoi<br>TBA- Lower Namoi | 23% last year (Upper Namoi)<br>5% last year (Lower Namoi)             | 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](mailto:water@bom.gov.au)



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