



# Water Reporting Summary - Namoi Catchment

1 May 2020



## Overview

- In the last month, most of the Namoi catchment received between 50 to 100 mm of rainfall, except for parts of the southern catchment which received up to 200 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 82 mm for the last 30 days. However, 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).
- Recent rainfall has significantly improved soil moisture conditions, with root zone soil moisture in most of the Namoi catchment being very much above average during April. This rainfall has translated into some runoff and inflows into storages, with Drought Stage 3 conditions remaining for the Lower Namoi but easing to Stage 2 for the Upper Namoi catchment. For Stage 3, there have been severe water shortages. Stage 2 reflects limited water resources and multiple years of low flows (NSW DPIE). As a result, there are relatively low or no 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 have increased to 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

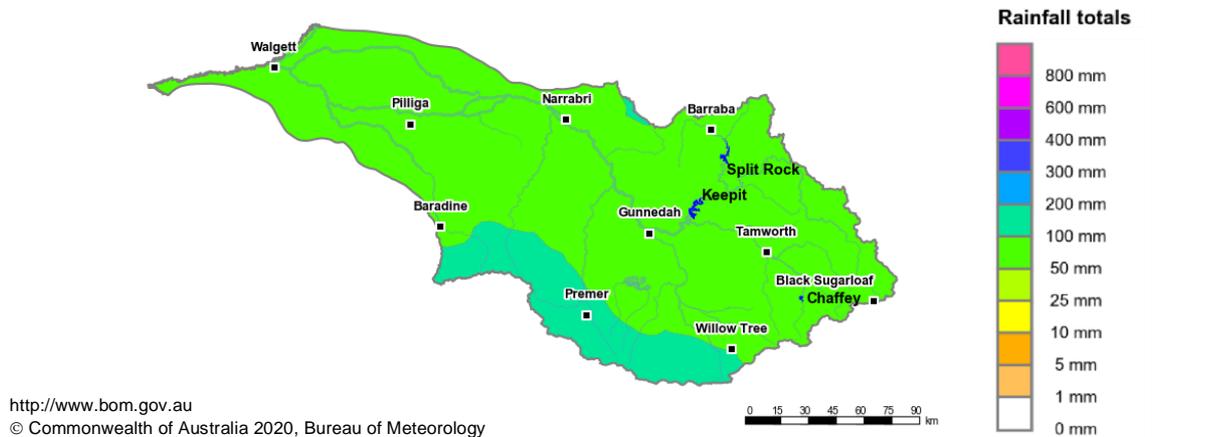


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (2 April to 1 May 2020)

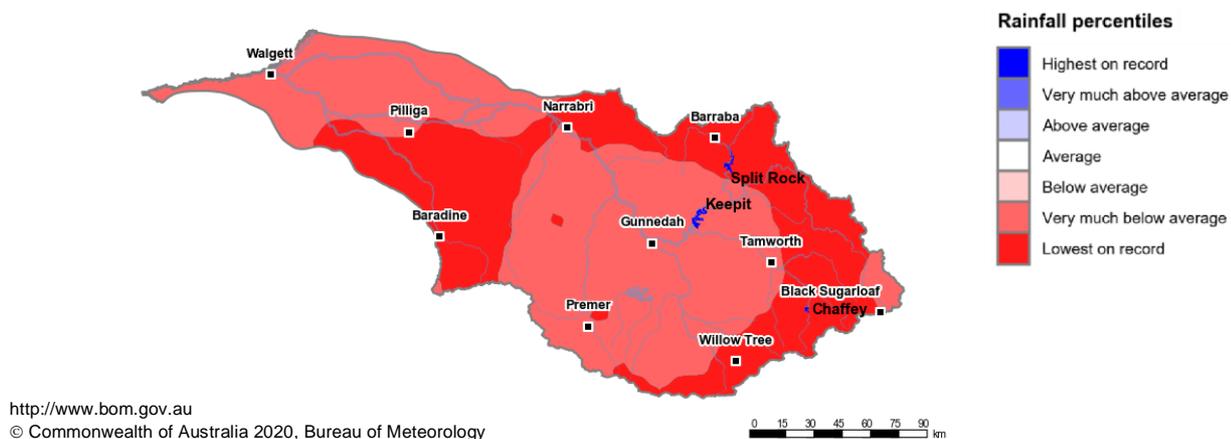


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Apr 2020)

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 1 May 2020

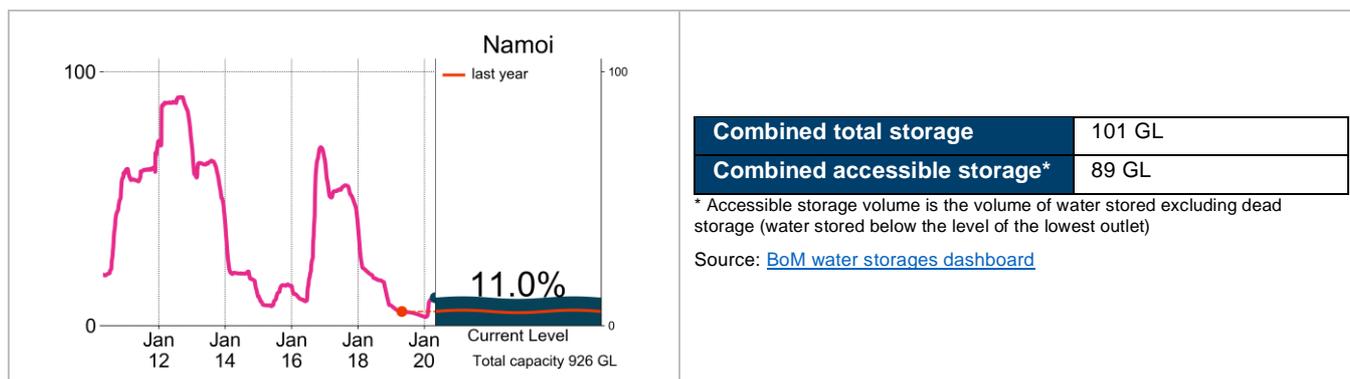


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

## Who is the water for?

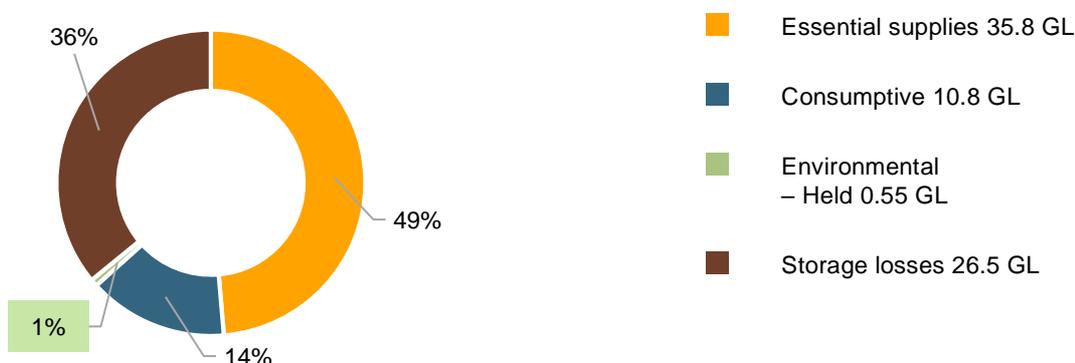


Figure 4: Volumes of water held in accounts for the 2019-20 water year (as at 14 April 2020)

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 14 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 1 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](#)

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



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