



Water Reporting Summary - Namoi Catchment

3 August 2020



Overview

- In the last month, most of the lower and central parts of the Namoi catchment received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall. The upper Namoi catchment received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall with the area upstream of Black Sugarloaf receiving up to 200 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 49 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 welcome rainfall received during July has helped to maintain root zone soil moisture at average to above average levels for most of the Namoi catchment. The rainfall received in the last month 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 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 are currently 0%, which is common for the Lower Namoi for this time of year but has only occurred twice in the last ten years for the Upper Namoi (Table 1). A comprehensive water allocation statement for 2020-21 will be available in mid-August 2020 (NSW DPIE).

Recent conditions

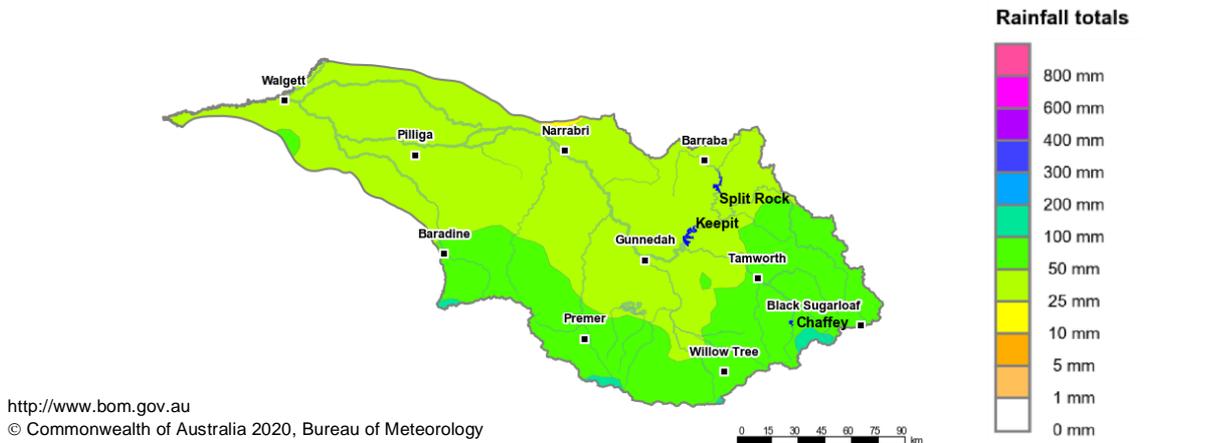


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (5 July to 3 Aug 2020)

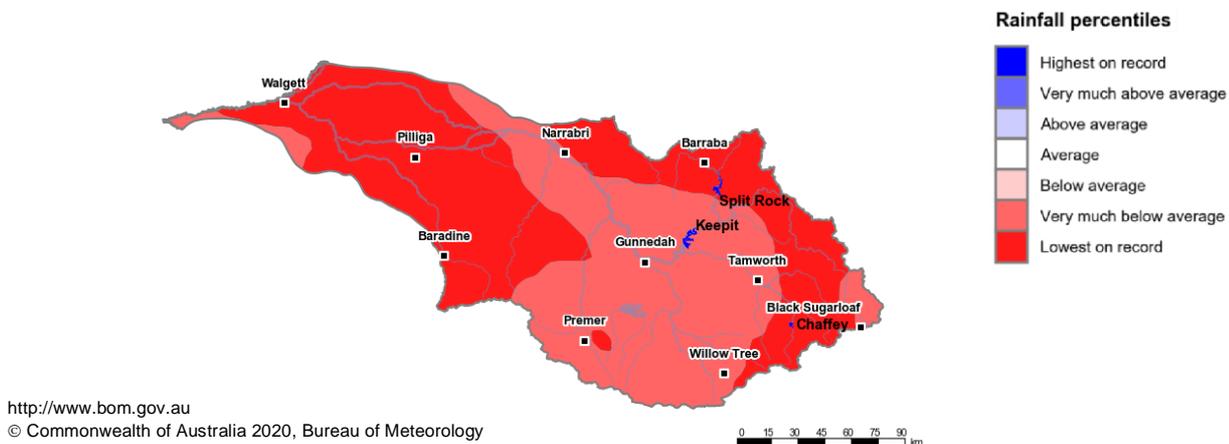


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to July 2020)

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 and Keepit storages as at 3 August 2020

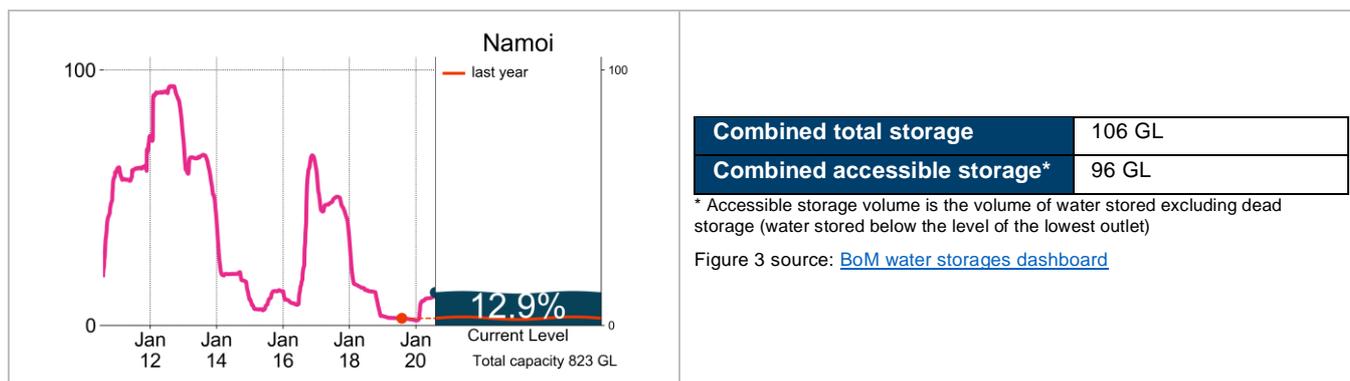


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Who is the water for?

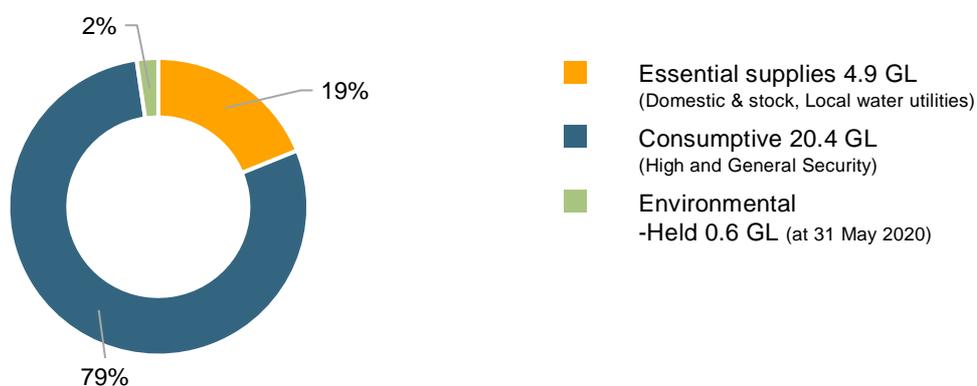


Figure 4: Volumes of licenced water available (updated 29 July 2020)

Source: [NSW DPIE Water usage dashboard](#) and [CEWO](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water available for various licence categories as at 29 July 2020 for the Upper and Lower Namoi regulated river water sources. 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 3 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%	Same as most years	n/a	\$250/ML*
Upper & Lower Namoi High Security	90%	Typically opens with 100%	n/a	
Upper Namoi General Security	0%	0% has occurred twice for this time of year out of the last ten years	n/a	
Lower Namoi General Security	0%	0% has occurred five out of the last ten years for this time of year	n/a	
Average Carryover or Starting balance on 1 July (General Security)	40% (Upper Namoi) 6% (Lower Namoi)	23% last year (Upper Namoi) 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



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