



Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

BAM Assessor Update – Number 21 – August 2019

1. Biodiversity Values Map Version 7 Update

Version 7 of the Biodiversity Values (BV) Map was published on 28 August 2019. This update involved changes to the land included on the BV Map which can be viewed in the [Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold \(BMAT\) Tool](#).

The updated spatial data is available through the SEED Portal <https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/biodiversity-values-map>.

Changes to the areas on the BV Map

1. Revised mapping for *Pterostylis vernalis*

P. vernalis is a critically endangered orchid and a species for which proposed development could pose a potential risk of serious and irreversible impacts (SAIL) on biodiversity values. Mapping of this species was undertaken in 2017 and included in the BV Map. OEHL has revised the mapping method for this species which has involved reducing the size of buffers around the species records. Compared to the 2017 mapping the revised mapping covers a reduced area. There are also some small additional areas in the revised mapping due to changed mapping methods. OEHL will be undertaking revised mapping for other SAIL species that, once approved, will be included in future BV Map Updates.

2. Refinement of Old Growth and rainforest mapping

Refinements have been made following landholder-initiated map reviews, Private Native Forestry Property Vegetation Plan reviews and strategic remapping.

3. Landholder – initiated map reviews

Changes (removal and additions) arising from twenty map reviews have been incorporated into the BV Map.

4. Colour changes

New areas that have been added to the BV Map are shown as dark purple for 90 days. This update is 90 days since the V6 Update published on the 29 May 2019. The areas that were added to the BV Map in the V6 Update have been changed from dark purple to pink – and now apply.

If you have an enquiry about the BV Map, please contact the Department at map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au or on 02 6360 9000.

Changes to the BMAT Tool

Two enhancements have been made to the BMAT Tool:

1. Improved zoom

In previous versions of the Tool the maximum zoom was limited to 1:8,000. This has been improved to 1:4,000 that will assist with determining the boundaries of mapped areas. Spatial data for version 7 will be available from the SEED Portal. An improved base map has also been included in the Tool.

2. More Recent Imagery

SPOT 5 2013 imagery was provided as a layer in previous versions of the Tool. This has been replaced with the more current imagery available for NSW. In addition to being more recent, this imagery has a finer resolution than the previous layer.

2. Timing for future BV Map Updates

The Department plans to update the BV Map quarterly. The proposed timing for the next three updates is in the following table.

BV Map Version	Proposed Timing
Version 8	Late November 2019
Version 9	Late February 2020
Version 10	Late May 2020

Assessors are reminded to regularly check the BV Map through the Biodiversity values Map and Threshold (BMAT) Tool

<https://www.lmbc.nsw.gov.au/Maps/index.html?viewer=BOSETMap>.

3. How are development proposals that were being triggered into the BOS by the BV Map and the mapped area is removed to be dealt with?

There may be circumstances when the Biodiversity Values Map applied to a parcel of land at the time that a development application (DA) was submitted, and the Map is amended to remove all or some of the mapped area from the parcel before the DA is determined.

A biodiversity development assessment report will be required if the development is likely to significantly impact threatened species because it:

- Involves clearing native vegetation or having a prescribed impact on biodiversity values mapped land or
- Involves clearing native vegetation in excess of the area clearing threshold or
- Is carried out in an area of outstanding biodiversity value or
- Is likely to have a significant impact as per the test of significance.

The consent authority will ultimately determine whether the biodiversity offset scheme applies to a local development application. If the Biodiversity Values Map was the only trigger into the biodiversity offsets scheme, it would be reasonable for the consent authority to determine that the Map is no longer triggered if an area is removed between submission and determination of a DA. If it is determined that the biodiversity offsets scheme does not apply at the point of determination, there is no requirement to prepare a biodiversity development assessment report or to impose a credit obligation as a condition of consent.