



Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

BAM Assessor Update – Number 22 – September 2019

Consultation on proposed changes to the BAM and publication of the BAM Operational Manual Stage 2

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1. Consultation on proposed changes to the Biodiversity Assessment Method (16 September to 16 October 2019)

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is committed to ensuring the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM), which underpins the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, is scientifically robust and user-friendly.

The Department is proposing to make a range of improvements to the BAM. These are based on feedback and questions received from users through the Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation (LMBC) Service Centre, as well as discussions with other agencies involved in the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.

The scope of the review was limited to improving the usability of the BAM, addressing inconsistencies in terminology and clarifying sections that users identified as being unclear or difficult to interpret. The amended BAM will also include a new appendix for valuing land-based conservation measures as part of a strategic biodiversity certification application.

The broad assessment approach and underlying metrics of the BAM were not reviewed and remain unchanged. It is likely these components of the BAM will be the focus of the five-year statutory review in 2021. Therefore, proposed amendments will not affect the current metrics used to determine credit requirements at either development or offset sites.

A summary of the proposed changes is provided in the [Proposed changes to the Biodiversity Assessment Method](#). The second BAM Support Webinar on the 26 September 2019 will also include a brief discussion of the proposed changes.

The public exhibition runs from 16 September to 16 October 2019. During this time, you can provide your feedback by completing the online submission form at <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/login>.

2. Publication of BAM Operational Manual Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

Stage 2 of the Manual is now available. It provides information to support the implementation of Stage 2 of the BAM (Impact Assessment) and is used to assist the:

- application of the avoid, minimise and offset hierarchy
- assessment of direct, indirect and prescribed biodiversity impacts associated with proposed activities
- application of the no net loss standard through the calculation of the offset requirements for impacts on the biodiversity values at a development site
- establishment of the credit class and offset trading group for ecosystem credits and species credits.

3. Release notes for the BAM-C data update on 27 September

The Department is updating the biodiversity data referenced by the BAM Calculator (BAM-C) at COB on Friday 27 September 2019. Please find attached the release notes that have been prepared to guide you through updating your assessment cases in the BAM-C once the data import has been completed.

4. Reminder of the BAM Support Webinars

BAM Support is a series of webinars hosted by the Department to support the role of accredited assessors in the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS). Refer to [BAM Assessor Update 22 – 6 September 2019 \(PDF 140KB\)](#) and the following link for further details.

Go to [Connect Event Catalog](#) to view details and register for upcoming webinars. The schedule will continue to be updated as more webinars are arranged.

If you have trouble registering or accessing the webinars, please contact BAM.support@environment.nsw.gov.au.