



Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Local Government Update 12

9 April 2021

In this update

1. [Launch of the SEED Layer Intersection Tool](#)
2. [Using BioNet for BAM assessments](#)
3. [BAM Transitional arrangements end soon for some applications](#)
4. [Reminder - Consultation on changes to the BOS open until 19 April](#)
5. [Fire Extent and Severity Mapping \(FESM\)](#)
6. [System Updates](#)
7. [BCT Update](#)

1. Launch of the SEED Layer Intersection Tool

The SEED Layer Intersection Tool (LIT) is available to use on the [SEED map](#). The LIT allows users to define an area of interest and select relevant layers from a predefined set. The user can then see the degree to which the layers intersect within that area. Detailed reports can then be downloaded.

Currently, the spatial layers relevant to the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) Stage 1 are available for use. For example, an assessor can define the area of the subject land, select the BAM Stage 1 layer set and view all the relevant layers available that intersect within the subject land. For more details, go to the [fact sheet](#) and watch a video on how to use the tool via [SEED News & Resources](#).

2. Using BioNet for BAM assessments

At all times, the biodiversity data in the BAM-Calculator (BAM-C) is to be used when applying the BAM and is considered correct. Assessors also need to refer to BioNet as it contains information that is not included in the BAM-C and could provide more up to date data e.g. additional information about habitat constraints, survey requirements or newly listed species. It is recommended that assessors review BioNet regularly while undertaking a BAM assessment.

If differences between BioNet and BAM-C are identified, the assessor should discuss the divergence between the two systems in the Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR). Depending on the differences, it may be possible to update the BAM-C case to reflect the latest BioNet

information e.g. by manually adding species in BAM-C. The BAR should describe what has been done by the assessor in these circumstances.

3. BAM Transitional arrangements end soon for some applications

BAM 2020 was released on 22 October 2020 with a provision for transitional arrangements. After 22 April 2021 biodiversity stewardship, development and clearing applications (except for state significant development or infrastructure and biodiversity certification) will need to be prepared using BAM 2020.

The *Changes to the Biodiversity Assessment Method from 2017 to 2020 - Guidance for accredited assessors and local government* has been updated to help identify the changes required to modify a BAR originally prepared under BAM 2017 to align with BAM 2020. This will be required as timeframes for transitional arrangements end.

4. Consultation on changes to the BOS open until 19 April

The NSW Government is inviting submissions on proposed changes to the way that payments to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust are determined under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS).

For more information, please see the [Changes to the biodiversity offsets scheme: public consultation](#) page on our website. There you can download the consultation paper and find out more about how to make a submission.

5. Fire Extent and Severity Mapping (FESM)

For assessors applying the *Guideline for applying the BAM at severely burnt sites* (BDAR/BCAR), the state-wide Fire Extent and Severity Mapping (FESM) can be used to inform decisions about the burn severity on the subject land (in addition to the GEEBAM mapping). The FESM is available on [SEED](#). We encourage you to discuss use of this mapping with your consent authority.

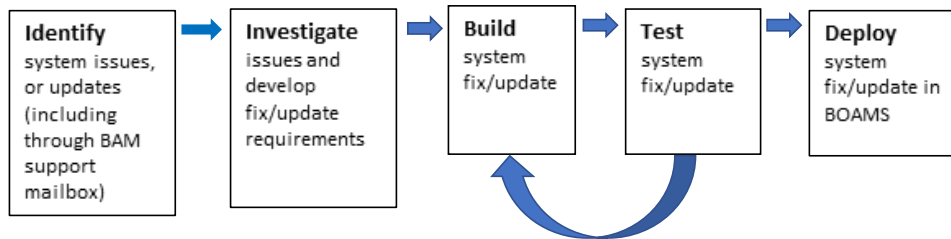
Fire severity is a metric of the loss of biomass caused by fire. In collaboration with the NSW Rural Fire Service, DPIE Remote Sensing & Regulatory Mapping team developed a semi-automated approach to mapping fire extent and severity through a machine learning framework, based on sentinel 2 satellite imagery. The state-wide severity map has standardised classes to allow comparison of different fires across the landscape.

6. System Updates

Thanks for your effort in reporting BOAMS issues via the BAM support mailbox. We understand the impact these issues can have on your work. See the table below showing the status of priority system changes.

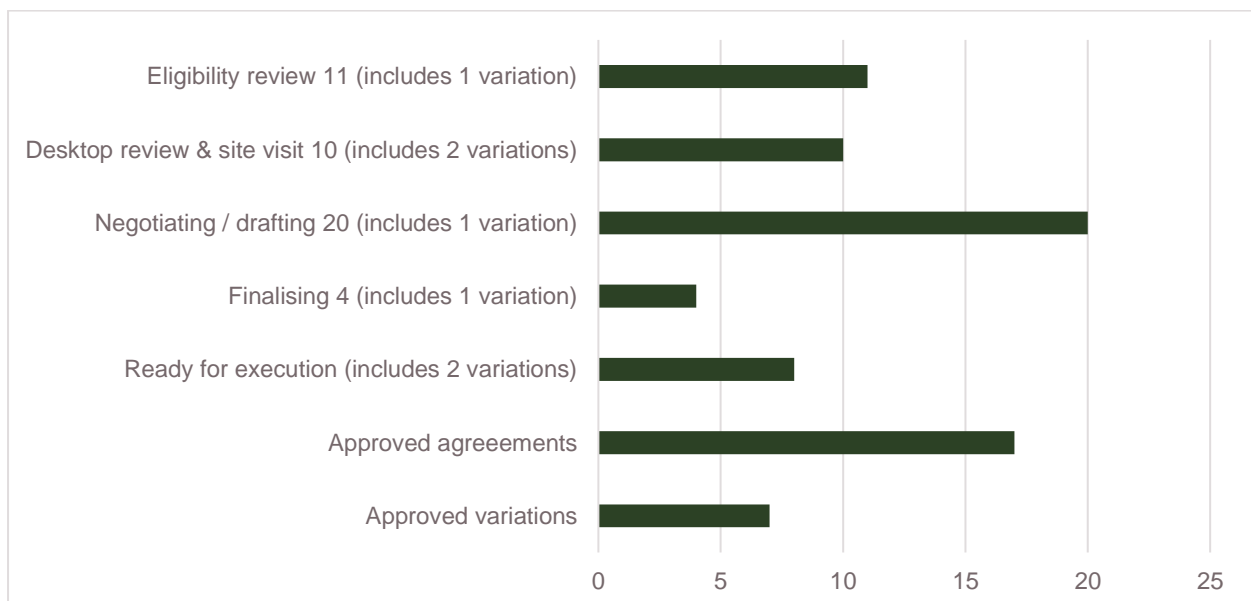
Description	Current Status
Unable to view development cases in BOAMS	Resolved
Transferring cases in BOAMS	Resolved
Error Code 500 BAM-C	Resolved
Scheduled BAM-C data import	Planned for 29 April
Unable to upload zip files	Under investigation
Important Area Map Viewer unavailable (intermittent)	Under investigation

* see flow diagram below



7. BCT Update

BSA Application status



-----**End of Local Government Update No.12**-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (16 April 2021). However, readers are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.

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