



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Local Government Update 15

12 August 2021

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## 1. Replacement of the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator - continued consultation

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is undertaking further consultation on the replacement of the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC). These consultations are expected to be completed by the end of 2021. This consultation follows on from Stage 1 of consultation undertaken by DPIE, which revealed these themes:

- Support for the BCT completing its planned stakeholder consultation on a long-term replacement for the current BOPC and that this consultation should inform transfer to the BCT or the removal of the Calculator from the public view.
- Additional market information should be provided to assist with private and public planning decisions.
- Assurance measures should be put in place for any revised BOPC to give the market confidence.
- Additional actions should be considered to improve the supply of biodiversity offset credits.

## 2. Public exhibition of BDARs

A development application that is accompanied by a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) because it was required by [section 7.7\(2\)](#) (also see [section 7.2\(1\)](#)) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, is known as ‘threatened species development’.

Applications for development consent of ‘threatened species development’ are required to be placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days (see clause 8A of [Schedule 1](#) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*).

The way in which the ‘threatened species development’ should be publicly exhibited is provided in [clause 77](#) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000.

## 3. Subscribe to SEED datasets

A new function allowing users to subscribe to datasets on the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) portal is now available. Users can create an account and subscribe to datasets or filters to be notified of changes, new or upcoming datasets and announcements. A [help guide](#) offers step-by-step instructions on how to subscribe and manage your preferences.

Live usage statistics are also available to monitor how the dataset is performing and assess the popularity of datasets. Read more via [SEED News & Resources](#).

## 4. Check BAM-Calculator reports are consistent with Biodiversity Assessment Reports

It is best practice for assessors and decision-makers to check that the information in a BAM-Calculator report is consistent with the information in the Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR).

Reports generated by the BAM-Calculator should be checked by assessors as part of their quality assurance protocol to ensure the information is consistent with the BAR. For example, assessors should check to confirm that the list of predicted species in the BAM-Calculator is consistent with the list in the BAR. Likewise, assessors should check that the list of candidate species in the BAM-Calculator are consistent with the BAR i.e. the species assessed for presence using either assumed presence, an important habitat map, targeted survey or expert report. Decision-makers should also check these details.

The BAM-Calculator reports must have a status of finalised before being submitted to the decision-maker and the date of finalisation must be within 14 days of submitting the BAR.

## 5. Videos explain the BOS in a nutshell

Five short [videos](#) are available online providing a quick and easy explanation of the BOS. As local government decision-makers, you may find the videos helpful for your work or liaising with customers. Video topics include:

- The BOS and when it applies

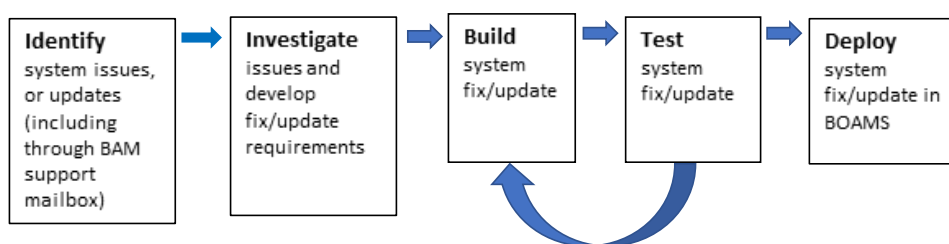
- Meeting biodiversity offset obligations
- Part 5 activities
- Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAIL) on biodiversity and
- Using BioNet to identify threatened entities at risk of SAIL in your Local Government Area

## 6. System Updates

Thanks for your effort in reporting BOAMS issues via the [BOS enquiry form](#). 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
Amendment to BOAMS which will enable assessors to upload executable files	<b>Identify</b>
Errors accessing BAM-C (500, 503) due to high server traffic	<b>Investigate</b>

\* see flow diagram below



## 7. Information sessions about Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements

[Register your interest](#) in the Biodiversity Conservation Trust's [information sessions about Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements](#) (BSAs). Sessions will be held across regional NSW over September-October 2021. They will explain the steps involved in establishing a BSA and will be useful for all stakeholders involved in the process. Dates and locations include:

Date	Location	Time
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Dubbo	12pm - 3pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Wagga Wagga	12pm - 3pm

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Narrabri	10am -1pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Moree	10am - 1pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Muswellbrook	12-3pm
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Newcastle	8-11am
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Sydney (4PSQ)	9-12pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Coffs Harbour	12- 3pm
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	On-line	9.30-11am
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Jindabyne	9-12pm
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Queanbeyan	9-12pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Moruya	9-12pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Kiama	9-12pm

## 8. Biodiversity Conservation Trust Update

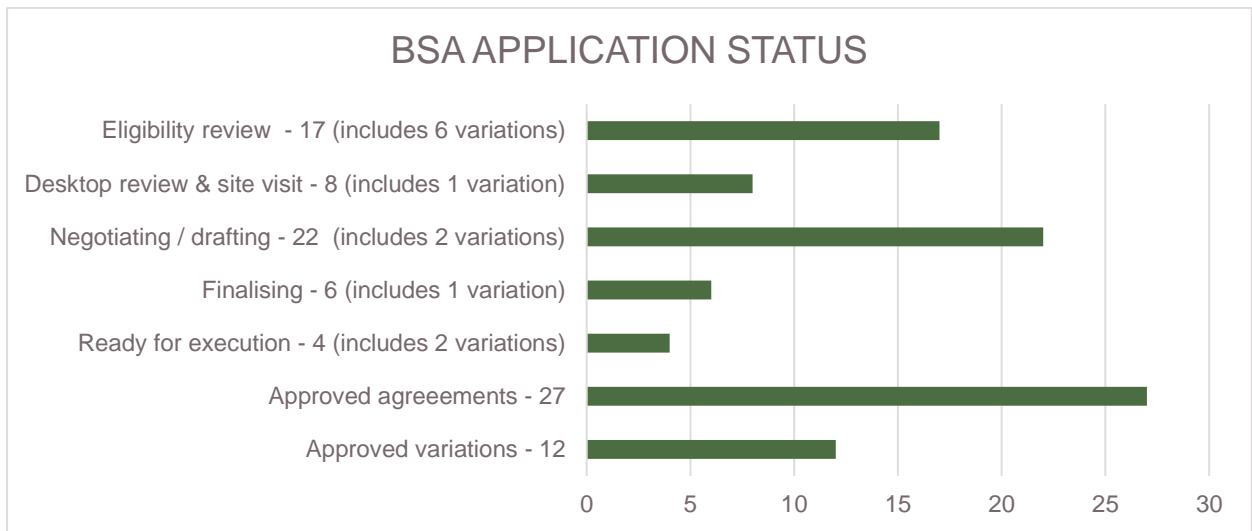
### New communication resources

•The BCT has published a suite of new communication resources to guide landholders and assessors in establishing a BSA. The resources include:

- BSA landholder guide,
- BSA process infographic,
- Guide to submitting a BSA, and
- Engaging an accredited assessor.

These resources are available on the BCT website, via the [BSA landholder guide page](#) and the [landholder resources page](#) (under the heading Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement resources tab).

## Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement Application status



-----**End of Local Government Update No.15**-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (12 August 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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