



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Local Government Update 16

24 September 2021

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1. Impact on BAM Support Mailbox Responses

With the impact that COVID-19 is currently having across the state, response times for the BAM Support Mailbox queries will be delayed. We thank you for your understanding and patience.

2. How should vegetation clearing for bushfire protection be considered under Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)*?

Vegetation clearing to meet requirements under Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 (PBP 2019) must be considered for proposed development when determining whether the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) applies. Where the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme applies and proposed development will result in a clearing entitlement, the 10/50 area must be included as part of the proposed clearing footprint to determine whether the BOS applies. If the BOS applies, a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) must be submitted with the development application.

The biodiversity impacts of any vegetation clearing required for a proposal must be considered under Part 7 of the BC Act. This includes:

- proposed Asset Protection Zones (APZ) required under the PBP 2019 including areas of vegetation that are partially cleared and already meet the specifications of a proposed APZ
- access roads to meet requirements under the PBP 2021 or for other reasons
- facilities/works that are ancillary to the proposal such as driveways, fence lines and landscaping.

Where the specifications of an APZ are not known, apply a buffer of 50m around proposed buildings to account for the 10/50 clearing entitlement which is created by the development consent and final occupancy certificate for certain buildings and structures.

If an APZ is proposed within vegetation that is partially cleared and meets the specifications of the proposed APZ or subsequent 10/50 clearing entitlement, it must still be considered when determining whether a BDAR is required.

The Local Government Bulletin: Issue No 12 - *Bushfire related clearing and the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* provides more information. A limited exemption from the BOS has been made to support rebuilding after the 2019-20 bushfires. For more information, please visit [Bushfire Rebuild Exemption](#).

3. Pre-release Eastern NSW Plant Community Type (PCT) Data now available on request

A Pre-release package (V1.1.0-Prerelease) of the Eastern NSW PCT classification and map is now available by request to the BioNet Support Team at BioNet@environment.nsw.gov.au. This pre-release is to allow early familiarisation prior to formal data release in early 2022. The pre-release will be subject to a data licence that precludes its use in the BOS or the BAM-Calculator.

The package will include the following resources for the eastern NSW region:

- PCT Classification v1.1.0 including full description and floristic detail;
- eastern region of the State Vegetation Type Map (PCT/Class/Formation) v1.1.0;
- revised Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) and Threatened Species associations;
- Plot to PCT Assignment Tool; and
- advice on accessing eastern PCT Classification reference Flora Survey Plots.

Future updates will be communicated from the [Integrated BioNet Vegetation Data \(IBVD\) Program](#) page. IBVD seeks to standardise the classification and mapping of vegetation communities as a basis for effective planning in NSW.

4. Plains-wanderer Important Habitat Map

The plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) Important Habitat Map is now available via the [Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System](#) (BOAMS). However, due to upgrades to the map viewer currently in progress the *area report* and *export to shapefile* tools will be unavailable for the plains-wanderer layer until October. In the interim, if you require this information, please email the lot/DP or shapefile of the subject land to the [BOS Enquiry Form](#).

5. **General Notes section of the Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection**

All assessors are required to use the Bionet Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection (TBDC) when preparing a Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR) (Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) 2020 Subsection 1.4.1(1)).

It is best practice for decision-makers to cross reference the TBDC when reviewing BARs. The *General Notes* section contains a range of relevant information for threatened species including survey requirements, serious and irreversible impacts, information to assist with distinguishing between similar species, relevant resources and more.

6. **Serious and Irreversible Impact BAM 2020 data**

Data to support the application of BAM 2020 Serious and Irreversible Impact (SAII) assessments is currently available upon request via the BOS Enquiry Form. Please specify the individual species or TEC for which you require data.

When an assessor prepares a BDAR or Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report (BCAR), the criteria within BAM 2020 section 9.1 must be addressed in relation to entities at risk of a SAII. The information will assist the decision-maker with their determination. Section 9.1 requires the assessor to consult the TBDC and/or other sources to report on the current status or population of TECs or species.

Environment, Energy and Science (EES) has collated best available data from a range of sources, with the intention of updating these data as new information is published or supplied. These data will soon be made available from the BAM-C homepage (login version only) in spreadsheet format and will eventually be viewable from within the TBDC.

7. **BAM Transitional Arrangements**

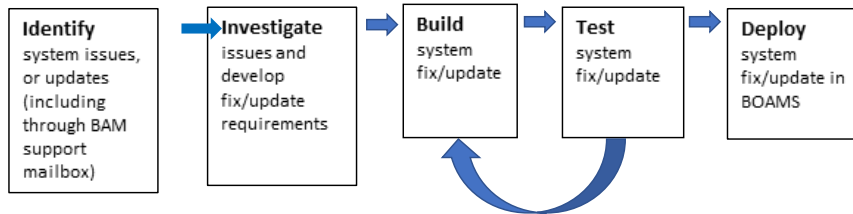
BAM 2020 was released on 22 October 2020 with a provision for transitional arrangements. After 22 October 2021 state significant development and infrastructure projects must be prepared using BAM 2020.

8. **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	Identify

* see flow diagram below



9. Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement sites: calculating interim ecological response targets

Did you know a worksheet is available to calculate interim ecological response targets on a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) site?

Interim ecological response targets inform the evaluation of biodiversity gain via comparison with monitoring data, guided by the Ecological Monitoring Module (EMM). The worksheet supports, and should be used with, the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) EMM Operational Manual.

The worksheet is available via the [BCT BAM Accredited Assessor Resources](#) page, under 'Biodiversity stewardship agreement (BSA) resources'.

10. Information session on BSA products

As noted in LG Update No.15, the BCT is hosting BSA information sessions for all stakeholders involved in the BSA process. Attendees will be introduced to the new BSA communications products that the BCT has produced including:

- [Guide to submitting a BSA](#)
- [BSA infographic](#)
- [Engaging an Accredited Assessor](#)

To register, please visit bsa-info.eventbrite.com.au

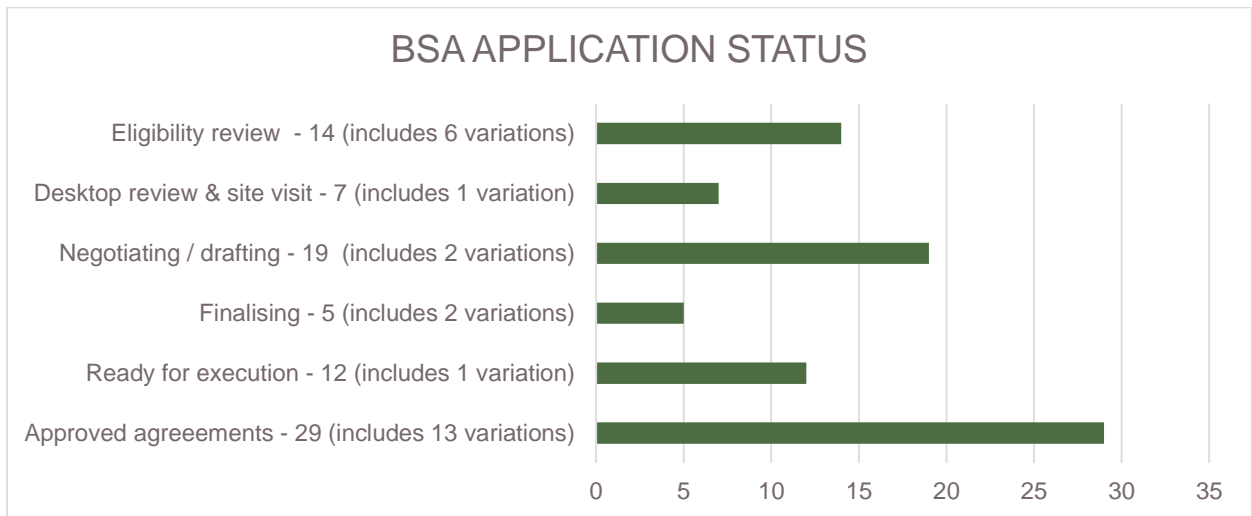
11. BCT Update

Proposed BSA over two Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA)

regions - Where a proposed BSA covers more than one IBRA region or subregion, assessors are encouraged to contact [EES](#) for advice on how to manage them in BOAMS. Generally, a separate BOAMS parent case will be required for each IBRA sub-region, each with their own BAM-C and credit report. Decision-makers should be aware of this when reviewing relevant BARs.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act species credits – It is recommended that landholders and assessors who are considering survey for EPBC Act species, contact the [BCT](#) prior to undertaking survey.

BSA Application status



-----**End of Local Government Update No.16**-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (24 September 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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