



Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Local Government Update No.3

29 June 2020

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1. Streamlining NSW and Australian Government biodiversity assessments

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is pleased to confirm that the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) has been endorsed by the Australian Government for assessment and offsetting of all projects requiring approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This was achieved via an amendment to an existing Bilateral Agreement with the NSW Government and formal endorsement of the BOS under the Australian Government's EPBC Act Condition Setting Policy.

Where an action will impact on a Commonwealth listed entity that is not listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act, the Australian Government will set the assessment requirements and consent conditions for that entity. The Department is working with the Australian Government to consider options that will enable all Commonwealth listed entities to be assessed under the BOS. This will avoid the need for separate offset requirements and further streamline assessment and approval proposals. See the [EES website](#) and our [recent webinar](#) for more information.

2. Application of new or revised survey guidelines

When the Department publishes new or amends an existing survey guide to support the application of the BAM (Biodiversity Assessment Method), it is expected that assessors will apply the new guideline to **existing BAM assessments for which the survey component has yet to be completed, and to all new BAM assessments that commence on, or after the publication date.** This is to ensure that all biodiversity assessment reports (BARs) meet the requirements of BAM s6.5.1.3.

Where a survey has been completed before the publication of any survey guidance, current best-practice is to be applied in surveying for target species (in accordance with BAM s6.5.1.4). Information from other published, peer-reviewed sources may be used to guide survey technique and effort, but this must be clearly documented and justified in the BAR as well as indicating how this differs from the recently published Department guide.

3. Publication of BOS support videos for LG

The Department is developing a series of short videos aimed at supporting local government staff working with the BOS. This [first video](#) has been published and it provides an overview, explaining key elements of the Scheme including triggers, assessment, offsetting and decision making. The video will be a useful refresher for local government staff who have previously received training in the BOS or an introduction for those new to working with the BOS.



4. Biodiversity Values Map Update V10

Version 10 of the BV Map was published on the 27 May 2020 in the [Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold \(BMAT\) Tool](#). The changes included in this update include:

- revised layer for the regent honeyeater
- a new layer to include *Calotis moorei*

- amendments from landholder-initiated map reviews
- refinement of old growth and rainforest mapping
- removal of buildings and recently developed subdivisions
- new areas added to the map are shown as dark purple for 90 days and areas that were added in version 9 have changed from dark purple to pink and clearing native vegetation in these areas now trigger the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme
- improvement to viewing scale at 1:2000 (previously 1:4500).

The updated spatial data is available through the [SEED Portal](#).

5. Upcoming BOS support webinar

The Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool

When: Tuesday 30 June 2020, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

The Biodiversity Values Map will be the focus of the next BOS support webinar. The speakers will describe the use of the map and clearing threshold tool (BMAT) to assist in determining whether a proposal may trigger entry into the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS). The webinar will also cover how the map has been prepared, what it covers and how it is managed by the Department.

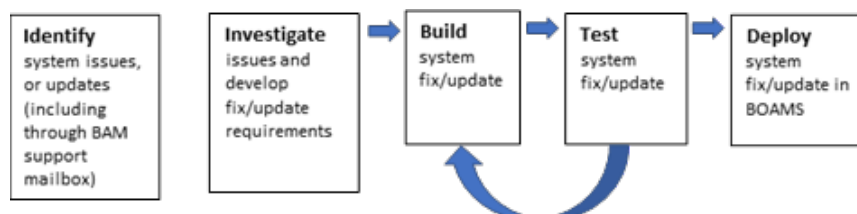
Go to [BOS Support: The Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool](#) to view additional information and register for this event.

Go to [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Support webinars](#) to view more information about the BOS Support webinar series, including troubleshooting advice and access to previous webinar recordings and Q&A.

6. System information and updates

If your Council hasn't yet registered as a consent authority user for the Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) and wants to access BAM calculations when reviewing submitted Biodiversity Development Assessment Reports (BDARs), please contact us at bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au.

If you are a registered user and have any issues with BOAMS, we appreciate you reporting them via the BAM support mailbox and we will log, investigate and respond. See the description below showing the current status of priority system changes.



Description	Current Status *see flow diagram
Consent Authority BOAMS access stage 2 – Automated notification emails, Important Area Map view feature for consent authority users	Investigate*
Quarter 2 Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) 2020 update; For further information, please contact bopc@environment.nsw.gov.au	Complete 20/5/20
Aligning BOAMs with the draft revised BAM	Test*

7. Application forms to transfer and retire BOS credits

New [application forms](#) for the transfer and retirement of biodiversity credits created by the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) are now available. Completed applications should be submitted to BOSCREDITS@environment.nsw.gov.au.

We encourage all applicants to ensure that the application forms are complete and accompanied by the relevant information required. Incomplete applications will delay the processing time.

Please note these forms **do not** apply to transfer and retirement of BioBanking credits.

8. Correction to BOS Support for LG webinar

In the BOS Support for LG webinar presented 26 May 2020, slide 8 provided a link to regional planning team mailboxes. We apologise that the mailbox address provided for Greater Sydney is for Aboriginal cultural heritage enquiries only. Please direct all BOS enquiries for Greater Sydney to bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au where they will be delegated to the relevant subject matter expert to respond.

You can also view this Update in your browser at [Mailchimp](#)

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (29 June 2020). 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.