



Biodiversity Offset Scheme Local Government Update No. 8

9 November 2020

In this update

1. Transitional arrangements
2. NSW Survey Guide for Threatened Frogs
3. Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator Update
4. BAM Operational Manual – Stage 3
5. First trade of BAM species credits
6. Biodiversity credit open fixed price offer
7. Biodiversity Conservation Trust Update

1. Transitional arrangements

Clause 6.31 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017* provides that when the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) is amended, a Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR) may be prepared based on the prior version of the BAM for the following designated periods;

- 12 months for a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) in respect of SSD/SSI or standard biocertification
- 12 months or longer if approved by the Minister for a BDAR in respect of strategic biocertification
- 6 months for BARs in respect of all other development or stewardship applications.

A BAR prepared under these arrangements must state that it has been prepared based on the prior version.

This means that from 22 October 2020 until the end of the relevant designated transition period a BAR may be prepared using **either** the BAM 2017 **or** the BAM 2020, but not a combination of both.

If an Accredited Assessor has commenced preparing a BAR in accordance with the BAM 2017, it is recommended that they discuss the transition options with the proponent/landholder. If opting to continue using the BAM2017, the BAR must be prepared within the relevant designated period and must include a statement that it has been prepared based on the BAM 2017. In addition, because Biodiversity Offsets and Agreements Management System (BOAMS) has been updated to reflect the BAM 2020 settings, an assessor continuing to prepare a BAR under the BAM 2017 should consult the [Release Notes](#) to ensure the correct BAM-C settings are applied.

Where an assessor proposes to apply BAM 2017 to a scattered tree (formerly paddock tree) or small area streamlined assessment, the assessor must contact BAM Support for guidance on how to use the BAM Calculator to apply the transitional arrangements. However, if the applicant or assessor proposes to apply BAM 2017 to a Biodiversity Stewardship Site Assessment Report

(BSSAR), the applicant or assessor must contact the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to discuss the use of this option.

2. NSW Survey Guide for Threatened Frogs

The NSW Survey Guide for Threatened Frogs is now available. The purpose of this guide is to aid assessors in applying the BAM to survey for threatened frogs or their habitat.

There are links to the guide in the Assessor Q & A and Assessor Resources webpages.

3. Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator Update

The Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) has not been updated for the September 2020 quarter in light of the very low volume of trades occurring in the quarter (in total, there were just 21 trades in the quarter). As a result, the existing BOPC will continue to apply. The next scheduled update will follow the December quarter 2020.

4. BAM Operational Manual – Stage 3

BAM Operational Manual – Stage 3 has been published to support the release of the BAM 2020. The manual can be accessed from the Assessor Resources webpage. This document provides further guidance on the gain model used to calculate the biodiversity credits generated from the implementation of management actions, the steps required for completing Stage 3 of the BAM, and requirements for an assessor to include in preparing a BSSAR. The manual can be used along with other resources available from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT).

We welcome any questions about how to apply this document to BAM 2017 and feedback for future improvements, which can be submitted to bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au

5. First trade of BAM species credits

The first retirement of species credits was recently approved with the retirement of 98 credits for the Koala. The species credits were created from a biodiversity stewardship site in the Upper Hunter subregion. The credit retirement is shown in the BOS Credit Transactions public register. The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) credit transactions public register provides information about BOS credit transfers and retirements including credit type, number, price and date of trade. More information about the BOS public registers is available online.

6. Biodiversity credit open fixed price offer

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is releasing a new delivery mechanism known as the biodiversity credit open fixed price offer. The offer will open on 7 December 2020. This new mechanism aims to provide a simple and direct way for landholders to sell credits to the BCT.

The initial release will provide a process for participants to approach the BCT to sell credits. It will be available on a continuing basis for credits types listed on the BCT's Wanted Credits List which will be updated monthly.

The biodiversity credit open fixed price offer will be available to existing credit owners as well as landholders who are interested in establishing a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA).

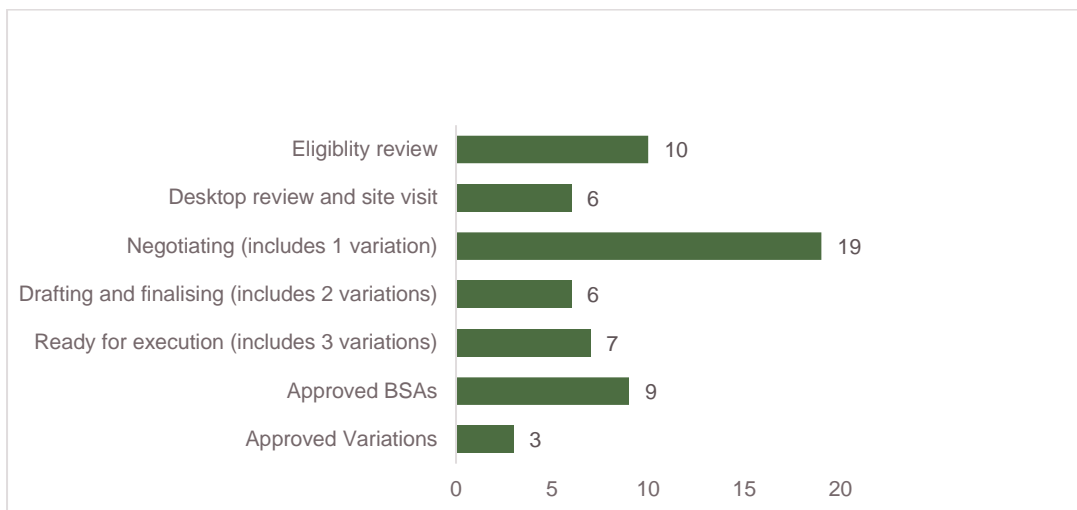
For further information, please see the attached factsheet and visit the [BCT webpage](#).

7. Biodiversity Conservation Trust Update

BSA Application status

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is currently processing:

- 42 Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement applications
- 6 variation applications.



Some subscribers are not receiving our emails. Just a reminder to check your Junk folder (Go to the Home tab, click Junk > Not Junk).

All Local Government Updates are available on our website.

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (9 November 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.