



# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Local Government Update No.5

7 August 2020

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## 1. Preparing conditions of consent for a variation rule credit retirement

In most cases, conditions of consent will reflect the 'like-for-like' credit obligations consistent with the biodiversity credit report (like-for-like) generated by the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) Calculator and included in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR).

A proponent may apply to the consent authority to use the variation rules to satisfy their credit obligations. These are shown in the biodiversity credit report (variations) included in the BDAR. Approval to use variation rules is given via conditions of consent. The only circumstance in which credit obligations would not be expressed in 'like-for-like' terms would be when the use of the variation rules has been approved by the consent authority.

To be eligible, a proponent must document in the BDAR the reasonable steps that they have taken to locate like-for-like offsets as well as, the credit class and number of credits proposed to be offset under the variation rule. Actions that constitute 'reasonable steps' are outlined in the [Ancillary rules: Reasonable steps to seek like-for-like biodiversity credits for the purpose of applying the variation rules.](#)

If the variation rules are proposed to be applied after consent has been granted, a section 4.55 modification (*Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*) will be required. The [Guidance for Local Government on preparing conditions of consent from the BDAR](#) provides further information about requesting approval to apply variation rules.

## 2. BOS support webinars

We are working to finalise the topic for the next BOS Support Webinar proposed for the end of August 2020. Invites for registration, including information about the webinar topic, will to be sent soon by email.

The recording for BOS Support Webinar No 14 – Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) for Local Government and other consent authorities is now available for viewing or download. Once published, the Q&A can be accessed below the webinar recording. In this webinar, the speakers provided an overview of the BOAMS including the new system functionality which enables consent authorities to review submitted BAM assessments, including viewing the BAM Calculator and accompanying attachments.

## 3. Biodiversity Offset Scheme website survey

We are looking at ways to improve how information and content are set out on the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) website pages. To help us guide the changes, we'd appreciate hearing from you through participating in a short five-minute feedback survey. So please let us know your thoughts on the current BOS webpages, and how we can improve them.

## 4. BOS educational video series

The Department is developing a series of videos to support local government staff working with the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS). A new video in the series has been released – the BioNet Tool Demonstration Video. This video will be useful for introducing staff with biodiversity or ecology focussed roles or interests to the data available in BioNet. It guides local government officers through a process of extracting data from BioNet to identify entities at risk of potential Serious and Irreversible Impacts in their local government area. Information in BioNet can be used to support the review of BDARs. Note that experience in operating Microsoft Excel is recommended if following the demonstration.

## 5. Do you have an Avoid and Minimise case study to share?

We are looking for good case studies on this topic that we could include as part of a future webinar on application of the avoid/minimise/offset hierarchy. If you have a good example that you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Send nominations including the relevant BDAR and if possible, the name of a volunteer to help present it by 14 August 2020 to [bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## 6. Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator update

The schedule Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) update Q2/2020 was published on 7 August 2020.