

New arrangements for Biodiversity Offsets Scheme support and notifications since closure of the LMBC service centre

Enquiries about the Biodiversity Offset Scheme can be submitted online

You can now use an online form to request support or further information about the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, as well as to provide feedback. The online form allows you to select the topic your request relates to so that it can be forwarded to the appropriate team for response.

To access the form, visit [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme support](#).

Notification of the determination of a development or activity with an offset obligation should be sent to bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au

Councils are asked to notify the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) of the determination of a development or activity to which the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme applies.

The notification process is:

- the decision maker downloads and completes the form: [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme – Notification of Determination \(DOCX 39KB\)](#)
- the decision maker emails the completed form and attachments, including a copy of the determination and any conditions of approval, to bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au

The Department will record the determination outcome in the Biodiversity Offset and Agreement Management System.

Notification of a development application seeking a reduced credit obligation should be sent to bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au

Council must advise the Department within 10 days of receipt of a development application seeking a reduced credit obligation. Please include the relevant local government area for the proposed development in the subject line of the notification email and attach all supporting information.

Further information about requests for a reduced credit obligation is available on the Department's [website](#).

The Department requests that notifications of the determination of a development or activity with an offset obligation be brought up to date

To ensure the Department has accurate data for monitoring the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme we are requesting that all councils ensure that notifications have been submitted for the determination of every development (Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*) or activity (Part 5 of the EP&A Act) to which the scheme applies.

The Department is developing a framework to report on the biodiversity outcomes of the scheme. This includes recording biodiversity losses and gains from approvals for developments/activities and biodiversity stewardship agreements. Only four notifications of determination have been

received to date. This represents less than 10% of the biodiversity development assessment reports that have been finalised for Part 4 developments.

The Department relies on notifications of determinations to track credit obligations. Please ensure notifications are up to date and submitted by the end of September 2019. Please include any past determination (to which the biodiversity offset scheme applies) that has not yet been notified.

The Department is hosting a series of webinars to support the role of accredited assessors in the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme

Council staff with responsibility for reviewing biodiversity development assessment reports may be interested in participating in the 'BAM Support' webinar series. The series will focus on the operational use of the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and supporting documents, data, systems and tools. It will provide accredited assessors and other interested participants with a regular forum to learn more about the BAM, ask questions and stay up to date on new matters relating to the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.

The webinars will be recorded and made available via the [Assessor Resource webpage](#).

[Click here](#) to view details of the first webinar and register.