

Updates to biodiversity data, entities at risk of a serious and irreversible impact and the Biodiversity Assessment Method

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) is updating the biodiversity data referenced by the Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator (BAM-C) on 27 September 2019

This comprehensive update to the biodiversity data that underpins the BAM-C will import all changed data from BioNet into the BAM-C. If an accredited assessor finalises a BAM-C case prior to the data import on 27 September, they have 14 days from the finalisation date to submit the biodiversity development assessment report to the consent authority. After this time, the accredited assessor will be required to apply any changes that result as a consequence of the data update.

There are changes to the list of entities at risk of a serious and irreversible impact (SAIL)

The updated threatened entities at risk of SAIL can be searched in the [BioNet Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection \(TBDC\)](#). Updates include:

- modifications to principles of already listed SAIL entities
- additions to the list of entities at risk of SAIL
- removal of some previously listed SAIL entities.

To reflect these changes, the Department has updated the '*Guidance to assist a decision-maker to determine a serious and irreversible impact*'. The updated guidance and list of entities at risk of SAIL will be published on the Department's [website](#) on 27 September.

Version 7 of the Biodiversity Values Map was published on 28 August 2019

Version 7 of the Biodiversity Values (BV) Map incorporates the following changes:

- revised mapping for the critically endangered orchid, *Pterostylis vernalis*, a potential SAIL species
- refinement of Old Growth and rainforest mapping
- changes (removals and additions) arising from landholder-initiated map reviews.

Spatial data for version 7 is available from the [SEED Portal](#). If you have an enquiry about the BV map, please contact the Department at map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au or on 02 6360 9000.

The BV Map can be viewed in the [Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold \(BMAT\) Tool](#).

Two enhancements have recently been made to the BMAT Tool:

- The maximum zoom has been improved to 1:4,000
- More recent imagery with finer resolution has replaced the SPOT 5 2013 imagery provided in previous versions of the Tool.

Council may review whether the biodiversity offset scheme still applies if an update to the BV map removes land subject to a development application that has not been determined

A biodiversity development assessment report will be required if the development is likely to significantly impact threatened species because it either:

- involves clearing native vegetation or a prescribed impact on land mapped on the BV map
- involves clearing native vegetation in excess of the area clearing threshold
- is carried out in an area of outstanding biodiversity value
- is likely to have a significant impact as per the test of significance.

If the BV map was the only trigger into the biodiversity offsets scheme, it would be reasonable for the consent authority to determine that the biodiversity offset scheme is no longer triggered if the subject land mapped on the BV map is removed between submission and determination of a development application. If the consent authority determines that the biodiversity offsets scheme does not apply to the development application, there is no requirement to prepare a biodiversity development assessment report or to impose a credit obligation as a condition of consent.

Consultation on proposed changes to the Biodiversity Assessment Method is open until 16 October 2019

The Department is proposing to make a range of improvements to the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM). The BAM has been edited to use plain English, improve consistency, and provide additional guidance. These revisions will help make the BAM easier to understand and apply. The amended BAM will also include a new appendix for valuing land-based conservation measures as part of a strategic biodiversity certification application.

Proposed amendments will not affect the current metrics used to determine credit requirements at either development or offset sites.

To find out more about the proposed changes or make a submission visit the Department's [website](#).

BAM Operational Manual Stage 2 is now available

[Stage 2 of the BAM Operational Manual](#) provides information to support the implementation of Stage 2 of the BAM (Impact Assessment) and is used to assist:

- application of the avoid, minimise and offset hierarchy
- assessment of direct, indirect and prescribed biodiversity impacts associated with proposed activities
- application of the no net loss standard through the calculation of the offset requirements for impacts on the biodiversity values at a development site
- establishment of the credit class and offset trading group for ecosystem credits and species credits.