

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 44

30 January 2026

Welcome to issue No. 44 of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update.

This monthly newsletter is one of the ways we communicate and help support the implementation of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. You can keep up to date [via our website](#) and view our [past newsletters online](#). For other enquiries on the scheme, contact the [BOS Help Centre Customer Portal](#).

In this update

General scheme updates

- New Conservation Planning and Offsets Division
- BSA team wins customer service award
- South West Conservation Investment Strategy
- Stewardship Support Program update
- Changes to BOS Help Desk Support
- New portal for the Biodiversity Conservation Fund
- Participate in expert elicitation on risks in active restoration
- Video case study: Ten Mile Hollow

For accredited assessors and local government

- Upcoming accredited assessor training courses
- Biodiversity Offsets Scheme training platform
- Updates to the Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAIL) list
- Updated Integrated BioNet Vegetation Data
- BAM-C data and system update is scheduled to start in March

General scheme updates

New Conservation Planning and Offsets Division

On 19 January 2026, the Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR) commenced a new organisational structure to support delivery of the NSW Government's priorities, programs and functions. As part of this change, the teams responsible for the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, including regional teams, will be part of the Conservation Planning and Offsets (CPO) Division. The Division includes a new Conservation Planning and Assessment Branch, which will:

- support the government's priorities and reflect the critical importance of biodiversity assessment and conservation planning in a range of NSW Government processes
- support and grow CPHR's capacity, maintain strong practical expertise, and enhance biodiversity assessment in support of local councils, government agencies, and for other government priorities and projects
- increase capacity to front-load nature and biodiversity considerations in regional planning and improve bio-certification to drive better strategic land-use planning outcomes as committed to in the NSW Plan for Nature
- support planning reforms including the new Development Coordination Authority.

All scheme contacts remain the same. We look forward to continuing to work with you as CPO.

Biodiversity stewardship agreement team wins customer service award

The biodiversity stewardship agreement (BSA) delivery program was recognised at the Annual DCCEE Awards, with the team winning the service category for its collaborative and outcomes-focused approach to meeting customer needs. The team's work in supporting BSA applicants and dedication to systems improvement have resulted in a significant increase in new BSAs and biodiversity credit supply.

In 2025–26, 21 new BSAs covering almost 17,000 hectares have been finalised, representing an important contribution to restoring habitat and protecting at-risk wildlife.

South West Conservation Investment Strategy

The South West Conservation Investment Strategy was published in January 2026. The strategy will enable landscape-scale conservation by guiding investment, including from biodiversity offsetting, towards priority actions and areas within the South West Renewable Energy Zone and surrounds. The development of the strategy was supported by the Australian Government, which funded improved vegetation and habitat mapping for parts of the region.

The South West is the third strategy to be published, following strategies for the Central West Orana and Hunter published last year. A strategy for the New England renewable energy zone is expected in May.

Stewardship Support Program update

When the [Stewardship Support Program](#) opened in June-August 2025, it received over 100 applications and resulted in on-ground biodiversity assessments at 23 new sites. These sites cover over 23,000 hectares across 15 Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregions. The team are now looking forward to the next round, expected to open for new applications in March 2026.

Changes to BOS Help Desk Support

The department is transitioning all Help Desk enquiries to our [BOS Help Desk Customer Portal](#), which is our new single entry point for support. To complete the transition, the BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au email address will close on 27 February 2026.

We encourage all stakeholders to begin using the portal now to submit and manage requests in one location, track progress in real time, and access guidance, resources, and frequently asked questions (FAQs) instantly.

New portal for the Biodiversity Conservation Fund

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust is launching a new online portal for proponents who want to pay into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund to meet all or part of their development offset requirements. From early 2026, all new requests for a charge quote or to [pay into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund \(BCF\)](#) will be made via the portal. More information, including the new mapping requirements, is available on the [BCF Credit Portal webpage](#).

Until the portal launch, charge quote or payment applications can be submitted by email as currently outlined on our [Pay into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund webpage](#). For enquiries, contact us at offsets@bct.nsw.gov.au.

Participate in expert elicitation on risks in active restoration

The department, in collaboration with University of Adelaide, is investigating how risks are perceived in active restoration. The study is seeking input from practitioners, researchers, and consultants with experience in restoration practice, including at biodiversity stewardship sites. Participation is anonymous, via an online expert elicitation survey that takes approximately 60 minutes. All data will be handled confidentially and used solely for academic research.

[Click here for more information and to access the survey.](#)

Video case study: Ten Mile Hollow

Discover the story of Ten Mile Hollow with landholder Ajahn Khemavaro, and find out how he is helping to conserve the local environment with a BSA in a new case study video [on our Case studies and landholder stories page](#).

For accredited assessors and local government

Upcoming accredited assessor training courses

Registration is now open for accredited assessor training courses in 2026, with courses scheduled for March, May, July, September and November. For more information about initial training to become accredited, please visit the [training requirements webpage](#). If you are considering becoming an accredited assessor please read the [accreditation criteria](#) and ensure you meet the technical requirements.

Renewal training courses have been scheduled for February, April, June, August and October in 2026. You can register for training via your account in Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) in the 3-month period before your accreditation is due. More information can be found on the [renewing your assessor accreditation webpage](#).

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme training platform

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme training for local government and accredited assessor eLearning programs has moved to a new platform. This transition supports our ongoing commitment to provide up-to-date training and support. The training program improves understanding of the:

- NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and Regulations
- Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 (BAM)
- roles and responsibilities of local government in the scheme.

How to enrol

Local government employees 12-part online eLearning program: [enrol online](#)

Ecologists seeking BAM accreditation: [enrol online](#)

If you've recently been granted training sponsorship, you'll receive your new access link and instructions via email. Contact the [BOS Help Desk](#) if you have any questions.

Updates to the Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAIL) list

The list of threatened entities at risk of Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAIL) has been updated to include additional principles for *Melichrus gibberagee* and *Pomaderris sericea*. This follows the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee Final Determination to list both species as Critically Endangered on 5 December 2025. The list of entities is available on the [Serious and Irreversible Impacts webpage](#).

Updated Integrated BioNet Vegetation Data

The third annual December 2025 update of the [Integrated BioNet Vegetation Data](#) (IBVD) incorporates customer feedback to keep New South Wales's plant community type (PCT) classification and State Vegetation Type Map (SVTM) current and useful. The most recent updates include:

- SVTM: Minor revisions (version C2.0M2.2)
- Threatened ecological communities: Updated associations for 2 PCTs
- PCT master list: Version C2.0 (unchanged)

The new SVTM version has been updated in the [Trees Near Me NSW](#) and the [Restore Trees NSW](#) apps, and will be brought into the [Credits Near Me NSW](#) app approximately 2 months after the SVTM version C2.0M2.2 release.

For more information on the updates and to access updated PCTs and SVTM, refer to documents [NSW State Vegetation Type Map Technical Notes Release C2.0M2.2](#) and [Updating BioNet plant community types \(2025\)](#). For support, contact BioNet at bionet@environment.nsw.gov.au

BAM-C data and system update is scheduled to start in March

The Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator (BAM-C) will be updated in March–April 2026 with necessary updates to threatened biodiversity data, including:

- 19 new species into the BAM-C
- 24 species changed on the department's [Serious and irreversible impacts](#) list
- 36 species with BioNet Threatened Biodiversity Profile Data Collection (TBDC) 'Ecological data' changes
- Entity-Plant Community Type and -IBRA subregion association changes edited in BioNet since the last BAM-C update in October 2024.

We will keep stakeholders informed in the case of any changes to these items. These updates may result in changes to in-progress assessments, and we recommend finalising cases before the update is made if practical. If you have any queries, please contact the [BOS Help Desk](#).

Environment and Heritage (EH)
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124; Phone: 1300 361 967 (EH enquiries);
Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au; Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au
EH 2026/0031; February 2026.