



Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Accredited Assessor Update 42

7 December 2020

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1. BAM Support mailbox: Christmas close down

It has been quite a year, and the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) support team will be taking a well-earned break over the Christmas-New Year holiday period. So please note that the BAM support mailbox won't be monitored from Thursday 24 December 2020 to Friday 8 January 2021 inclusive. This means that we will begin to respond to the queries we receive during this period from 11 January 2021.

2. BOS Bushfire Exemption

As you know, 2019–20 was one of the most widespread and extreme bushfire seasons our State has ever experienced. Many lives were lost and the fires destroyed 2476 homes and damaged many more across the State.

As part of the commitment to helping affected communities rebuild after the 2019–20 bushfires, the NSW Government's has announced a limited exemption from the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS). This will help to enable people rebuild homes lost in the fires as quickly and easily as possible.

For more information on the exemption, please visit the [BOS Bushfire Exemption page](#) on our website. The [BOS Bushfire Exemption Fact Sheet](#) contains detailed information about how the exemption works, what it applies to, and contacts for further support.

3. Koala SEPP 2020

In November 2020 the NSW Government announced it would revert to operations under the former State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44 – Koala Habitat Protection (SEPP 44) and develop a policy to protect koalas and the interests of farmers in 2021.

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2020 commenced on 30 November 2020 to replace and repeal the State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019 (2019 Koala SEPP).

The Koala SEPP 2020 replicates the objectives and provisions of SEPP 44.

You can find more information on the [Koala Habitat Protection SEPP](#) webpage. This includes a [FAQ document](#) setting out the additions and changes to the Koala SEPP 2020. If you require further assistance with the Koala SEPP 2020, please email information@planning.nsw.gov.au

4. BOS Support Webinar – Q&A

The Q&A document for [BOS Support Webinar No 16 – Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 – What's New?](#) is now available on our website, below the webinar recording.

5. The BOS area threshold

The following advice is provided to clarify how to apply the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) area threshold to a proposed development site that contains areas of native vegetation that are already approved to be cleared.

To determine if a development proposal will exceed the area threshold for entry into the BOS, areas of land containing native vegetation that has not yet been cleared but has approval to be cleared, or which may be legally cleared under other legislative provisions must be included in the calculation of the total area of native vegetation to be cleared. This is because, despite any previous approval, the clearing of the native vegetation is still a 'likely impact' of the proposed development.

6. Biodiversity Values Map Update V.11

Version 11 of the [Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold \(BMAT\) Tool](#) was published on the 27 November 2020. The changes (also described on the [BV Map webpage](#)) are as follows:

- addition of core koala habitat in the Campbelltown Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management
- addition of core koala habitat identified in three Individual Koala Plans of Management for land in Port Macquarie Hastings local government area
- refinement of old growth and rainforest mapping
- **revised** mapping for seven serious and irreversible impact (SAIL) species
- **new** mapping for three SAIL species
- **revised** mapping for eleven SAIL threatened ecological communities (TECs)
- **new** mapping for three SAIL TECs
- landholder – initiated map reviews
- removal of developed land

- removal of recently developed buildings and subdivisions.

Colour changes – new areas that have been added to the Biodiversity Values (BV) Map are shown as dark purple for 90 days and areas that were added in version 10.3 have changed from dark purple to pink and clearing native vegetation in these areas now triggers the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.

The updated spatial data is available through the [SEED Portal](#). Any queries: map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au or 02 6360 9000.

7. Update on creating business accounts in BOAMS

System users are currently experiencing difficulties in creating business accounts in Biodiversity Offsets and Agreements Management System (BOAMS).

Until this issue is addressed please use the workaround outlined below. We will advise you when it is no longer required. We will also institute a process of account remediation as required once the system is corrected.

For an organisation that does not have an Australian Company Number (ACN) or an Australian Registered Business Number (ARBN), please create an account for an individual/person. This applies primarily to NSW government organisations and statutory authorities.

For an organisation that has an ACN or an ARBN but does not have an Australian Business Number (ABN), please create an account for an individual/person.

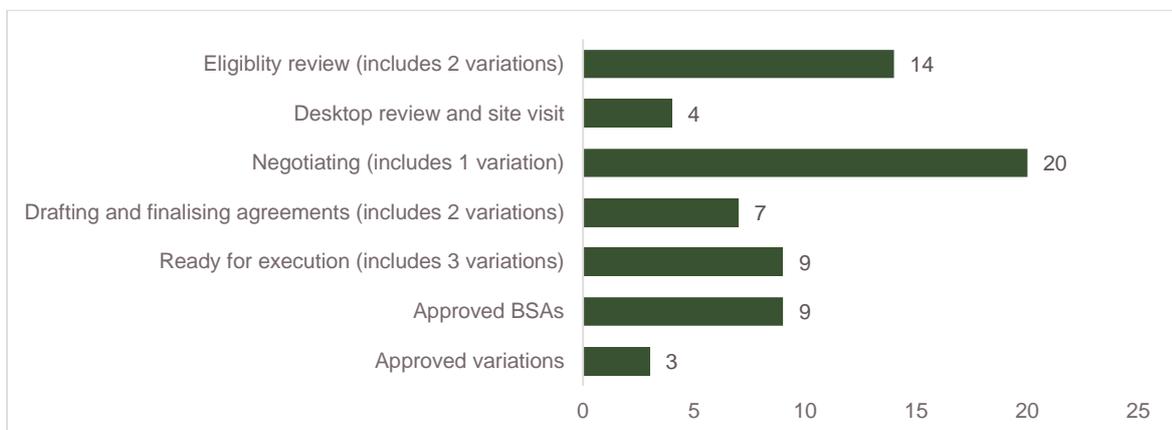
For entities that have both an ACN or ARBN and an ABN, please create a business account using the ACN. The workaround is not necessary in these circumstances.

8. BCT update

BSA Application status

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is currently processing:

- 46 Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement applications
- 8 variation applications.



BSA Management Plan template update

Part 2 (Grazing management) in the biodiversity stewardship agreement (BSA) management plan template has been revised to align with the BCT Grazing Guidelines. This removes reference to stocking rates/numbers and includes requirements for ground cover (percentage cover and average grass sward height)

BCT Best Practice Revegetation Plan template

The BCT Best Practice Revegetation Plan template is available on the BCT website. This template provides accredited assessors, landholders, contractors and BCT staff with a framework to plan large scale or complex revegetation projects in a BCT agreement. The template is mainly aimed at supporting landholders applying for a BSA and their accredited assessors who are planning to implement active restoration (supplementary planting). Use of the template can help to ensure site constraints are adequately managed (as per Table 3 of the BAM Operational Manual – Stage 3) to enable a successful revegetation project.

Please contact the BCT if you have any questions on these templates BCT (bct@environment.nsw.gov.au)

-----**End of Assessor Update No.42**-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (7 December 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.