

# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 14

21 March 2023

**Welcome to Issue No. 14** of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update.

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (the scheme) enables the impacts of development on biodiversity to be avoided, minimised, and offset. The scheme provides a consistent, transparent, and scientifically credible way for development to proceed while still protecting our environment. The NSW Government remains committed to improving and refining the scheme. Keep up to date with the latest news and info [via our website](#).

This monthly newsletter is one of the ways in which we communicate and help support the implementation of the scheme. You can view our past newsletters [here](#). The Biodiversity Conservation Trust's (BCT) twice-yearly newsletter is another source of information, you can find it at the BCT's [Publication website](#).

For other enquiries on the scheme, contact the dedicated scheme Help Desk team:

- Help Desk Line 1800 931 717, staffed Tuesday to Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm
- Help Desk mailbox, [BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au), monitored Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm.

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## NSW caretaker period ahead of state election

The caretaker period for the NSW Election commenced on 3 March 2023. As a general rule, no significant new decisions or initiatives, appointments, or contractual undertakings are likely to be made during the caretaker period. Routine government business, however, should proceed as usual. For more details including the Caretaker Conventions, click [here](#).

## Credit supply and demand updates

### Sell credits to the BCT – Wanted Credits List release on 29 March 2023

The BCT's Wanted Credits List and Participants' Guide will be available from Wednesday 29 March 2023 for the April 2023 statewide Credit Tender. More information is available [here](#).

### Supply Fund – second reverse auction

Bidding for the second reverse auction closed on Monday 13 March 2023 and the auction results are expected to be known by Monday 17 April 2023. Credits purchased through the reverse auction will be available for sale from May 2023. For the second auction, the Taskforce has:

- expanded eligibility to allow participation by landholders with an accredited assessor's report confirming the credit types present on the site and approximate area, along with existing credit owners and applicants for a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA)
- included more information in the target list on the number of credits needed
- included in the target list only those credits that the Taskforce has confirmed have a clear demand indication from buyers
- allowed participants to specify a minimum sale amount, below which they do not wish to proceed with the sale of credits through the reverse auction.

For more information about the reverse auction and the Credits Supply Fund, please visit the [website here](#) or contact [SupplyFund@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SupplyFund@environment.nsw.gov.au).

### New in-demand credits map

The Credits Supply Taskforce recently published an update to the [In-Demand Credits List](#) on the website. Alongside these updates, the Taskforce has published a new [In-Demand Credits Map](#), which shows the potential location of in-demand Offset Trading Groups in IBRA subregions with high demand for ecosystem credits.

The map allows users to search for an address and find out if that site might have in-demand credits. This helps landholders have a better idea whether they should [submit a Stewardship EOI](#) to the Taskforce to seek help to establish a BSA.

The lists and map will be regularly updated as demand from other projects becomes known. Proponents who have upcoming credit obligations can submit a [Demand EOI](#) to the Taskforce, if they would like help in sourcing the credits they need.

## Online Local Government Forum with the Credits Supply Taskforce

Thursday 30 March 2023 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

On 30 March 2023, Dr Louisa Mamouney will be hosting a 60-minute online forum focused on opportunities for Local Government to work with the Credits Supply Taskforce. The forum will include a presentation on Taskforce operations and priorities and a Q&A session. To attend the online forum please use the following link: [Register for the online forum](#).

The forum will be recorded for those unable to attend. Any questions about the forum or pre-submissions for the Q&A session can be sent to [chris.mifsud@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:chris.mifsud@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## General scheme updates

### BCT commences BCF estimation service

The BCT offers a paid estimation service for the BCF. This uses the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator to provide a predicted amount for the credits you are interested in. The service offers guidance only, and not an actual market price. Information on prices being paid for credits can be found at the [Market Sales Dashboard](#).

The service is available to those:

- seeking to obtain a credit price from the payment calculator
- with an actual or potential credit obligation, or landholders who have, or are seeking to enter into, a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA).

Evidence of a potential credit obligation or ownership will be required. Further information is available on the [BCT website](#). The application form is available [here](#).

### Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement update

The Taskforce is continuing to increase the supply of biodiversity credits through approval of BSAs. The Taskforce has now approved 25 BSAs and the area of land under BSAs has doubled from 17,000 in the first 3 years of the scheme to now around 35,000 hectares.

The Taskforce is aiming to process BSAs within 3 to 6 months and as part of this needs to ensure that applications for BSAs are complete. To address this, a virtual front counter is being established as part of receiving an application and will include checking information and supporting documents to ensure completeness.

The front counter will also enable communication on any deadlines for credit retirement or sale and is part of further work to strengthen communication between applicants, accredited assessors and the Taskforce to reduce processing times.

Please book a front counter meeting to submit your next BSA by emailing [stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au).

# Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) updates

## Major BAM-C data update to East Coast Plant Community Types

The planned BAM-Calculator (BAM-C) update to import the revised Plant Community Types (PCTs) for Eastern New South Wales has been delayed. Detailed release notes and advice will be circulated to assessors very soon. A public webinar on the transitional arrangements for EPCTs and Version 1.2 benchmarks, including questions and answers, is now available on the [BOS Support Webinars](#) web pages. For more details on the transitional arrangements for in-progress assessments please see the [BOS website](#).

## Decommissioned PCTs will be removed from the BOAMS case credits wanted tool

After the BAM-C is updated to include revised PCTs in eastern New South Wales, decommissioned PCTs will be no longer available within the vegetation and threatened species tools in BOAMS cases for Expression of Interest (EOI) and Credits Wanted (CW). If you need to include decommissioned PCTs on a credits wanted listing, please contact [BOS credits](#).

## Finding threatened species associations to decommissioned PCTs

Threatened entity associations to decommissioned PCTs are not visible in BioNet Atlas or the Threatened Biodiversity Profile app. However, threatened species, population and ecological community associations to both approved and decommissioned PCTs are available via the [BioNet Threatened Biodiversity Species](#) and [Threatened Biodiversity Populations](#) web services. These resources include refreshable Power Queries of PCT – threatened entity associations and are available to download from the [BioNet resources](#) page.

## Archived version 1.1 benchmarks have been updated to address errors and include PCTs

Transitional arrangements apply to the recent BAM-C update to include Version 1.2 condition benchmarks data which occurred on the 1 February 2023. In response to several requests, the BOS team have updated the archived Version 1.1 benchmarks file on the [BAM-C public webpage](#) to include PCTs and address some minor errors. For more information, please see the BOS Update No. 12 on the [assessor updates webpage](#) and further information on the [BOS webpage](#).

# Policy and governance updates

## Credits Supply Taskforce six-month report released

A report on the first six months of Credit Supply Taskforce operations (July to December 2022) is now available at [Biodiversity Credits Supply Taskforce \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).

The report outlines key Taskforce activities, issues and opportunities to improve the practical operation of the Biodiversity Credits Scheme and credits market.

## Have your say on the review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

A statutory review of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, which establishes the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, is currently underway. An independent panel of experts, led by Dr Ken Henry AC, is undertaking the review.

The review panel has released a consultation paper and is seeking feedback until 11 April 2023. To access the consultation paper and have your say, please visit the website [here](#).

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