

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 32

8 October 2024

Welcome to issue No. 32 of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update.

This monthly newsletter is one of the ways in which 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](#). 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, monitored Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm.

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General updates

Biodiversity stewardship agreements update

As of 24 September 2024, **13 new biodiversity stewardship agreements were approved** since the start of the 2024–25 financial year. Since July 2022, a total of **109 biodiversity stewardship agreements** have been approved, covering **53,305 hectares**, and creating a total of **541,525** biodiversity credits. This represents a significant increase in the restoration of ecosystems and threatened species habitats.

Biodiversity Values Map update

The Biodiversity Values Map V17 was published on 13 September 2024. Updates are based on new and improved mapping of biodiversity values, removal of developed land and other internal and external map review changes.

Detailed information about V17 updates is available on the BV Map updates webpage and updated spatial data is available through the SEED Portal. Landholders or agents, who need more information or consider the mapping is incorrect on their property, can apply for an Explanatory Report or Map Review.

For more information go to the Biodiversity Values Map webpage or contact the Map Review Team using our online enquiry form or at map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au or on 1800 001 490.

Swift parrot important habitat map annual update

The annual update to the swift parrot important habitat map has been completed and was published in the Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System map viewer and V17 of the Biodiversity Values Map on 13 September 2024. Local Government can request a copy of the mapping in their local government area via the BOS helpdesk BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Reminder: Sharing of passwords is prohibited under NSW Government security standards

Under the NSW Government Cyber Security Policy, the sharing of passwords to any NSW Government systems with a public interface is prohibited. This includes the Biodiversity Offsets and Agreements Management Systems (BOAMS) and Biodiversity Assessors and Accreditation System (BAAS). From mid-October 2024, multi-factor authenticator (MFA) will be applied to BOAMS and BAAS accounts. MFA is a mandatory requirement under the NSW Cyber Security Policy.

For credit owners and buyers

Sell biodiversity credits – Credit Tender 24-02 is open

The BCT [Credit Tender 24-02](#) is open for bids now until 9 October 2024. Applicants can offer the Biodiversity Conservation Trust a selling price for their biodiversity credits. This opportunity is available for hundreds of credit types across the state.

To submit a bid to sell biodiversity credits to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust:

1. Confirm the credits are on the Wanted Credits List (via the [Credit Offer Portal](#))
2. Submit a bid application offering a price to sell the credits to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust using the [Credit Offer Portal](#) by **11:59 pm Wednesday 9 October 2024**.

In past tenders, the Biodiversity Conservation Trust has received a large proportion of ineligible bids as:

1. Credits offered for sale did not match credits owned
2. Supporting documents were inadequate or were not submitted with the application.

To make sure your bid counts, read the [Participants' guide](#), the [Credit Offer Portal guide](#) and the [Information for new landholders wanting to offer credits to the BCT](#).

Upcoming opportunity to buy biodiversity credits

The Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund will open its seventh reverse auction from **Wednesday 9 October – Wednesday 23 October 2024**. The Supply Fund is currently working with potential buyers to identify target credits for the auction. If you would like to purchase credits through the auction, please contact the Credits Supply Branch via supplyfund@environment.nsw.gov.au. If you are a credit owner, or are in the process of establishing a biodiversity stewardship agreement, and would like to sell credits through the auction, keep an eye on the [Supply Fund reverse auction webpage](#) for more information.

New sites progress through Stewardship Support Program

The Stewardship Support Program received 97 applications when it opened earlier this year. Evaluation is now complete, with 14 sites progressing to initial field assessment. This includes more than 6,000 hectares across 9 IBRA subregions, with many sites offering connectivity benefits and good potential for species credit generation. If you are interested in submitting a site to the Stewardship Support Program, please email stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au and we will notify you when the program opens to new applications.

Ecological monitoring for biodiversity stewardship agreements

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust is looking to support and build capacity of biodiversity stewardship agreement-holders and their contracted ecologists. This includes designing and implementing biodiversity monitoring for stewardship sites in line with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust's Ecological Monitoring Module (EMM). Resources are available to assist, include:

- [Webinar recording: Ecological Monitoring for Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements](#)
- [Webinar Questions and Answers](#)
- [Fact sheet: Ecological Monitoring for Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements](#)
- [BCT Ecological Monitoring Module Operational Manual](#) (Note: this is a recently [September 2024] updated version, please discard earlier versions)

For questions about accessing these resources or their content, get in touch via the [BCT Ecological Monitoring and Research Mailbox](#).

Upcoming credit transfer and retirement applications

Applicants for BOS credit transfers and/or retirements are encouraged to notify Nature Markets Offsets of any upcoming applications using this [online form](#). Providing this information is voluntary and will assist us to improve processing times. There is often high demand for these credit transactions at the end of each calendar year, so please submit your applications as soon as possible. Applications submitted after 29 November 2024 may not be approved until after 13 January 2025. If you have any questions, please contact boscredits@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Outcomes from Credit Tender 24-01 are now available

The BCT [Credit Tender 24-01 Outcomes report](#) is now available on the [BCT's Biodiversity Offsets Program Outcomes](#) webpage. The report outlines the results of the Biodiversity Conservation Trust's Credit tender held in April 2024, which had the highest participation to date. It provides the number and type of bid credits received and includes prices for credits the Biodiversity Conservation Trust offered to purchase.

For accredited assessors

Streamlined assessment module – Planted native vegetation operational manual update

The Streamlined assessment module – planted native vegetation – BAM operational manual (the manual) has been re-published and is available via the Biodiversity Assessment Method tools and resources webpage.

The widely cultivated species list that supports the operational manual can now be found as a power query on the right-hand side pane of the BAM-C homepage.

For further support applying this operational manual, contact the BOS Help Desk.

Guidelines on bilateral assessments

Updated guidance on impacts to matters of national environmental significance (MNES) is available on the NSW Planning Portal website on the Major Projects key guidance page.

The guidelines provide information for applicants and assessors on the preparation of a Biodiversity Assessment Report for a major project where there are predicted to be impacts on MNES under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

[Biodiversity | Planning Portal – Department of Planning and Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Accredited assessor renewal training registration

There are still places available for the following assessor renewal course webinars:

- 26 to 27 November 2024
- 5 to 6 December 2024
- 28 to 29 January 2025

Information about renewing accreditation can be found on the renewing accreditation webpage. Please see our website for further information regarding accredited assessor training and training availability. You can register and pay via your BOAMs account.

Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator system update

The annual system updates for the BAM-C are scheduled for late October 2024.

Updates include refinement of the user interface, including error messaging and notifications; various error and bug fixes; changes to support partial loss assessment for species credit species; and changes to threatened biodiversity data, including:

- to Plant Community Type associations to a small number of Threatened Ecological Communities and species (< 5)
- to IBRA subregion associations and geographic limitations to a small number of species (< 5)
- based on NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee final determinations (new listings or changes to listing status)
- to entities at risk of serious and irreversible impact (SAIL)
- to ecological data tab information including new data for recent BC Act and EPBC Act listed species and changes to survey months, survey comments, general notes, and habitat constraints fields (<15).

These updates may result in change to in-progress cases. Finalise your case as soon as possible to avoid being impacted. If you have any queries, please contact the BOS Help Desk (details above).

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