

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 36

10 April 2025

Welcome to issue No. 36 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.

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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Biodiversity Values Map Update Version 18

The Biodiversity Values Map V18 was published on 14 March 2025 based on new and improved mapping of biodiversity values, removal of developed land and other internal and external map review changes.

Further information about version 18 is available on the Biodiversity Values Map updates webpage. Updated spatial data is available through the SEED Portal. 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.

Landholders who need more information or consider the mapping is incorrect on their property can apply for an Explanatory Report or Map Review.

Biodiversity stewardship agreements update

The total area of land under biodiversity stewardship agreement now exceeds 116,000 hectares. A total of 131 biodiversity stewardship agreements have been established since July 2022, when the Credits Supply Taskforce was established and the total number of biodiversity stewardship agreements and BioBanking agreements is now 364.

This represents a significant increase in the restoration of ecosystems and threatened species habitats. Working with both private and public landholders, and Aboriginal landholders and communities, to establish biodiversity stewardship agreements is an essential part of improving the scheme. You can explore a map of biodiversity stewardship agreements on the Biodiversity stewardship agreements map page.

BioNet in the spotlight as a key open data resource

BioNet is making waves as a key open data resource for biodiversity in New South Wales. Our recent publication highlights over 40 years of progress and outlines the work that lies ahead in supporting conservation and data-driven decision-making.

Philip Gleeson, our senior wildlife data officer, shares insights about BioNet's extensive collection of 20 million species sighting records and more, some dating back to the 1770s, plus the challenges and exciting opportunities ahead.

With all its quality data, BioNet is crucial for informed environmental decision-making, whether it's for managing national parks or helping developers with ecological assessments. The BioNet team is dedicated to making it easier for everyone – scientists and the public alike – to access and contribute to species data.

While there is more work to be done to enhance our systems, we want to take a moment on our [treasure trove of NSW biodiversity data page](#) to celebrate the significant progress we have made over the past 40 years. For feedback or general support, reach out at bionet@environment.nsw.gov.au

For credit sellers and buyers

New biodiversity credits catalogue now live

A new and interactive **biodiversity credits catalogue** is now available online, making it easier for both buyers and sellers of credits to use: [explore the new biodiversity credits catalogue](#).

The catalogue is updated regularly and shows a variety of credits advertised by participating sellers. It is complementary to other methods for sourcing credits, such as the credits supply register and the Credits Supply Fund. [See the advertise your biodiversity credits in the catalogue page](#).

You can also [subscribe to the catalogue](#) to receive quarterly reminders to explore any new listings, landholder stories and case studies. For more information about the biodiversity credits catalogue, contact supplyfund@environment.nsw.gov.au

Reminder to submit applications for BOS credit transfers and retirements as soon as possible before 30 June

Applications need to be submitted as soon as possible and no later than Friday 30 May 2025 if the credits need to be transferred or retired prior to 30 June 2025.

The department will advise applicants if any transfer or retirement cannot be finalised by 30 June 2025. Applications received after 30 May will be finalised from 4 July onwards. Please contact BOSCREDITS@environment.nsw.gov.au if you have questions about this reminder.

BCT Credit Tender 24-02 completed and report available

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) has completed making offers to purchase credits and sending notifications for unsuccessful bids for Credit Tender 24-02. Credit purchase documents will start to be sent out from April 2025.

The BCT Credit Tender 24-02 Outcomes report is now available on the [BCT's Biodiversity Offsets Program Outcomes](#) webpage. The report outlines the results of the BCT's credit tender held in September 2024, which had the highest participation to date. It provides the number and type of bid credits received and includes prices for credits the BCT offered to purchase.

BCT Credit Tender 25-01 is open for bids

The BCT [Credit Tender 25-01](#) will be open for bids from **Wednesday 2 April**. Applicants can offer the BCT a selling price for their biodiversity credits. This opportunity is available for hundreds of credit types across New South Wales.

To submit a bid to sell biodiversity credits to the BCT:

- register now for the [BCT's Offsets Portal](#) to participate in Credit Tender 25-01
- confirm the credits are on the Wanted Credits List (via the [Credit Offer Portal](#))
- 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 16 April 2025**
- make sure your bids are eligible by reading the [Participants' guide for the Credit Offer Portal](#) and [Information for new landholders wanting to offer credits to the BCT](#).

Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator update

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust will complete a routine annual update of the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) on 1 July 2025 in line with the [BOPC Order](#).

Further information on future and existing BCF Charge Quotes will be provided prior to the price update. The Key BCF Charge System values, which are displayed on the BCT website, will also be updated on 1 July 2025. If you have any queries about the routine price updates, please contact bcbpayments@bct.nsw.gov.au

For accredited assessors

Accredited assessor compliance and assurance

A webinar on the new *Accredited Assessors Compliance and Assurance Framework* was held on Tuesday 1 April 2025. You can [watch the webinar recording online](#).

The [Accredited Assessors Complaint and Feedback Form](#) has been recently updated from a PDF to a webform and allows for:

- full anonymity of the person submitting the complaint and feedback form
- ability to upload multiple documents/attachments
- the form to be submitted directly to the Accreditation Reset Team with better information capture to assist assessor feedback/complaint investigation.

The Accreditation Reset team continues to respond to complaints and feedback that have been submitted in relation to accredited assessor implementation of the *Code of conduct* and preparation of Biodiversity Assessment Reports. In the current 2024–25 financial year, the team has received overall 34 assessor feedback/complaints with 17 received in the first quarter of 2025. Of these, 7 were reports of positive feedback.

If you have any questions, email us at accreditation.reset@environment.nsw.gov.au

Release of BAM remote assessment guide

The Remote Assessment of Biodiversity Values Guide has been published and is available on the department's [website](#).

This guide supports application of the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) to critical state significant infrastructure (CSSI) projects. This guide provides a way to assess biodiversity impacts under the BAM where access to land on which impacts are likely to occur is not possible. The guide supports the use of a combination of existing data, tools, information and surrogate sites. The department's agreement is needed before using the guide. Please contact the BOS Helpdesk BOS.Helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au

End of transition for revised PCT classifications

Transitional arrangements for the revised plant community type (PCT) classification for the NSW coastal and tablelands bioregions will end on the 14 April 2025 for major projects, biodiversity certification assessments, and the assessment of biodiversity stewardship sites.

Transitional arrangements for Part 4 local development assessments ended on 14 April 2024.

Where ongoing access to legacy data, ensure you discuss the ongoing use, and gain approval from the consent authority, prior to updating your biodiversity assessment and via the BOS Help Desk. Your application should include:

- written support from the consent authority to use the legacy PCT dataset for the biodiversity assessment
- the BAM-C and BOAMS case numbers that require access to legacy PCT dataset.

Log the application to the BOS Helpdesk - BOS.Helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Ecological Monitoring Module for biodiversity stewardship agreements – field training day

Join BCT ecologist staff at a field training day to learn more about applying the Ecological Monitoring Module to biodiversity stewardship agreement sites. The free training day is for ecological consultants and BAM accredited assessors. Following recent sessions in Tuggerah, Wagga Wagga and Dubbo, 2 more sessions have been added to the schedule for June.

Each day will cover EMM field methods, the use of BCT's Survey123 data collection tools, development of monitoring components of a BSA Management Plan and data management, analysis and reporting requirements.

Register now:

- **Castlereagh** Nature Reserve (Sydney) on 10 June 2025: [Register online](#)
- **Newcastle:** Blackbutt Reserve (Newcastle) on 24 June 2025: [Register online](#)

For any questions, please get in touch at ecological.ats@bct.nsw.gov.au. The BCT may schedule additional sessions in other regional centres later in the year.

For local government and consent authorities

Free training for local government staff

The department is offering sponsorships for local government staff to access a tailored scheme eLearning program until June 2025. A limited number of sponsorships are still available.

The eLearning program covers the fundamental concepts of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, the scheme, and the BAM. It is designed to support councils in implementing their roles and responsibilities within the scheme.

For a detailed course outline and information on how to apply, please visit the BOS Training Section of [WSP Training website](#), click on the 'Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and

Local Government Training' dropdown option and scroll to 'Local government training'. From there you can then download an EOI form and send it to the BOS Help Desk via the Customer Portal.

Biodiversity Offset Agreement Management System changes

Biodiversity Offset Agreement Management System (BOAMS) changes are coming into effect:

- all consent authority teams have access to cases, and cases are now assigned at a 'parent case level' to consent authorities (including councils) and not individual users
- consent authorities (including councils) can add accredited assessors for expert case reviews (will start in April 2025)
- emails are sent to shared email mailboxes (consent authorities and councils) to reduce reliance on individuals and improve secure collaboration
- a case will only become visible/accessible after the Accredited Assessor has submitted the case. This ensures only cases to be actioned appear on the to do list, removing in-process cases from the consent authority portal
- credit reporting has been improved and streamlined to simplify the process for consent authorities reporting credit outcomes and improve data quality.

For further assistance, contact the BOS Help Desk Line 1800 931 717 or BOS.Helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au

Environment and Heritage, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124. Phone: 1300 361 967 (environment and national parks enquiries); email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au; website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. EH 2025/0109 April 2025.