

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 37

7 May 2025

Welcome to issue No. 37 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 NSW 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 stewardship agreements update

The total area of land under biodiversity stewardship is now over 116,400 hectares; 132 new biodiversity stewardship agreements (BSAs) have been established since July 2022. The total number of BSAs and BioBanking agreements is now at 365.

This represents a significant increase in the restoration of ecosystems and threatened species habitats. Working with private and public landholders, including Aboriginal landholders, to establish BSAs is making an important contribution to restoring habitat and protecting at-risk wildlife.

Landholder workshops in regions with in-demand credits

Free workshops on opportunities for landholders in biodiversity stewardship will be held in June, targeting regions with in-demand credits:

- **Singleton Civic Centre**
5 June 2025 | [See more information and register](#)
- **Dubbo Western Plains Cultural Centre**
12 June 2025 | [See more information and register](#)

The workshops will be delivered by the department's Planning, Offsets and Threatened Species and Ecosystem division, in collaboration with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) and Local Land Services.

Landholders will learn about the benefits of participating in biodiversity stewardship and other natural capital opportunities, connect with state government agencies, ask questions, and have meaningful conversations about the work being done to conserve native species and habitats for future generations.

Interested landholders should consider their potential for generating in-demand credits. Current biodiversity credit demand information and resources are [available](#).

For credits sellers and buyers

Submit applications for BOS credit transfers before 30 May

If you have credits that need to be transferred or retired before 30 June 2025, applications need to be submitted as soon as possible and no later than 30 May 2025.

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

Supply Fund update: April targeted reverse auctions

The April 2025 targeted reverse auction through the Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund has now closed. This auction targeted in-demand credits in the Central-West Orana region. The evaluation panel has commenced assessing the bids based on their eligibility and price. Results will be announced 28 May 2025.

The March 2025 Cumberland reverse auction closed on 7 April 2025. Bids were evaluated in accordance with the published documentation and credits worth more than \$4.5 million were approved for purchase.

Keep up-to-date with reverse auction news on the [Supply Fund and credit purchasing webpage](#), or email us at SupplyFund@environment.nsw.gov.au.

BCT's Credit Tender 25-01 update

The BCT's Credit Tender 25-01 closed on 16 April 2025 and is now in evaluation. Eligible credit offers will progress to the evaluation and prioritisation as outlined in the *Participants guide*. Check our [credit tenders webpage](#) for estimated program timeframes. If you have any other questions about the tender, please email us at offsets@bct.nsw.gov.au.

Update to BOPC commences 1 July 2024

The BCT will complete a routine annual update of the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) in line with the [BOPC Order](#). Information on future and existing BCF Charge Quotes will be provided prior to the update. The Key BCF Charge System values on the BCT website will also be updated on 1 July 2025. For more information, please contact bcfpayments@bct.nsw.gov.au.

For accredited assessors and councils

BOS Help Desk knowledge articles

The BOS Help Desk is committed to improving your enquiry experience. You can submit and track enquiries as well as access knowledge articles. We've recently added 3 new knowledge articles to help you find quick answers to common questions:

- [Can the department recommend a BAM species expert?](#)
- [Exempt or complying development, does the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme apply?](#)
- [When does native vegetation clearing require approval from the Native Vegetation Panel?](#)

Visit the [BOS Help Desk Portal](#) to ask us a question or search our knowledge articles.

Update to the serious and irreversible impacts list

Following the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee determinations of 11 April 2025, the list of threatened entities at risk of serious and irreversible impact (SAIL) has been updated as follows:

- *Aggreflorum benwellii* is added to the SAIL list as it is now Critically Endangered.
- *Xanthosia scopulicola* is removed from SAIL list as it is no longer threatened.

The list of entities at risk of a SAIL is on the [serious and irreversible impacts webpage](#).

Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator upgrade

The Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator (BAM-C) is undergoing a phased upgrade to improve reliability and long-term sustainability, as part of the scheme's Digital Transformation Program.

In mid-2025, migration to a modern platform for better support and an updated user interface aligned with NSW Government standards will occur. Minimal disruption is expected, with existing structure and functions remaining familiar. Future enhancements will aim to improve user experience, strengthen platform reliability and efficiency, and incorporate user feedback.

Re-opening BOAMS cases

Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) cases can be re-opened by councils in BOAMS using the 'Send Case Back to Assessor' feature (see the [BOAMS release notes: March 2025](#) for more information).

If you are an accredited assessor:

- add the council before submitting a case
- the case will no longer be accessible to you until council sends the case back after review.

If you are unsure about the status of the case, please contact council directly. By sending cases back to assessors promptly, councils help keep assessments on track and reduce administrative delays. Accredited assessors should contact council first to request they use the 'Send Case Back to Assessor' feature before contacting the Help Desk.

If you don't yet have a BOAMS login, please contact the BOS Help Desk for assistance. For further assistance, contact the BOS Help Desk Line 1800 931 717 or BOS.Helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Illawarra regional team update

Major project cases in the Eurobodalla local government area (LGA) are now managed by the Illawarra regional delivery team (previously managed by the South-East delivery team). Accredited assessors are asked that any new cases within the Eurobodalla LGA are assigned to the Illawarra team.

BSA variations to add credits: application of the BAM

Under the Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 (BAM), land already under an approved BSA is not classified as being at high risk of decline in vegetation integrity. Similarly, the security benefit score cannot be applied to this land. This is because the conservation obligations outlined in the BAM take effect once the BSA is approved.

Unlike additionality, the BAM does not offer a grace period for applying high-risk or security benefit settings after a BSA has commenced. These settings cannot be used to support the generation of new credit types through a BSA variation on land where ecosystem credits have already been issued.

More work on additionality is being considered as part of implementing the 5-year BAM review recommendations.

For further information on BSA variations, contact stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Accredited assessor complaints: update

So far in the 2024–25 financial year, 42 complaints have been received. Each complaint is assessed to determine if it's within scope of the complaints framework and there is sufficient information to proceed with an investigation. Around 70% of complaints have proceeded to further investigation.

Common issues are being identified so that we can provide feedback to all accredited assessors to help assessors be proactive in avoiding complaints. A common issue identified this month is the submission of invalid Biodiversity Development Assessment Reports (BDARs) to statutory decision makers. Examples include where the:

- BDAR is not certified (signed or dated) by the lead assessor.
- BDAR is submitted as a draft version.
- BAM-C credit report is not included in Appendix of BDAR.
- BAM-C is still 'In progress' status and not finalised.
- BDAR is out of date and inconsistent with final DA documentation.
- BDAR is not lodged to the decision maker within 14 days of finalising the BAM-C case.

As a BAM accredited assessor, you should ensure that BDARs submitted with your certification to the decision maker are in accordance with the BAM and [section 6.15](#) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. This includes:

- The BDAR must be finalised, certified and submitted to the decision maker within 14 days of the finalisation of the BAM-C case.
- The BAM-C credit report must display the status of the BAM-C case as 'finalised' and be included in the appendix of the final BDAR.
- If you are submitting a draft BDARs to your client, ensure it is clearly labelled as 'draft' and do not certify the BDAR until it is final and ready for lodgement.

- Consult with your client prior to finalising your BDAR to identify any potential changes to the final DA design, including any temporary construction impacts and request a final design footprint to do a final check.
- If your accreditation has expired (or you are in a grace period), you are not able to certify a BDAR until you have been reaccredited and received your new certificate of accreditation.

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

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