

# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 38

5 June 2025

**Welcome to issue No. 38** 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 Publications webpage](#).

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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## General scheme updates

### Biodiversity stewardship agreements

The total area of land being protected and restored under the scheme is now over 111,000 hectares, including 127 new biodiversity stewardship agreements (BSAs) since July 2022. The total number of BSAs and BioBanking agreements is now at 360.

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.

### Changes to scheme fees and BOPC

The BOS scheme fees have been updated for the financial year 2025–26. The fees are reviewed annually to reflect the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The new scheme fees apply from 1 July 2025.

The Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) will be updated on 1 July 2025, in line with the BOPC Order. Applications for charge quotes submitted from 1 July 2025 onwards will be based on the revised charge amounts. Proponents with a valid quote issued before 30 June 2025 can also request a new quote to replace the original. Contact [bctpayments@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bctpayments@bct.nsw.gov.au) if you have any questions.

### SAIL nominations close 19 June

Annual nominations for updates to the list of species and ecological communities at risk of Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAIL) close on **19 June 2025**. The SAIL list is used to identify species at risk of extinction requiring additional assessment and consideration.

Nominations can be made for additions, removals or changes to the listed principles with evidence that addresses the criteria in the Guidance to assist a decision-maker to determine a serious and irreversible impact. Nominations must be supported by data, such as peer-reviewed literature, survey results or spatial mapping that address the SAIL criteria, and can be made through the department's website:

- Threatened species (and endangered populations) at risk of SAIL nomination form
- Threatened ecological communities at risk of SAIL nomination form.

# For landholders and credits sellers

## Landholder workshops

Free workshops on opportunities for landholders in biodiversity stewardship will be held in June, targeting regions with in-demand credits. The workshops will be delivered by the department in collaboration with the BCT and Local Land Services.

Landholders will learn about biodiversity stewardship and other natural capital opportunities, connect with state government agencies, and find out about the scheme. Interested landholders can find out potential for creating in-demand credits through the [demand webpage](#).

### Dubbo Western Plains Cultural Centre

12 June 2025 | 9:30 – 12:30 | [See more information and register](#)

### Penrith Andromeda Hall Cranebrook

26 June 2025 | 9:30 – 12:30 | [See more information and register](#) The event planned at Singleton Civic Centre for Thursday 5 June 2025 has been postponed due to recent weather events in the Hunter region.

## Stewardship Support Program opens 25 June 2025

The Stewardship Support Program will be open for applications from **Wednesday 25 June** to **Sunday 17 August**. The program offers landowners with a way to obtain biodiversity assessment and support to establish a BSA at no upfront cost.

The online application form will be available on the [Stewardship Support Program webpage](#) from 25 June. You can find more information on the [program webpage](#). If you have questions, you can contact us at [stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## Central West Orana reverse auction results

The April 2025 Central West Orana reverse auction closed on 30 April 2025 and received 45 bids. Bids were evaluated in accordance with the published documentation and more than 14,000 credits, totalling around \$27 million, were approved for purchase. The results have been published on the [Credits Supply Fund webpage](#).

## BCT Credit Tender 25-01 – Progress update

The evaluation panel has assessed eligible bids and recommended those that are considered ‘value-for-money’ (as defined in the [Participants guide](#)). These bids are now being prioritised to make offers to purchase credits from July 2025. If you receive an offer, you’ll have 4 business days to respond – this ensures timely offers can be made to others if declined. Most offers will be finalised and notifications for unsuccessful bids issued by August. For enquiries, contact: [offsets@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:offsets@bct.nsw.gov.au).

# For accredited assessors and local government

## BAM Calculator offline for maintenance 6 June to 7 June

The BAM calculator will be offline for server maintenance from 6.00 pm Friday 6 June to 12.00 pm Saturday 7 June 2025. For further information please contact the BOS Helpdesk on [bos.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bos.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## Accredited assessor training courses

Another 4 accreditation training courses are taking place in August, September, October and November 2025. There is high demand for this course, so please use the [online form](#) to nominate for this course, and you will be notified by email as places become available.

The [accreditation application form](#) sets out what you will need to demonstrate to be accredited. Those considering becoming an accredited assessor should read the [accreditation criteria](#), and ensure you meet the technical requirements.

## Field training days: Ecological Monitoring Module

Join NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust ecologist staff at a field training day to learn more about applying the Ecological Monitoring Module (EMM) to biodiversity stewardship agreement (BSA) sites. The free training day is for ecological consultants and Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) accredited assessors. Each day will cover EMM field methods, use of BCT's Survey123 data collection tools, development of monitoring components of a BSA management plan, and data management, analysis and reporting requirements.

Additional sessions in other regional centres may take place later in the year. For any questions, please get in touch at [ecological.ats@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ecological.ats@bct.nsw.gov.au).

### **Sydney | Castlereagh Nature Reserve**

10 June 2025 | [Register for Sydney session](#)

### **Newcastle | Blackbutt Reserve**

24 June 2025 | [Register for Newcastle session](#)

## New BOS local government webinars available

The second and third webinars in the BOS local government webinar series are now available for viewing on the department's [Local government training and resources webpage](#).

These webinars address the Part 4 Local Development Biodiversity Assessment and Approval Pathway and the commencement of the *Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Act 2024*.

While the webinars are targeted at local government, other scheme participants may find the webinars useful. Any questions relating to the webinars should be lodged via the [BOS Help Desk Customer Portal](#).

## Accredited assessor complaints and feedback

In this financial year, 45 complaints and feedback have been received in relation to accredited assessors. Over 70 per cent have been closed, with 13 still open. As a result of this process, 18 action letters have been issued, including one warning letter, 10 advisory letters and 7 positive feedback letters.

Also to note, there have been recent amendments to the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* which clarify the certification date of BARs submitted to statutory decision makers. Assessors must inform clients that certified BARs linked to development applications must be submitted within 14 days of certification, in line with [section 6.15](#) of the Act.

The BAM Operational Manuals ([Stage 1 s 4.2](#) and [Stage 2 s 1.2](#)) provide clarification on why the BAR must be finalised, certified and submitted to the decision maker within 14 days of the finalisation of the BAM-C case. If not, the BAR will need to be reviewed and updated to reflect any new data before being re-lodged with the statutory decision maker. This ensures assessment information and credit calculations are current when submitted.

## New species determination: *Delma vescolineata*

The NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee has identified the Hunter Valley population of *Delma impar* as a distinct species, now formally recognised as *Delma vescolineata* (Hunter Valley delma), based on a peer-reviewed study. It is listed as endangered under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Until full assessment and data upload to the Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection, survey methods and assessments should follow those for *D. impar*. If credit calculation is required before *D. vescolineata* data is available in BAM-C, please contact the [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Helpdesk](#) for further guidance.

## Ancillary rule – biodiversity conservation actions

The [Ancillary rule: biodiversity conservation actions](#) has been revised to support conservation actions for species impacted by myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*). Three critically endangered species, *Rhodamnia maideniana*, *Rhodamnia rubescens* and *Rhodomirtus psidioides*, have been added to the ancillary rules list, enabling offsets to contribute to recovery actions to improve conservation outcomes.

The revised ancillary rule also removes *Brachyscome papillosa*, *Fregetta grallaria*, *Gentiana baeuerlenii*, *Maireana cheelii* and *Pterodroma neglecta neglecta*, for which the ancillary rule is no longer relevant.

## Refining species polygons – expert reports and targeted survey

Where a biodiversity expert report identifies that a species is likely present on the subject land, a targeted survey may be undertaken to help refine the species polygon. Survey results must be provided to the biodiversity expert for consideration and inclusion in the expert report. An explanation of how the final species polygon was determined must be included in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report.

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