

# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 39

2 July 2025

**Welcome to issue No. 39** 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](mailto:BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au), monitored Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm.

## **General scheme updates**

- Biodiversity stewardship agreements
- Consultation on the list of entities on the SAI list
- First concurrence by the Minister
- Updated biodiversity experts list
- Knowledge articles on the scheme
- Consultation on the list of entities on the SAI list

## **For landholders and credits sellers**

- Stewardship Support Program open for applications
- Free workshop for landholders in the Hunter region
- Updated BSA Application Guide
- BCT credit tender 25-01 progress update



### For accredited assessors and local government

- Revised BOAMS guide for accredited assessors
- Clearing thresholds and exotic vegetation
- Accredited assessor training courses
- Ecological monitoring module: field training
- Accredited assessor complaints and feedback

## General scheme updates

### Biodiversity stewardship agreements

The total area of land being protected and restored under the scheme is now over 119,000 hectares, including 131 new biodiversity stewardship agreements (BSAs) since July 2022. Total number of BSAs and BioBanking agreements is now at 364.

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.

### Consultation on the list of entities on the SAI list

Consultation on proposed changes to the list of entities at risk of serious and irreversible impact (SAI) will start on **Monday 7 July 2025**. The proposed changes and supporting information are available on the [serious and irreversible impacts webpage](#). Submissions on the proposed changes can be made through the online feedback form by **Sunday 27 July 2025**.

### First concurrence by the Minister

Recent legislative reforms introduced a new requirement for the Minister for the Environment to give concurrence to some types of biodiversity offsetting conditions. The Minister has now granted the first concurrence to conditions for the Valley of the Winds windfarm (SSD-10461). The conditions seek to maintain the integrity of the project's biodiversity offsetting requirements, while providing for flexibility to adjust credit obligations if more impacts are avoided.

### Updated biodiversity experts list

A biodiversity expert is someone that has been approved to prepare an expert report under the scheme. The [list of biodiversity experts](#) has been updated with additional experts for large-eared pied bat, eastern cave bat, pink-tailed worm-lizard and green and golden bell frog. This aligns with the Biodiversity Assessment method (BAM) review recommendation to increase the number of biodiversity experts on the register to better support accredited assessors in implementing the BAM.



## Knowledge articles on the scheme

The [BOS Help Desk Customer Portal](#) contains a range of knowledge articles addressing common queries and key topics related to the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. From policy guidance and survey advice to systems troubleshooting, these articles provide quick and reliable information that answer frequently asked questions.

## Website navigation updates and finding webpages

You may have noticed some changes to our website's structure and layout, or to webpage links, which occurred due to changes to our website and domain updates.

To navigate afresh to Biodiversity Offsets Scheme webpages, you can either:

1. click '**Topics**' on the [environment website homepage](#), select '**Animals and plants**', and then click on the link to '**Biodiversity Offsets Scheme**'
2. use the website's **search tool** in the top-right-hand corner of the screen – the **magnifying glass symbol** – and then type what you are specifically looking for.

Update your bookmarks and saved links to reflect the new web structure and URLs.

## For landholders and credits sellers

### Stewardship Support Program open for applications

The [Stewardship Support Program](#) is open for applications from **Wednesday 25 June to Sunday 17 August**. The program is open to eligible landholders with potential to produce in-demand credits. The focus of this round includes the following IBRA subregions:

- Ellerton, Hunter, Tomalla, Upper Hunter, Wyong and Yengo IBRA subregions
- Cumberland Plain and adjoining IBRA subregions.

Sites from these subregions are prioritised in the 2025 round, although other areas will also be considered. For a detailed list of in-demand credits and more information, visit the [Stewardship Support Program webpage](#) or contact [stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au).

### Free workshop for landholders in the Hunter region

A free landholder workshop on opportunities in biodiversity stewardship will be held on **Thursday 31 July 2025**. The workshop will be delivered by the department in collaboration with the BCT and Local Land Services. The workshop covers biodiversity stewardship, the [Stewardship Support Program](#), and other natural capital opportunities. Interested landholders can find out potential for creating in-demand credits through the [demand webpage](#).

**Singleton Civic Centre**



## Updated BSA Application Guide

The *[Biodiversity stewardship agreement application guide](#)* has been updated to include more current information about variation processes, application fees, total fund deposit calculations, advertising credits and ecological burns. If you have questions about this guide, contact: [stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## BCT credit tender 25-01 progress update

The BCT has started making round 1 offers to purchase successful credit offers. If you receive an offer, you'll have **4 business days to respond**. As explained in the *[Participants guide](#)*, this ensures timely offers can be made to other applicants if you decline the offer. It is important to regularly check your emails, including your 'spam folder' in case the email is not displayed in your inbox.

Offers are made in rounds in prioritised order. If you haven't received a Round 1 offer by the end of July, it's possible you may receive an offer in a subsequent round, depending on how many Round 1 offers are accepted. By August, most offers will be finalised and notifications for unsuccessful bids sent. You can view our estimated program timeline on our [Credit Tenders webpage](#). For enquiries, contact [offsets@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:offsets@bct.nsw.gov.au).

## For accredited assessors and local government

### Revised BOAMS guide for accredited assessors

A revised version of the *[Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System guide \(BOAMS guide\)](#)* for accredited assessors has been published. This includes new content about using multifactor authentication to log in, enhancements to the vegetation and threatened species tools used to list expressions of interest and credits wanted on the public registers, creating trust accounts, and linking consent authority/council staff to development/clearing cases.

### Clearing thresholds and exotic vegetation

The department has updated information on scheme entry requirements, including to account for exotic vegetation. This information can be found on our [webpage on entry requirements](#) and there is also revised information on adjusting [area clearing threshold](#) calculations to account for exotic vegetation. This information is also available in the [reviewing area clearing threshold results from the BMAT tool](#) guidance for proponents and local government.



## Accredited assessor training courses

The August and September assessor training courses are now full. We'll soon contact people who have submitted an expression of interest for the October and November courses. Demand is high, so please use the online form to express interest. If you've already done so, you're on the list and will be contacted as soon as we can offer you a place on the course. Don't forget to review the accreditation criteria and technical requirements for accreditation in the application form before considering applying for the course. More information can be found on the [accreditation webpage](#).

## Ecological monitoring module: field training

Join NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust ecologist staff at a field training day to learn more about applying the Ecological Monitoring Module (EMM) to BSA sites. The free training day is for ecological consultants and BAM accredited assessors.

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 to attend via the links below. For any questions, please get in touch at [ecological.ats@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ecological.ats@bct.nsw.gov.au).

### **Queanbeyan Nature Reserve**

Monday, 4 August 2025 | [Register for Queanbeyan session](#)

### **Coffs Harbour Bongil Bongil National Park**

Tuesday, 19 August 2025 | [Register for Coffs Harbour session](#)

## Accreditor assessor complaints and feedback

Since July 2024, 46 complaints and feedback have been received. From January 2025, 60% of complaints and feedback received have been investigated, and 32 cases have been closed. Positive feedback has highlighted accredited assessors with:

- an in-depth understanding of the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM)
- a strong technical expertise and practical application
- a collaborative, solution-focused approach to engagement.

You can make a complaint or provide feedback about an accredited assessor, use the [Accredited assessor complaints and feedback form](#).

Environment and Heritage, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124; Phone: 1300 361 967 (EH enquiries); Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au); Website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au). EH 2025/0249 July 2025.