

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 43

12 November 2025

Welcome to issue No. 43 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 <u>via our website</u> and view our <u>past newsletters online</u>. The Biodiversity Conservation Trust's (BCT) <u>newsletter</u> is another source of information.

For other enquiries on the scheme, contact the BOS Help Desk Customer Portal.

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General scheme updates

First strategic offset delivery agreement in Central-West Orana

The first Strategic Offset Delivery Agreement (SODA) in the Central-West Orana (CWO) Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) has been entered into. The SODA will deliver up to \$140 million in funding restoration and management of land under biodiversity stewardship agreements, guided by the Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy. The first biodiversity credits under the agreement have been purchased through the Supply Fund, with more expected through to June 2026.

SODAs deliver the same offsets as required under energy project approvals and in accordance the biodiversity offsets scheme, including on a like-for-like basis. Quarterly reports will also be published, so that there is a clear picture of progress to deliver the offsets under each SODA. More information can be found on the Strategic Offset Delivery Agreements webpage.

Over 215 credit types available from the Supply Fund auction

The latest Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund closed on 17 September 2025 and received 216 bids. Bids were evaluated in accordance with published requirements. Over 215 credit types have been approved for purchase.

The department will seek buyers for the approved credits for the next 6 months. For a full list of the credit types approved through the auction please see the <u>auction results webpage</u>. If you are interested in buying credits, please contact supplyfund@environment.nsw.gov.au

Consultation on new guides for Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAII) and threatened birds

We recently concluded stakeholder consultation on draft guides for Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAII) and survey of hollow-dependent threatened birds. Feedback was collected from across a diverse range of groups including industry, accredited assessors, local and state government, and species experts. Thank you to all those who participated. The 2 guides are being updated with your feedback and will be published in the coming months.

Addition of *Patersonia rosea* to the Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAII) list

The list of threatened entities at risk of serious and irreversible impacts (SAII) has been updated to include *Patersonia rosea*. This follows the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee Provisional Determination that the species is considered *Critically Endangered* in New South Wales. The full updated list of entities is available on the <u>Serious and irreversible impacts webpage</u>.

Digital verification of identity is live

You can now use digital verification of identity (VOI) to prove your identity when applying to transfer or retire biodiversity credits, or when seeking an assessment of reasonable credit equivalence. The VOI is fast, online and free to use. It is the department's preferred method for proof of identity. For support, contact BOSCREDITS@environment.nsw.gov.au

End of year credit transfers and retirements

Please submit new applications for credit transactions by Friday 28 November 2025. Applications received after this date may not be finalised until after 12 January 2026.

A new application form for <u>BioBanking credit transactions</u> will be available from 29 November 2025. The current BioBanking application forms remain valid until Friday 28 November 2025.

For accredited assessors and local government

2026 accredited assessor training courses

Registration is now open for accredited assessor training courses in 2026. Courses are available in March, May, July, September and November next year. For more information about initial training to become accredited, please visit the <u>training requirements to become a Biodiversity Assessment Method assessor webpage.</u> Those considering becoming an accredited assessor should read the <u>accreditation criteria</u>, and ensure you meet the technical requirements.

Renewal training courses have been scheduled for February, April, June, August and October in 2026. You can register for training via your account in Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) in the 3-month period before your accreditation is due. More information can be found on the renewing your assessor accreditation webpage.

Accredited assessor feedback

The department has received 13 feedback submissions on accredited assessors since 1 July 2025. Out of these, 12 of these were considered for follow up action and are now closed, with one outstanding. This is part of the accreditation scheme to ensure accredited assessors continue to meet requirements of accreditation.

Data exports for Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator (BAM-C) updated

We have enhanced access to the BAM-Calculator (BAM-C) data exports, developed in response to feedback from accredited assessors. This makes it easier to analyse, quantify, and prepare biodiversity assessment report (BAR) tables and content.

Key features:

- simplifies scenario testing and updates to BAR content
- streamlines data preparation, comparative analysis and report writing
- supports efficient quality assurance and data validation
- reduces manual tasks like rekeying data and navigating multiple BAM-C tabs.

There is a quick reference guide available to help you unlock the full capability. For a copy of the guide or support, contact the <u>BOS Help Desk Portal</u>.

Seeking feedback: Updated SEED Map tool

The Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) tool to support desktop analysis of biodiversity values under the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) has been updated. The tool enables accredited assessors to find spatial layers in SEED to identify biodiversity values. The tool is now easier to use, more flexible, and includes new features to help you get more from SEED data. Key upgrades include:

- a simpler, step-by-step interface
- an option to use Lot and other administrative boundaries for the area of interest
- support for a wider range of SEED Map layers.

You can explore the enhanced tool on the SEED Map and find user guidance on the portal webpage. Please email feedback to info@seed.nsw.gov.au by 21 November 2025.

Environment and Heritage (EH)

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