



# BAM Assessor Update – Number 24 – October 2019

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## 1. Transitional periods for Biodiversity Offset Scheme products and Biodiversity Assessment Reports

Transitional arrangements are in place to minimise the effect of changes to specific aspects of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) on assessments already in progress. If an update is made to one of the documents, policy settings or products listed below, the previous version can be used within the following timeframes:

### Biodiversity Assessment Reports – Division 6.2 of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017

- Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) – **14 days** to submit
- Biodiversity Stewardship Site Assessment Report (BSSAR) – **14 days** to submit
- Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report (BCAR) – **28 days** to submit

Product	Transitional period	BC Regulation reference
Ancillary rules	90 days If a new version of any of the ancillary rules (or a part of the rules) is published, a BAR can be submitted using the previous version for a period of 90 days.	Clause 6.5(4)
Serious and irreversible impact (SAII) guidance	90 days If a new version of the serious and irreversible impacts (SAII) guidance document is published, a BAR can be submitted using the previous version for a period of 90 days.	Clause 6.7(4)
Biodiversity values map	90 days If a new area of land is included in the map, development applications within that land are not considered to exceed the map component of the BOS threshold if they are submitted within 90 days.	Clause 7.3(5)

Product	Transitional period	BC Regulation reference
Biodiversity assessment method	<p><b>12 months</b> for BDARs for SSD/SSI or BCARs (Minister can extend the timeframe for BCARs for strategic biocertification).</p> <p><b>6 months</b> in all other cases (non-SSD/SSI BDARs and BSSARs).</p> <p>If the BAM is updated BARs can be submitted using the previous version within the timeframes listed above. The BAR must state which version of the BAM has been used.</p>	Clause 6.31

In all cases, the assessor can choose whether to use the old or new version of the product within the transitional period. The BAR must state the version of the product which is being used.

## 2. BAM support webinars for Accredited Assessors

BAM Support is a series of webinars hosted by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to support the role of accredited assessors. Visit the [BAM support webinars](#) webpage to view details and register for upcoming webinars. The schedule will continue to be updated as more webinars are arranged.

BAM Support webinar presentations and recordings are available on the [BOS Vimeo Showcase](#) after the live event.

If you have any questions about these webinars please send your enquiry to [BOS Support](mailto:BOS.Support@environment.nsw.gov.au) or [BAM.support@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BAM.support@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## 3. Launch of Vegetation Condition Benchmarks webpages

The [Vegetation Condition Benchmarks](#) webpages went live 27 September 2019.

These pages contain links to:

- Five reports documenting the data prep, analyses and evaluation processes used to prepare the benchmarks.
- Five data files on SEED containing both the raw data used and the resultant Version 1.2 benchmarks.
- Six peer-reviewed and published journal papers supporting benchmark development and application within the BAM.

Benchmarks Version1.2 is available via BioNet but not yet available in the BAM-C. These will be released into the BAM-C in the first 2020 data upload.