



Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Accredited Assessor Update 45

11 March 2021

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1. Deferral of January update to the BOPC

The January 2021 update to the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) has been deferred due to insufficient data to inform a complete assessment. Over the final six months of 2020, activity in the biodiversity credit market was 75% lower than the same period in 2019. As an econometric model, the BOPC relies on enough statistical information to produce robust estimates and avoid volatile fluctuations in estimated prices.

This means that the existing BOPC charges will continue to apply until further notice.

2. Reminder of the transition period for BARs prepared using BAM 2017

This is a reminder that the transition period for preparing a biodiversity assessment report (BAR) based on Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) 2017 for a Part 4 local development, a clearing or biodiversity stewardship application ends on **22 April 2021**.

The transition period for BARs prepared for state significant development or infrastructure and non-strategic (standard) biodiversity certification ends **on 22 October 2021**. For strategic biodiversity certification proposals, the transition period also ends on 22 October 2021, or as the Minister approves for a particular case.

Please note that the updated BAM Calculator may be used for other development, activity, clearing or biodiversity certification proposals regardless of whether BAM 2017 or BAM 2020 is being applied. If a proponent or assessor proposes to apply BAM 2017 to a scattered tree

(formerly paddock tree) or small area streamlined development assessment, they should contact bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au for guidance on how to use the BAM Calculator.

Where a BAR is prepared using BAM 2017 during the transitional period, assessors must ensure the original BAM 2017 and supporting documents are applied rather than the BAM 2020. The accredited assessor must ensure this is clearly stated in the Biodiversity Assessment Report. The transitional arrangements do not allow a combination of both BAM 2017 and BAM 2020 to be applied to a proposal.

3. New guidance for assessing habitat suitability

Have you seen the new flow chart that steps through the BAM requirements for assessing habitat suitability for threatened species? If not, we highly recommend that you take a look. Go to the [BAM 2020 Operational Manual – Stage 1](#), Appendix C.

The flow chart summarises the key steps in Chapter 5 of the BAM 2020 and reflects how they align with the BAM Calculator. We welcome your feedback on this new BAM support tool. So please share your thoughts on how we can make it better at bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au

4. BOS support webinars

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey to help identify and prioritise webinar topics for 2021. Our next webinar will be presented by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) and focus on preparing a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSA) business case and feasibility studies. This was one of highest interest topics among people who responded to the survey. The date for this webinar is being confirmed

The recordings for last year's [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme \(BOS\) Support Webinar – Biodiversity credit open fixed price offer](#) and the recent webinar on [BAM Operation Manual – Stage 3 and BCT Ecological Monitoring Manual](#) are now available on our website. The Q&A document for [BOS Support Webinar – Biodiversity credit open fixed price offer](#) is also available, below the webinar recording.

5. Planned update to threatened species data in the BAM-C

Please note that there will be a planned update to threatened species data in the BAM-C on 29 April. The update will import data for species newly listed under the BC Act, and for species that are only listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) . For those species only listed under the EPBC Act, the update is part of the implementation of the assessment bilateral. There will be minor changes to the serious and irreversible impact (SAIL) list. We will provide further details on these changes in the next update.

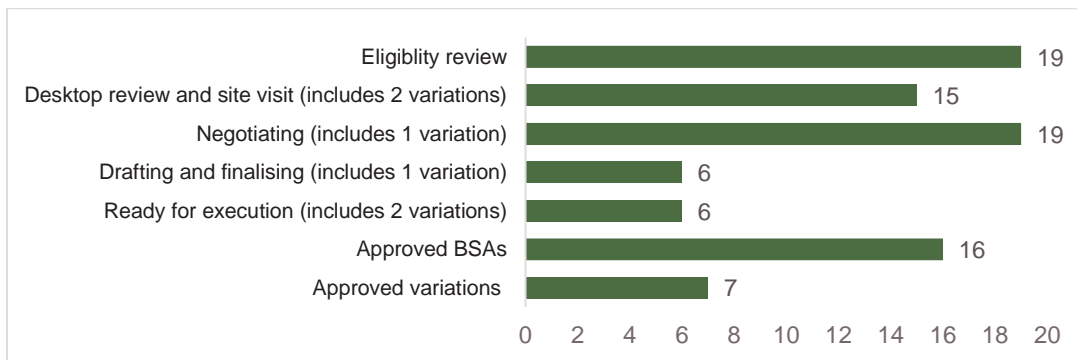
6. BCT update

Total Fund Deposit Guide

The Total Fund Deposit Guide is published on the Resources and Information for Accredited Assessors tabs of the BCT website. The document provides guidance to BSA applicants to cost management actions and complete their Total Fund Deposit (TFD) calculator. The guide was developed to ensure adequate funding of management actions over the life of a BSA and to promote equity in how BSA applicants estimate costs.

This guide is to be applied when preparing the TFD.

BSA Application status



-----End of Assessor Update No.45-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (11 March 2021). However, readers are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.