



Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Accredited Assessor Update 49

23 July 2021

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1. Replacement of the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator – continued consultation

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust is undertaking further consultation on the replacement of the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC). These consultations are expected to be completed by the end of 2021. This consultation follows on from Stage 1 of consultation undertaken by the department, which revealed these themes:

- support for the BCT completing its planned stakeholder consultation on a long-term replacement for the current BOPC and that this consultation should inform transfer to the BCT or the removal of the calculator from the public view
- additional market information should be provided to assist with private and public planning decisions
- assurance measures should be put in place for any revised BOPC to give the market confidence
- additional actions should be considered to improve the supply of biodiversity offset credits.

Accredited Assessor Workshop Nominations for the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF) Charge System

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) are seeking 8–10 experienced accredited assessors (AAs) that represent a range of companies and regions to participate in two workshops about one month apart in August and September. The workshops are an opportunity to provide

advice and information to support the development of the new charge system, including cost structure model for ecosystems and species credit pricing. These had been intended to be face-to-face, however, at least the initial meeting will be conducted online. Any AA can nominate, and the BCT will select experienced assessors with a high-level understanding of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. The selected group will have a range of experience across the various regions, development types and vegetation communities operating under BAM. Only one AA per consultancy firm will be considered. If you are interested in nominating, submit your interest to info@bct.nsw.gov.au with the Subject heading: **AA Workshop Nomination**.

2. BAM Assessor accreditation renewal, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and refresher training

Renewal accreditation applications are due by an assessor's expiry date. There are three actions that need completing:

- prepare an application form
- complete your CPD-log
- attend renewal training.

Please refer to our [Renewing Accreditation](#) webpage for details.

Most assessors will require renewal of their accreditation in the 2021–22 financial year. Accreditation expiry dates can be viewed on the [public register](#). It can also be found on the assessor's accreditation certificate and account in Biodiversity Offsets and Agreements Management System (BOAMS).

Details about CPD were released at the end of May 2021. The final guideline and template were amended based on comments received when the draft was exhibited in 2020. Please refer to the [CPD guideline](#) for transitional arrangements.

Renewal Refresher training consists of eLearning modules and two five-hour face-to-face sessions held using Zoom. Assessors should attend training starting three months before their accreditation due date. Training currency will expire at the end of their [grace period](#). Assessors can [contact](#) the training provider to lodge an expression of interest to attend in the lead-up to their expiry date.

A webinar describing the renewal process, CPD and refresher training was held on June 23, and is now available on the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) support webinar [webpage](#). Questions can be directed to the BAM_accreditation@environment.nsw.gov.au mailbox.

3. Subscribe to SEED datasets

A new function allowing users to subscribe to datasets on the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) portal is now available. Users can create an account and subscribe to datasets or filters to be notified of changes, new or upcoming datasets and announcements. A [help guide](#) offers step-by-step instructions on how to subscribe and manage your preferences.

Live usage statistics are also available to monitor how the dataset is performing and assess the popularity of datasets. Read more via [SEED News and Resources](#).

4. Check BAM-Calculator reports are consistent with Biodiversity Assessment Reports

It is best practice for assessors and decision-makers to check that the information in a BAM-Calculator report is consistent with the Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR) information.

Assessors should check reports generated by the BAM-Calculator as part of their quality assurance protocol to ensure the information is consistent with the BAR. For example, assessors should confirm that the list of predicted species in the BAM-Calculator is consistent with the list in the BAR. Likewise, assessors should check that the list of candidate species in the BAM-Calculator are consistent with the BAR, i.e. the species assessed for presence using either assumed presence, an important habitat map, targeted survey or expert report.

The BAM-Calculator reports must have a status of finalised before being submitted to the decision-maker and the date of finalisation must be within 14 days of submitting the BAR.

5. Videos explain the BOS in a nutshell

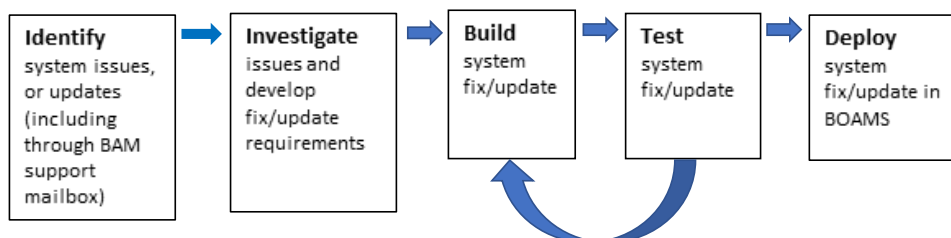
Five short [videos](#) are available online, providing a quick and easy explanation of the BOS. Assessors may find the videos about the BOS, meeting biodiversity offset obligations, and demonstrating the Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold tool helpful for liaising with their clients.

6. System updates

Thanks for your effort in reporting BOAMS issues via the [BOS enquiry form](#). We understand the impact these issues can have on your work. See the table below showing the status of priority system changes.

Description	Current Status
Amendment to BOAMS which will enable assessors to upload executable files	Identify
Errors accessing BAM-C (500, 503) due to high server traffic	Investigate

* see flow diagram below



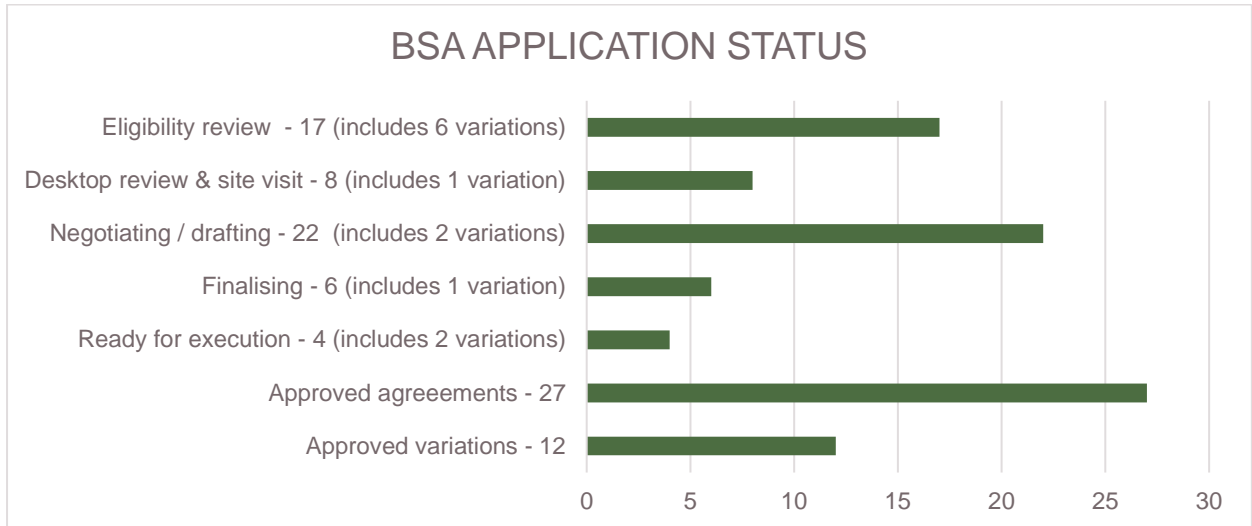
7. Information sessions about Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements

Register your interest in the Biodiversity Conservation Trust's information sessions about Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSAs). Sessions will be held across regional NSW over September-October 2021. They will explain the steps involved in establishing a BSA and will be useful for all stakeholders involved in the process. Dates and locations include:

Date	Location	Time
Thursday 2 September	Dubbo	12pm–3pm
Monday 6 September	Wagga Wagga	12pm–3pm
Wednesday 8 September	Narrabri	10am–1pm
Thursday 9 September	Moree	10am–1pm
Tuesday 14 September	Muswellbrook	12–3pm
Wednesday 15 September	Newcastle	8–11am
Thursday 16 September	Sydney (4PSQ)	9–12pm
Thursday 7 October	Coffs Harbour	12– 3pm
Friday 8 October	Online	9.30–11am
Tuesday 12 October	Jindabyne	9–12pm
Wednesday 13 October	Queanbeyan	9–12pm
Thursday 14 October	Moruya	9–12pm
Friday 15 October	Kiama	9–12pm

8. BCT update

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement Application status



-----**End of Assessor Update No.49**-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (23 July 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.