



Department of Planning and Environment

# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 17

21 June 2023

Welcome to Issue No. 17 of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update.

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (the scheme) enables the impacts of development on biodiversity to be avoided, minimised and offset. The scheme provides a consistent, transparent, and scientifically credible way for development to proceed while protecting our environment. Keep up to date with [via our website](#).

This monthly newsletter is one of the ways we communicate and help support the implementation of the scheme. You can [view our past newsletters](#). The Biodiversity Conservation Trust's (BCT) twice-yearly newsletter is another source of information. You can find it on the BCT's [Publication website](#).

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).

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## BAM-Calculator (BAM-C) updates

### Correction to previous release notes: Threatened entity data in Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection (TBDC)

The previous release notes attached to [BOS Update No. 15](#) mistakenly included *Goodenia macbarronii* (narrow goodenia), which is **not** included in the BAM-C and is not listed as threatened under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The PDF release notes are attached to this BOS Update No. 17 titled 'Reissue 26 May 2023 – Release Notes'.

### Latest BAM-C update

The BAM-Calculator (BAM-C) will be updated on **Thursday 22 June 2023**. This update includes the below changes and aligns data in the BAM-C with the changes made to threatened entity data in BioNet TBDC as described in [BOS Updates No. 15 and 16](#).

#### Updates to BAM-C include:

- amendments to associated Plant Community Types (PCTs) for a range of species
- amendments to associated IBRA subregions for a range of species
- removal of *Boronia hapalophylla* from the BAM-C to reflect recent removal of threatened status under the BC Act by the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee
- addition of serious and irreversible impacts (SAII) and increase in biodiversity risk weighting for *Eucalyptus benthamii*.

Updates to TBDC, in addition to the above, include:

- minor amendment to the supporting information for *Boronia hapalophylla* to note the species is no longer threatened in New South Wales.

Please see the attached PDF release notes titled Release Notes BAM-C June 2023 Import for details.

## Accredited assessor updates

### Reminder for accredited assessors to use full legal names when creating accounts for credit holders in BOAMS

An important reminder to accredited assessors when creating accounts in Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) on behalf of credit holders or buyers:

- **ensure only full legal names are used** in accordance with the person's supporting identity documents
- for the transfer of credit ownership to have legal effect, **a credit holder or buyer must sign under their legal name**
- any discrepancy over legal ownership may result in the risk of a transaction being held invalid.

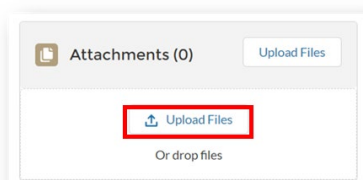
More information is available on [credit transactions](#) which includes the department's authority to sign and proof of identity practice guideline. If you have any questions, please contact [boscredits@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:boscredits@environment.nsw.gov.au).

### Improvements to credits wanted listings in BOAMS

The department is improving how credits wanted (credit demand) listings are made in the Biodiversity Offset and Agreement Management System (BOAMS). The improvements are being made in stages. Stage 2 of the improvements is now live in BOAMS. Please refer to the attachment titled, 'Changes to credit demand listings – Stage 2' for more information on the Stage 2 improvements implemented. Stage 1 of the improvements went live in December 2022 and are explained in [BOS Update No. 11](#).

### Attaching compressed files in BOAMS

Assessors may now attach compressed (zip) files, including GIS shapefiles, to development and stewardship parent cases in BOAMS. To allow council or other consent authority reviewers access to the attachments, please ensure the relevant reviewer case party is added to the parent case before submission.



### Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool Update

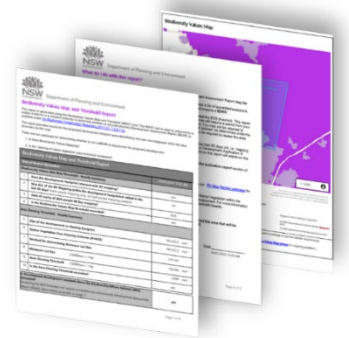
The Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool (BMAT) was updated on 16 May 2023. The updated report now includes functionality to calculate if the area-clearing threshold has been exceeded. The new look report provides results for determining

whether a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is required under the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 (clauses 7.2 and 7.3)

The tool now addresses 2 criteria for determining whether a BDAR is required to assess the clearing associated with a proposed development:

- Is Biodiversity Values Mapping present?
- Is the 'clearing of native vegetation area threshold' exceeded?

The report provides results for any proposed development footprint identified in the tool by the user.



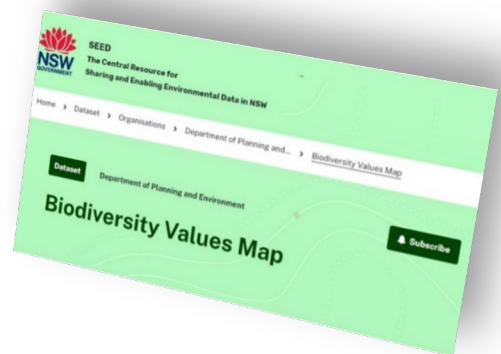
For more information about the BMAT Tool go to the [Biodiversity Values Map and threshold tool](#). For more information, visit the [Biodiversity Values Map webpage](#) or contact the [Map Review Team](#).

## Update your Biodiversity Values Map Data Downloads

Did you know you can access Biodiversity Values (BV) Map spatial data through the [Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data \(SEED\) Portal](#)?

There are 2 options for accessing BV Map spatial data through the SEED Portal:

1. Web Mapping Service – we provide a web service for users with a compatible GIS to access the current version of the BV Map.
2. Download Package – data download packages are also available from SEED. The format of data is ESRI file geodatabase. Please note the BV Map is updated regularly, and the currency of the data is only valid on the day of download. Users should regularly check the BV Map homepage for updates. **Please note the BV Map was updated on 28 May 2023 to Version 15.**



## Local government updates

### Training sponsorships for local government

The department offers sponsorships for online eLearning scheme training for local government staff. The eLearning will help with an understanding of the fundamental concepts of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and council's roles and responsibilities in the scheme. More than 330 participants have been funded since commencement of the program, and the department has extended the sponsorship offer. It is easy to apply; go to [Greencap's Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Training webpage](#), under Local Government Training, download an [EOI form](#) and send to [bos.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bos.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au).

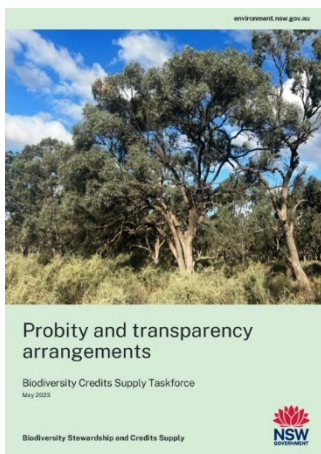
## For landholders: Credit supply and demand updates

### Next reverse auction through the Supply Fund to launch in June

The next reverse auction through the Supply Fund will launch this month. Bids will be accepted between **Wednesday 28 June 2023** and **Wednesday 12 July 2023**.

The Supply Fund seeks to purchase a variety of in-demand ecosystem credits and species credits. The reverse auction results are expected to be released **Wednesday 16 August 2023**. More information about the upcoming reverse auction can be found on the Supply Fund webpage.

### Taskforce probity and transparency arrangements published online

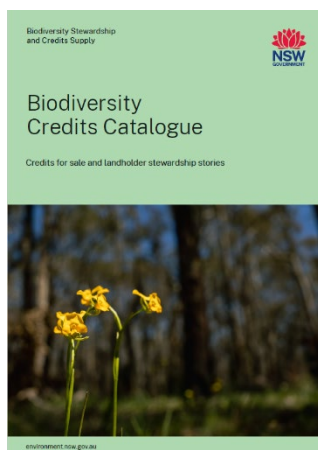


An overview of probity and transparency arrangements for the Credits Supply Taskforce and Supply Fund has been published online and is accessible via the Taskforce webpage.

The overview describes measures being implemented to manage probity risks and issues and support transparent and accountable decision-making.

If you have any questions about this document, please contact the Taskforce via Stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au.

### The Biodiversity Credits Catalogue is now available online and the Taskforce is accepting inquiries for the next edition



The Biodiversity Credits Catalogue has been published online and is available to view and share via the link here:

[Biodiversity Credits Catalogue – Issue #1](#)

The Taskforce is now seeking content for the next edition of the catalogue. Credit owners wanting to advertise their available credits can submit their information using the online advertiser's form. If you or someone you know has credits they would like to advertise, please use or share the link here:

[Biodiversity Credits Catalogue advertiser's form](#)

## **Update on the delivery of Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements**

As of 6 June 2023, the Taskforce has approved 39 BSAs this financial year, covering an area of over 21,750 hectares. The timeframe to complete a BSA continues to shorten, and the Taskforce is now taking 4 to 6 months to process new BSA applications (from complete application to providing BSA ready for landholder approval).

The Taskforce has commenced its virtual front counter for BSA applications. This provides a preliminary check to confirm an application received in the Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) is complete and an opportunity to discuss the application process.

## **Application fee waiver for BSAs extended to 30 June 2024**

The application fee waiver for BSAs (and variations to BSAs that add credits or change the class of existing credits) has been extended to 30 June 2024. To read more, visit the [Fee waiver for Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement applications](#).

## **Stewardship EOIs update and accredited assessor procurement**

The Stewardship EOI program actively engages with landholders who have in-demand credits by facilitating biodiversity assessments. As of 31 May 2023, the Taskforce has received 258 Stewardship EOIs from landholders.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the accredited assessors involved in this. The Taskforce will commence another procurement for accredited assessors in the coming weeks to assist with fieldwork and report preparation. All accredited assessors will be invited to apply. Please contact [Stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au) for any questions.

# General scheme updates

## SAll nominations public display period delayed

The first annual public display of SAll nominations planned for May 2023 has been delayed. We will provide a further update on the timing of this work in the next newsletter.

## Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report template

The [Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report template](#) (BCAR template) is now available. The template includes information specific to biodiversity certification applications and assists accredited assessors to prepare a BCAR according to best practice. The editable template can be found on the [Biodiversity certification process](#) webpage under 'Step 2' and on the [Assessor resources](#) webpage under 'Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR) Templates'.

## Upcoming event

### Online forum for accredited assessors: BSSAR template and Management Plan template

Join the Credit Supply Taskforce's John Seidel, Director Negotiation and Delivery, and Michelle Cox, Manager Supply Fund Operations, as they take you through the updated Biodiversity Stewardship Site Assessment Report (BSSAR) template and Management Plan template.

**Thursday 20 July 2023 | 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm**

There will be a presentation from both speakers, followed by a Q&A and discussion session for participants. Click here to [register for the online forum for accredited assessors: BSSAR template and Management Plan template](#). The forum will be recorded for those unable to attend. If you have any questions in advance of the webinar, please submit these to [Stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au).