

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 27

22 April 2024

Welcome to issue No.27 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 [via our website](#) and view our [past newsletters online](#). The Biodiversity Conservation Trust's (BCT) twice-yearly newsletter is another source of information, you can find it at 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, monitored Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm.

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For accredited assessors and proponents

New prices to pay to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund will commence on 1 July 2024

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) will complete a routine annual update of the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) in line with the [BOPC Order \[PDF 95.4kB\]](#). New prices to pay to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF) will be available from 1 July 2024.

Applications for BCF Charge Quotes received by the BCT before midnight on 30 June 2024 will be given a quote using the 2023–24 BOPC prices. Applications received from 1 July will be given a quote using the 2024–25 BOPC prices.

Proponents that have a valid BCF Charge Quote issued before 30 June 2023 can request an updated BCF Charge Quote with 2024–25 BOPC prices. The new quote will replace the original quote and the original quote will no longer be able to be used to pay into the BCT.

The [Key BCF Charge System values](#), which are displayed on the BCT website, will also be updated on 1 July 2024.

If you have any queries about the routine price updates, please contact bcfpayments@bct.nsw.gov.au

Update to the serious and irreversible impacts (SAIL) list

The list of threatened entities at risk of SAIL has been updated to include the addition of 2 species (*Asterolasia rupestris* subsp. *recurva* B.J.Mole and *Danhatchia copelandii*) following the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee determination that the species are considered critically endangered. The updated list of entities at risk of SAIL is available on the [Serious and irreversible impacts webpage](#).

Update to BioNet web service performance issue

BioNet Web Service upgrade has been successfully completed and the second weekly refresh of the SpeciesSightings CoreData is now available. The Web Service can handle large and complex queries, however, a secondary issue has been discovered which potentially impacts performance. Queries to the Web Service may fail if the volume of users simultaneously running queries exceeds system capacity.

While a further review is underway to understand and address this issue, please:

1. Consider running large queries (where expected volume > 200,000 records) between 7 pm-5 am
2. Avoid running queries while the database updates weekly on Sunday morning between 3 am-6 am
3. Contact BioNet if you require supply of our full data holdings
4. If your searches fail more than twice, email bionet@environment.nsw.gov.au with:
 - a. search date/time details
 - b. search parameters/query
 - c. error message
 - d. whether you would like the BioNet team to complete and supply you the query results.

Our apologies for this inconvenience. We will provide further updates as we progress towards resolving this additional issue.

For additional support, contact the BioNet team at bionet@environment.nsw.gov.au

Biodiversity Assessment Method updates

Release of the Biodiversity Assessment Method 5-year review report

The Biodiversity Assessment Method 5-year review report has been released by the Minister for Environment.

The review report can be found on the [BAM review webpage](#). The report makes 32 recommendations aiming to improve efficiency, simplify processes, and provide support for implementation of the method.

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water thanks all stakeholders who provided a submission to the review during public consultation in July-August 2023. A submissions report summarising stakeholder feedback has also been released and is also available on the [BAM review webpage](#).

For credit owners and buyers

Last chance – Offer a price to sell biodiversity credits to the BCT – the Credit Tender closes 24 April 2024

All applications for the current Credit Tender must be submitted by **11:59 pm Wednesday 24 April 2024** using the [BCT's Credit Offer Portal](#). This opportunity is available for hundreds of credit types across New South Wales.

Information on the [BCT Credit Tender 24-01](#) is available on the BCT website. Find guidance on how to use the [BCT's Wanted Credits List](#). Information for [new landholders wanting to sell credits to the BCT](#) is also available.

Reminder to submit applications for BOS Credit transfers and retirements as soon as possible before 30 June

We are currently experiencing a higher volume of biodiversity credit transfer and retirement applications. There is typically an increased demand for applications to be finalised before 30 June.

Applications need to be submitted as soon as possible and no later than **5 pm Friday 17 May 2024** if the credits need to be transferred or retired prior to 30 June 2024.

The department will advise applicants if any application cannot be processed by 30 June 2024. Applications received after 5 pm 17 May will likely be processed from 3 July onwards.

The department will also make every effort to expedite an application where the applicant advises a deadline and provides a completed application form and supporting documents.

Applicants should account for the following when planning for completion of their applications to transfer or retire biodiversity credits:

- allow time to make any payment of the Total Fund Deposit to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, which may be due
- allow time for the application fee to be received and cleared by the department when planning their deadlines for an application to be processed. Please note the department has developed a payment portal which will now accept online credit or debit card payments for application fees. Paying the credit transfer or retirement application fees through the payment portal will reduce delays to the processing of most applications. The payment portal is not suitable for bank transfers.

The department can also review draft (non-executed) applications. The standard timeframe for the department to review and respond to a draft application is 5 business days. This is a useful way to make sure the application is complete and accurate before it is signed by people with the appropriate legal authority.

More information is available online about [offset credit transactions and transferring and retiring Biodiversity Offsets Scheme credits](#), including the usual timeframe to process an application and the review process. Please contact BOSCREDITS@environment.nsw.gov.au with any queries about this reminder.

Biodiversity credits catalogue now available

The third issue of the *Biodiversity credits catalogue* is now available online to view and share:

View the [Biodiversity credits catalogue – Issue 3 March 2024](#).

The catalogue displays biodiversity credits for sale and connects buyers and sellers in the NSW biodiversity credits market.

Submit information for the next edition using the [Biodiversity credits catalogue advertiser's form](#).

Credit Supply Fund reverse auction 5

The February/March 2024 reverse auction for the Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund has now been finalised. The auction received 83 bids from sellers, covering more than 74,000 credits.

Bids were evaluated in accordance with published auction documentation and the Supply Fund operating protocol. More than 11,000 credits were approved for purchase, totalling around \$20 million.

The next reverse auction is scheduled for mid-2024 and will be open to existing credit owners, BSA applicants, and landholders with a site assessment report from an accredited assessor confirming the credit types present on the site.

For more information, please refer to the [Supply Fund webpage](#) or email SupplyFund@environment.nsw.gov.au

BCT's May 2023 Statewide Biodiversity Credit Tender Outcomes Report now available

The May 2023 Statewide Biodiversity Credit Tender Outcomes report is now available on the BCT's webpage. The report outlines the results of the BCT's statewide biodiversity credit tender held in May 2023, which had the highest participation to date. It details the number and type of credits and bids received and includes prices for credits the BCT offered to purchase. It also includes tips for successfully submitting bids for future tenders.

For more information, and to view the Biodiversity Credit Tender Outcomes report please visit the [BCT Biodiversity Offsets Program Outcomes webpage](#).

If you have any queries after reading the report, please email us at offsets@bct.nsw.gov.au

Scheme training and support

Invitation for council staff to attend free BOS local government workshops

Eligible council staff are invited to attend the department's new BOS local government training workshops, on **biodiversity assessment and approval pathways** and **Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) review**.

The workshops are free and complement the existing eLearning training modules. The dates and locations are shown below. **Please note, places are limited, so we encourage you to book early.**

Table 1 Upcoming BOS local government workshops and locations

Date	Location
6/7 May 2024	Online only 9am to 4pm (sold out)
14/15 May 2024	Wagga Wagga (In person)
16/17 May 2024	Queanbeyan (In person)
20/21 May 2024	Dubbo (In person)
23/24 May 2024	Western Sydney/Camden (In person)
11/12 June 2024	Coffs Harbour (In person)
13/14 June 2024	Newcastle (In person)
17/18 June 2024	Wollongong (In person)
20/21 June 2024	Sydney/Parramatta (In person)
2/3 July 2024	Online only 9am to 4pm

To be eligible to attend, you must either:

- have commenced or completed the [BOS Local Government eLearning Modules](#) or another BOS training course offered by the department
- have one or more years' experience in the scheme.

Book tickets through the [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme local government workshops booking page](#).

We recommend using an alternative internet browser (such as Firefox) if you have issues with the ticket platform or contact BOS Helpdesk if you need more help with tickets.

The workshop content assumes some knowledge of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, so if you have enrolled in, but not completed the BOS local government eLearning course, we encourage you to do so before the workshops.

For further information or please contact the [BOS Help Desk](#)

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme local government eLearning course

Council staff that apply the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme may be eligible for a sponsored enrolment to the BOS eLearning training course.

For information about the eLearning course and to apply for sponsorship, complete the [BOS local government eLearning Expression of Interest form](#) and return to the [BOS Help Desk](#).

BOS Help Desk customer alert – Technical issue impacting enquiries

The BOS Help Desk is experiencing technical difficulties with our customer enquiry management system, resulting in some customers not receiving responses from the BOS Help Desk Team.

If you have submitted an enquiry and have not received a response, or if it has been over 15 business days since you last heard from us, please contact the helpdesk at BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au

If you have a reference number, please include this in your email to us.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to resolve this matter.

Biodiversity stewardship agreement updates

Revised biodiversity stewardship agreements map now available

The new biodiversity stewardship agreements (BSA) map is now published. The map shows the location of BSAs (approved to 30 September 2023), and the ecosystems and species being restored at each site, and the type of management actions.

The revised map aims to improve transparency of outcomes under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, including the contributions BSAs are making to ecosystem and threatened species habitat restoration.

To view the map, visit [the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements Map webpage](#).

Biodiversity stewardship agreements are increasing the supply of in-demand credits

The Credits Supply Taskforce continues to increase the number of biodiversity stewardship agreements (BSAs) to improve the supply of in-demand biodiversity credits and support the conservation and restoration of threatened ecosystems and species.

As of 31 March 2024, the Taskforce had approved 39 new BSAs in the 2023–24 financial year, covering 18,994 hectares. Since the Taskforce commenced in July 2022, a total of 80 new BSAs covering 40,890 hectares have been approved, and a combined total of 444,600 biodiversity credits have been generated.

Stewardship Support Program open until 15 May 2024

The Stewardship Support Program is now open for new applications for support through to **5:00 pm on Wednesday 15 May 2024**. The program helps eligible landholders with biodiversity assessments and other support at no cost.

This program replaces the Stewardship Expression of Interest program, which closed for new EOs in October 2023 following a very positive response from landholders all over New South Wales.

Both programs are funded by the Supply Fund to increase the total number of in-demand credits available in the biodiversity market.

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EH 2024/0130; April 2024.