Biodiversity Credits Demand and Supply Dashboard

User guide

Department of Planning and Environment

NSW GOVERNMENT

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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1. Overview

Welcome to the Biodiversity Credits Demand and Supply Dashboard (the dashboard). The dashboard provides data based on unretired Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) credit offset obligations for major projects (demand), and data on unretired credits issued according to the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme's public credit supply register (supply).

The dashboard is a tool that aims to enhance access to information in a practical and interactive way. It allows users to compare credit demand and supply, identify regions where the supply of credits may help meet an offset obligation and regions where creation of supply credits could be beneficial to the credits market.

Users will need to understand how to apply the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme's offset rules when interpreting data in the dashboard.

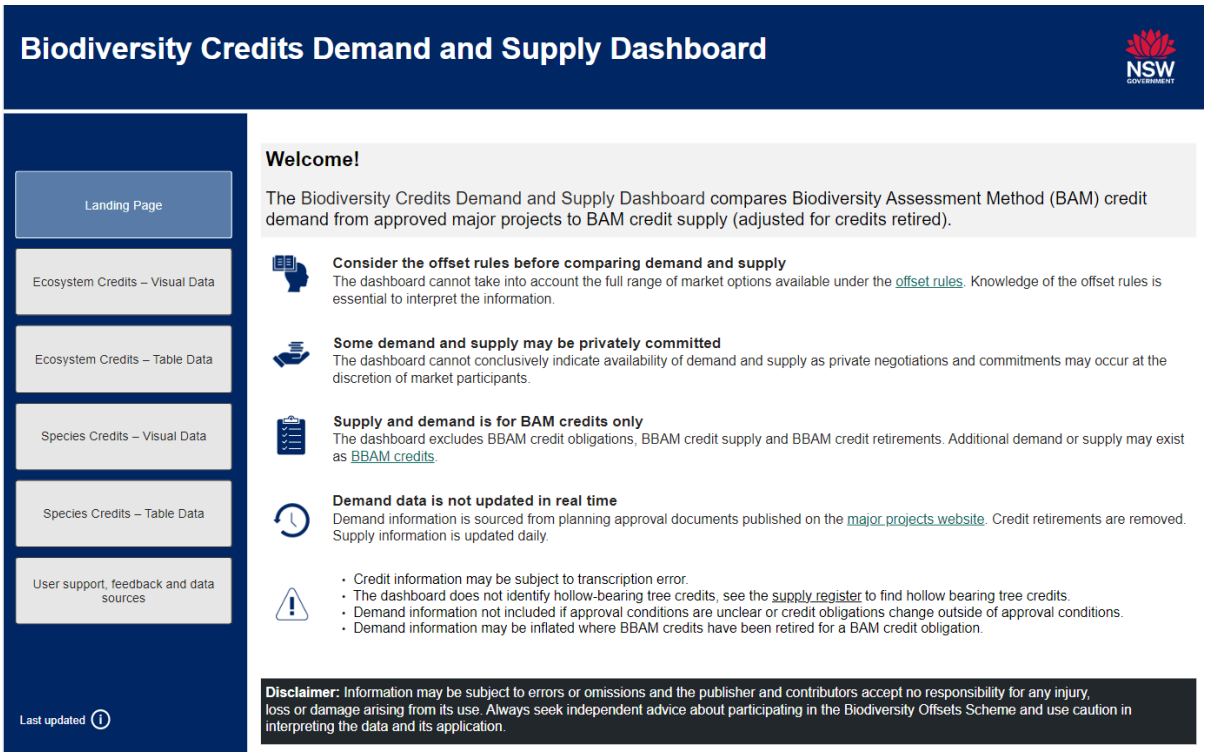
The dashboard comprises 6 pages, where users will find information about:

- limitations of the dashboard
- ecosystem credits by Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion and by offset trading group (OTG)
- species credits by IBRA subregion and by species name
- user support, feedback and data sources that support the dashboard.

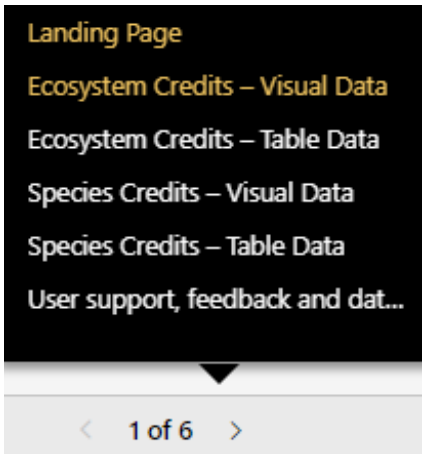
1. Landing page

Once you have opened the Biodiversity Credits Demand and Supply Dashboard (the dashboard), on the left side of the screen, you will see the different pages the dashboard contains, and you can navigate to each one by clicking on the corresponding button.

On the right side of the screen, you will see a welcome statement, the limitations of the information contained in the dashboard and a disclaimer.



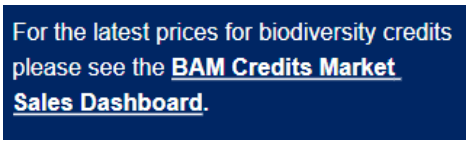
You can also navigate to other dashboard pages using the page number arrows at the bottom centre of the screen. If you click on the numbers instead of the arrows, a list of all pages will pop-up, allowing you to jump to the desired page (see image below). These page navigation features are on every page of the dashboard.



User tip

View the dashboard in full-screen mode, particularly if using a small screen. The 'fit to page' icon for full-screen mode is in the bottom-right corner of your screen.

Following the landing page are 4 pages that display biodiversity credit data. The table below describes features that are found on the data pages.

Feature	Description
	Clicking this tab will redirect you to the landing page.
	Hovering over this message will show a brief explanation of how to use the page you are on.
	Clicking this tab will remove any filters applied to the maps, charts and tables on the 2 data pages relating to the type of credits you are looking at whether ecosystem credits or species credits.
	Available on the ecosystem credits pages only, this link will take you to the *Ecosystem credit trading groups tool* that allows you to search on a plant community type (PCT) and identify offset trading groups (OTGs) in accordance with the offset rules.
	Available in 'Table data view' only, this link will take you to the Biodiversity Credits Market Sales Dashboard where you can search and view historical sales and market trends for credits.
	Hovering over this message will show you when the demand and supply data were most recently updated.

2. Ecosystem credits – Visual data view

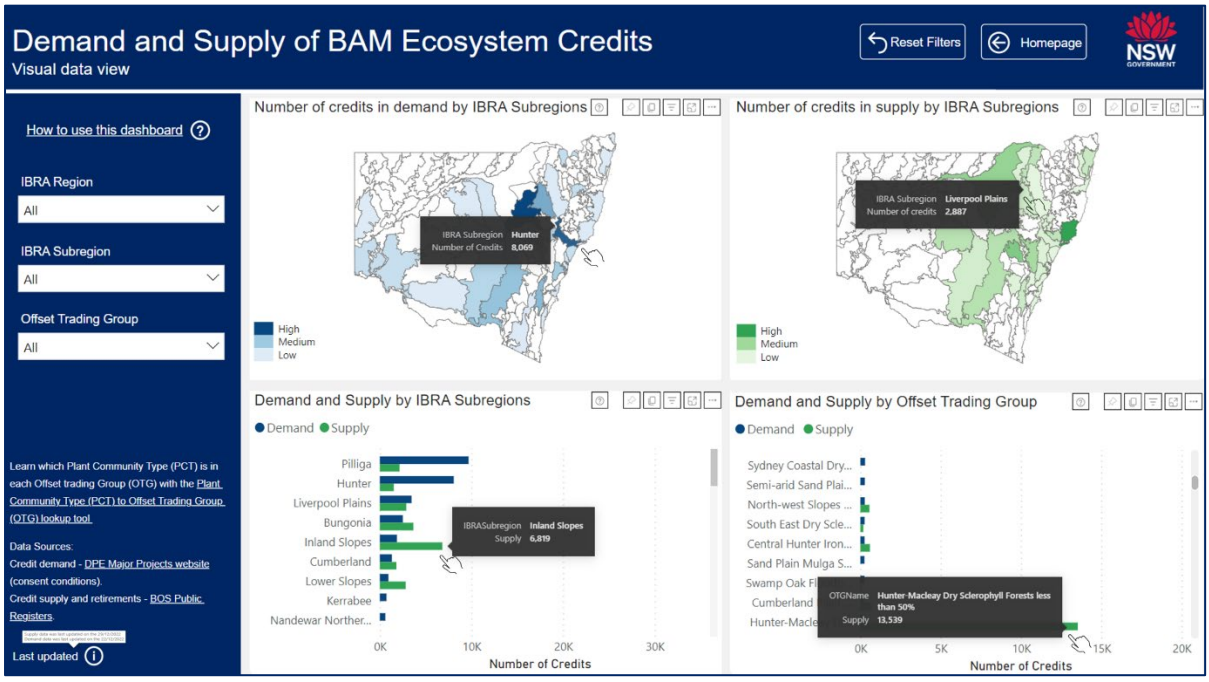
This page provides information about the number of ecosystem credits in demand and supply. Hovering over the question mark icon on the left side of the page will briefly explain how to use the maps and charts. Underneath this icon are 3 drop-down lists that allow you to filter the data according to your preferences and needs:

- IBRA region
- IBRA subregion
- offset trading group.

Multiple selections can be made within and between filters. Hovering above each filter will reveal an eraser icon to clear your selections, or click the 'Reset Filters' button to clear all selections across all 3 filters.

These filters will apply to both ecosystem credits data pages. See Section 6 of this guide for more information about applying search criteria in the dashboard.

Note: If you filter the information by clicking directly on a map or bar chart, your selection will not be carried across to the ecosystem credits 'Table data view' page.



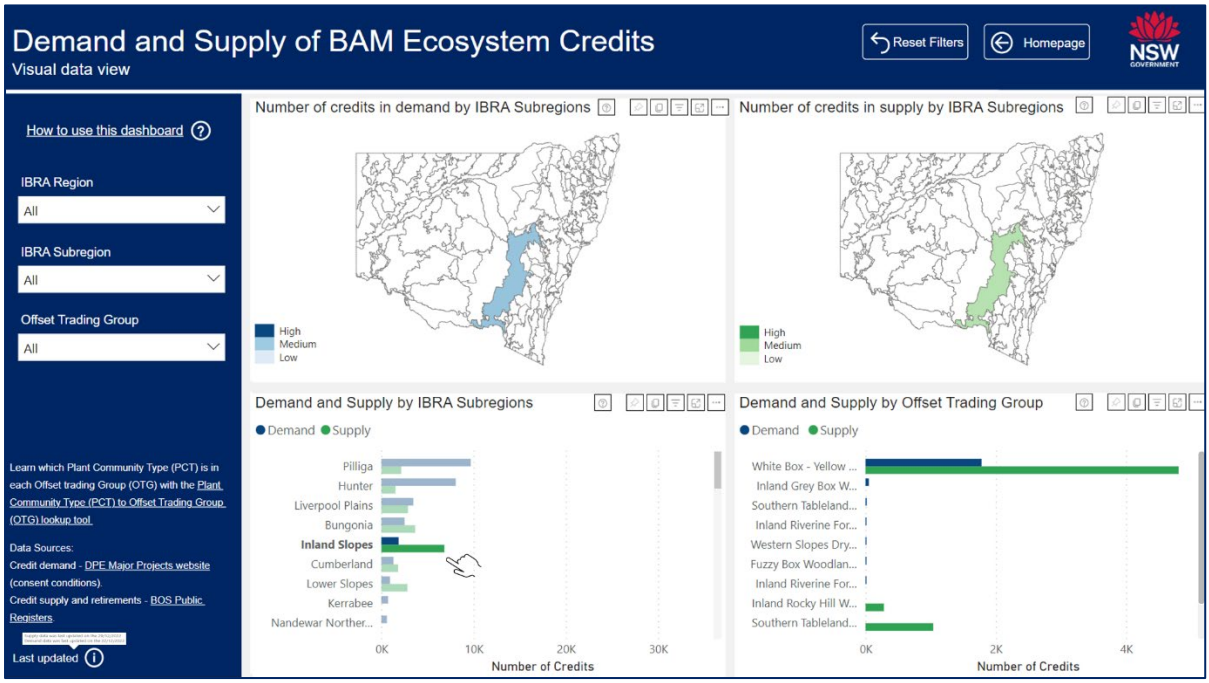
Note: The data in this image is fictional and is for illustrative purposes only.

Hover your cursor over each area of the map to see the name of the IBRA subregion and corresponding credits, either in demand (top-left map) or in supply (top-right map). Higher intensity colour-coding indicates a relatively higher number of credits in demand or in supply.

By hovering over each of the bar charts, you can view the credit demand and supply by IBRA subregion (bottom-left chart) or by OTG (bottom-right chart).

Hover your cursor over each bar to view the numerical data in a pop-up. Scroll down with the cursor to see the complete list.

If you want to see the information for a specific IBRA subregion or OTG without using the filters on the left side of the page, use the map or bar chart to click on the IBRA subregion or OTG of interest. The dashboard will highlight the information as shown in the screenshot below.



Note: The data in this image is fictional and is for illustrative purposes only.

Note: If you filter the information by clicking directly on a map or bar chart, your selection will not be carried across to the ecosystem credits 'Table data view' page.

Hover your cursor over the top-right corner of each map or chart to see the various tools that are available to help improve your interactive experience with the information presented. Tool icons and a description of their use are in the table below.

Tool	Description
	Gives you a brief explanation of how to use the tools.
	Shows you the current filters applied to the chart or map.
	Allows you to open the chart or map in focus mode. Focus mode expands the selected visual to its own page. Once in focus mode, use the 'Back to report' button in the top-left corner to return to the normal view of the dashboard.

3. Ecosystem credits – Table data view

This page displays information about the number of ecosystem credits in demand and in supply, and the net demand, in table format. 'Net demand' is the difference between the number of credits in demand and supply. For example, if an OTG in the dashboard was showing an ecosystem credit demand value of 258 and an ecosystem credit supply of 2,551, the net demand would be –2,293, meaning there is more supply than demand for ecosystem credits in that OTG.

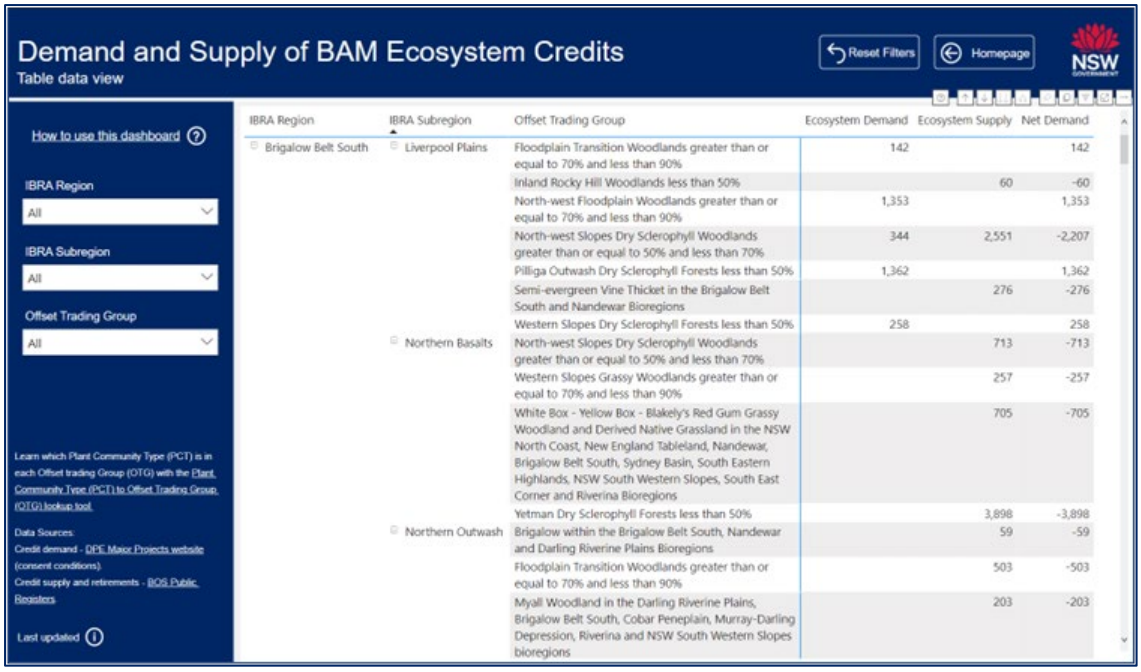
Any net demand value must be considered in the context of the offset rules and limitations of the dashboard. For example, if an OTG is showing negative net demand in a particular IBRA subregion, it does not necessarily mean supply for that OTG is in surplus, if there is demand for it from an adjoining subregion that does not have its own supply. Conversely, a positive net demand value in a particular IBRA subregion does not necessarily mean there is an under-supply for that OTG, if there is sufficient supply available in an adjoining subregion.

Hovering over the question mark icon on the left side of the page will give you a brief explanation of how to use the table. Underneath this icon are 3 drop-down lists that allow you to filter the data according to your preferences and needs:

- IBRA region
- IBRA subregion
- offset trading group.

Multiple selections can be made within and between filters. Hovering above each filter will reveal an eraser icon to clear your selections, or click the 'Reset Filters' button to clear all selections across all 3 filters.

These filters will apply to both ecosystem credits data pages. See Section 6 of this guide for more information about applying search criteria in the dashboard.



Note: The data in this image is fictional and is for illustrative purposes only.

Hover your cursor over the top-right corner of the table to see the various tools that are available to help improve your interactive experience with the information presented. Tool icons and a description of their use can be found in the table below.

Tool	Description
	Gives you a brief explanation of how to use the tools.
	The 'Drill up' tool allows you to view data at higher, less detailed levels, such as at IBRA region or IBRA subregion level (i.e. without the OTG data).
	Use the 'Drill down' tool when data is showing at a higher, less detailed level than what you need. When turned on, you can click on an individual data point (e.g. an IBRA subregion of your choosing) and you will see the next level down of detailed data (i.e. OTG) for the selected data point. Note: When this tool is off, you can still see the next level down of data for a particular data point by clicking on the small box immediately left of the data point.
	This option will become available if you have used the drill up tool to reach the highest level on this page, which is IBRA region. It allows you to change which level of the hierarchy you are viewing, exclusive of the other levels (e.g. you could choose to view IBRA subregion alone, or OTG level alone).
	If you have used the drill up tool, this tool will drill back down one level with each click. Alternatively, you can right-click in the table and select 'Expand to next level'.

Tool	Description
	Shows you the current filters applied to the table.
	Allows you to open the table in focus mode. Focus mode expands the selected visual to its own page. Once in focus mode, use the 'Back to report' button in the top-left corner to return to normal view of the dashboard.

As well as using the tools above, you can also sort the data according to the numerical values of demand, supply, and net demand by clicking on the relevant column heading. When the page first loads, the credit data is ordered alphabetically by IBRA region. To order the credit data numerically, click on the heading of the column you are interested in (e.g. 'Ecosystem Demand'). The credit data of the chosen column will now be ordered from highest to lowest by IBRA region (or whatever highest level of the hierarchy is showing). You may need to drill up to see this numerical order more clearly. Click the column heading again to order from lowest to highest.

To compare like-for-like ecosystem credit demand and supply:

1. Look up the OTG of interest in the *Ecosystem credit trading groups tool* to identify the list of OTGs that are credit retirement options (proponents) or credit trading options (credit holders) under the like-for-like rules. Note: Hollow bearing tree requirements will need to be considered but are not listed in the dashboard or the *Ecosystem credit trading groups tool*.
2. Use the offset rules location requirements and the IBRA Subregion map on the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) public data portal to identify the relevant IBRA subregions for your location of interest.
3. Use the 'Table data view' page to filter for the IBRA subregions and OTGs of interest. Now use the drill tools to collate to total OTG numbers:
   a. Click the drill up tool twice to collate at IBRA region level.

      'Drill up' tool

   b. Now, click the drill down tool with a double arrow twice to drill down to the OTG level. OTG names will display alphabetically.

      'Drill down' tool with double arrow

To view ecosystem credit demand and supply in accordance with the variation rules, filter your search based on OTGs of the relevant vegetation formation and threat status/tier, and by the relevant IBRA regions and subregions.

Note: The variation rules cannot be applied by proponents for impacts on threatened entities listed in the *Ancillary rules: Impacts on threatened species and ecological communities excluded from application of variation rules*.

4. Species credits – Visual data view

This page provides you with information about the number of species credits in demand and in supply by IBRA subregion and by species common name. Hovering over the question mark icon on the left side of the page will give you a brief explanation of how to use the maps and charts. Underneath this icon are 5 drop-down lists that allow you to filter the data according to your preferences and needs:

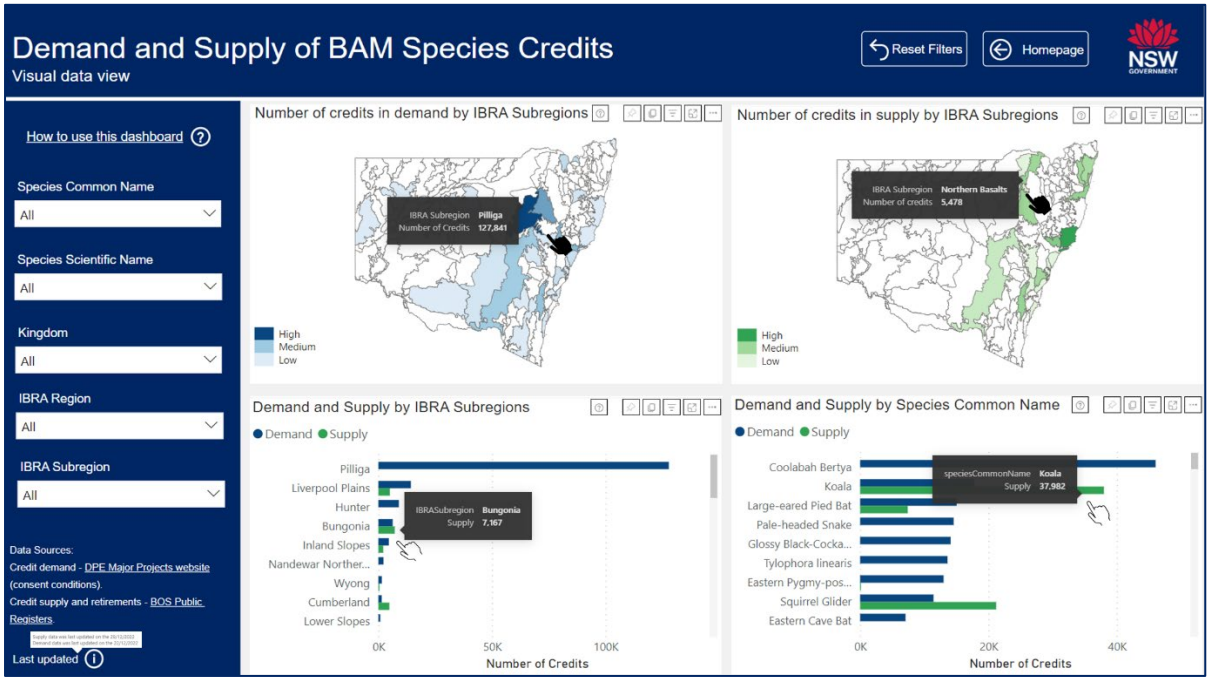
- species common name
- species scientific name
- kingdom
- IBRA region
- IBRA subregion.

Multiple selections can be made within and between filters. Hovering above each filter will reveal an eraser icon to clear your selections, or click the 'Reset Filters' button to clear all selections across all 5 filters.

These filters will apply to both species credits data pages. See Section 6 of this guide for more information about applying search criteria in the dashboard.

Note: If you filter the information by clicking directly on a map or bar chart, your selection will not be carried across to the species credits 'Table data view' page.

The maps and charts work in the same way as on the ecosystem credits 'Visual data view' page.

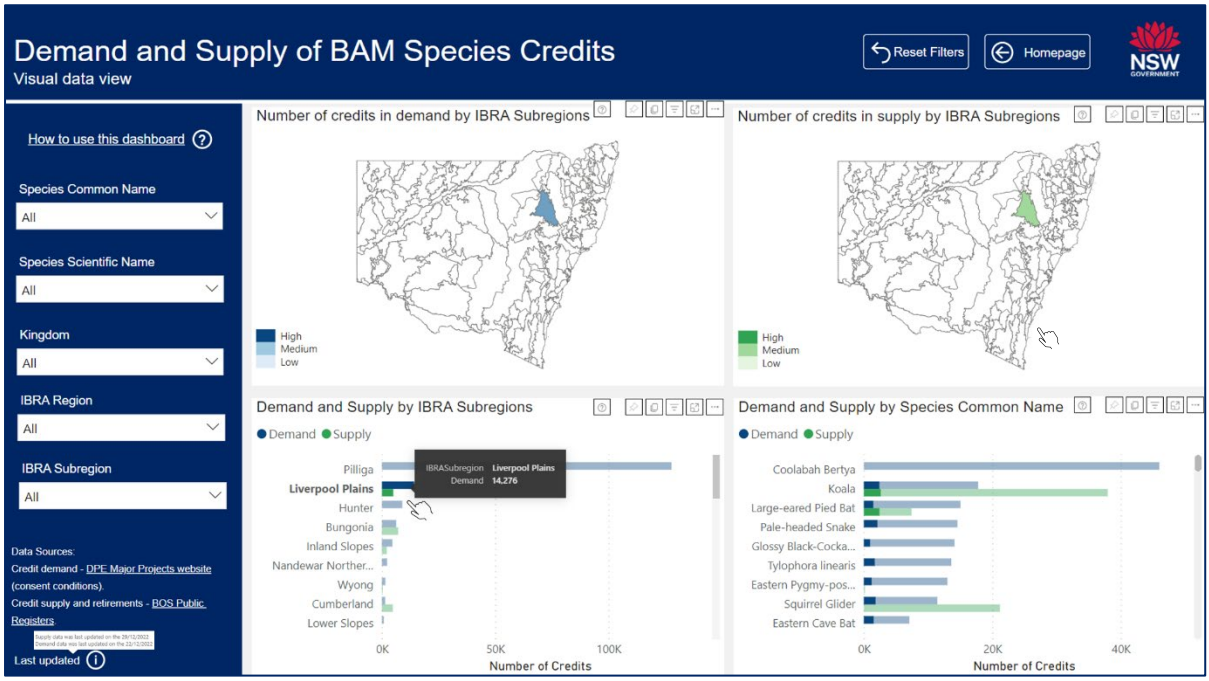


Note: The data in this image is fictional and is for illustrative purposes only.

Hover your cursor over each area of the map to see the name of the IBRA subregion and corresponding credits, either in demand (top-left map) or in supply (top-right map). Higher intensity colour-coding indicates a relatively higher number of credits in demand or in supply.

By hovering over each of the bar charts, you can view the credit demand and supply by IBRA subregion (bottom-left chart) or by species common name (bottom-right chart). The bottom-right chart shows demand and supply in accordance with the like-for-like rules, provided no location filters have been applied. Hover your cursor over each bar to view the numerical data in a pop-up. Scroll down with the cursor to see the complete list.

If you want to see the information for a specific IBRA subregion or species common name without using the filters on the left side of the page, use the map or bar chart to click on the IBRA subregion or species of interest. The dashboard will highlight the information as shown in the screenshot below.



Note: The data in this image is fictional and is for illustrative purposes only.

Note: If you filter the information by clicking directly on a map or bar chart, your selection will not be carried across to the species credits 'Table data view' page.

Hover your cursor over the top-right corner of each map or chart to see the various tools that are available to help improve your interactive experience with the information presented.

Tool icons and a description of their use are in the table below.

Tool	Description
	Gives you a brief explanation of how to use the tools.
	Shows you the current filters applied to the chart or map.
	Allows you to open the chart or map in focus mode. Focus mode expands the selected visual to its own page. Once in focus mode, use the 'Back to report' button in the top-left corner to return to the normal view of the dashboard.

5. Species credits – Table data view

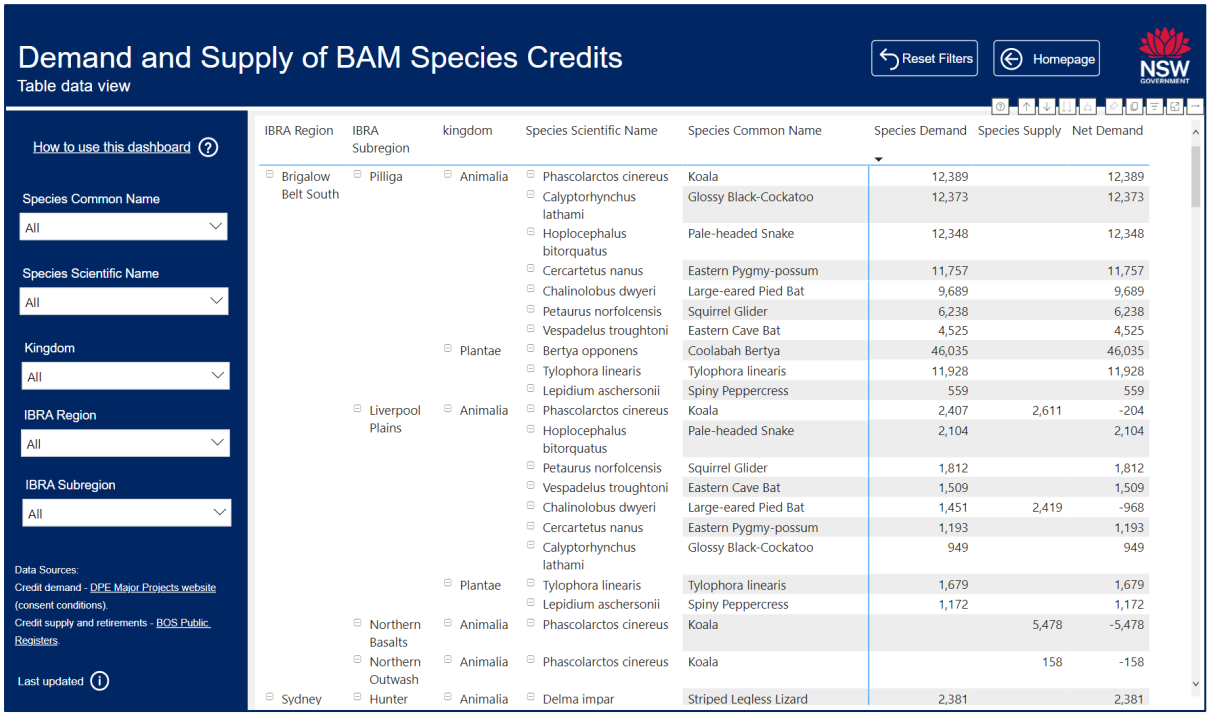
This page displays information about the demand and supply of species credits in table format. Hovering over the question mark icon on the left side of the page will give you a brief explanation of how to use the table. Underneath this icon are 5 drop-down lists that allow you to filter the data according to your preferences and needs:

- species common name
- species scientific name
- kingdom
- IBRA region
- IBRA subregion.

Multiple selections can be made within and between filters. Hovering above each filter will reveal an eraser icon to clear your selections, or click the 'Reset Filters' button to clear all selections across all 5 filters.

These filters will apply to both species credits data pages.

Species credits do not have location limitations under the like-for-like rules, so demand and supply information can be compared directly by searching for the species of interest.



IBRA Region	IBRA Subregion	kingdom	Species Scientific Name	Species Common Name	Species Demand	Species Supply	Net Demand
Brigalow Belt South	Pilliga	Animalia	Phascolarctos cinereus	Koala	12,389		12,389
			Calyptorhynchus lathami	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	12,373		12,373
			Hoplocephalus bitorquatus	Pale-headed Snake	12,348		12,348
			Cercartetus nanus	Eastern Pygmy-possum	11,757		11,757
			Chalinolobus dwyeri	Large-eared Pied Bat	9,689		9,689
			Petaurus norfolcensis	Squirrel Glider	6,238		6,238
			Vespadelus troughtoni	Eastern Cave Bat	4,525		4,525
		Plantae	Bertya opponens	Coolabah Bertya	46,035		46,035
			Tylophora linearis	Tylophora linearis	11,928		11,928
			Lepidium aschersonii	Spiny Peppercress	559		559
	Liverpool Plains	Animalia	Phascolarctos cinereus	Koala	2,407	2,611	-204
			Hoplocephalus bitorquatus	Pale-headed Snake	2,104		2,104
			Petaurus norfolcensis	Squirrel Glider	1,812		1,812
			Vespadelus troughtoni	Eastern Cave Bat	1,509		1,509
			Chalinolobus dwyeri	Large-eared Pied Bat	1,451	2,419	-968
			Cercartetus nanus	Eastern Pygmy-possum	1,193		1,193
			Calyptorhynchus lathami	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	949		949
		Plantae	Tylophora linearis	Tylophora linearis	1,679		1,679
			Lepidium aschersonii	Spiny Peppercress	1,172		1,172
	Northern Basalts	Animalia	Phascolarctos cinereus	Koala		5,478	-5,478
	Northern Outwash	Animalia	Phascolarctos cinereus	Koala		158	-158
Sydney	Hunter	Animalia	Delma impar	Striped Legless Lizard	2,381		2,381

Note: The data in this image is fictional and is for illustrative purposes only.

Hover your cursor over the top-right corner of the table to see the various tools that are available to help improve your interactive experience with the information presented. Tool icons and a description of their use can be found in the table below.

Tool	Description
	Gives you a brief explanation of how to use the tools.
	The ‘Drill up’ tool allows you to view data at higher, less detailed levels, such as at IBRA region or IBRA subregion level (i.e. without the species common name, species scientific name or kingdom data).
	Use the ‘Drill down’ tool when data is showing at a higher, less detailed level than what you need. When turned on, you can click on individual data points (e.g. an IBRA subregion of your choosing) and you will see the next level down of detailed data for the selected data point. Note: When this tool is off, you can still see the next level down of data for a particular data point by clicking on the small box immediately left of the data point.
	This option will become available if you have used the drill up tool to reach the highest level on this page, which is IBRA region. It allows you to change which level of the hierarchy you are viewing, exclusive of the other levels (e.g. you could choose to view IBRA subregion alone, kingdom alone, species scientific name alone or species common name alone).
	If you have used the drill up tool, this tool will drill back down one level with each click. Alternatively, you can right-click in the table and select ‘Expand to next level’.
	Shows you the current filters applied to the table.
	Allows you to open the table in focus mode. Focus mode expands the selected visual to its own page. Once in focus mode, use the ‘Back to report’ button in the top-left corner to return to normal view of the dashboard.

As well as the tools above, you can also sort the data according to the numerical values of demand, supply and net demand by clicking on the relevant column heading. When the page first loads, the credit data is ordered alphabetically by IBRA region. To order the credit data numerically, click on the heading of the column you are interested in (e.g. ‘Species Supply’). The credit data of the chosen column will now be ordered from highest to lowest by IBRA region (or whatever highest level of the hierarchy is showing). You may need to drill up to see this numerical order more clearly. Click the column heading again to order from lowest to highest.

To compare like-for-like species credit demand and supply, hover over the species table until you see a row of arrow tools in the top-right corner; these are the drill up and drill down tools.

1. Click the drill up tool 4 times to collate at IBRA region level.

‘Drill up’ tool

2. Now, click the drill down tool with a double arrow 3 times to drill down to the scientific name. The table will collate total species credit numbers for New South Wales by scientific name. To view by common name, click the drill down tool with double arrow once more.

‘Drill down’ tool with double arrow

To view species credit demand and supply in accordance with the variation rules, filter your search based on species from the relevant kingdom and with the relevant threat status, and by the relevant IBRA subregions.

Note: The variation rules cannot be applied by proponents for impacts on threatened entities listed in the *Ancillary rules: Impacts on threatened species and ecological communities excluded from application of variation rules*.

6. Frequently asked questions

Offset trading groups and the offset rules

What is an offset trading group?

Ecosystem credits are traded as offset trading groups (OTGs), which are groups of plant community types (PCTs) with similar values. For more information, visit the *What are Offset Trading Groups?* webpage.

How do I know which offset trading group my plant community type belongs to?

A plant community type (PCT) is a grouping of native plants that live together, in a particular pattern, in the natural landscape. Use the *Ecosystem credit trading groups tool* to understand which PTCs belong to an OTG and how they can be traded under the offset rules. Using the tool, you can search by OTG or PCT.

What are IBRA subregions?

Ecosystem credits are traded within certain locations as defined by the offset rules.

IBRA subregions are identified under the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) system, which divides Australia into bioregions and subregions based on their dominant landscape-scale attributes.

Ecosystem credits may be traded within the IBRA subregion (or adjacent subregions) of the area of impact or any IBRA subregion within 100 km of the impact. There is an interactive map of the NSW IBRA subregions on the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) portal.

What are the offset rules?

Offset rules govern the types of offsets that can be used to meet an obligation under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. They include the retirement of biodiversity credits based on 'like-for-like' rules and variation rules that govern how impacts (demand) can be met (supply) by purchasing and retiring biodiversity credits.

How do the like-for-like offset rules work?

The Biodiversity Credits Demand and Supply Dashboard (the dashboard) reports on **ecosystem credits** by OTGs within individual IBRA subregions.

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme's like-for-like rules allow a broader range of trading options for market participants. For example, under the like-for-like rules, impacts to non-threatened vegetation in a certain OTG can be satisfied with the same OTG **or** another OTG of the same vegetation class with a higher level of pre-European clearing (or higher threat status). This is shown in the *Ecosystem credit trading groups tool*.

Further, the location requirements under the like-for-like offset rules allow ecosystem credit demand to be met with ecosystem credit supply in the same **or** adjoining IBRA

subregions. For example, if a development is located within the **Northern Outwash** IBRA subregion, ecosystem credit demand may be met with supply located within the same IBRA subregion **or** within the adjoining IBRA subregions of **Northern Basalts**, **Castlereagh-Barwon** and **Liverpool Plains**.

For more information on how the offset rules apply to ecosystem credits, please read the *Offset rules and ecosystem credits* guidance.

Note: Ecosystem credit demand may also be met with supply credits located in an IBRA subregion that is within 100 km of the outer edge of the impacted site; however, the dashboard does not contain the functionality to show this. The 100 km rule will need to be manually applied in your search.

In the case of impacts to certain threatened species that are measured as **species credits**, under the like-for-like offset rules, the impacts may be offset with species credits that are the same threatened species but located anywhere in New South Wales.

For more information on how the like-for-like offset rules apply, please see the offset rules webpage.

Searching and exporting

What search criteria options are available in the dashboard?

For ecosystem credits you can search by location (IBRA subregion, IBRA region) or OTG. More than one selection can be made. You can use the charts or maps, or the filters on the left of the page.

For species credits you can search by location (IBRA subregion, IBRA region), species common name, species scientific name or kingdom (plant or animal). More than one selection can be made. You can use the charts or maps, or the filters on the left of the page.

How can I search by plant community type?

You cannot search directly by PCT in the dashboard. First, you need to identify which OTG your PCT belongs to using the *Ecosystem credit trading groups tool*. Search for the PCT in the tool to ascertain the name of the OTG. You can then search by the OTG name in the dashboard.

How can I search by IBRA subregion?

Use the filters or maps to search by IBRA subregion. Identify adjacent IBRA subregions that may be trading options under the offset rules. You can select more than one IBRA subregion in a search.

How can I search by location?

The dashboard displays data by IBRA regions or subregions. For a specific location or local government area, you must first identify which IBRA region or subregion the location is in. Information resources to support understanding of landscapes and locations in IBRA subregions can be found on SEED.

Can I export my results?

No, the dashboard does not have an export function. However, you can copy information out of the dashboard by following these steps:

1. Use the 'Table data view' pages only.
2. Apply search criteria and display the results.
3. Hold the Ctrl key and using the first column, click on each row of the table you want to copy. The rows should highlight.
4. Right-click and select 'Copy selection'.
5. Right-click and paste into a spreadsheet or other document.

If future improvements are made to the dashboard's data export functions, this will be advised on the dashboard's webpage.

Dashboard accuracy

Where is the dashboard information sourced from?

The demand information is based on unretired credit obligations for major projects (including modifications) approved with a credit obligation since the commencement of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

The demand information is sourced from public documents on the *Major Projects* website, including project consent conditions, Biodiversity Development Assessment Reports and/or Biodiversity Assessment Method Credit Reports. Credit retirements are sourced from the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme's transactions register and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust's *Report on acquitted obligations*.

Note: Credit obligations satisfied by a proponent paying into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (thereby transferring the obligation to the Trust) are not removed from the dashboard until the credits have been retired.

Credit supply information is sourced from credits listed as 'issued' on the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme's credit supply register.

How accurate is the information in the dashboard?

The dashboard presents a broad overview of demand from unretired credit obligations (major projects) against supply. The limitations should be considered carefully when using the dashboard information.

Unretired credit obligations are a strong but imperfect indicator for existing demand.

Demand information in the dashboard may not reflect actual market activity because:

- proponents/landholders may have privately committed to trading credits
- proponents may intend to set up their own biodiversity stewardship agreement
- credit obligations may be altered post-approval
- variation offset rules may be applied

- proponents may delay meeting their credit obligations in accordance with approved development stages or due to unforeseen circumstances
- proponents may decide not to develop the site
- Biodiversity Banking Assessment Method (BBAM) credits and obligations are not yet accounted for in the dashboard (see 'Can BBAM credits be used to offset BAM obligations and vice versa?' below)
- information is not updated in real time
- demand and supply information may be subject to transcription error.

How up-to-date is the dashboard information?

Check the 'last updated' dates in the dashboard to see the currency of credit demand and supply information.

What does 'net demand' refer to in the dashboard?

'Net demand' is the difference between biodiversity credit demand and supply.

BioBanking Assessment Methodology credits

What are BioBanking Assessment Methodology credits?

Credits calculated under the previous Biodiversity Banking Assessment Method (BBAM) are known as BBAM credits.

The dashboard includes BAM credits only and excludes the demand and supply of BBAM credits, but these credits and obligations may be issued a statement of equivalence and are still actively traded in the biodiversity credits market.

For more information on BBAM credits visit the *BioBanking* webpage or the *BioBanking Public Registers* webpage.

Can BBAM credits be used to offset BAM credit obligations and vice versa?

Yes, BBAM credits generated under the previous BioBanking scheme can be used to meet demand for BAM credit obligations and vice versa. You can convert BBAM credits or obligations into BAM equivalent credits by applying for an assessment of reasonable equivalence.

Further questions

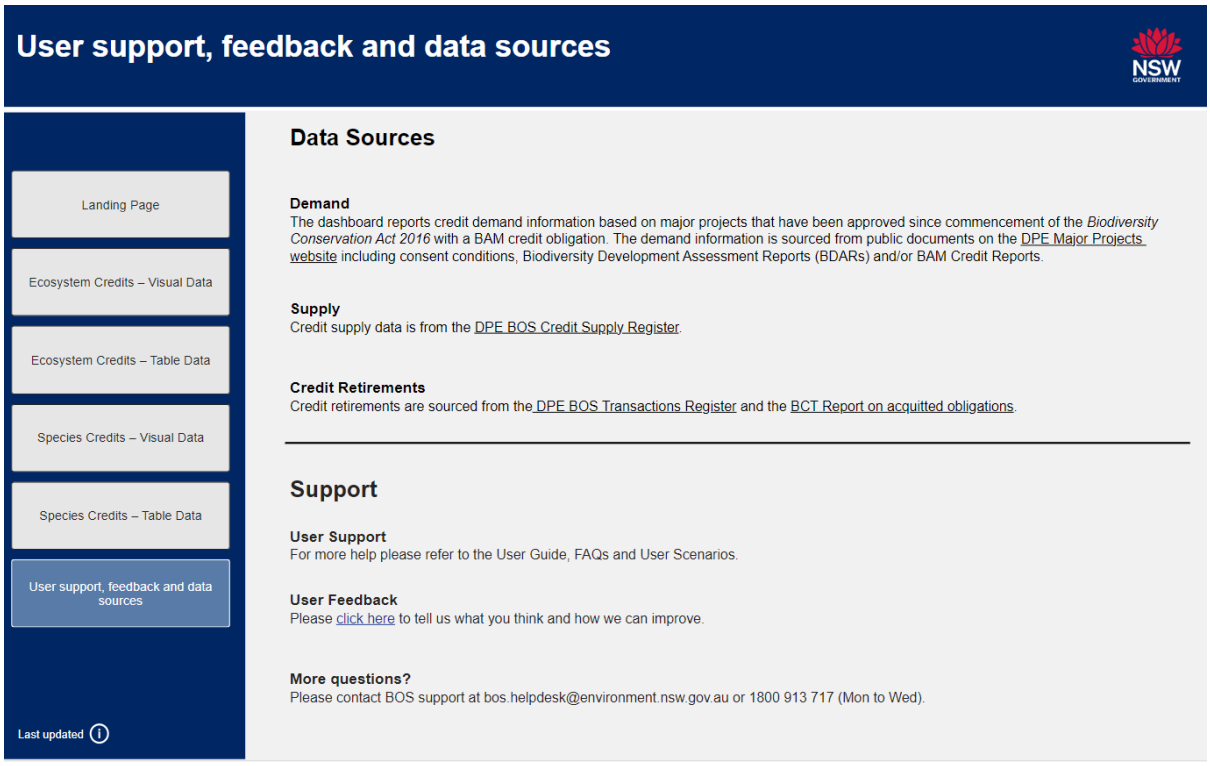
More answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the department's webpage (see 'More information' below).

You can also contact the BOS Help Desk at bos.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1800 913 717 (Monday to Wednesday).

7. User support, feedback and data sources

On this page of the dashboard, you can find:

- a brief explanation of the data sources used in this dashboard, and direct links to where these data sources are found on the department's website
- links to support tools, including this user guide and frequently asked questions
- a link to an online feedback survey to help us continuously improve the user experience of this dashboard
- contact details should you require further support when using the dashboard or general information about the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.



8. More information

- Ancillary rules: Impacts on threatened species and ecological communities excluded from application of variation rules
- Assessment of reasonable equivalence
- BioBanking
- BioBanking Public Registers
- Credit supply register
- Ecosystem credit trading groups tool
- IBRA subregion dataset on SEED
- IBRA subregion map on SEED
- Major Projects
- Offset rules for the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme
- Offset rules and ecosystem credits: Guidance on credit retirement options for ecosystem credits under the offset rules
- Report on acquitted obligations
- Transactions register
- What are Offset Trading Groups?