



Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

BAM Assessor Update – Number 25 – 28 October 2019

Commencement of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme for Local Development in Western Sydney

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1. The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme commences for local development in Western Sydney on 25 November 2019

When the biodiversity offsets scheme was established by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act), transitional arrangements were put in place to manage the commencement of the scheme for local development in high growth areas declared as interim designated areas. In western Sydney, this included the local government areas of Camden, City of Campbelltown, City of Fairfield, City of Hawkesbury, City of Liverpool, City of Penrith and Wollondilly. These transitional arrangements will expire by 25 November 2019.

From 25 November 2019, any new application for development consent or modification to an approved development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) will be subject to the biodiversity assessment requirements of the BC Act.

Former planning provisions continue to apply to local development (development under Part 4 of the EP&A Act not including State Significant Development) submitted before 25 November 2019 in the western Sydney interim designated areas. If a species impact statement is required, it must be submitted before 25 May 2020.

Relevant councils have been notified that the biodiversity offsets scheme will commence for local development in their area from 25 November 2019.

For more information on the biodiversity offsets scheme, including support available for accredited assessors, visit [Assessor resources](#)