



Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Accredited Assessor Update 37

25 June 2020

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1. Authority to sign and proof of identity practice guideline

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment recently published the [Authority to sign and proof of identity practice guideline](#). The guideline covers credit transactions that occur under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) including transfers, retirements, and assessment of reasonable biodiversity credit equivalence. The practice guideline outlines the legal authority required by a person to execute an application to transfer or retire BOS credits or for assessment of reasonable equivalence and the documentation required for proof of identity.

2. Test of significance – rebuilding after bushfire

The test of significance (section 7.3 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*) is one of the triggers that decide whether the biodiversity offset scheme applies to a development. The test of significance is only relevant to threatened species, threatened ecological communities, or their habitats and should be prepared by a suitably qualified person (not necessarily an accredited assessor).

A test of significance is not required if the consent authority is satisfied that the footprint of a home being rebuilt after the 2019-20 bushfires plus any asset protection zone, does not contain

a threatened species, an ecological community or their habitats. Proponents and consent authorities can use the following resources to support this decision:

- [Threatened biodiversity profile search](#) for lists of threatened species and ecological communities by region, habitat and type of species.
- BioNet (www.bionet.nsw.gov.au) for Atlas of records of species and communities in the local area.
- Previous ecological assessment reports for the property.

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* requires the applicant to indicate whether development is likely to significantly affect threatened species. Best practice entails documenting any analysis or information relied upon to support a decision that a threatened species, threatened ecological communities or their habitats do not occur in the areas to be affected by the rebuilding proposal.

3. Biodiversity Offsets Scheme fees 2020-21

The Biodiversity Offset Scheme fees have been updated for the financial year 2020-21 to reflect the CPI. Please see [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme fees](#).

The new fees will apply to all transactions from 1 of July 2020.

The TFD sheet has also been updated to include the change in fees and will be found on the following webpage by 1 July: [Total fund deposit - discount rate](#).

4. Update to Lot/DP display in BOAMS

A new structured Lot/ DP field has been added in BOAMS. This change will improve alignment with other applications and ensure consistency in the use of Lot/DP's. Please use the new fields creating new cases in BOAMS.

Note that the original Lot/DP field has been retained for data cleansing and to preserve existing data.

5. Upcoming BOS support Webinar

BOS Support: The Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool

When: Tuesday 30 June 2020, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

The Biodiversity Values Map will be the focus of the next BOS support webinar. The speakers will describe the use of the map and clearing threshold tool (BMAT) to assist in determining whether a proposal may trigger entry into the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS). The webinar will also cover how the map has been prepared, what it covers and how it is managed by the Department.

Go to [BOS Support: The Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool](#) to view additional information and register for this event.

Go to [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Support webinars](#) to view more information about the BOS Support webinar series, including troubleshooting advice and access to previous webinar recordings and questions and answers.

6. Display of Equivalent BAM credits on BOS public register (supply)

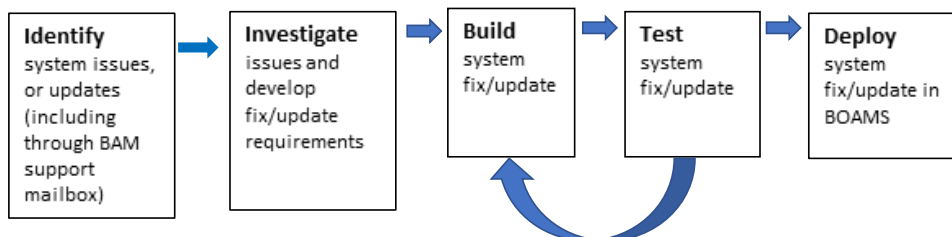
Biobanking Agreement credit owners that have had a credit equivalence undertaken can now request the equivalent Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) credits are displayed on the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) public register (supply). Please contact BOSCRECITS@environment.nsw.gov.au if you have equivalent BAM credits you would like displayed on the BOS public register (supply).

7. Systems update

Thanks for your effort in reporting BOAMS issues via the BAM support mailbox. We understand the impact these issues can have on your work. See the table below showing the current status of priority system changes.

Description	Current Status
Uploading files as BOAMS case attachments.	Investigate*
Aligning BOAMS/BAM-C with the draft revised BAM.	Test*
Consent Authority BOAMS access stage 2; Automated notification emails, Important Area Map view feature for consent authority users.	Investigate*
Improving usability of BAMC; Ability to add additional vegetation zones for TEC and non-TEC variants of a single PCT. Amendments to streamlined assessment module. Modifications to streamline credit reports.	Test*
BOAMS: changes to account details and case party saving for all DA, stewardship, credit transfer and credit retirement cases. Improve capacity to consistently identify and link corporations and multiple owners.	Test*

* see flow diagram below



8. BCT update

Application status

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is currently processing 43 Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement applications and 3 variation applications. The below table provides a breakdown of the status of the applications being processed by the BCT.

Accredited assessor survey

You will have received a survey from the BCT requesting information on the BSA application process. We encourage you to respond as this will enable the BCT to provide the very best customer service.

Current status of applications for Biodiversity Stewardships Agreements



End of Assessor Update No.37

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (25 June 2020). 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.