



Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Accredited Assessor Update 38

4 August 2020

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1. Consent authority approval to apply the offset variation rules

Approval to use the offset variation rules to satisfy a credit obligation is given by the consent authority via conditions of consent.

To be eligible, a proponent must document in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) the reasonable steps that they have taken to source like for like offsets as well as, the credit class and number of credits proposed to be offset under the variation rule. Actions that constitute 'reasonable steps' are outlined in the [Ancillary rules: Reasonable steps to seek like-for-like biodiversity credits for the purpose of applying the variation rules](#).

If the variation rules are proposed to be applied after consent has been granted, a section 4.55 modification (*Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*) will be required.

You can find further information about requesting approval to apply variation rules at [Guidance for local government on preparing conditions of consent from the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report](#).

2. Do you have a good Avoid and Minimise case study to share?

We are looking for good case studies on this topic that we could include as part of a future webinar on the application of the avoid/minimise/offset hierarchy. If you have a good example

that you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Send nominations including the relevant BDAR and name of a volunteer to help present it by **14 August 2020** to bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au.

3. Who to contact when the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator does not return a price

For some credit classes, the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) will not return a price for paying into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund. Instead, the BOPC (public tool and BAM-C version) provides a message requesting users to contact either the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) or BAM support mailbox.

However to get a price for these credits, please contact the bopc@environment.nsw.gov.au rather than the BCT or BAM support as directed. We are working to fix this error.

4. BOPC in Tab 8 of the BAM calculator may not display the correct offset trading group

In some older BAM assessments, Plant Community Types (PCTs) allocated to a TEC (threatened ecological communities) in the Vegetation tab may display the TEC offset trading group in the Credit Pricing tab (8). To correct this issue, please follow the steps below. Screenshots are provided in the attachment to this update.

Step 1: Clear your browser cache

Step 2: Open (or reopen) your case and save as a new version

Step 3: Open Tab 3. In the PCT selection field click 'X' next to the PCT requiring an update to delete it from this selection field.

Step 4: Confirm you wish to delete the PCT (Note: the associated plot data will remain in the plot data entry fields).

Step 5: Add the PCT back into the assessment by selecting 'Add another PCT' and entering the PCT code in the selection field.

Step 6: Choose the TEC name from the drop-down to reassociate the PCT with the TEC.

Step 7: Go to the vegetation zone section and choose the PCT code you wish to reassociate with the vegetation zone data – as you've previously entered data for that PCT, the code should appear in the PCT code field as a drop-down option

Step 8: Once you have re-associated all relevant PCTs with their TECs, click 'Next' and progress through all tabs to Tab 8

Step 9: Calculate the credit price and save the assessment. The correct offset trading group will now appear in Tab 8 and the Credit Pricing report. If you reopened a case, please remember to finalise it.

5. Scheduled price update to the BOPC

The Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) update Q2/2020 went live on 31 July 2020.

6. Seeking feedback from key stakeholders on Biodiversity Offset Scheme web pages

We are seeking stakeholder feedback on the current webpages that contain information on the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) to guide updates. Please let us know your thoughts on them and how they may be improved at this link www.surveymonkey.com/r/B9TD2WL.

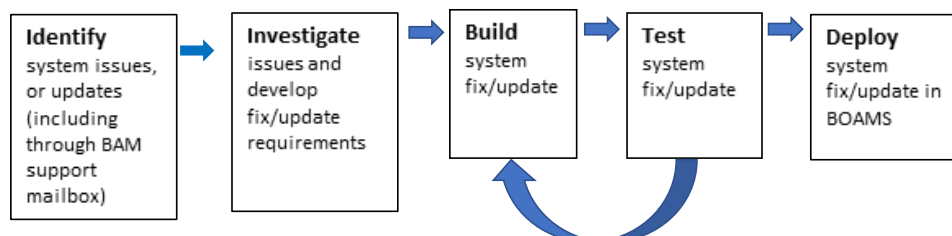
7. Systems Update

The next data import into BAM-C is scheduled for September.

Thanks for your effort in reporting Biodiversity Offset and Agreement Management System (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 BAM-C; 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

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement Application status

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is currently preparing 41 Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSA), including three variations. The below table provides a breakdown of the status of the applications being processed.

Current status of applications for Biodiversity Stewardships Agreements



New BCT publications

The [Ecological Monitoring Module \(EMM\)](#) outlines the ecological outcomes reporting and evaluation framework for BCT agreements. Accredited assessors should refer to it when preparing a BSA application and/or management plan.

Following feedback, the [BSA Application Supporting Document Guide](#) has been updated. Accredited assessors and landholders are encouraged to review this document before submitting a BSA application.

The [BSA application form](#) and the [BSA variation application form](#) have been updated. These are legal documents and must be signed by the landholders or appropriate company officeholders.

Smart tip – use the most current template

To ensure you are using the most current template, please download the Total Fund Deposit Calculator (DPIE website), Management Plan template (BCT website) and BSA application form template (BCT website) for each new application. If the incorrect version is used, we will ask you to transfer all information to the new version.

-----**End of Assessor Update No.38**-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (4 Aug 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.