DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Accredited Assessor Update 46

9 April 2021

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1. Launch of the SEED Layer Intersection Tool

The SEED Layer Intersection Tool (LIT) is available to use on the SEED map. The LIT allows users to define an area of interest and select relevant layers from a predefined set. The user can then see the degree to which the layers intersect within that area. Detailed reports can then be downloaded.

Currently, the spatial layers relevant to the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) Stage 1 are available for use. For example, an assessor can define the area of the subject land, select the BAM Stage 1 layer set and view all the relevant layers available that intersect within the subject land. For more details, go to the fact sheet and watch a video on how to use the tool via SEED News and Resources.

2. Using BioNet for BAM assessments

At all times, the biodiversity data in the BAM-Calculator (BAM-C) is to be used when applying the BAM and is considered correct. Assessors also need to refer to BioNet as it contains information not included in the BAM-C and could provide more up to date data, for example additional information about habitat constraints, survey requirements or newly listed species. It is recommended that assessors review BioNet regularly while undertaking a BAM assessment.

If differences between BioNet and BAM-C are identified, the assessor should discuss the divergence between the two systems in the Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR). Depending on the differences, it may be possible to update the BAM-C case to reflect the latest BioNet information, for example by manually adding species in BAM-C. The BAR should describe what has been done by the assessor in these circumstances.

3. BAM Transitional arrangements end soon for some applications

BAM 2020 was released on 22 October 2020 with a provision for transitional arrangements. After 22 April 2021, biodiversity stewardship, development and clearing applications (except for state significant development or infrastructure and biodiversity certification) will need to be prepared using BAM 2020.

The *Changes to the Biodiversity Assessment Method from 2017 to 2020 - Guidance for accredited assessors and local government* has been updated to help identify the changes required to modify a BAR originally prepared under BAM 2017 to align with BAM 2020. This will be required as timeframes for transitional arrangements end.

4. Consultation on changes to the BOS open until 19 April

The NSW Government is inviting submissions on proposed changes to the way that payments to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust are determined under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS).

For more information, please see the Changes to the biodiversity offsets scheme: public consultation page on our website. There you can download the consultation paper and find out more about how to make a submission.

5. Fire Extent and Severity Mapping

For assessors applying the *Guideline for applying the BAM at severely burnt sites* (BDAR/BCAR), the statewide Fire Extent and Severity Mapping (FESM) can be used to inform decisions about the burn severity on the subject land (in addition to the GEEBAM mapping). The FESM is available on SEED. We encourage you to discuss use of this mapping with your consent authority.
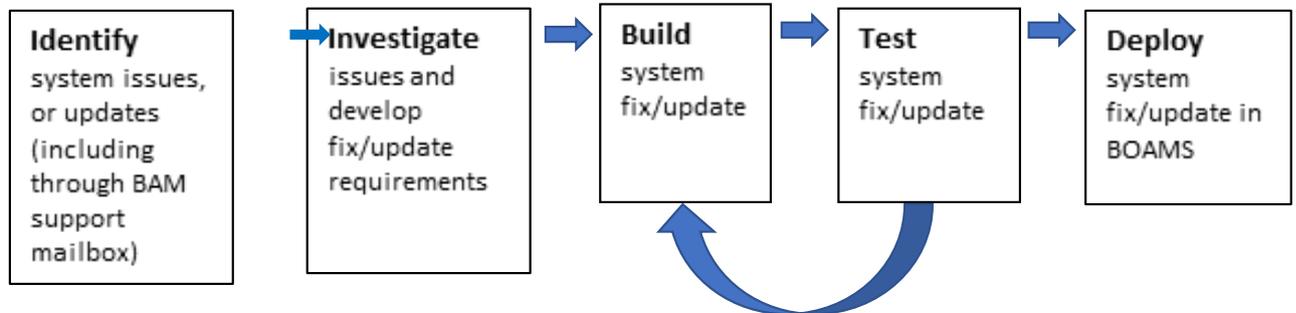
Fire severity is a metric of the loss of biomass caused by fire. In collaboration with the NSW Rural Fire Service, DPIE Remote Sensing and Regulatory Mapping team developed a semi-automated approach to mapping fire extent and severity through a machine learning framework, based on Sentinel 2 satellite imagery. The statewide severity map has standardised classes to allow comparison of different fires across the landscape.

6.   System updates

Thanks for your effort in reporting Biodiversity Offsets and Agreements 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 status of priority system changes.
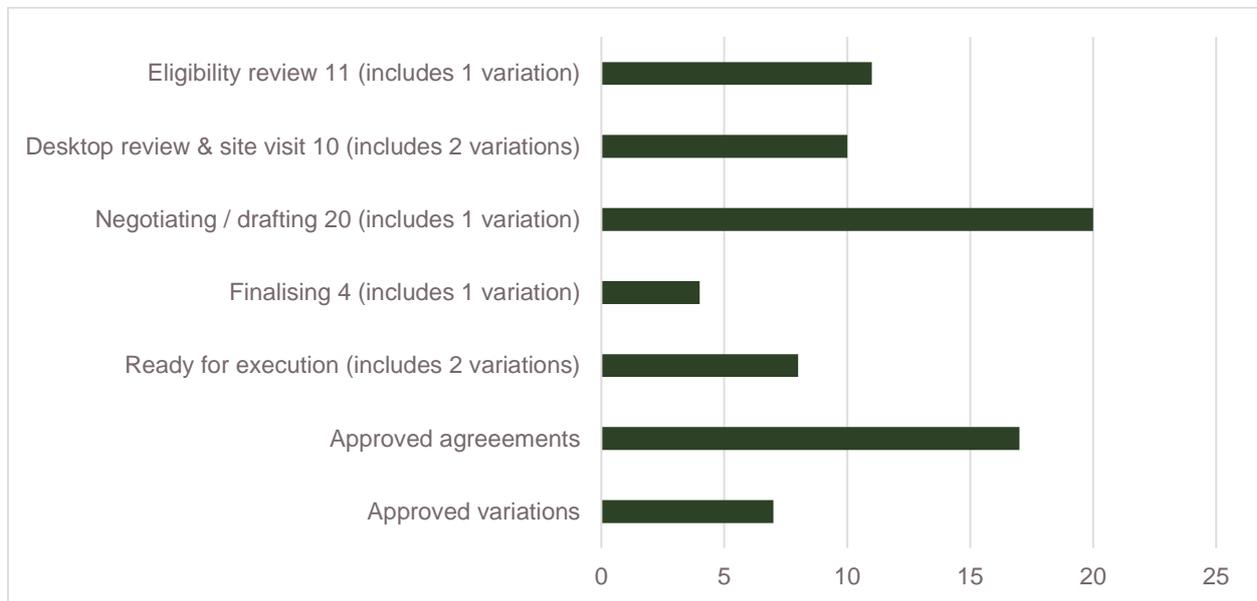
Description	Current Status
Unable to view development cases in BOAMS	**Resolved**
Transferring cases in BOAMS	**Resolved**
Error Code 500 BAM-C	**Resolved**
Scheduled BAM-C data import	**Planned for 29 April**
Unable to upload zip files	**Under investigation**
Important Area Map Viewer unavailable (intermittent)	**Under investigation**

•* see flow diagram below

7. BCT update

BSA Application status

Chart data (BSA Application status):
- Eligibility review 11 (includes 1 variation): ~11
- Desktop review & site visit 10 (includes 2 variations): ~10
- Negotiating / drafting 20 (includes 1 variation): ~20
- Finalising 4 (includes 1 variation): ~4
- Ready for execution (includes 2 variations): ~8
- Approved agreeements: ~17
- Approved variations: ~7

---------------------------------End of Assessor Update No.46-------------------------------------