

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 29

25 June 2024

Welcome to issue No. 29 of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update.

This monthly newsletter is one of the ways in which we communicate and help support the implementation of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. You can keep up to date [via our website](#) and view our [past newsletters online](#). The Biodiversity Conservation Trust's (BCT) twice-yearly newsletter is another source of information, you can find it at the [BCT's Publication website](#).

For other enquiries on the scheme, contact the dedicated scheme Help Desk team:

- Help Desk Line 1800 931 717, staffed Tuesday to Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm
- Help Desk mailbox, BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au, monitored Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm.

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General updates

Public display of nominations for entities at risk of serious and irreversible impacts

Serious and irreversible impact nominations will soon be publicly displayed on a provisional list for 21 days. Stakeholders will be able to provide feedback on the nominations and will be notified when the display period begins. You can [find more information on serious and irreversible impacts on our website](#).

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements update

As of 31 May 2024, there have been **44 new Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSAs) approved** this financial year, covering **20,940 hectares**. Since July 2022, a total of 84 new BSAs have been approved, covering 42,886 hectares, and creating a total of 460,168 biodiversity credits. This represents a significant increase in the restoration of ecosystems and threatened species habitats.

An extension to the **BSA application fee waiver** has been approved until the end of 2024, making it more affordable for landholders to establish stewardship agreements.

BCF to be updated on 1 July 2024

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is updating amounts in line with the [BOPC Order](#). These will be available from **1 July 2024**.

Applications for BCF Charge Quotes received by the BCT before midnight on 30 June 2024 will be given a quote using the 2023–24 Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator (BOPC) amounts. Applications received from 1 July will be given a quote using the new 2024–25 amounts.

Proponents that have a valid BCF Quote issued before 30 June 2023 can request an updated BCF Charge Quote with 2024–25 BOPC prices. The new quote will replace the original quote and the original quote will no longer be valid. The [Key BCF Charge System values](#), displayed on the BCT website, will also be updated on 1 July 2024.

You can ask questions about this through the [BCF Quotes and Payments Mailbox](#).

Ecological monitoring webinar

The BCT is running a webinar on **ecological monitoring**. It will be held on Tuesday 30 July from 10:30 to 11:30am. To attend use this link to [register and see more information](#).

This webinar will focus on the application of the Ecological Monitoring Module (EMM) to BSAs. It's aimed at accredited assessors developing monitoring plans and/or implementation of ecological monitoring for active BSAs, although other stakeholders are also welcome to attend. There will be an opportunity for Q&A via either pre-submitted questions or during the session via SLIDO. The session will also be recorded and made available online.

For any questions related to the webinar or application of EMM to BSAs please get in touch via the [BCT Ecological Monitoring and Research Mailbox](#).

For credit owners and buyers

Supply Fund reverse auction 6

The next reverse auction for the Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund is open for bids from **26 June to 10 July 2024**.

The Supply Fund is seeking to purchase credits from the target credits list. The auction is open to existing credit owners, BSA applicants, and landholders with a site assessment report from an accredited assessor. For more information and to request the participant's guide and bid form, please refer to the [Supply Fund webpage](#) or email the [Supply Fund Mailbox](#).

Progress on BCT Credit Tender 24-01

The BCT is contacting applicants whose credit offers have been rejected for Credit Tender 24-01 (if ineligible or not 'value for money', as defined by the [participant's guide](#)). All eligible, 'value for money' credit offers have progressed to the next stage of evaluation for prioritisation. The BCT expects to start making offers to purchase successful offers in July 2024. We will advise relevant applicants to keep an eye on their mailbox before we start making offers. If you have any other questions about the Tender, please email us at the [BCT Biodiversity Offsets Program Mailbox](#).

For accredited assessors

Widely Cultivated Native Species list added to the Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator (BAM-C)

To support BAM assessments applying the planted native vegetation or scattered tree streamlined modules, the High Threat Weeds list spreadsheet, on [the BAM-C homepage](#), has been amended to include the list of Widely Cultivated Native Species. These lists are sourced from the BioNet species names database and refresh when downloaded.

Use of the PCT Filter Tool

Assessors should note that the PCT Filter Tool in the BioNet Vegetation Classification application **cannot be used to identify decommissioned plant community types (PCTs)**.

The PCT Filter Tool only lists approved plant community types. To identify decommissioned plant community types, for example, when applying decommissioned PCTs in the eastern NSW coastal and tablelands bioregions, use the BioNet Vegetation Classification application 'View a PCT' search or 'Export Bulk Data' functionality or the BioNet power queries.

For further details on accessing PCT lineage transformation data, BioNet power queries or the PCT search function, please see the [BioNet resources page](#). Information regarding changes to PCTs can be found in the following webpages:

- [Revised vegetation integrity benchmarks and plant community types](#)
- [Plant community types: change control](#)
- [Updating BioNet Plant Community Types: Eastern New South Wales PCT Classification Version 1.1 \(2022\)](#)

Mandatory use of BSSAR and management plan templates

A reminder that the Biodiversity Stewardship Site Assessment Report (BSSAR) and Management Plan templates released in December 2023 are mandatory when preparing to submit a new BSA application. **You can [request copies of the BSSAR and Management Plan templates online](#).**

Any BSA applications made after 1 August 2024 must use the new templates. Applications that do not use the BSSAR and management plan template will not be accepted unless with written agreement of the Department. Using the templates helps ensure that BSSARs and management plans contain the required information and assist the ABS Branch to process more BSA applications in a shorter time.

Also, accredited assessors must submit data consistent with the requirements of BAM 2020 and in accordance with the applicant's guidelines and templates, including:

- BAM plot data must be in an Excel spreadsheet containing all data collected for BAM plots. Include growth form group, species name, cover, and abundance values (Table 1 and 2 of the BAM)
- Appendix F of the BSSAR template which contains spatial data and map requirements.

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