

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 30

5 August 2024

Welcome to issue No. 30 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 scheme updates

Response to the Biodiversity Conservation Act review

On 17 July 2024, the NSW Government published the [NSW Plan for Nature](#) – the Government response to the statutory reviews of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and native vegetation provisions of the *Local Land Services Act 2013*. It sets out proposed reforms to the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. You can find more information on the statutory reviews and response, please visit the [Statutory review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 webpage](#).

Biodiversity stewardship agreements update

As of 30 June 2024, **55 new BSAs were approved** during over the last 12 months. Since July 2022, a total of 96 new BSAs have been approved, covering **44,354 hectares**, and creating a total of 475,302 biodiversity credits. This represents a significant increase in the restoration of ecosystems and threatened species habitats.

Accredited assessor framework

The Nature Markets and Offsets (NMO) division will be making improvements and updates to the accredited assessor scheme framework. This will ensure:

- accredited assessors are applying the BAM correctly and consistently
- there is a high standard of integrity in the scheme and the code of conduct is being applied
- training, requirements and guidelines for accredited assessors reflect current practices and emerging issues.

NMO has also begun consultation with accredited assessors and other interested stakeholders on the requirements set out in the code of conduct.

We will continue to communicate any changes or developments. If you have any questions, please contact us via [the BAM Accreditation Mailbox](#).

Update to the Total Fund Deposit Calculator

An updated version of the TFD calculator is available on the [website](#) and for [download](#). This is now the current version of the calculator and should be used in preparing any new applications for a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement.

Consultation on list of entities at risk of serious and irreversible impacts

Consultation on proposed changes to the list of entities at risk of serious and irreversible impact is currently underway. The proposed changes are available on the [Serious and irreversible impacts webpage](#). Feedback will be accepted until **Friday 16 August 2024**. To submit feedback, please use the form on the website:

- [threatened species \(and endangered populations\) at risk of serious and irreversible impacts nomination form](#)
- [threatened ecological communities at risk of serious and irreversible impacts nomination form](#).

Select 'Provide feedback on a species/TEC currently being publicly displayed' when submitting your feedback. Changes to the list will be communicated to individual nominees and those who provide feedback, as well as via the BOS Updates newsletter.

For credit owners and buyers

Credits Supply Fund Reverse Auction 6 closed

The sixth Reverse Auction for the Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund closed for bids on Wednesday 10 July 2024. We are now progressing 111 bids to evaluation. Results from the reverse auction will be announced on Wednesday 21 August 2024 with transactions will progress shortly after. More information can be found on the [Supply Fund webpage](#).

BCT Credit Tender 24-01 | Offers have commenced

The BCT has commenced making offers to purchase credits from successful bids in Credit Tender 24-01. As indicated in the [participants guide](#), you will be provided **4 business days to respond**. This timeframe is required to enable the BCT to make offers to other applicants in a timely manner if you choose not to accept the BCT's offer. Please note that offers are made in rounds in ranked, prioritised order.

We expect to have completed most offers by 16 August. We will send notifications for unsuccessful bids. If you have any other questions about the Tender, please email us at the [BCT Offsets Program Mailbox](#).

For accredited assessors

October BAM-C scheduled data update

The next regular update to BioNet data and the BAM Calculator (BAM-C) is scheduled to occur in early October 2024, which means the system will be unavailable. Further, BAM-C cases that are in progress or reopened following the update are likely to be impacted.

This is likely to include updates to the threatened entity information:

- PCT associations
- Records and distribution (including changes to known or predicted associated IBRA subregions)
- ‘Ecological data’ tab fields in the TBDC (for example, Habitat Constraints, Survey Comments) and
- Risk weighting and ‘Serious and Irreversible Impacts’ tab fields in the TBDC.

The department will provide further information about the updates closer to the date. To minimise disruption to BAM–C cases, we recommend that assessors finalise cases in advance of this time.

Other support

Important reminder about credit transfers and retirements

Applicants for credit transfers and retirements should note:

- It is a proponent’s responsibility to ensure that biodiversity credits being transferred or retired will meet their offset requirements.
- The standard timeframe for processing an application to transfer or retire credits is 3 weeks. The application must be complete, with supporting proof of identity and legal authority, as required by the department’s [Authority to sign and proof of identity practice guideline](#).
- If you have critical deadlines, please outline the reasons for the urgency, including the date of the deadline at the time of submission. Applicants must account for the time required to pay the Total Fund Deposit and application fee.
- Further information on how to transfer or retire [BOS biodiversity credits](#) or [BioBanking credits](#) can be found on the department’s website.

BOS Help Desk response time for July and August

Due to staffing arrangements, responses to BOS Help Desk requests made during July and August may take longer than usual. If your matter is urgent, please outline the reason for urgency to assist the team in prioritisation. We thank you in advance for your patience.

Environment and Heritage (EH)
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124; Phone: 1300 361 967 (EH enquiries);
Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au; Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au
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