

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 33

18 November 2024

Welcome to issue No. 33 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

Biodiversity stewardship agreement update

The area of land covered by biodiversity stewardship agreements (BSAs) since July 2022 continues to grow. At the end of September 2024, 109 BSAs covering over 53,300 hectares of land have been approved (in addition to around 37,000 hectares established between 2010 and 2022). The increasing number of BSAs reflects work by government, proponents, accredited assessors and landholders that is leading to a significant increase in the creation of in-demand credits while delivering on-ground outcomes in protecting and restoring threatened ecological communities and species habitats.

Christmas/New Years shutdown for receiving BSA applications

The virtual front counter for new BSA applications and variations will be closed between Thursday 19 December and 5 January 2025. Any correspondence during time will be progressed in the week commencing 6 January 2025.

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is now live

As advised in [BOS Update No. 31](#), multi-factor authentication (MFA) was introduced on 7 November for the Biodiversity Offsets and Agreements Management System (BOAMS) and Biodiversity Assessors and Accreditation System (BAAS). If you have any questions, please read through our comprehensive FAQs (attached) and available [on our website](#). If your question is not addressed in the FAQs, please email bosdigital@dcceew.nsw.gov.au

For local councils and consent authorities:

Please ensure all users have individual Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) accounts. To request an account, please send an email to bosdigital@dcceew.nsw.gov.au. It is important that each account is associated with an individual email address, and we recommend that users also provide an Australian mobile number for one-time password delivery.

BAM Species Expert List

The BAM Species Expert List to include recently approved experts is now available. The technical issue that impacted the publicly available list has been resolved (this did not impact the application or approval process for new experts).

If you have any questions about species experts, please refer to our [webpage](#) or for any specific questions about approved BAM species experts, please contact the team directly at bam_species_expert@environment.nsw.gov.au

Update to Notice of Determination form

An updated [Notice of Determination](#) (NOD) form is available on our website. The department requests that consent authorities upload the form and associated documents directly to the relevant Biodiversity Offsets and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) case.

Consent authorities can request a BOAMS login by contacting the [BOS helpdesk](#). Once obtained, you can seek access to the relevant case from the accredited assessor.

Alternatively, if you are unable to access the BOAMS, the NOD form and associated documents can be emailed to the [BOS helpdesk](#).

Providing this information allows the department to effectively monitor the scheme.

Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) data and systems

The annual systems update for the BAM calculator (BAM-C) occurred on 24 October 2024. The [list of entities at risk of a serious and irreversible impact](#) was also updated on the department's webpages on 25 October. The updates are critical to enabling improvements that support BAM assessments and outcomes.

[Release notes](#) were provided via email on 28 October and are available on our webpage. The release notes detail the changes and provide instructions to assist assessors and decision-makers to ensure the BAM-C correctly displays the updated data and information. Ensure you clear the internet browser cache, enable pop-ups and take screenshots of any alert messages when opening BAM-C for the first time following the update (see the release notes for further information).

For credit owners and buyers

BCT Credit Tender 24-02 – Record participation again

The BCT's Credit Tender 24-02 closed on Wednesday 9 October and we have again received a record number of bids. We are now in the evaluation stage, where bids are checked to ensure they are complete and contain correct credit details. If eligible, they will progress to bid evaluation and prioritisation. Check our [Credit Tenders webpage](#) for estimated program timeframes.

If you have any other questions about the tender, please email us at offsets@bct.nsw.gov.au

Supply Fund October 2024 reverse auction

The seventh statewide Reverse Auction for the Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund closed for bids on 23 October 2024. Around 70 bids were received and are currently being assessed. Results from the reverse auction will be published on the [Supply Fund webpage](#) by Wednesday 4 December 2024 and credits are expected to be available to purchase from February 2024.

Upcoming credit transfer and retirement applications

Applicants for BOS credit transfers and/or retirements are encouraged to notify Nature Markets and Offsets of any upcoming applications using this [online form](#). Providing this information is voluntary and will assist us to improve processing time. There is often high demand for these credit transactions at the end of each calendar year, so please submit your applications as soon as possible. Applications submitted after 29 November 2024 may not be approved until after 13 January 2025. If you have any questions, please contact bos.credits@environment.nsw.gov.au

Reminder on reasonable credit equivalence applications

There is typically a high demand for assessment of reasonable credit equivalence applications towards the end of the year. Applications need to be submitted as soon as possible. Any applications submitted after Friday 29 November 2024 may not have a reasonable equivalence statement drafted until after Monday 13 January 2025.

More information about credit equivalence is available [online on our website](#). Please contact BOSCREBITS@environment.nsw.gov.au if you have any questions.

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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