



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Accredited Assessor Update 51

29 October 2021

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## 1. Renewal reminder for accreditation for some Assessors

Assessors are reminded to check their accreditation end date. If your accreditation is due in the next 3 months, you can enrol in a renewal training course. If you intend to renew your accreditation, prepare by completing the renewal training and submitting your application.

You can find your expiry date on your certificate of accreditation, your account details in Biodiversity Offsets and Assessment Management System (BOAMS), or on the [public register](#). Your name will not appear on the public register if your expiry date has already passed.

The [Renewing Your Accreditation](#) webpage describes the requirements and the process. Questions can be directed to the [BAM\\_accreditation@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BAM_accreditation@environment.nsw.gov.au) mailbox.

## 2. Biodiversity Values Map Update V.12

Each year 2 major updates of the Biodiversity Values (BV) Map are planned, one in March and again in September.

Version 12 of the BV Map was published on the [Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold \(BMAT\) Tool](#) on 27 September 2021. Changes to the BV Map are described in the [Updates to the BV Map](#) section of the [BV Map webpage](#).

A significant amount of land has been removed from the BV Map and may no longer trigger development proposals into the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS). Assessors should check the updated BV Map in the BMAT Tool to determine whether this affects development proposals that are currently being assessed. In particular, proposals in the western Riverina where a large area of land has been removed based on the revised Plains Wanderer mapping.

The updated spatial data is available through the [SEED Portal](#).

Landholders, or their agents, who consider the biodiversity values mapped on their property are incorrect, can apply for a BV explanatory report and map review. Information and application forms are available on the [BV Map review webpage](#).

Any queries: [map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au) or 02 6360 9000.

### **3. BOS Support Webinar No. 24 – Recording and Q&A**

A recording of the recent BOS Support Webinar No. 24 – *Update on the revised Eastern NSW Plant Community Type (PCT) Classification and State Vegetation Type maps (SVTM)* [is now available on our website](#). A transcript of the Q&A session has been summarised and is published below the webinar recording along with a PDF of the presentation. The webinar provided an update on progress for the revised Eastern NSW PCT and SVTM projects and introduces the proposed transitional arrangements for commencement in the BOS.

### **4. Changes to Serious and Irreversible Impacts list incorporated into June update of the BAM-Calculator**

A reminder to assessors - where a proposal includes an entity added to or removed from the list of entities at risk of a Serious and Irreversible Impact (SAII), the biodiversity risk weighting for that entity will change.

This will have a flow on effect to credit requirements for new and in-progress assessments. For newly identified entities at risk of an SAII, you must also update your Biodiversity Assessment Report to address the assessment criteria in section 9.1 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) 2020.

White box – yellow box - Blakely's red gum grassy woodlands and derived native grasslands was up-listed from Endangered to Critically Endangered in June 2020. The uplisting of this community to at risk of an SAII was incorporated into the BAM-Calculator (BAM-C). This may have flow on effects to any BAM-C cases which are revised and contain this entity.

## 5. Manageable High Threat Weeds – Practice Note

The BAM Practice Note *Manageable High Threat Weeds - Improving gain on offset sites* is available on the [Assessor Resources](#) webpage. This Practice Note is targeted at assessors and decision-makers. It outlines the background, requirements and documentation to support use of this setting in BAM-C for achieving greater gain on biodiversity stewardship sites.

## 6. *Indigofera efoliata* rediscovered

Assessors should note the recent rediscovery of *Indigofera efoliata* (Leafless Indigo). Information has been added to the species TBDC [profile](#) pertaining to the species rediscovery.

## 7. BAM Transitional arrangements ended 22 October

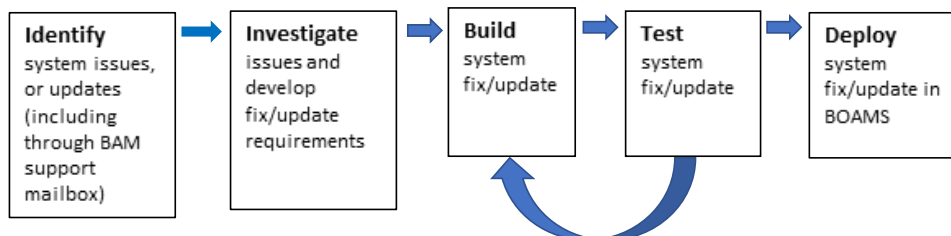
BAM [transitional arrangements](#) for state significant development or infrastructure and non-strategic (standard) biodiversity certification ended 22 October. All Biodiversity Assessment Reports must now be based on BAM 2020.

## 8. System updates

Thanks for your effort in reporting Biodiversity Offsets and Assessment Management System (BOAMS) issues via the [BOS enquiry form](#). 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
Amendment to BOAMS which will enable assessors to upload executable files	<b>Identify</b>

\* see flow diagram below



## 9. Biodiversity Conservation Trust update

### Update to the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) management plan template -

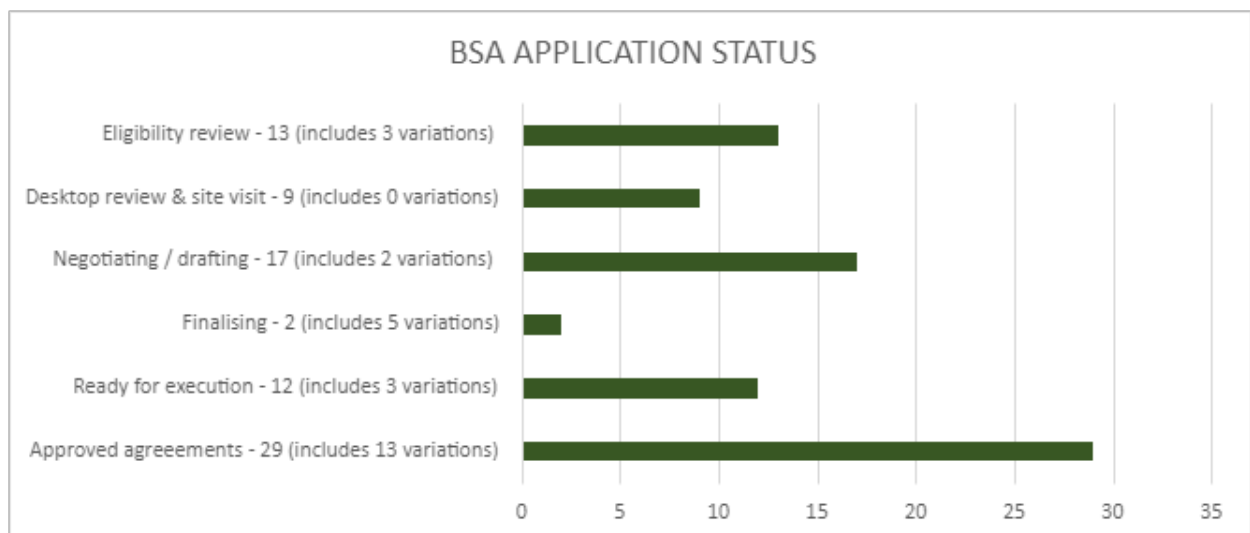
The BSA management plan template has been updated to assist assessors apply the Ecological Monitoring Module (EMM). The EMM must be applied to BSA applications submitted after 1 March.

The updated management plan template is available on the [Biodiversity Conservation Trust \(BCT\) website](#).

For more information on applying the EMM, assessors are encouraged to review the BCT's [Ecological Monitoring Module Operational Manual](#).

**Report on acquitted obligations** – The BCT recently released a report providing information on the offset obligations that have been acquitted by the BCT with money paid into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund. More information and the report are [available online](#).

### Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement Application status



### -----End of Assessor Update No.51-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (29 October 2021). 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.