

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

BAM Assessor Update Number 6

November 5, 2018

1. Topics Covered:

1. CPI Increase to fees
2. Assessor Forums
3. Bat survey guidelines
4. Varying survey time for species credit species

CPI increase to fees - 20 November 2018

The offsets scheme fees will increase on 20 November 2018. The fees will increase by 2%, in line with CPI for Sydney, as per the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017.

Please see the website for the fees:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/offsets-scheme-fees.htm>

Assessor Forums

Thank you to those who attended one of the accredited assessor forums in Sydney and Newcastle. We hope the day was as valuable to you as it was to OEH and the BCT.

The feedback provided will be used to continue to improve the operation of and your experience with the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.

One of the key items of feedback was that we should share our presentation slides from each of the sessions at the forums. Slides that were presented are attached for your reference, however note that not all marketplace stalls involved presentations and much context to the slides came from the discussion with the presenter.

Questions can still be referred to the [LMBC Helpdesk](#). **Please do not directly contact OEH staff.** We will respond to your enquiry as soon as practicable.

Bat Survey Guide

The guide to survey 'species credit' threatened bats and their habitat has been released. It can be accessed at:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/surveys/GuidelinesForCarryingOutASurvey.htm>

The guide provides details on survey technique and effort to detect threatened bats that are identified as species credit species in the Biodiversity Assessment Method. It also describes how to map species polygons and document field outcomes in the Biodiversity Assessment Report.

OEH is continuing to work on survey guides for other species credit species.

Did you know.....?

Surveys for species credit species need to be conducted at the optimum time for detection. Survey months for species are automatically populated in the BAMC (via the Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection - TBDC). These months were selected assuming 'average' conditions, and that the survey is undertaken using an appropriate method, time of day and conditions (as per relevant survey guidelines).

You can adjust survey timing if, for example, natural disturbances or climatic events are likely to alter the months when the species is most likely to be found. Sometimes additional information on survey times is provided in the 'Comments' field of the TBDC, for example, 'shoulder' months, differences in survey season during particular environmental conditions or across the species distribution.

If you vary your survey time from those in the BAMC make sure you document and justify this in the Biodiversity Assessment Report. For further information see p38 of the [Biodiversity Assessment Method Operational Manual – Stage 1](#).