

# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 3

12 April 2022

Welcome to **Issue No. 3** of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update.

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (the scheme) enables the impacts of development on biodiversity to be avoided, minimised, and offset. The scheme provides a consistent, transparent, and scientifically credible way for development to proceed while still protecting our environment, with requirements set out under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The Government remains committed to improving and refining the scheme. You can read more about the [Improvements to the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme](#) on our website.

This monthly newsletter is one of the ways in which we communicate and help support the implementation of the scheme. Your **feedback** on how we can improve our communication is encouraged. Please submit your feedback [with our survey](#). See past newsletters [on our website](#). You can also find the Biodiversity Conservation Trust's (BCT) twice-yearly newsletter on the BCT's [Publications website](#).

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

- Hotline 1800 931 717, staffed Tuesday to Thursday from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
- Help Desk mailbox, [BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au), monitored Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

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## **Demand information: Transport for NSW forward biodiversity credit demand estimates**

Transport for NSW, including the former Roads and Maritime Service, has released a list of biodiversity credits relating to infrastructure development in the forward pipeline. The list gives potential suppliers of biodiversity credits an indication (but not a guarantee) of Transport for NSW's future credit demand. The list is available on the [Transport for NSW webpage](#), along with a fact sheet [selling biodiversity credits to Transport for NSW](#), which sets out how Transport for NSW purchases biodiversity credits. Transport for NSW's demand list will change as route options develop and with efforts to avoid impacts. It does not include all projects in the development pipeline, including projects where the credit obligation has already been exhibited. The list will be updated as new forward credit estimates become available.

Other information on future demand can be found on our [Indicative demand for ecosystem credits webpage](#).

## **Training for local government and assessors**

### **Free Local Government training sponsorship**

The department is offering free sponsorships for local government staff to access a tailored eLearning program. The eLearning will help with an understanding of the fundamental concepts of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (the scheme), Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM), assessor accreditation, and council roles and responsibilities in the scheme. So far 292 staff from 98 councils across New South Wales have been funded. Sponsored staff who complete the training by 22 April will receive a certificate of completion. Staff should download the training material before 30 April 2022 as access may be unavailable after this date.

Submit an expression of interest (EOI) for training sponsorship through: [BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au)

### **Renewal training for accredited assessors**

Training arrangements are being revised, however, dates for training have not yet been finalised. The department will advise when accredited assessor renewal courses are scheduled. The department will contact assessors who need to renew their accreditation soon with instructions on how to progress their renewal. Assessors whose accreditation dates are closest to expiring will be offered training as a priority. Any queries, contact [BAM\\_accreditation@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BAM_accreditation@environment.nsw.gov.au)

To submit an EOI for renewal training, please complete this [EOI form](#).

## New resources

### Release of BDAR template

The Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) template and supporting guidance are now available. The template assists accredited assessors in preparing a BDAR according to best practice and improving consistency for consent authorities. The guidance includes information on how to use the BDAR template and links sections of the template with sections of the BAM, operational manuals and other sources of information.

The template is not compulsory but is recommended for use by accredited assessors. The editable template and guidance can be found on the [Assessor Resources](#) webpage under 'Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR) Templates' and on the [Local government and other decision maker support](#) webpage under 'Practice Notes'.

The template will be reviewed after 12 months to consider user feedback.

### New information video on the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM)

A new video on the [Biodiversity Assessment Method and Local Development](#), provides an overview of the BAM, BAM offset calculations for each type of unavoidable impact, and what elements of the BAM and calculator are to be included in the BDAR. The video will be a useful refresher for council staff who have received local government-specific training on the BAM and those new to the scheme.

### New biodiversity certification factsheets for landholders and local government

Two new factsheets are available on the biodiversity certification [support page](#):

1. [Factsheet #5 Information for Landholders](#) provides guidance on the effect of biodiversity certification on development applications on certified land and how a landholder can find out if their land is biodiversity certified. It sets out consent, and notification requirements should their land be impacted by a biodiversity certification proposal
2. [Factsheet #6 Roles and Responsibilities: Information for Councils](#) provides information relating to councils, including requirements for development application approvals and planning proposals. It also clarifies council responsibilities for monitoring and compliance, and section 10.7 planning certificates

### New and updated forms for credit transfers and retirements

New or revised forms for credit transactions are now available:

- Change of designated contact person or authorised representative for the public register (new)
- [Application to transfer biodiversity offsets scheme credits](#)
- [Application to retire biodiversity offsets scheme credits](#)
- [Authority to sign and proof of identity practice guideline](#) (practice guideline)

There is also new guidance on [credit transactions](#) and [transferring and retiring credits](#) under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. Contact [boscredits@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:boscredits@environment.nsw.gov.au) if you need more information.

## Biodiversity Values Map

### Biodiversity Values Map Update Version 13

**Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold (BMAT) Tool version 13 is now published**

Changes are outlined on the [Biodiversity Values Map webpage](#). 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 Biodiversity Values Explanatory Report and Map Review. Information and application forms are available on the [Biodiversity Values Map Review webpage](#). Any queries contact [map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au) or on 02 6360 9000.

This new version includes updates to the swift parrot important habitat map, published in the [Biodiversity Offset Assessment Management System map viewer](#), incorporating sighting data from 2019 and 2020 and the draft Eastern NSW classification State Vegetation Type Map v1.1.0 (Eastern NSW).

### Fact Sheets and guides on the Biodiversity Values Map.

A new [fact sheet](#) describes the steps for considering the Biodiversity Values (BV) Map at each stage of the development application process. For local development proposals, it is important to regularly check if a development site is still on the BV Map during the DA process.

Accredited assessors and local councils should also refer proponents and clients to the [fact sheet](#) and information on Biodiversity Values Map Reviews if they consider there is an error in the Biodiversity Values mapping on their property.

A [Guide on how to view the Biodiversity Values Map on the ePlanning spatial viewer](#) has been developed. The department recommends that [Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold \(BMAT\) Tool](#) be used to view the BVM data and produce a report stating whether a proposal requires a BDAR.

## Update on the BOS Help Desk

The BOS Help Desk was established this year and has received 329 queries, of which 85% were completed in 10 working days. The topics being asked about are shown in Figure 1.

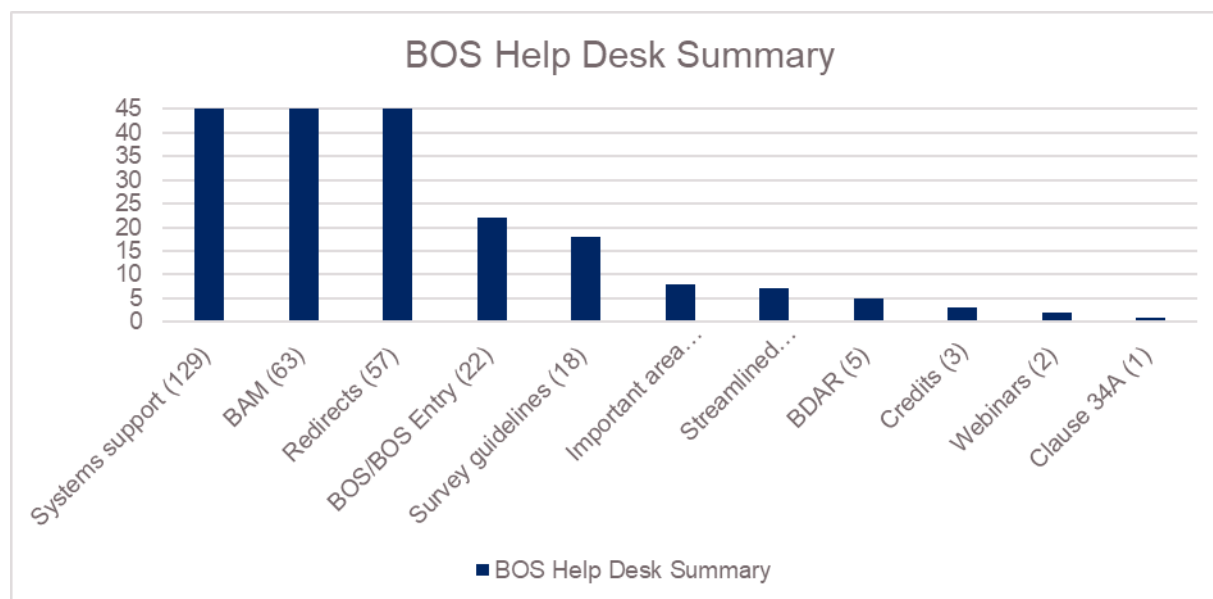


Figure 1 BOS Help Desk summary, January to March 2022

## Minor correction to legislative reference in BOS Update No 1 for complying development

BOS Update No 1 provided advice on the application of the scheme to complying development on non-rural land that exceed the scheme threshold. The reference to clause 1.16(3)(b) of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* should have been a reference to clause 1.18(h).