

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 15

19 April 2023

Welcome to Issue No. 15 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. Keep up to date with the latest news and information [via our scheme website](#).

This monthly newsletter is one of the ways in which we communicate and help support the implementation of the scheme. You can view our past newsletters [here](#). 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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Accredited assessor updates

Major BAM-Calculator Update – Eastern NSW Plant Community Types

The BAM-Calculator (BAM-C) update to include the revised Plant Community types (PCTs) in coastal and tableland bioregions occurred on 14 April 2023. The update includes system enabled transitional arrangements for BAM-C cases that are in-progress prior to the update.

The transitional arrangements allow assessors with in-progress BAM-C assessments in coastal and tablelands bioregions to maintain access to a legacy version of the BAM-C and continue their assessments. Any new proposals established in the BAM-C after the update will not have access to the legacy data and must apply the revised EPCTs.

For more information about the BAM-C update and transitional arrangements please see the attached release notes and the [BOS Support webinar](#) held in February 2023, or go to the [BOS website](#).

Important reminder: Clearly label DRAFT Biodiversity Assessment Reports (BAR) as draft on the actual report

The department wants to remind assessors it is important to label all draft BAR reports as “Draft Report/Not for Submission” when providing to a client or other party.

This needs to be on the front cover and every page and we suggest this is done as a header/footer and a watermark. The file name should be simple, clear, and include the word “draft”.

Assessors have a responsibility to inform their clients that there are legal requirements which apply to certifying final BARs and formally submitting credits calculations.

The certifying assessor is legally responsible for the final BAR, including all of its content. The certifying assessor must agree to all of the content in the final BAR.

In summary:

- Draft BARs should be clearly labelled as “Draft Report/Not for Submission”.
- A draft BAR cannot be submitted by a client.
- Submitting a draft BAR to a consent authority can result in compliance or accreditation investigations.
- The certifying assessor is legally responsible for the final BAR.

Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) 2020 Operational Manual Stage 2

Stage 2 of the BAM Operational Manual has been updated to align with BAM 2020. The manual provides operational guidance to assist applicants and accredited assessors to apply the BAM. The manual is available on the [publications page](#) and via the [assessor resources page](#).

Updates to threatened entity data in BioNet and the BAM-C

Over the next few months, data in BioNet and the Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection (TBDC) will be reviewed to ensure BAM assessments are conducted using the most current available information for threatened entities.

Inconsistencies may occur between BioNet and BAM-C due to unavoidable delays in importing BioNet updates into the BAM-C. This will impact in-progress assessments. Assessors should continue to access BioNet for the most current information. They may need to manually add species to candidate species lists in the BAM-C. Assessors may only remove species from candidate species lists in accordance with the BAM, or where evidence is provided in the BAR to demonstrate removal is consistent with current BioNet data. For more information about changing the candidate species lists in the BAM-C, please refer to the 'Biodiversity data' tab of the Assessor questions and answers webpage.

New changes to threatened entity data in BioNet

Listed below are known changes to threatened entity data in BioNet that have not yet been imported into the BAM-C.

The following IBRA subregions have been added to the distribution of species:

- **Lachlan IBRA subregion:** *Aprasia parapulchella* (Pink-tailed Legless Lizard) (known)
- **Murrumbidgee IBRA subregion:** *Aprasia parapulchella* (Pink-tailed Legless Lizard) (predicted)
- **Wyong IBRA subregion:** *Meridolum maryae* (Maroubra Woodland Snail) (known)
- **Burraborang IBRA subregion:** *Pommerhelix duralensis* (Dural Land Snail) (known)
- **Sydney Cataract IBRA subregion:** *Pommerhelix duralensis* (Dural Land Snail) (predicted).

The following PCTs have additional species associations:

- PCTs **157, 158, 159, 164, 216, and 236** have an additional species association for *Aprasia parapulchella* (Pink-tailed Legless Lizard).

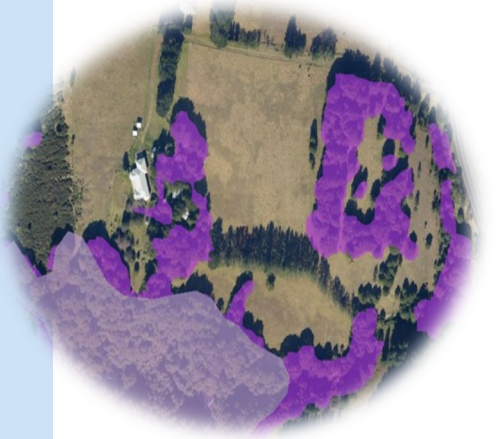
Biodiversity Values Map updates

Biodiversity Values Map Update Version 15

The Biodiversity Values (BV) Map V15 was published on 29 March 2023. Updates are based on new and improved mapping of biodiversity values, removal of land that is now developed and other map review changes.

The V15 update includes:

- changes from 75 landholder-initiated map reviews
- revised mapping for the serious and irreversible impact (SAIL) species, *Grevillea caleyi*
- addition of new mapping for four threatened ecological communities and revised mapping for one threatened ecological community in the NSW Southern Highlands
- old growth and rainforest mapping refinement
- a new Ramsar Wetland – Caryapundy Swamp
- removals of developed land
- removal of biocertified land under Cumberland Plains Conservation Plan
- removal of some Category 1-Exempt Land.



Updated spatial data is available through the [SEED Portal](#). Landholders or agents, who consider a property's BV mapping is incorrect, can apply for a [BV Explanatory Report and Map Review](#). For more information go to the [Biodiversity Values Map webpage](#) or contact the [Map Review Team](#).

Credit supply and demand updates

BCT's April 2023 statewide Credit Tender postponed

The BCT's April 2023 Statewide Credit Tender has been postponed until further notice. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience. The BCT is still seeking to purchase credits to meet offset obligations from developers who have opted to pay into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund. We will let you know as soon as the new dates for the Tender are confirmed. If you have any queries on the Tender please view the information on the [Credit Tenders](#) webpage or email us at offsets@bct.nsw.gov.au.

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) update

Since July 2022, 29 new BSAs have been approved, resulting in 148,490 in-demand credits being generated. Total area under all stewardship agreements has increased to 57,440 hectares (since 2010), with 19,818 hectares added so far this financial year as at 31 March. Around 70 BSA applications are being processed. A range of improvements are being made to BSA-related resources and tools, including the BSA template, application form, management plan template, BSSAR template and BSA application guide. These will be made available soon and the improvements will make it easier to establish a BSA. A forum on these products will be held for accredited assessors on 27 April 2023 (see below for more information).

Supply Fund

Bids in the second reverse auction closed on 13 March 2023, and resulted in credits for 23 of the 48 target ecosystem credit types and 16 of the 66 target species credit types

being offered. The bids were evaluated for eligibility, price and market sounding, and around \$70 million in credits were approved for purchase.

Participants in the auction were notified of the results on 17 April 2023. The credit transfers will take place over the next few months.

For those who were unable to sell their credits through this reverse auction, the Taskforce is regularly engaging with potential buyers and our forecast of demand is expanding. If we field interest from buyers for the credits offered through the reverse auction who are interested in direct negotiations, we may get in touch to see if you would like us to provide them with your contact details. You can also sell your credits independently.

The next reverse auction will likely commence in mid-2023.

For more information, please refer to the [Supply Fund webpage](#) or email SupplyFund@environment.nsw.gov.au.

The Biodiversity Credits Catalogue No. 1

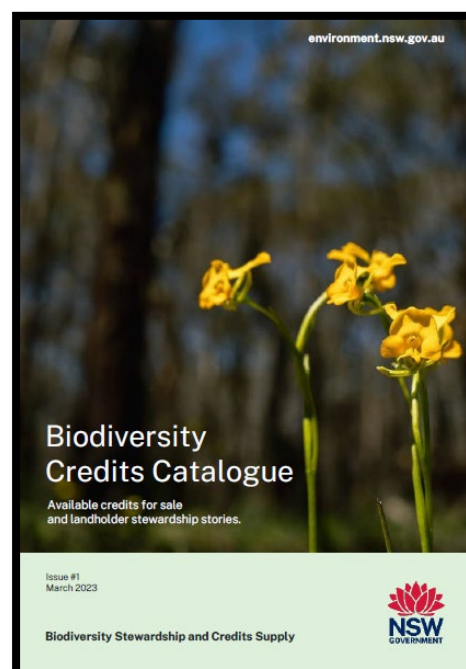
The **Biodiversity Credits Catalogue** is a new initiative to help sellers of biodiversity credits connect with potential buyers.

The first edition of the catalogue includes a selection of available species and ecosystem credits, as well as some case studies and landholder stories from existing stewardship sites.

Buyers can use the catalogue to contact sellers directly to purchase credits for offsetting development or philanthropic purposes.

The catalogue will be updated and released quarterly and available online soon. To request a copy of the catalogue, please email

Stewardship@environment.nsw.gov.au. Please share the catalogue with interested parties, including potential buyers.



Credit Supply Fund Taskforce engagement and communication

The Taskforce is expanding its communication and avenues to engage with stakeholders and market participants, including:

Online forums for Local Government

The first was held on 30 March 2023, with others planned in May, July and September. [The most recent online forum can be seen here](#)

Online forums for accredited assessors

The first to be held on 27 April, with others planned for June, August and October. [Register here for the 'Online Forum for Accredited Assessors: BSA resources and supporting tool'](#)

With Local Land Services – an information seminar titled ‘Production in the Rangelands Forum’ in Hay on 19 April

With NSW Farmers – workshops in Wagga Wagga on 4 May and Dubbo on 17 May

Environment and Heritage Group, Department of Planning and Environment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124. Phone: 1300 361 967 (environment and national parks enquiries); email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au; website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au.
EHG 2023/0179 May 2023.