

# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 1

9 February 2022

## Accredited Assessor and Local Government Updates now merged to the new Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Updates

From January 2022, the Accredited Assessor (AA) and Local Government (LG) updates have merged into one overarching newsletter; the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Updates (BOS Updates).

The BOS Updates provide accredited assessors and local government shared information that is consistent and up to date with the latest improvements and advice on the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (the Scheme). Our aim is to improve how we communicate with our partners to help support delivery of the Scheme. Your feedback on how we can improve is encouraged. Please submit your feedback on our form: [Your feedback: BOS Updates Newsletter](#) (3 minutes).

If you would like to update your details, be added to our BOS Updates distribution list, or forward this to a colleague, please [subscribe to our BOS Update newsletters](#). A list of all our previous AA and LG updates can be viewed on [Accredited Assessor Updates](#) and [Local Government Updates](#).

### In this update

1. Happy New Year and welcome back
2. New name, now Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
3. Quick recap: December 2021 updates
4. BCT Statistics
5. Indicative Demand Analysis
6. Quick guide to find biodiversity credits to offset your credit obligation
7. Upcoming BOS Support Webinar
8. BOS now applies to complying development on non-rural land above the BOS threshold
9. Public display of SAIL entities

#### For Accredited Assessors

10. TBDC Enhancements now live
11. Revised PCTs for eastern NSW – seeking input for major projects

#### For Local Government

12. Sponsorship opportunity for local government BOS training

## 1. Happy New Year and welcome back

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme team hope you had a great start to 2022. We are looking forward to continuing to work with you – our partners – to implement, improve and understand the Scheme. Our focus this year is better collaboration. Together, we will continue to improve how we can support our partners through more effective communication and engagement.

## 2. New name, now Department of Planning and Environment

On 20 December 2021, NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet and Deputy Premier Paul Toole announced a new Cabinet team to focus on delivering the NSW Government's vision for the state. There will be some Machinery of Government changes to support the new Ministry, which will take effect on 1 April 2022. More information will be provided as the details of these arrangements are finalised. DPIE has now changed its name to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE – the department).

## 3. Quick recap: December 2021 updates

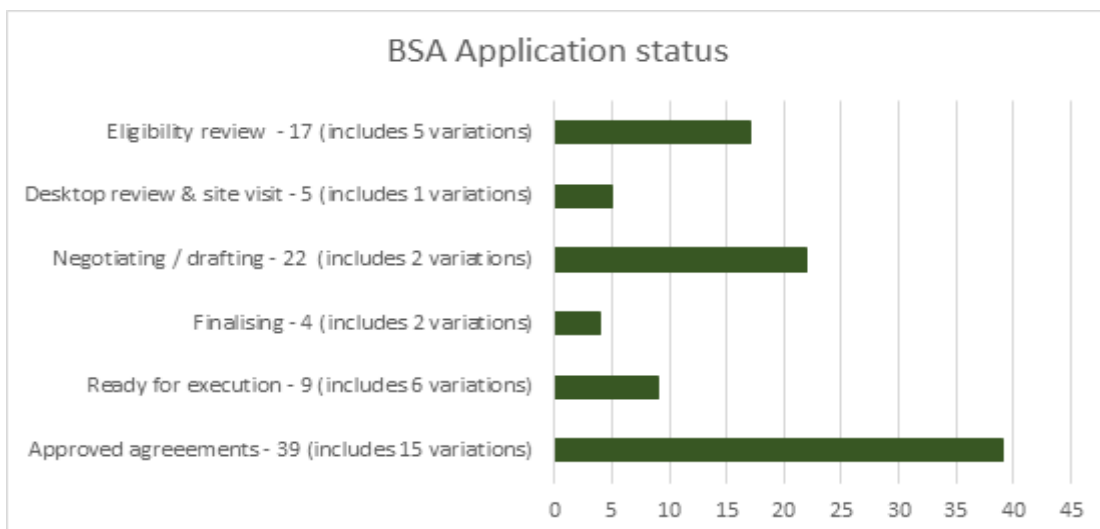
- **Hearings for the Parliamentary Inquiry**  
The Parliamentary Inquiry hearings for the BOS were held on 9 December 2021 and 10 December 2021 and included evidence from Accredited Assessors, landholders, industry groups, local government and State Government. The Committee's report is expected in March, and Government will have 6 months to formally respond.
- **Vegetation SEPP amendments**  
The State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017 (Vegetation SEPP) was amended on 17 September 2021 to replace the transitional Clause 27 with a permanent framework for land clearing associated with routine agricultural activities. The updated framework commenced on 18 December 2021. For more details go to the Vegetation SEPP webpage.
- **Call out for case studies**  
To help understand the benefits of the Scheme for landholders, developers, or other participants we are looking for case studies that reflect how the Scheme is working in practice. Please submit your story or case study here. For an example, here is a recent case study we put together with the help of a landholder: Case study: successful biodiversity stewardship site.
- **Opportunities to sell credits to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust**  
The selling credits to the BCT webpage provides information on upcoming programs in which the BCT seeks to purchase credits. Through these programs, the BCT commits to purchasing credits from existing credit owners and from landholders proposing to establish a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA). The December 2022 open fixed price offer is a current program. Applications close today. The 2022 Statewide credit tender will open on 2 March 2022.

### For Accredited Assessors:

- **BAM Calculator Updates**  
The BAM Calculator (BAM-C) was updated on 9 December 2021. For more information please see the Release Notes: BAM Calculator Enhancements.

- **Purchasing access to BOS and BAM eLearning modules**  
Participants in previous Accredited Assessor training run by Greencap between 2017 and 2020 can purchase access to the new BOS and BAM eLearning modules that were recently introduced to the training in 2021. For more information, [contact Greencap via their webpage](#).

## 4. BCT Statistics



## 5. Indicative Demand Analysis

As part of the ongoing roll out of the integrated improvement and assurance program, the NSW Government has recently undertaken an indicative demand analysis to assess the likely supply of ecosystem credits needed in NSW IBRA subregions. This project is part of a broader strategy to increase supply. The analysis is indicative only, and further work will be undertaken in 2022 to refine and validate information. To view the initial analysis, visit the [indicative demand for ecosystems](#) website.

## 6. Quick guide to find biodiversity credits to offset your credit obligation

We have developed a quick guide to help find BOS credits. Proponents seeking credits from the market to meet their obligations, can visit our [find biodiversity credits](#) website.

## 7. Upcoming BOS Support Webinar

The next BOS Support webinar will take place on 17 February 2022. The webinar will provide an overview of the accredited assessor audit conducted by the Compliance and Licensing Branch during 2020–21. Registrations for the upcoming Accredited Assessor Audit webinar are now open, visit the [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Support webinars](#) website to register.

A recording of the most recent BOS Support Webinar 25 – State Vegetation Type Map: PCT mapping methods and products is [available on our website](#). A transcript of the Q&A session has been summarised and is now [published](#) below the webinar recording, along with a [PDF of the presentation](#). The webinar covers how statewide PCTs mapping is undertaken, the available products and how it is maintained.

## **8. BOS now applies to complying development on non-rural land above the BOS threshold**

An amendment has been made to clause 1.16(3)(b) of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* to clarify requirements for complying development that involves clearing vegetation on non-rural land.

On non-rural land, if vegetation clearing needed to carry out complying development will be above the [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme threshold](#) then the [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme](#) applies. Impacts from complying development will generally be below the area component of the BOS threshold but would trigger the BOS if impacting on an area identified on the [Biodiversity Values Map](#).

If the BOS applies, the proponent must engage an accredited assessor to prepare a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report, and seek approval from the [Native Vegetation Panel](#). This approval is needed before a complying development certificate can be issued.

Non-rural land is land covered by the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017*.

## **9. Public display of Serious and Irreversible Impact nominations**

Anyone can submit a nomination at any time to revise the list of entities at risk of a Serious and Irreversible Impact (SAII). In general, updates to the list occur twice a year. Nominations are [publicly displayed](#) for 21 days on the Department's website. Recently received nominations are on display until late February. We encourage anyone with knowledge of threatened entities to view the nominations and, if you have data or information that supports or contradicts a nomination, please submit your feedback via the relevant nomination form for [species](#) or [TECs](#), selecting the option 'Provide feedback on a species currently being publicly displayed'.

## **For Accredited Assessors**

## **10. TBDC Enhancements now live**

The previous modifications flagged in the previous email to accredited assessors are now live. Please see attached release notes for more information.

## 11. Revised Plant Community Types (PCTs) for Eastern NSW – seeking input for major projects

On 8 November 2021, we announced the proposed transitional arrangements for the introduction of revised PCTs for eastern NSW into the Scheme. The transitional arrangements were presented during the BOS Support Webinar number 24 – [Update on the revised Eastern NSW Plant Community Type Classification and State Vegetation Type maps](#). The Q&A webinar session was documented in the [BAM Support Webinar 24 Q&A PDF](#).

If you have an interest in helping shape the transitional arrangements to accommodate the assessment processes for major projects, we would like to hear from you. Please contact [bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bam.support@environment.nsw.gov.au) with your contact details and a brief description of the types of major projects relevant to your work. BAM Support would welcome any written feedback outlining your questions, concerns and solutions.

## For Local Government

## 12. Grab your sponsorship opportunity now to receive new training for local government staff

The department is sponsoring local government staff to complete Biodiversity Offsets Scheme training from February to April 2022. To apply for a sponsorship, complete the 'Expression of Interest' form on [Greencap's website](#) before **COB Friday the 25 February**. Go to: 'Training for Local Government' then 'Sponsorship for council staff'.

-----**End of BOS Update No.1**-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (19 February 2022). 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 and Environment or the user's independent adviser.