

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 31

2 September 2024

Welcome to issue No. 31 of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update.

This monthly newsletter, published by the Nature Markets and Offsets (NMO) Division, is one of the ways we communicate and help support implementation of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. You can keep up to date [via our website](#) and view our [past newsletters online](#). The Biodiversity Conservation Trust's (BCT) twice-yearly newsletter is another source of information, which you can find on 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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General updates

Consultation on BOS amendments Bill

The NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee 7 is conducting an inquiry on legislative reforms to the scheme. Submissions close 6 September 2024.

On 15 August 2024, the Minister for the Environment introduced to Parliament the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024. The Bill will reform the scheme by strengthening avoid and minimise requirements, improving biodiversity outcomes, supporting a functioning biodiversity credit market, increasing efficiency and transparency, and better balancing application of the scheme with biodiversity risks.

The Minister referred the Bill to the Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment for review and further public consultation. The terms of reference are available on the Committee's website. We encourage all interested stakeholders to make a submission on the Bill. The closing date for submissions is 6 September 2024.

BOS local government workshop delivery

Thank you to everyone who attended the BOS local government workshops. Ten series of 2 workshops were delivered, comprising 8 in-person and 2 online series. The workshops were well received, with 145 local government employees from 58 Councils attending. Feedback from participants will be used to refine workshop content and inform future training initiatives.

'Sincere thanks for a great training package! It has provided clarification of a lot of components of the BOS and BAM and with that given me more confidence to make better informed assessment.'

– Workshop participant

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) for BOAMS and BAAS

To strengthen security, MFA will be applied to your accounts for Biodiversity Offsets and Agreements Management System (BOAMS) and Biodiversity Assessors and Accreditation System (BAAS) from mid-October.

NSW Cyber Security Policy requires the implementation of management and governance practices to help protect against common cyber security threats. Multi-factor authentication is a mandatory requirement under the policy. Multi-factor

authentication will be applied to your BOAMS and BAAS accounts from mid-October 2024. Multi-factor authentication adds an extra layer of protection by requiring a code sent to your email or Australian mobile number, in addition to your password. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks.

For credit owners and buyers

BCT Credit Tender complete, next tender opens 25/9

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) has completed making offers to purchase credits from successful bids in Credit Tender 24-01 and has notified all applicants whose bids were unsuccessful. A tender outcomes report will be published on our [Biodiversity Offsets Program outcomes](#) webpage by mid-September before the next tender opens. We are pleased to announce that [Credit Tender 24-02](#) will open for 2 weeks on **25 September 2024** and the Wanted Credits List and Participants Guide will be published 18 September. More information for Credit Tender 24-02 will be published on our [Credit Tenders](#) website soon. If you have any other questions about the tender, please email us at offsets@bct.nsw.gov.au.

Upcoming credit transfer and retirement applications

Applicants for BOS credit transfers and/or retirements are encouraged to notify NMO of any upcoming applications using this [online form](#). Providing this information is voluntary and will assist us to improve processing time. There is often high demand for these credit transactions at the end of each calendar year, so please submit your applications as soon as possible. Applications submitted after 29 November 2024 may not be approved until after 13 January 2025. If you have any questions, please contact bos.credits@environment.nsw.gov.au.

For accredited assessors

Feedback on Code of Conduct

NMO is seeking feedback from accredited assessors on the Code of Conduct to help identify gaps or recommend examples of non-compliant behaviour.

As part of work to improve the accreditation scheme and overall function of the BOS, we are seeking feedback on ways to improve implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Feedback is being sought from individual accredited assessors and key industry groups. Feedback will assist us to identifying gaps, examples of non-compliant behaviour and other suggestions on actions accredited assessors can take to ensure they operate within the Code of Conduct. If you have any feedback or questions, please contact the accreditation reset team via email accreditation.reset@environment.nsw.gov.au.

System update: Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator

The annual system updates for the BAM-C are scheduled for October 2024.

These updates will include refinement of the user interface, including error messaging and notifications; various error and bug fixes; and updates to threatened biodiversity data. Further information will be provided via email next month and will also be published in the next BOS Newsletter. These updates may result in change to in-progress cases. Finalise your case before October 2024 to avoid these changes. If you have any queries, please contact the BOS Help Desk (details above).

Renewal training registration

There are still places available for the following assessor renewal course webinars:

- 21–22 October 2024
- 30–31 October 2024
- 26–27 November 2024

Information about renewing accreditation can be found on the [renewing accreditation webpage](#). Please see our website for further information regarding [accredited assessor training and training availability](#). You can register and pay via your BOAMs account.

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