



# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Accredited Assessor Update 36

1 June 2020

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## 1. Draft BAM Accredited Assessors Complaint and Feedback Policy

A [draft Biodiversity Assessment Method – Accredited Assessors Complaint and Feedback Policy](#) (May 2020) has been published for consultation. It can be found on our webpage: [Accreditation to apply the Biodiversity Assessment Method](#) – see ‘Have your Say’ on the right hand side.

The policy outlines who can make a complaint, the nature of what the complaint can cover and how the Department will review and manage complaints.

Please send your comments on the draft policy to us **by Monday 15 June**.

[BAM\\_accreditation@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BAM_accreditation@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## 2. Extension of the accreditation term for assessors accredited in the 2017–18 financial year

The accreditation term for people accredited in the financial year 2017–18 is being extended. Assessors who are in this group have been contacted.

This decision has been made due to:

- Covid19 outbreak impacts on the ability to provide face-to-face refresher training and the project work of assessors.
- Assessors accredited during that year had reduced opportunity to undertake BAM assessments due to the staged implementation of the BOS.

Additionally, the extension will provide an opportunity for consultation with assessors on continuing professional development, as well as outcomes from the first audit of accredited assessors to help shape the renewal eligibility criteria and any refresher training.

If you have questions about your accreditation, please contact us at [BAM\\_accreditation@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BAM_accreditation@environment.nsw.gov.au)

### 3. Biodiversity Values Map Update V10

Version 10 of the BV Map was published on the 27 May 2020 access it at this link

[Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold \(BMAT\) Tool.](#)

The changes (also described on the [BV Map webpage](#)) are as follows:

- addition of revised mapping for the regent honeyeater
- addition of mapping for *Calotis moorei*
- changes resulting from landholder-initiated map reviews
- refinement of old growth and rainforest mapping
- removal of buildings and recently developed subdivisions
- new areas added to the map are shown as dark purple for 90 days and areas that were added in version 9 have changed from dark purple to pink and clearing native vegetation in these areas now trigger the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme
- improvement to viewing scale from 1:4500 down to 1:2000.

The updated spatial data will be available through the [SEED Portal](#).

### 4. Application of new or revised survey guidelines

If the Department publishes new or amend existing survey guides to support the application of the BAM, assessors are expected to apply these to **all assessments for which the survey component has yet to be completed, and to all new assessments that commence on, or after the publication date.** This is to ensure that your biodiversity assessment reports (BAR) meet the requirements of BAM s6.5.1.3.

Where survey has been completed prior to the publication of a survey guide, the Department expects the assessor (or surveyor) to have applied current best-practice in searching for the target species (in accordance with BAM s6.5.1.4). Assessors can use information from other published, peer-reviewed sources to guide survey technique and effort, but this must be clearly documented and justified in the BAR as well as indicating how this differs from our recently published guide.

### 5. Upcoming Bilateral Agreement Webinar

Registrations coming soon for the next webinar in the [BOS Support webinar series](#):

**Date**

Wednesday 10t June 2-3 pm.

**Topic**

The Australian Government has formally endorsed the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme through the EPBC Act Condition-setting policy and finalised amendments to the Assessment Bilateral Agreement. This webinar will step through the implications for the biodiversity assessments for projects that need approval under the EPBC Act and the steps to achieve further streamlining of assessments.

**Presenter**

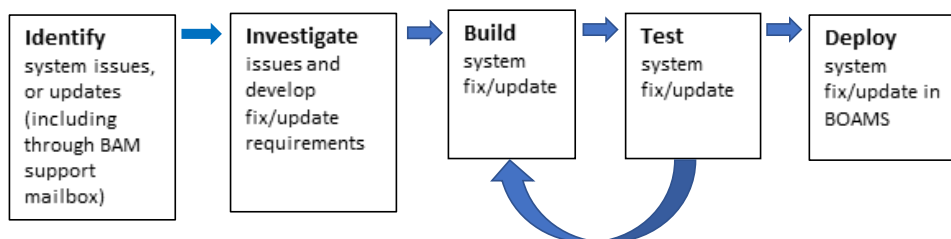
Amy Dumbrell, Principal Policy Officer. The panel will include Ms Michelle Cox, Principal Project Officer and Ms Kate Gowland (Dept. Agriculture, Water and the Environment).

## 6. Systems update

Thanks for your effort in reporting BOAMs issues via the BAM support mailbox. We understand the impact these issues can have on your work. See the table below showing the current status of priority system changes.

Description	Current status
<b>Quarter 2 BOPC 2020 update;</b> For further information, please contact <a href="mailto:bopc@environment.nsw.gov.au">bopc@environment.nsw.gov.au</a>	<b>Complete 20/5/20</b>
<b>Aligning BOAMs with the draft revised BAM</b>	<b>Test*</b>
<b>Consent Authority BOAMs access stage 2</b> Automated notification emails, Important Area Map view feature for consent authority users.	<b>Investigate*</b>
<b>Lot/DP field updates</b> Lot/DP fields added to child cases and locked when case status is 'Submitted' to tie to credit transactions. Amend from fully open, manual field for tighter verification and assurance purposes.	<b>Test*</b>
<b>Improving usability of BAMC</b> Ability to add additional vegetation zones for TEC and non-TEC variants of a single PCT. Amendments to streamlined assessment module. Modifications to streamline credit reports.	<b>Test*</b>

\* see flow diagram below

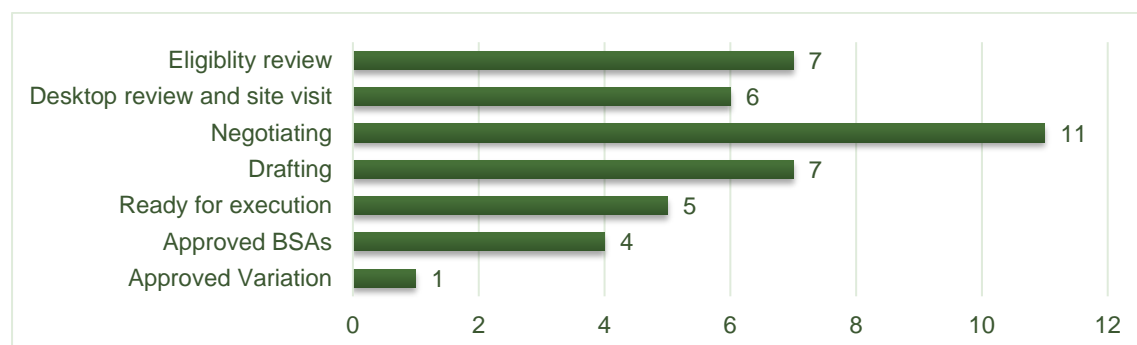


## 7. BCT Update

### Overview of variation process to add species credits to a BSA

- The Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and BAM Operational Manuals are to be applied. **Note:** additionality may apply in accordance with BAM 13.11.1.5.
- A variation application to add species credits must be submitted via Biodiversity Offset and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) and include a signed BSA Variation Application Form and supporting documentation.
- The BCT application review will not commence until the relevant fee has been paid, see Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Biodiversity Offset Scheme fees website for fee amounts.
- BAM plot data must be collected from the vegetation zone where the proposed species polygon is mapped. **Note:** it is not necessary to collect BAM plot data from areas of the site where BAM species credits are not proposed.
- Relevant BioBanking Assessment Method (BBAM) data can be supplemented with missing BAM attributes (e.g. stem diversity and litter cover) if BBAM data is less than five years old. Otherwise, new BAM plot data is required. **Note:** collecting new BAM plot data is often the simplest approach (See Assessor update 15).
- Species survey and species polygon mapping are undertaken as per the BAM and BAM Operation Manuals. **Note:** please check proposed approach and additional management actions with BCT before commencing.
- Additional management action costs must be added to the current version of the TFD calculator with the current date discount rate. Current TFD calculator is available on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website, Total Fund Deposit – Discount rate.

### Current status of Biodiversity Stewardships



#### End of Assessor Update No.36

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (1 June 2020). However, because of advances in knowledge, users 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, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.