

# Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 4

16 May 2022

**Welcome to Issue No. 4** 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* (BC Act). 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 [here](#). See past newsletters [here](#).

You can also find the Biodiversity Conservation Trust's (BCT) twice-yearly newsletter on the BCT's [Publication website](#).

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

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

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## Upcoming BOS Support Webinar 28

You are invited to attend the upcoming BOS Support Webinar 28 taking place next week on Wednesday 18 May 1:30-2:30 pm on the new BDAR template and Compliance and Assurance for Accredited Assessors. For more details including how to register, [click here](#).

## New Local Government Resource Manual

The [Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Local Government Resource Manual](#) has been prepared to assist local councils to implement Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and the scheme. It is a self-help tool that introduces key resources, clarifies the roles and responsibilities of local councils, and provides information about the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM). It is aimed at council staff reviewing and assessing development and vegetation clearing proposals and a key resource to accompany the Local Government e-Learning training.

## BARs must be certified and contain a finalised credit report

In accordance with [section 6.15\(1\)](#) of the BC Act, a Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR) must be certified by an accredited assessor as complying with the BAM. The BAR must be submitted to the decision-maker within 14 days of certification and include a credit report with the status as “finalised”. The date the assessor certifies (signs) the BDAR does not need to match the date on the finalised credit reports; however, to be considered valid, the BDAR must be submitted to the decision-maker within 14 days of the finalisation of the BAM-C. This ensures currency of assessment information in the BAR.

Draft BARs cannot be accepted under the legislation. Decision-makers must check each BAR to ensure it meets the requirements for certification.

## New fact sheet on the Biodiversity Values Map

A [fact sheet](#) aimed at solicitors, conveyancers, and prospective buyers has been published. It outlines the role of the BV Map in relation to the scheme, what landholders may need to consider in buying land on the BV map and how to check if a property is on the BV Map. The fact sheet also covers biodiversity certification. It has been provided to the NSW Law Society and the NSW Australian Institute of Conveyancers to circulate to their members.

## BCT update on BSA applications

The BCT continually receive and process biodiversity stewardship applications (BSA) from landholders across the state. The below statistics outline the number of BSAs and BSA variations received and their status in the review process.

