

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Accredited Assessor Update 52

17 December 2021

In this update

1. BAM Support Mailbox: Christmas shutdown
2. BAM Calculator updates
3. Vegetation SEPP amendments
4. Assessor training update
5. Purchasing access to BOS and BAM eLearning modules
6. Updating your contact details on the public register
7. Improvements to the BOS
8. Hearings for the Parliamentary Inquiry
9. Call out for case studies
10. Opportunities to sell credits to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust
11. BCT Statistics
12. Happy Holidays

1. BAM Support Mailbox: Christmas shutdown

The Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) support team will be taking a well-earned break over the Christmas-New Year holiday period. The BAM support mailbox will not be monitored from Friday 24 December 2020 to Friday 7 January 2021 inclusive. We will recommence responding to enquiries on Monday 10 January 2021.

2. BAM Calculator updates

The BAM Calculator (BAM-C) was updated on 9 December 2021. Updates include:

- general enhancements to improve useability, e.g. users can now open a new revision in a previously submitted case
- resolved issues, e.g. in the stewardship module, where there is more than one management zone, the vegetation integrity score (without management) now calculates correctly

- updates to messaging and notifications, e.g. a new message was added to tabs 7–9 on 15 December to explain how entities listed only in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) are managed within the BAM-C.

Refer to the attached release notes for further details. These updates will not impact auto-generated candidate and predicted species lists or associated credit outputs for in-progress or finalised cases.

3. 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. It will commence on 18 December 2021. Until then, the temporary arrangements under Clause 27 continue to apply. For more details, go to the Vegetation SEPP webpage.

4. Assessor training update

The Department of Planning and Environment (the department) currently engages Greencap as the provider for Accredited Assessor and Renewal training. The department's procurement policies require the delivery contract to be renewed by the end of April 2022. Any changes to current arrangements will be published on the department's BOS webpages for Accredited Assessors. The department, in partnership with Greencap, aims to ensure regular training courses continue to be delivered to support accreditation.

Accredited Assessor Training

In line with the 3-month completion window, enrolments for this training will close 31 January 2022, and all components must be completed prior to 30 April 2022.

Assessor Renewal Training

In line with the 2-month completion window, enrolments for this training will close 28 February 2022, and all components must be completed prior to 30 April 2022.

Greencap is currently scheduling webinar dates for 2022, and they will be displayed on their website.

5. Purchasing access to BOS and BAM eLearning modules

Participants in previous Accredited Assessor training run by Greencap can purchase access to Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) and BAM eLearning modules. There are 13 online modules that can be completed at a self-directed pace. Contact Greencap via their webpage. Please note new eLearning for local government staff will be available from February 2022.

As explained in item 4 above, at this stage access to the eLearning modules will only be open until 30 April 2022 as the training delivery contract must be renewed.

6. Updating your contact details on the public register

Please check you contact details are up to date on the Accredited Assessor [public register](#).

To update your details please follow these instructions:

1. Log in to BOAMs and click on the drop down next to your name.



2. Select 'my account' to go to your account profile. From this page you can update your public register details.
3. Scroll down to find the fields labelled: 'Public Register Contact Details'.

7. Improvements to the BOS

The NSW Government is committed to improving the operation of the scheme to help ensure it delivers effective environmental and economic outcomes. There is now significant momentum in work to ensure the scheme is operating effectively. Recent initiatives are outlined on the [Improvements to the BOS](#) webpage.

Quick guide to finding credits now available: We have also created a quick guide to help you find the credits you need. If in doubt about how to register credits you have or need, please reach out to the [BOS Credits Team](#).

Improvements to credit registers coming: We are working on improvements to the BioBanking and BOS public registers to make them easier to use and to facilitate buyers and sellers finding each other. If you have suggestions on this, please email [BAM Support](#).

8. Hearings for the Parliamentary Inquiry

The Parliamentary Inquiry hearings included evidence from Accredited Assessors, landholders, industry groups, local government and state government. The BOS Team have found it a useful process to understand issues and hear from our stakeholders about the implementation of the scheme. As a result of submissions and the hearing process, we can see Members of Parliament have a growing understanding of the scheme. The Committee's report is expected in March and government will have 6 months to formally respond.

9. Call out for case studies

We would love to hear from you about how the BOS is working. Our goal is to share examples to help others understand the benefits of the BOS for landholders, developers or other participants. **Please submit your story or case study [here](#), or you can email [BAM Support](#) if you would like to find out more.** Here's an example of one we have put together recently with the help of a landholder.

Hunter landholder secures green haven

A 4000-hectare property near the Hunter is on its way to becoming a successful biodiversity stewardship site. The property, which was previously used for private native forestry, has generated a range of species and ecosystem credits including for koalas and squirrel gliders, and other parts of the land will continue to be used for grazing.

“It’s a beautiful, quiet area, a haven for me and my family and very green” says the landholder. “In this way we are able to earn income, protect the environment and keep the property in the family for future generations.”

The process of developing the stewardship site took a number of years but the landholder was excited to find breeding koalas, many different tree species, and a rare orchid. The management plan will include managing fire risk using a mosaic pattern to reduce impacts on the forest and controlling lantana. The landholder recommends employing a good quality Accredited Assessor (he found his through a local Stock and Station Agent) and found the BCT very friendly and helpful. He is hopeful of finding a buyer for his credits soon through one of the expressions of interest being run or to offset a local project.



10. Opportunities to sell credits to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust

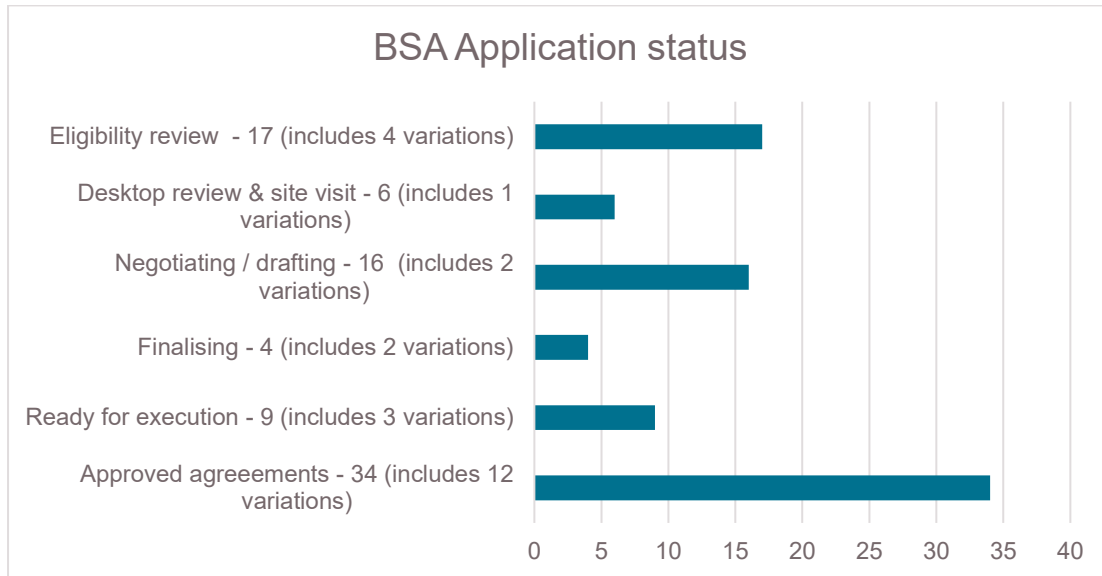
The [selling credits to the BCT](#) webpage provides information on upcoming programs in which the BCT seeks to purchase credits. Through these programs the BCT commits to purchasing credits from both existing credit owners and from landholders proposing to establish a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA).

The [December 2022 open fixed price offer](#) is a current program that is open for applications.

The [2022 Statewide credit tender](#) will open on 2 March 2022. Participants will be able to bid to sell credits that are listed on the BCT’s Wanted Credit List. The Wanted Credit List will be updated for the tender and will include credit types not previously released for the open fixed price offer. Landholders proposing a BSA will require a [business case](#) as a minimum level of assessment to participate in the tender.

The tender will be followed by the June 2022 Open Fixed Price Offer (FPO). Open FPOs are not being held in February or April 2022 due to the credit tender being released in March.

11. BCT Statistics



12. Happy Holidays

Last but not least - thank you for your continued efforts to understand and implement the BOS and BAM. The BAM Support team appreciate your patience during, what has been an unusual, and often challenging, year for most of us. From our team to yours – have a healthy, safe and restful break. We look forward to seeing you in 2022.

-----**End of Assessor Update No.52**-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (17 December 2021). 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.