Department of Planning and Environment

Release notes – Deployment of V1.2 Benchmarks in the BAM-C

January 2023

Deployment of V1.2 Benchmarks in the BAM-C

The V1.2 Vegetation Condition Benchmarks ("V1.2 benchmarks") will be deployed in the BAM Calculator (BAM-C) on 31 January 2023.
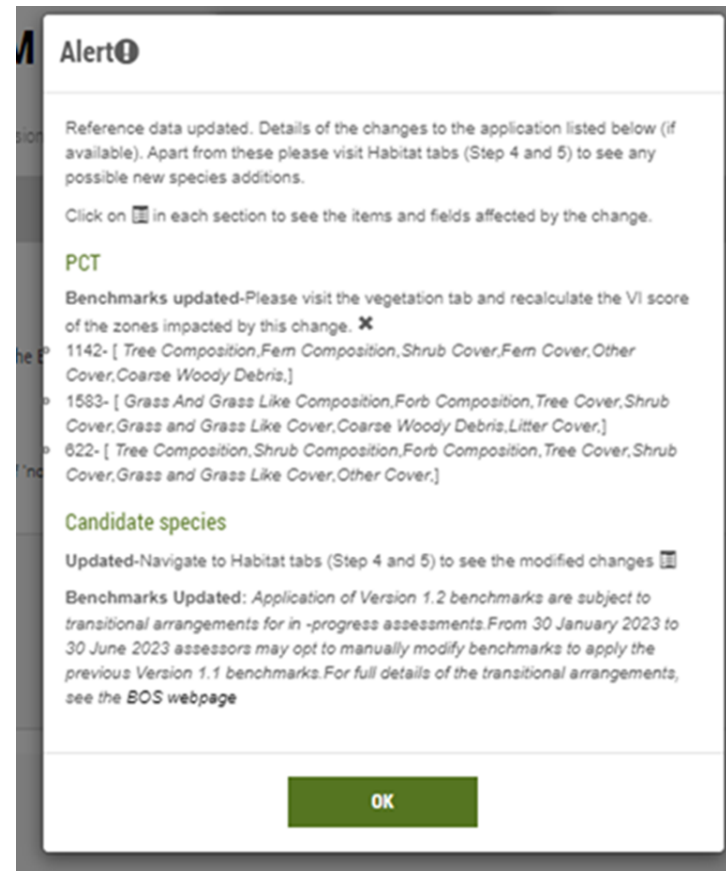
- New assessments created after the deployment will utilise the V1.2 benchmarks.

- "Open" assessments will update with the V1.2 benchmarks when viewed.

- "Locked" assessments will update with the V1.2 benchmarks when the "*Save as New Version*" option is selected.

- "Finalised" assessments will update with the V1.2 benchmarks when re-opened.

Please clear your browser cache after the update has been deployed to ensure the V1.2 benchmarks display correctly in your assessments.
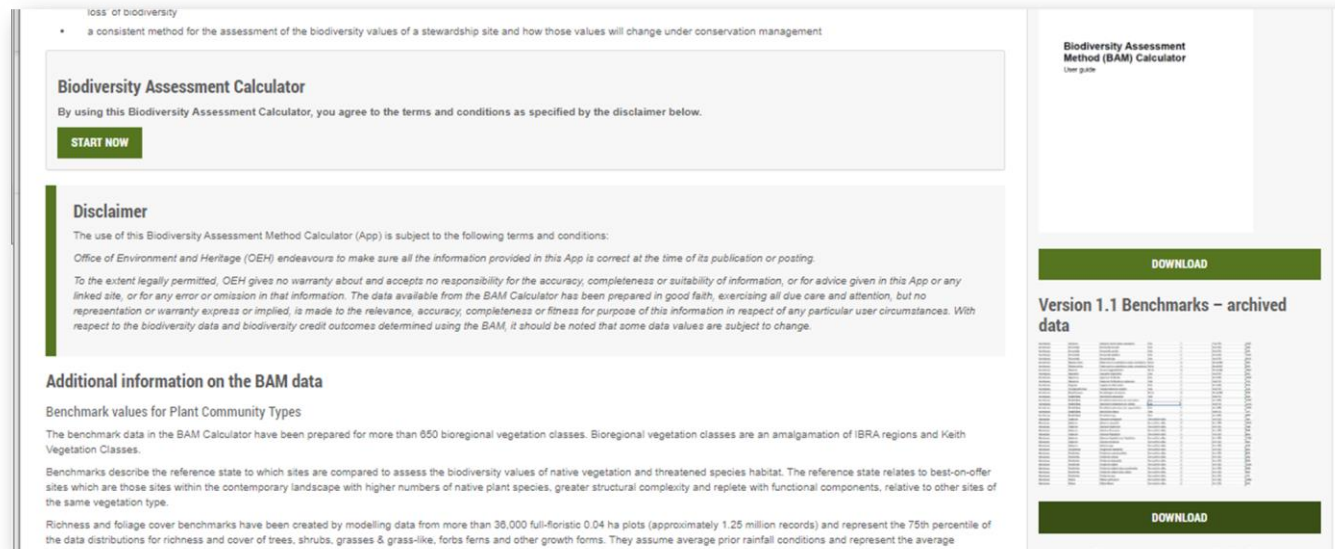
Deployment of V1.2 Benchmarks in the BAM-C

- When the V1.2 benchmark update is triggered, the BAM-C will display an alert containing details of the data update.

Alert

Reference data updated. Details of the changes to the application listed below (if available). Apart from these please visit Habitat tabs (Step 4 and 5) to see any possible new species additions.

Click on ▦ in each section to see the items and fields affected by the change.

PCT

Benchmarks updated-Please visit the vegetation tab and recalculate the VI score of the zones impacted by this change. ✖

1142- [*Tree Composition,Fern Composition,Shrub Cover,Fern Cover,Other Cover,Coarse Woody Debris,*]

1583- [*Grass And Grass Like Composition,Forb Composition,Tree Cover,Shrub Cover,Grass and Grass Like Cover,Coarse Woody Debris,Litter Cover,*]

622- [*Tree Composition,Shrub Composition,Forb Composition,Tree Cover,Shrub Cover,Grass and Grass Like Cover,Other Cover,*]

Candidate species

Updated-Navigate to Habitat tabs (Step 4 and 5) to see the modified changes ▦

Benchmarks Updated: *Application of Version 1.2 benchmarks are subject to transitional arrangements for in -progress assessments.From 30 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 assessors may opt to manually modify benchmarks to apply the previous Version 1.1 benchmarks.For full details of the transitional arrangements, see the BOS webpage*

OK

Transitional arrangements for applying V1.1 Benchmarks

- The BAM-C update to V1.2 benchmarks will be subject to a 6-month transitional period for in-progress and finalised assessments. The transitional arrangements do not apply to assessments commenced after the update of the V1.2 benchmarks in the BAM-C.

- Transitional arrangements allow assessors with in-progress and finalised assessments on the date of the V1.2 benchmarks import to continue to use V1.1 benchmarks. Assessors wishing to apply the V1.1 benchmarks must do so manually using the "*Modify default benchmarks*" function in the BAM-C.

- The application of transitional arrangements must be documented in the BAR in accordance with the advice published on the BOS web page.

- The archived V1.1 Benchmark data is available on the BAM-C information page:

Applying V1.1 Benchmarks in the BAM-C

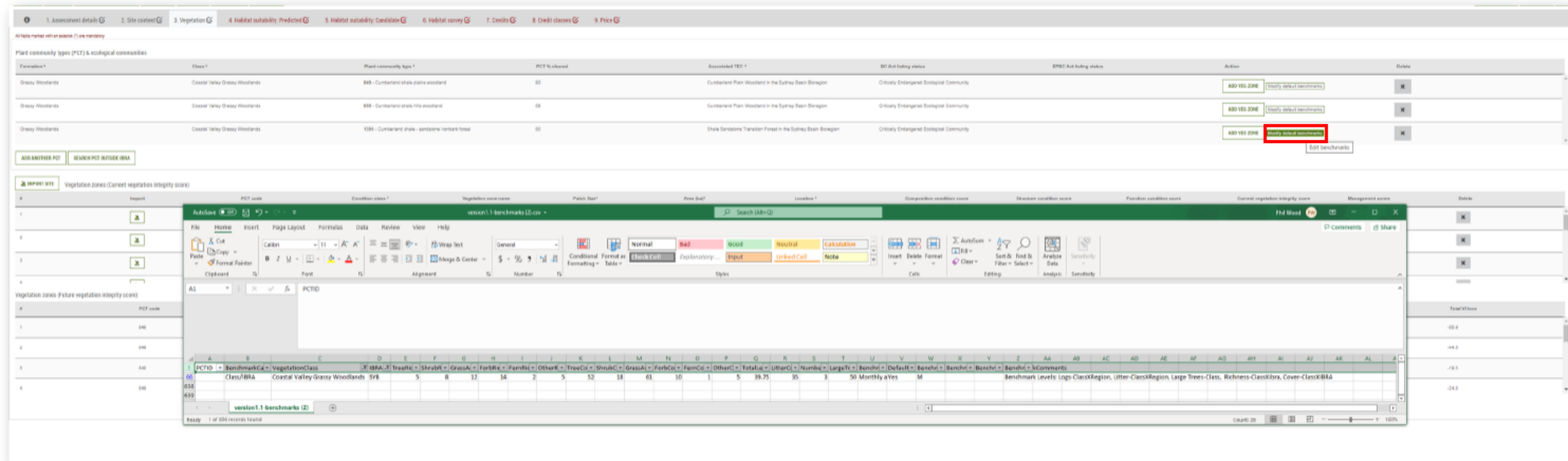- **Step 1:** Click on the "Open" button in the BAM-C.
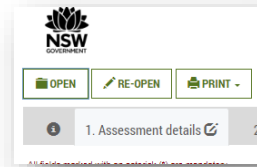
- **Step 2:** Take a screenshot of the dialogue box and include it in the BAR. The "*Updated on*" date will provide evidence the assessment was Open, Locked or Finalised before the V1.2 benchmark update was deployed.

- **Step 3:** Download the archived V1.1 Benchmarks from the BAM-C information page. Note the IBRA region and the Vegetation Class for each PCT in the assessment.

Applying V1.1 Benchmarks in the BAM-C
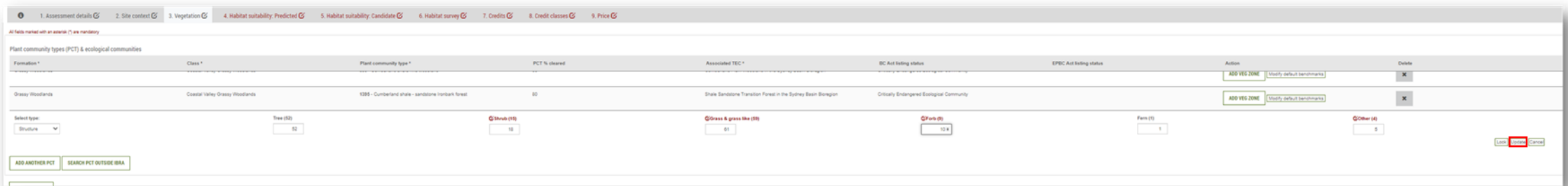
- **Step 4:** On Tab 3, click "*Modify default benchmarks*"

- **Step 5:** Select "*Unlock*" to edit values. Enter the V1.1 values for each attribute where the value differs from the V1.2 value.

Applying V1.1 Benchmarks in the BAM-C
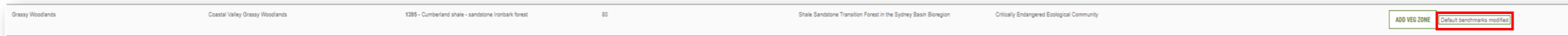
- **Step 6:** Select "*Update*" to apply the amended values to the vegetation integrity calculation.

- **Step 7:** Complete Steps 5 and 6 for the Composition, Structure and Function components of all PCTs. All PCTs should denote that Default benchmarks have been modified.

- **Step 8:** Take a screen shot of the modified benchmarks for all PCTs for inclusion in the BAR.

Resources and Support

Assessor resources and contacts for support include:

- DPE webpages:
  - New vegetation integrity benchmarks and plant community types
  - Revised Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM);
  - Accredited assessors website:
    - Assessor resources (links to legislation, databases, manuals and guidelines, assessor correspondence);
    - Assessor frequently asked questions;
    - BAM support webinars;
  - Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAII) guidance and list of entities at risk;
  - Threatened species profile search;
  - Saving our Species (SoS) program;
  - NSW Scientific Committee Determinations;
- EPBC profile database (species and ecological communities);
- PlantNet (NSW flora online);
- NSW government SEED database (publicly available environmental data);
- BOS Helpdesk (the replacement for BAM Support mailbox).