

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.

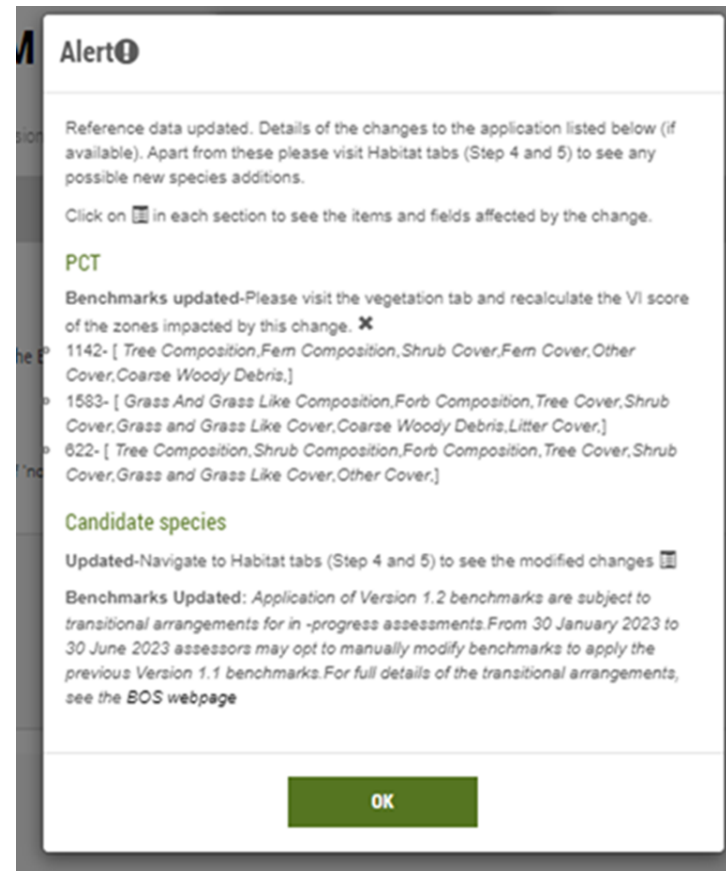
- New assessments created after the deployment will utilise the V1.2 benchmarks.
- “Open” assessments will update with the V1.2 benchmarks when viewed.
- “Locked” assessments will update with the V1.2 benchmarks when the “*Save as New Version*” option is selected.
- “Finalised” assessments will update 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

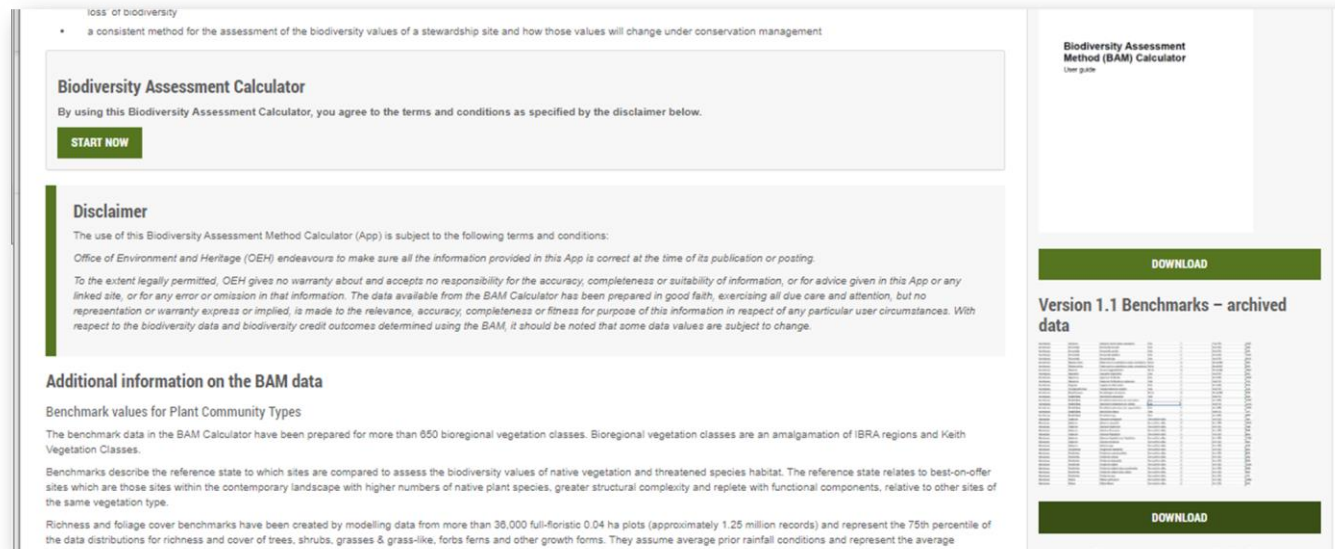
- When the V1.2 benchmark update is triggered, the BAM-C will display an alert containing details of the data update.

When opening BAM-C, expand the details of the updated data in the alert and take a screenshot of the alert. Alerts will not display once the case has been saved.



# 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:



loss of biodiversity

- a consistent method for the assessment of the biodiversity values of a stewardship site and how those values will change under conservation management

**Biodiversity Assessment Calculator**

By using this Biodiversity Assessment Calculator, you agree to the terms and conditions as specified by the disclaimer below.

**START NOW**

**Disclaimer**

The use of this Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator (App) is subject to the following terms and conditions:

Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) endeavours to make sure all the information provided in this App is correct at the time of its publication or posting.

To the extent legally permitted, OEH gives no warranty about and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or suitability of information, or for advice given in this App or any linked site, or for any error or omission in that information. The data available from the BAM Calculator has been prepared in good faith, exercising all due care and attention, but no representation or warranty express or implied, is made to the relevance, accuracy, completeness or fitness for purpose of this information in respect of any particular user circumstances. With respect to the biodiversity data and biodiversity credit outcomes determined using the BAM, it should be noted that some data values are subject to change.

**Additional information on the BAM data**

**Benchmark values for Plant Community Types**

The benchmark data in the BAM Calculator have been prepared for more than 650 bioregional vegetation classes. Bioregional vegetation classes are an amalgamation of IBRA regions and Keith Vegetation Classes.

Benchmarks describe the reference state to which sites are compared to assess the biodiversity values of native vegetation and threatened species habitat. The reference state relates to best-on-offer sites which are those sites within the contemporary landscape with higher numbers of native plant species, greater structural complexity and replete with functional components, relative to other sites of the same vegetation type.

Richness and foliage cover benchmarks have been created by modelling data from more than 38,000 full-floristic 0.04 ha plots (approximately 1.25 million records) and represent the 75th percentile of the data distributions for richness and cover of trees, shrubs, grasses & grass-like, forbs ferns and other growth forms. They assume average prior rainfall conditions and represent the average

**Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) Calculator**  
(see page)

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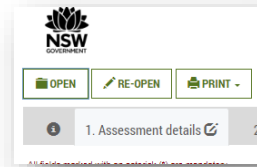
**Version 1.1 Benchmarks – archived data**

| Vegetation Class | Richness | Foliage Cover |
|------------------|----------|---------------|
| 1.1.1            | 10       | 10            |
| 1.1.2            | 15       | 15            |
| 1.1.3            | 20       | 20            |
| 1.1.4            | 25       | 25            |
| 1.1.5            | 30       | 30            |
| 1.1.6            | 35       | 35            |
| 1.1.7            | 40       | 40            |
| 1.1.8            | 45       | 45            |
| 1.1.9            | 50       | 50            |
| 1.1.10           | 55       | 55            |
| 1.1.11           | 60       | 60            |
| 1.1.12           | 65       | 65            |
| 1.1.13           | 70       | 70            |
| 1.1.14           | 75       | 75            |
| 1.1.15           | 80       | 80            |
| 1.1.16           | 85       | 85            |
| 1.1.17           | 90       | 90            |
| 1.1.18           | 95       | 95            |
| 1.1.19           | 100      | 100           |
| 1.1.20           | 105      | 105           |
| 1.1.21           | 110      | 110           |
| 1.1.22           | 115      | 115           |
| 1.1.23           | 120      | 120           |
| 1.1.24           | 125      | 125           |
| 1.1.25           | 130      | 130           |
| 1.1.26           | 135      | 135           |
| 1.1.27           | 140      | 140           |
| 1.1.28           | 145      | 145           |
| 1.1.29           | 150      | 150           |
| 1.1.30           | 155      | 155           |
| 1.1.31           | 160      | 160           |
| 1.1.32           | 165      | 165           |
| 1.1.33           | 170      | 170           |
| 1.1.34           | 175      | 175           |
| 1.1.35           | 180      | 180           |
| 1.1.36           | 185      | 185           |
| 1.1.37           | 190      | 190           |
| 1.1.38           | 195      | 195           |
| 1.1.39           | 200      | 200           |
| 1.1.40           | 205      | 205           |
| 1.1.41           | 210      | 210           |
| 1.1.42           | 215      | 215           |
| 1.1.43           | 220      | 220           |
| 1.1.44           | 225      | 225           |
| 1.1.45           | 230      | 230           |
| 1.1.46           | 235      | 235           |
| 1.1.47           | 240      | 240           |
| 1.1.48           | 245      | 245           |
| 1.1.49           | 250      | 250           |
| 1.1.50           | 255      | 255           |
| 1.1.51           | 260      | 260           |
| 1.1.52           | 265      | 265           |
| 1.1.53           | 270      | 270           |
| 1.1.54           | 275      | 275           |
| 1.1.55           | 280      | 280           |
| 1.1.56           | 285      | 285           |
| 1.1.57           | 290      | 290           |
| 1.1.58           | 295      | 295           |
| 1.1.59           | 300      | 300           |
| 1.1.60           | 305      | 305           |
| 1.1.61           | 310      | 310           |
| 1.1.62           | 315      | 315           |
| 1.1.63           | 320      | 320           |
| 1.1.64           | 325      | 325           |
| 1.1.65           | 330      | 330           |
| 1.1.66           | 335      | 335           |
| 1.1.67           | 340      | 340           |
| 1.1.68           | 345      | 345           |
| 1.1.69           | 350      | 350           |
| 1.1.70           | 355      | 355           |
| 1.1.71           | 360      | 360           |
| 1.1.72           | 365      | 365           |
| 1.1.73           | 370      | 370           |
| 1.1.74           | 375      | 375           |
| 1.1.75           | 380      | 380           |
| 1.1.76           | 385      | 385           |
| 1.1.77           | 390      | 390           |
| 1.1.78           | 395      | 395           |
| 1.1.79           | 400      | 400           |
| 1.1.80           | 405      | 405           |
| 1.1.81           | 410      | 410           |
| 1.1.82           | 415      | 415           |
| 1.1.83           | 420      | 420           |
| 1.1.84           | 425      | 425           |
| 1.1.85           | 430      | 430           |
| 1.1.86           | 435      | 435           |
| 1.1.87           | 440      | 440           |
| 1.1.88           | 445      | 445           |
| 1.1.89           | 450      | 450           |
| 1.1.90           | 455      | 455           |
| 1.1.91           | 460      | 460           |
| 1.1.92           | 465      | 465           |
| 1.1.93           | 470      | 470           |
| 1.1.94           | 475      | 475           |
| 1.1.95           | 480      | 480           |
| 1.1.96           | 485      | 485           |
| 1.1.97           | 490      | 490           |
| 1.1.98           | 495      | 495           |
| 1.1.99           | 500      | 500           |
| 1.1.100          | 505      | 505           |

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# Applying V1.1 Benchmarks in the BAM-C

- **Step 1:** Click on the “Open” button in the BAM-C.



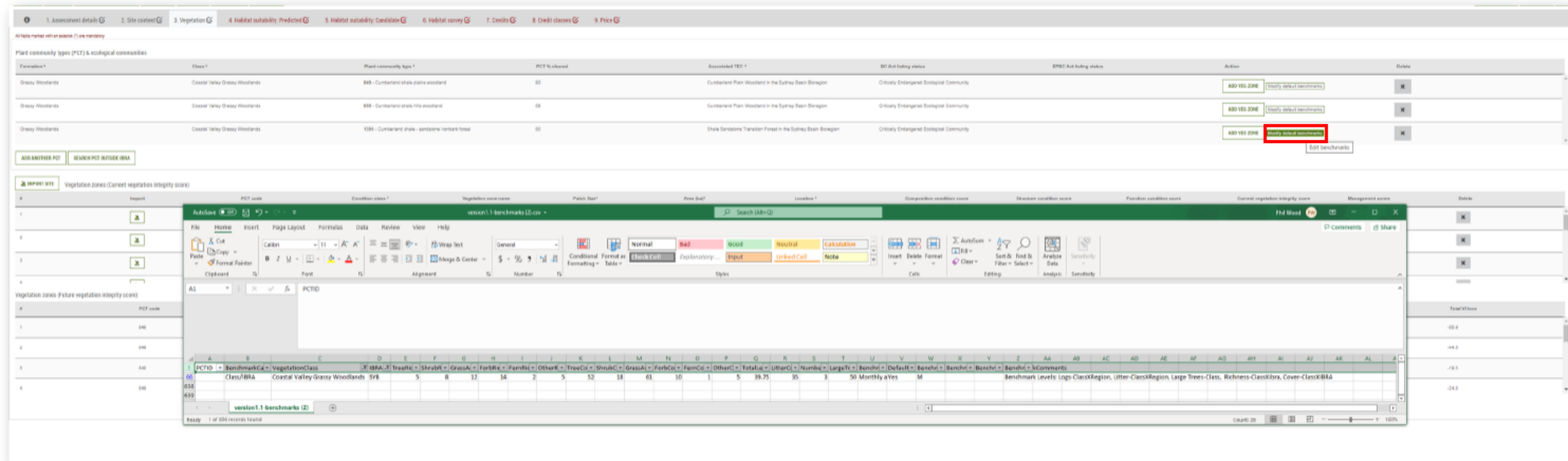
- **Step 2:** Take a screenshot of the dialogue box and include it in the BAR. The “*Updated on*” date will provide evidence the assessment was Open, Locked or Finalised before the V1.2 benchmark update was deployed.

| Assessment ID                 | Proposal Name | Status    | Revision | Updated on          |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------------|
| 00036154/BAAS0123422/00036155 |               | Finalised | 6        | 25/01/2023 13:40:49 |
| 00036154/BAAS0123422/00036155 |               | Locked    | 5        | 25/01/2023 13:40:18 |
| 00036154/BAAS0123422/00036155 |               | Locked    | 4        | 25/01/2023 13:39:49 |
| 00036154/BAAS0123422/00036155 |               | Finalised | 3        | 21/10/2022 14:26:47 |
| 00036154/BAAS0123422/00036155 |               | Finalised | 2        | 21/10/2022 14:21:27 |
| 00036154/BAAS0123422/00036155 |               | Finalised | 1        | 20/10/2022 14:49:56 |
| 00036154/BAAS0123422/00036155 |               | Finalised | 0        | 20/10/2022 14:47:46 |

- **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*”



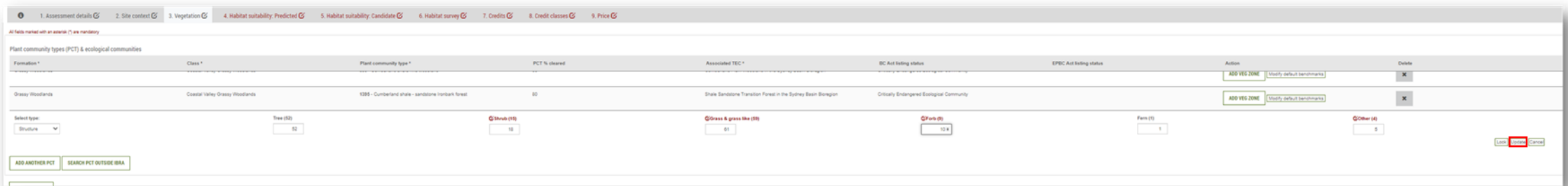
The screenshot displays the BAM-C interface with a table of plant community types and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet overlay. The table lists plant community types (PCT) and their associated benchmarks. The Excel spreadsheet shows the 'version 1.1 benchmarks (2).csv' file, with the 'Unlock' button for the 'Modify default benchmarks' column highlighted in red.

| Formations*      | Class*                          | Plant community type*                               | PCT % observed | Associated TEC*  | EC Outgoing status                         | EMEC Outgoing status | Action  | Delete |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------|--|--|----------------------|---|--------|
| Grassy Woodlands | Coastal Valley Grassy Woodlands | 888 - Cumberland shales plain woodland              | 33             | Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Biogen         | Critically Endangered Ecological Community |                      | ADD VES ZONE <input type="button" value="Modify default benchmarks"/> | X      |
| Grassy Woodlands | Coastal Valley Grassy Woodlands | 888 - Cumberland shales table woodland              | 33             | Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Biogen         | Critically Endangered Ecological Community |                      | ADD VES ZONE <input type="button" value="Modify default benchmarks"/> | X      |
| Grassy Woodlands | Coastal Valley Grassy Woodlands | 1386 - Cumberland shales - sandstone network forest | 33             | Shale Sandstone Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Biogen | Critically Endangered Ecological Community |                      | ADD VES ZONE <input type="button" value="Modify default benchmarks"/> | X      |

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

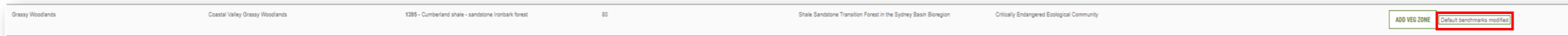
# Applying V1.1 Benchmarks in the BAM-C

- **Step 6:** Select “*Update*” to apply the amended values to the vegetation integrity calculation.



The screenshot shows the 'Habitat suitability: Predicted' step of the BAM-C process. It displays a table of Plant Community Types (PCT) and ecological communities. The 'Action' column for the selected PCT has a red 'Update' button highlighted. Below the table, there are input fields for various vegetation components: Tree (52), Shrub (18), Grass & grass like (51), Forb (10), Fern (1), and Other (5). There are also buttons for 'ADD ANOTHER PCT' and 'SEARCH PCT OUTSIDE BBA'.

- **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.



This screenshot shows a close-up of the 'Action' column for the selected PCT. The 'ADD VEG ZONE' button is highlighted in green, and the 'Default benchmarks modified' status is highlighted in red, indicating that the benchmarks have been successfully updated.

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

# Resources and Support

If you have any questions, feedback or issues, please contact us at [bos.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bos.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au)

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 \(SII\)](#) 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).