

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update No. 20

26 September 2023

Welcome to Issue No. 20 of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Update.

The Biodiversity Offsets 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. Keep up to date [via our website](#).

This monthly newsletter is one of the ways in which we communicate and help support the implementation of the scheme. You can view our past newsletters [on our website](#). The Biodiversity Conservation Trust's (BCT) twice-yearly newsletter is another source of information. You can find it at the [BCT's publications website](#).

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

- Help Desk line 1800 931 717, staffed Tuesday to Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm
- Help Desk mailbox BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au, monitored Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm.

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Biodiversity Assessment Method updates

Important: Swift parrot and regent honeyeater important habitat maps updated and available from 27 September 2023

The updates will be available on the Biodiversity Offset and Agreement Management System (BOAMS) map viewer from 27 September 2023.

- The **swift parrot important habitat map update** (version 1.2) incorporates survey data from 2022 and the most current version (C1.1.M1.1) of the State Vegetation Type Map (SVTM).
- The **regent honeyeater important habitat map update** (version 1.4) replaces the older vegetation mapping previously used for the Hunter breeding area with the SVTM version C1.1.M1.1.

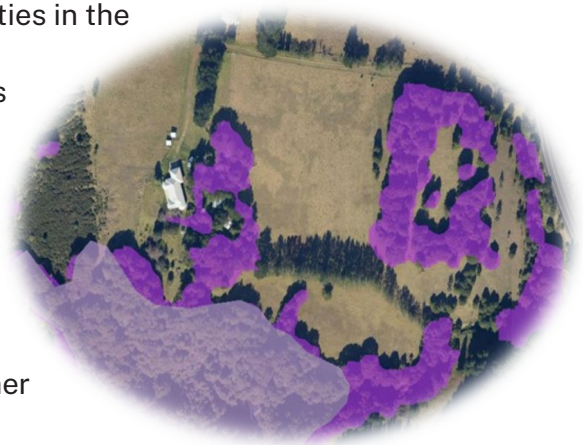
This has been included in version 16 of the Biodiversity Values Map.

Biodiversity Values Map (BV Map) version 16 update

The Biodiversity Values Map version 16 will be published on 27 September 2023. Updates are based on new and improved mapping of biodiversity values, removal of land that is now developed, and other internal and external map review changes.

The version 16 update includes:

- changes resulting from 69 landholder-initiated map reviews
- revised mapping for the serious and irreversible impact (SAIL) species *Personia pauciflora* (North Rothbury persoonia), *Lathamus discolor* (swift parrot), and *Anthochaera phrygia* (regent honeyeater)
- addition of 2 new SAIL species, *Randia moorei* (spiny gardenia), and *Corchorus cunninghamii* (native jute)
- addition of 10 threatened ecological communities in the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area:
 - coastal saltmarsh in the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin, and South East Corner Bioregions
 - freshwater wetlands on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin, and South East Corner Bioregions
 - littoral rainforest in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin, and South East Corner Bioregions



- lowland rainforest in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregions
- lowland rainforest on floodplain in the NSW North Coast Bioregion
- subtropical coastal floodplain forest of the NSW North Coast Bioregion
- swamp oak floodplain forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin, and South East Corner Bioregions
- swamp sclerophyll forest on coastal floodplains of NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin, and South East Corner Bioregions
- Themeda grasslands on sea cliffs and coastal headlands in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin, and South East Corner Bioregions
- white gum moist forest in the NSW North Coast Bioregion.
- old growth and rainforest mapping refinement
- removal of developed land
- removal of 45 Mulloway Road, Chain Valley Bay and 77 – 91 Warnervale Road biodiversity certified lands
- removal of some Category 1–Exempt Land.

Updated spatial data is available through the [SEED portal](#). Landholders or agents, who consider a property’s biodiversity values mapping is incorrect, can apply for a [BV Explanatory Report and Map Review](#).

For more information go to the [Biodiversity Values Map webpage](#) or contact the Map Review Team via email map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Accredited Assessor updates

Two new user guides for Biodiversity Offset and Agreement Management System (BOAMS)

The department has released two new guides for BOAMS, which are now available to all accredited assessors. Both guides provide step-by-step instructions with screenshots to support users.

1. [Guide for Accredited Assessors](#)

This replaces the previous BOAMS user guide that was available in the FAQ tab of BOAMS. Accredited assessors will find information on how to create and finalise cases, add case parties and how to manage existing cases. They will also find instructions to submit an expression of interest or to create a listing on the credit demand register.

2. [Guide for Community Users](#)

BOAMS community users will find instructions on how to list an expression of interest to supply credits and how to make a listing on the BOS credit demand register.

If you still have questions after reading these guides, please contact BOS.helpdesk@environment.nsw.gov.au

Update to the serious and irreversible impacts (SAIL) list

The list of threatened entities at risk of SAIL has been updated to include the addition of *Fontainea sp. Coffs Harbour* and *Nurus atlas* (atlas rainforest ground-beetle) following the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee determinations that the 2 species

are considered critically endangered. The updated list of entities at risk of SAI is available on the [Serious and irreversible impacts of development on biodiversity webpage](#).

Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF) Charge System updates

BCF charge transitional price cap lifts on 16 October 2023

The [Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator \(BOPC\) Order 2022](#) included the [Transitional price cap rule](#) to enable a staged introduction of the BCF Charge System in a way to minimise significant market shocks. The transitional price cap rule for the calculation of charges for the BCF Charge System within the BOPC Order will expire at midnight on 16 October 2023.

Part B of the BCF Charge Quote identifies credit types affected by the transitional price cap and identifies the expiry date for quotes related to price-capped credits as at 16 October 2023.

The prices of credits capped under the transitional price cap rule will increase once the cap is removed. The extent of this increase will vary.

Proponents with an existing BCF Charge Quote for capped-price credits

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) will accept BCF payment applications for capped prices until midnight on 16 October 2023. For payment to proceed the proposed development must have final approval/consent. You must pay within 30 days of receiving the payment invoice from the BCT otherwise the capped pricing will expire and you will need to get a new BCF Charge Quote with uncapped credit pricing.

The BCT will not accept payment applications received on or after 17 October with a capped price and the BCT will need to issue a new BCF Charge Quote. The BCT will use the information in the original application to prepare a new BCF Charge Quote Statement if this is required.

You can only make valid payments to the BCF if you provide a valid consent (that is, the project is approved). If a proposal **has not been approved** and you submit the payment application by 16 October then the BCT will need to issue a new BCF Charge Quote, including the uncapped price.

Proponents seeking a BCF Charge Quote

You must submit new BCF Charge Quote applications for credits with a capped price by midnight on 2 October 2023 to receive the capped prices. This is to allow the BCT sufficient time to issue a BCF Charge Quote, and to provide sufficient time for the proponent to submit a BCF payment application before 16 October. BCF Charge Quote applications received on or after 3 October (or those where consent has not been finalised) will be issued from 17 October with the uncapped BOPC price.

Summary of key dates

- **2 October 2023** – last date that new BCF Charge Quote applications with capped prices will be accepted.

- **16 October 2023** – last date to submit an application to pay the BCF if a quote has a capped price. Payment to the BCF of the capped price must be finalised within 30 days of receipt of invoice from the BCT.
- **16 October 2023 (midnight)** – Transitional price cap rule expires.
- **17 October 2023** – BCT will start issuing BCF Charge Quotes with uncapped prices. Expired quotes will be reissued after this date if you make a payment application for an expired quote.

For further information on paying into the BCF please visit the [BCT website](#).

General scheme update

Reminder: Submit applications for scheme credit transfers and retirements as soon as possible

If you have credits that need to be transferred or retired prior to Friday 22 December 2023, please submit your credit transfer and retirement applications as soon as possible. There is a high demand for applications to be finalised prior to Christmas, so we recommend you submit as early as possible. Any applications submitted after Friday 1 December 2023 may not be approved until after Monday 15 January 2024.

Please note when completing your application:

- allow time to make any payment of the Total Fund Deposit to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust that may be due
- allow time for the application fee to be received by the department when planning your deadlines for an application to be processed.

The department will make every effort to quickly process an application where you advise us of a deadline and provide a completed application form and supporting documents.

The department can also review draft (non-executed) applications. This is a useful way to make sure the application is complete and accurate before it is signed by people with the appropriate legal authority.

More information is available online about [Credits transactions](#) and [transferring and retiring Biodiversity Offsets Scheme credits](#) including the usual timeframe to process an application and the review process.

If you have any questions, please contact bos.credits@environment.nsw.gov.au

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