



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Accredited Assessor Update 50

2 September 2021

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1. Impact on BAM Support Mailbox Responses

With the impact that COVID-19 is currently having across the state, response times for the BAM Support Mailbox queries will be delayed. We thank you for your understanding and patience.

2. How should vegetation clearing for bushfire protection be considered under Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*?

Vegetation clearing to meet requirements under Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 (PBP 2019) must be considered for proposed development when determining whether the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) applies. Where the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme applies and proposed development will result in a clearing entitlement, the 10/50 area must be included as part of the proposed clearing footprint to determine whether the BOS applies. If the BOS applies, a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) must be submitted with the development application.

The biodiversity impacts of any vegetation clearing required for a proposal must be considered under Part 7 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act. This includes:

- proposed Asset Protection Zones (APZ) required under the PBP 2019, including areas of vegetation that are partially cleared and already meet the specifications of a proposed APZ
- access roads to meet requirements under the PBP 2021 or for other reasons
- facilities/works that are ancillary to the proposal, such as driveways, fence lines and landscaping.

Where the specifications of an APZ are not known, apply a buffer of 50 metres around proposed buildings to account for the 10/50 clearing entitlement which is created by the development consent and final occupancy certificate for certain buildings and structures.

If an APZ is proposed within vegetation that is partially cleared and meets the specifications of the proposed APZ or subsequent 10/50 clearing entitlement, it must still be considered when determining whether a BDAR is required.

The Local Government Bulletin: Issue No 12 – Bushfire related clearing and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* provides more information. A limited exemption from the BOS has been made to support rebuilding after the 2019–20 bushfires. For more information, please visit [Bushfire Rebuild Exemption](#).

3. Plains-wanderer Important Habitat Map

The plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) Important Habitat Map is now available via Biodiversity Offsets and Agreements Management System (BOAMS). However, due to upgrades to the map viewer currently in progress, the **area report and export to shapefile** tools will be unavailable for the plains-wanderer layer until October. In the interim, if you require this information, please email the lot/DP or shapefile of the subject land to the [BOS Enquiry Form](#).

4. *General Notes* section of TBDC

It is a requirement for all assessors to use the [Bionet](#) Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection (TBDC) when preparing a Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR) (Subsection 1.4.1(1) of the [Biodiversity Assessment Method](#)).

Assessors need to review the *General Notes* section of the TBDC in preparation of BARs. The *General Notes* section contains a range of relevant information for threatened species, including survey requirements, serious and irreversible impacts, information to assist with distinguishing between similar species, relevant resources and more.

5. SAII BAM 2020 data

The criteria within section 9.1 of BAM 2020 must be addressed in relation to entities at risk of a Serious and Irreversible Impact (SAII). The information will assist the decision-maker with their determination. Section 9.1 requires the assessor to consult the TBDC and/or other sources to report on the current status or population of Threatened Ecological Communities or species. EES has collated best available supporting data from a range of sources, with the intention of updating these data as new information is published or supplied.

Data to support the application of BAM 2020 SAIL assessments is currently available upon request via the [BOS Enquiry Form](#). Please specify the individual species or TEC for which you require data. These data will soon be made available from the BAM-C homepage (login version only) in spreadsheet format and will eventually be viewable from within the TBDC.

6. BAM Transitional Arrangements

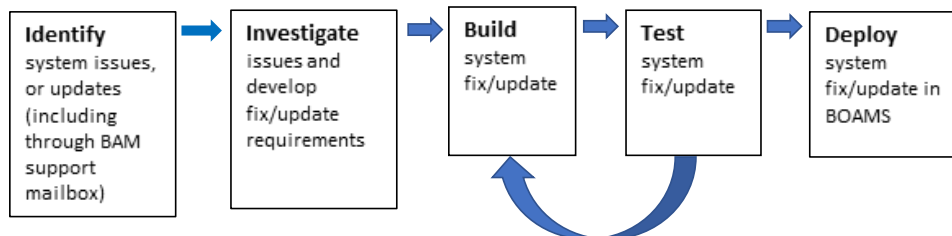
BAM 2020 was released on 22 October 2020 with a provision for transitional arrangements. After 22 October 2021, state significant development and infrastructure projects will need to be prepared using [BAM 2020](#).

7. System Updates

Thanks for your effort in reporting BOAMS issues via the [BOS enquiry form](#). We understand the impact these issues can have on your work. See the table below showing the status of priority system changes.

Description	Current Status
Amendment to BOAMS which will enable assessors to upload executable files	Identify

•* see flow diagram below



8. BSA sites: calculating interim ecological response targets

Did you know a worksheet is available to calculate interim ecological response targets on a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) site?

Interim ecological response targets inform the evaluation of biodiversity gain via comparison with monitoring data, guided by the Ecological Monitoring Module (EMM). The worksheet supports, and should be used with, the BCT EMM Operational Manual.

The worksheet is available via the BCT BAM Accredited Assessor Resources page, under 'Biodiversity stewardship agreement (BSA) resources'.

9. Information session on BSA products

The BCT is hosting a BSA information session for **accredited assessors** on Thursday, 16 September, 9.30–11am. Attendees will be introduced to the new BSA communications products that the BCT has produced, including:

- [Guide to submitting a BSA](#)
- [BSA infographic](#)
- [Engaging an Accredited Assessor](#)

Information sessions are planned for all stakeholders involved in the BSA process, including Local Land Services, local government, banks, accountants, and solicitors.

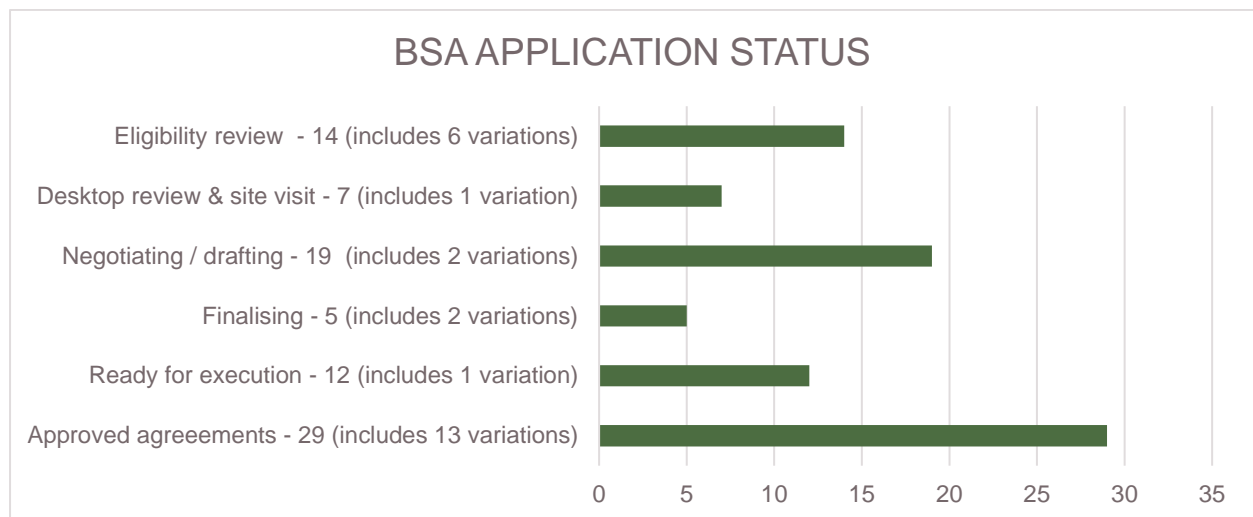
To register, please visit bsa-info.eventbrite.com.au and select the relevant ticket type.

10. BCT Update

Proposed BSA over two IBRA regions – Where a proposed BSA covers two IBRA regions, assessors are encouraged to contact EES for advice on how to manage the two IBRA regions in BOAMS. Generally, each IBRA sub-region will require a separate BOAMS parent case, each with their own BAM-C and credit report.

EPBC Act species credits – It is recommended that landholders and assessors who are considering survey for EPBC Act species, contact the BCT before undertaking survey.

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement Application status



-----End of Assessor Update No.50-----

Note: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and information at the time of publication (2 September 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, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.