



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

BOS Support for Assessors & Local Government

The Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool



Grant Bywater

Principal Project Officer, Ecosystem Programs Team
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

Tuesday 30th May 2020, 10:00am – 11:00am

John Spencer/DPIE



Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool

BOS Support for Assessors and Local Government Webinar

30 June 2020

Overview

- Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Threshold
- Biodiversity Values Map
- Area clearing threshold
- Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold (BMAT) Tool
- Data publicly available from Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) Portal
- Where to find information

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) Threshold

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) threshold - 2 main elements:

1. **Clearing** of native vegetation or prescribed impact (cl. 6.1 BC Reg) **on the BV Map or**
2. **Clearing** of native vegetation **exceeding an area threshold** based on lot size

The BV Map is relevant to:

- **local developments** (Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*)
- **clearing regulated by the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017*** (Vegetation SEPP).

If BOS is triggered proponent requires a BAM assessment by Accredited Assessor and offset impacts identified in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report.

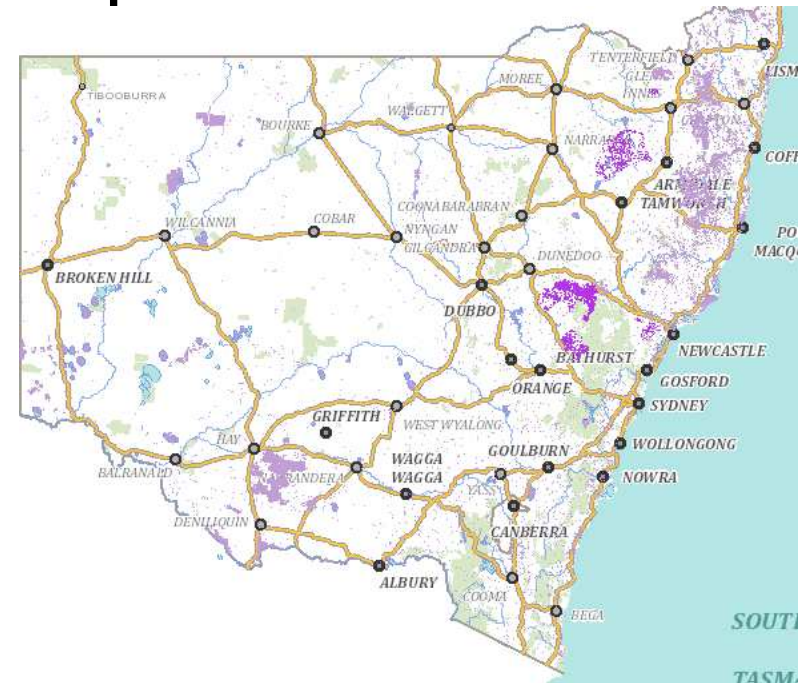
Guidance on applying BOS Threshold

- Use of the BV Map
 - i. Part 4
 - ii. Vegetation SEPP
- BV Map Explanation Reports and Map Reviews
- Area clearing threshold
- Evidence that BOS threshold not exceeded
- This Practice note and other resources available from DPIE's *Local government resources for biodiversity conservation and management / Implementation support webpage*



Biodiversity Values Map

- Regulatory map prepared under Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- Identifies land with high biodiversity values sensitive to impacts from development and clearing.
- Covers all of NSW – operates below area clearing threshold
- BV Map made by Environment Agency Head (or delegate)
- Landholders are able to request a map review of their property – refer to BAM Support Webinar 7
- BV Map updated monthly and major updates in June and November



11 Types of Land on the BV Map (cl. 7.3(3) BC Reg)

1. Coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest (Coastal Management SEPP mapping)
2. Core koala habitat mapping - SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019
3. Ramsar wetlands
4. Serious and Irreversible Impact (SAII) threatened species or Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs)
5. Protected riparian land
6. High conservation value grasslands or other groundcover
7. Old growth forest
8. Rainforest
9. Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs)
10. Council nominated areas with vegetation connectivity or threatened species habitat that the Minister for Environment considers will conserve biodiversity at bioregional or state scale
11. Any other land in the opinion of the Environment Agency Head is of sufficient biodiversity value

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

Types of land on the Biodiversity Values Map



environment.nsw.gov.au

- Provides a description of the types of land that can be included on the BV Map
- For each type of land:
 - Description of the type of land
 - Organisation who develops and maintains the mapping
 - How the mapping is developed
 - Further information on the mapping
 - How the mapping is used in the BV Map
- Will be updated as new and modified mapping is included on the BV Map
- Document is on the BV Map webpage
- (Technical overview suggestion)

Area clearing threshold

(clause 7.2 BC Regulation)

Minimum lot size of land	Area of clearing
Less than 1 hectare	0.25 hectare or more
Less than 40 hectares but not less than 1 hectare	0.5 hectare or more
Less than 1,000 hectares but not less than 40 hectares	1 hectare or more
1,000 hectares or more	2 hectares or more

- Native vegetation includes native trees, shrubs and groundcover
- Applies to all clearing associated with a development proposal and clearing activity

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

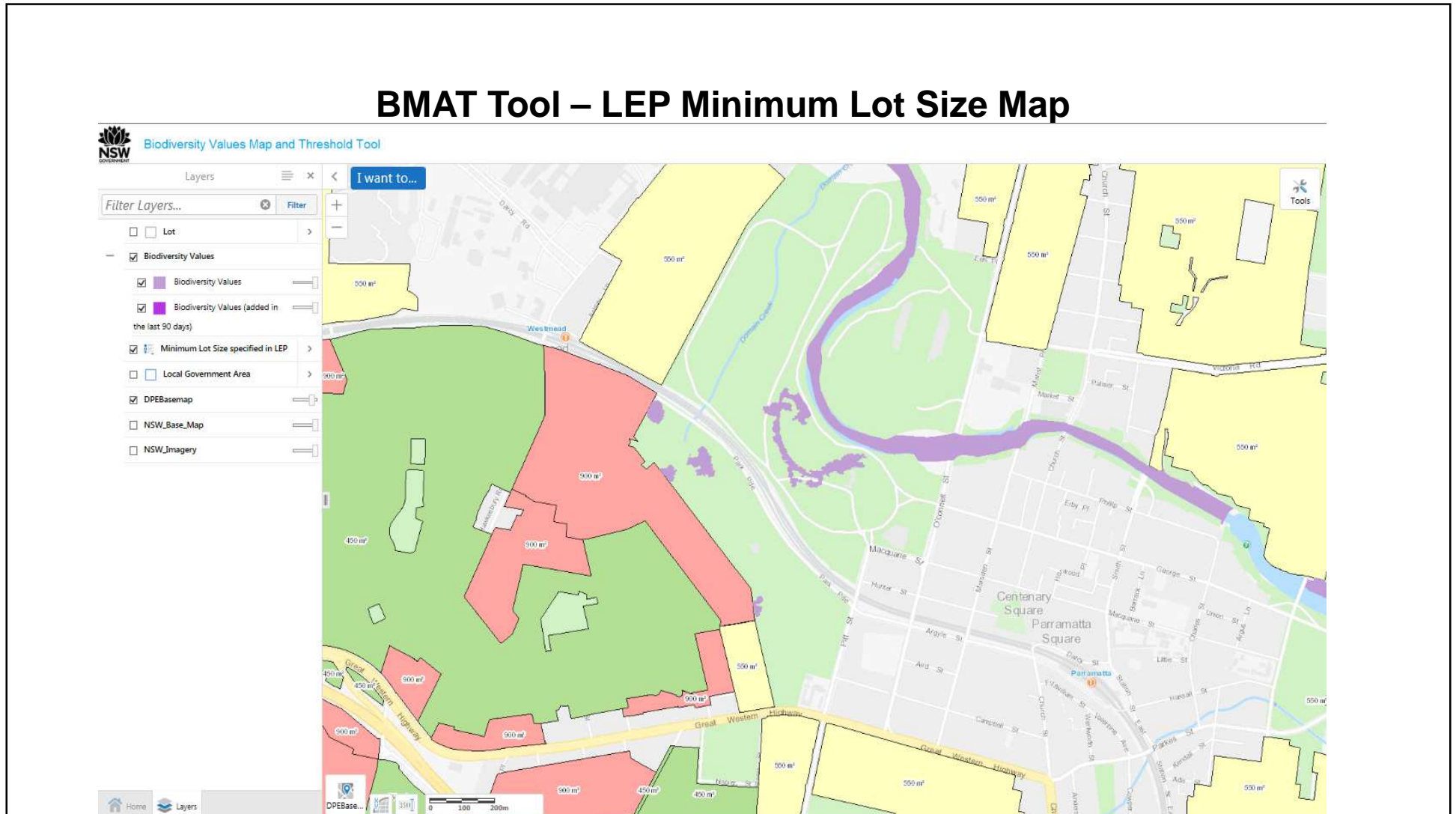
Area Clearing Threshold Technical Explanation



environment.nsw.gov.au

- Explains how the BMAT Tool determines the area clearing threshold which is based on the minimum lot size (MLS)
- Two MLS methods:
 1. LEP method – prescribed by the LEP Lot Size Map
 2. Actual lot size - not prescribed by the LEP
- If the land on which the development is to be carried out comprises areas with different MLS – use the smallest MLS.
- Nine different scenarios for determining the MLS based on extent that lots and development footprint are covered by LEP Lot Size Map
- Document provides examples for each scenario

BMAT Tool – LEP Minimum Lot Size Map



Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold (BMAT) Tool

- On-line tool for viewing the BV Map – links from *BOS entry requirements* and the *BV Map* webpages
- Allows developers, landholders and consent authorities to determine whether proposed development or clearing activates the BOS.
- BMAT Tool User Guide
- Can produce a report that states whether the BV Map is triggered.


BMAT Tool

- Search by Lot//DP or address

- Draw polygon for area in proposed development footprint

- Shows six different types of layers:
 1. Cadastre
 2. Mapped BV areas - added in last 90 days (purple) and more than 90 days (pink)
 3. LEP minimum lot size map (MLS)
 4. LGAs
 5. Base maps
 6. Most recent imagery

- Run the evaluation report


Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool

Home < Start here..

Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Threshold is a test used to determine when is necessary to engage an accredited assessor to apply the Biodiversity Assessment Method (the BAM) to assess the impacts of a proposal.

It is only used for local developments (development applications submitted to councils) and clearing that does not require development consent in urban areas and areas zoned for environmental conservation (under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017).

The Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 sets out threshold levels for when the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme will be triggered. The threshold has two elements:

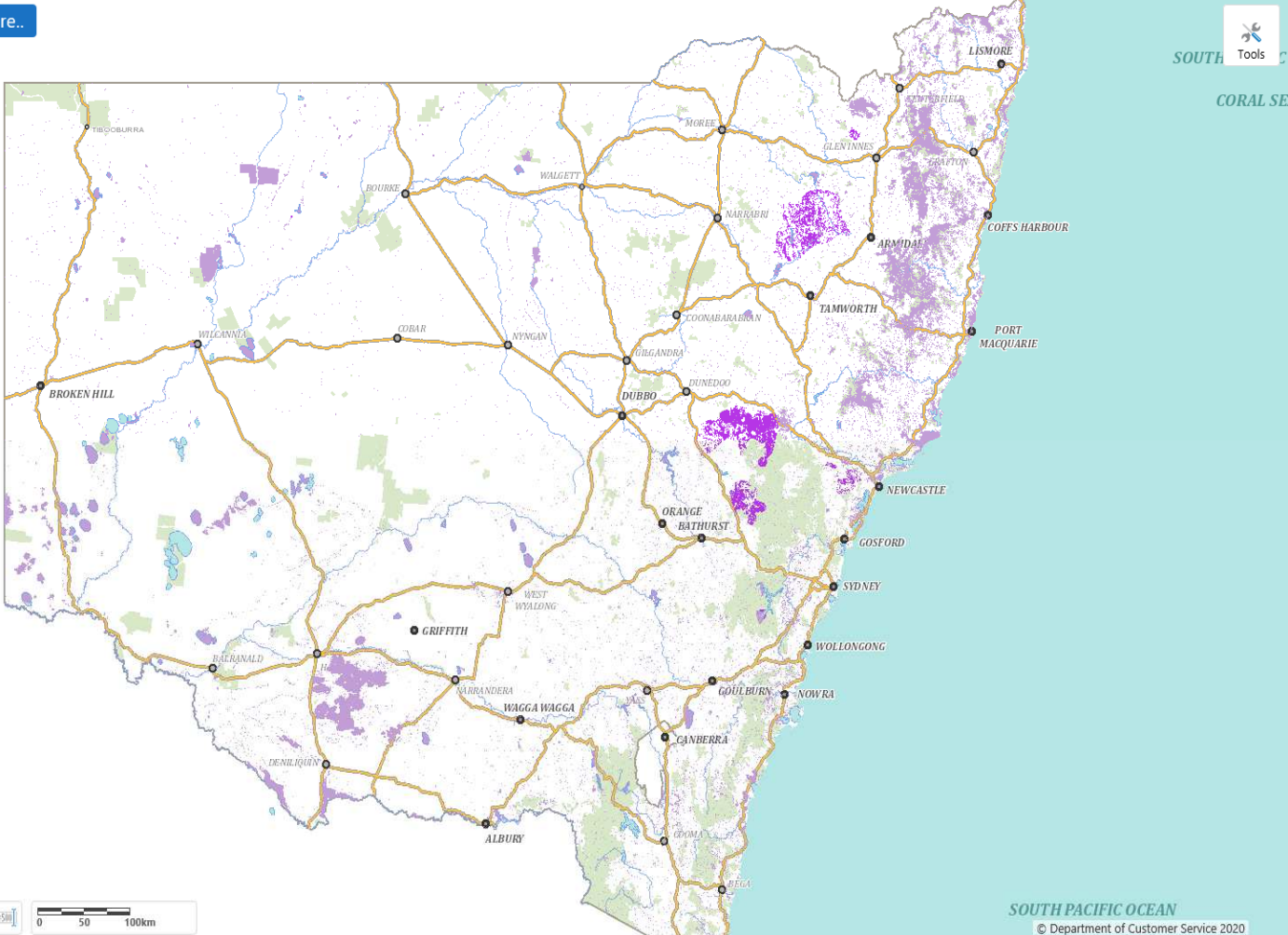
- Whether the amount of native vegetation being cleared exceeds a threshold area, or
- Whether the impacts occur on an area mapped on the Biodiversity Values map published by the Chief Executive of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

If clearing and other impacts exceeds either trigger, the Biodiversity Offset Scheme applies to the proposed development including biodiversity impacts prescribed by clause 6.1 of the Biodiversity Regulation 2017.



If the Biodiversity offsets scheme is not triggered, the test of significance detailed in section 7.3 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 must be used to determine whether a local development is likely to significantly affect threatened species.

Proponents will need to supply evidence relating to the triggers for the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Threshold and the test of significance when submitting their application to the consent authority. This tool can be used as a guide to decide whether or not you as the proponent (or agent of the proponent) would be required to enter the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.

A user guide for this tool is also available at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OFH/>



Home
Layers

SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

© Department of Customer Service 2020

Areas added to the BV Map

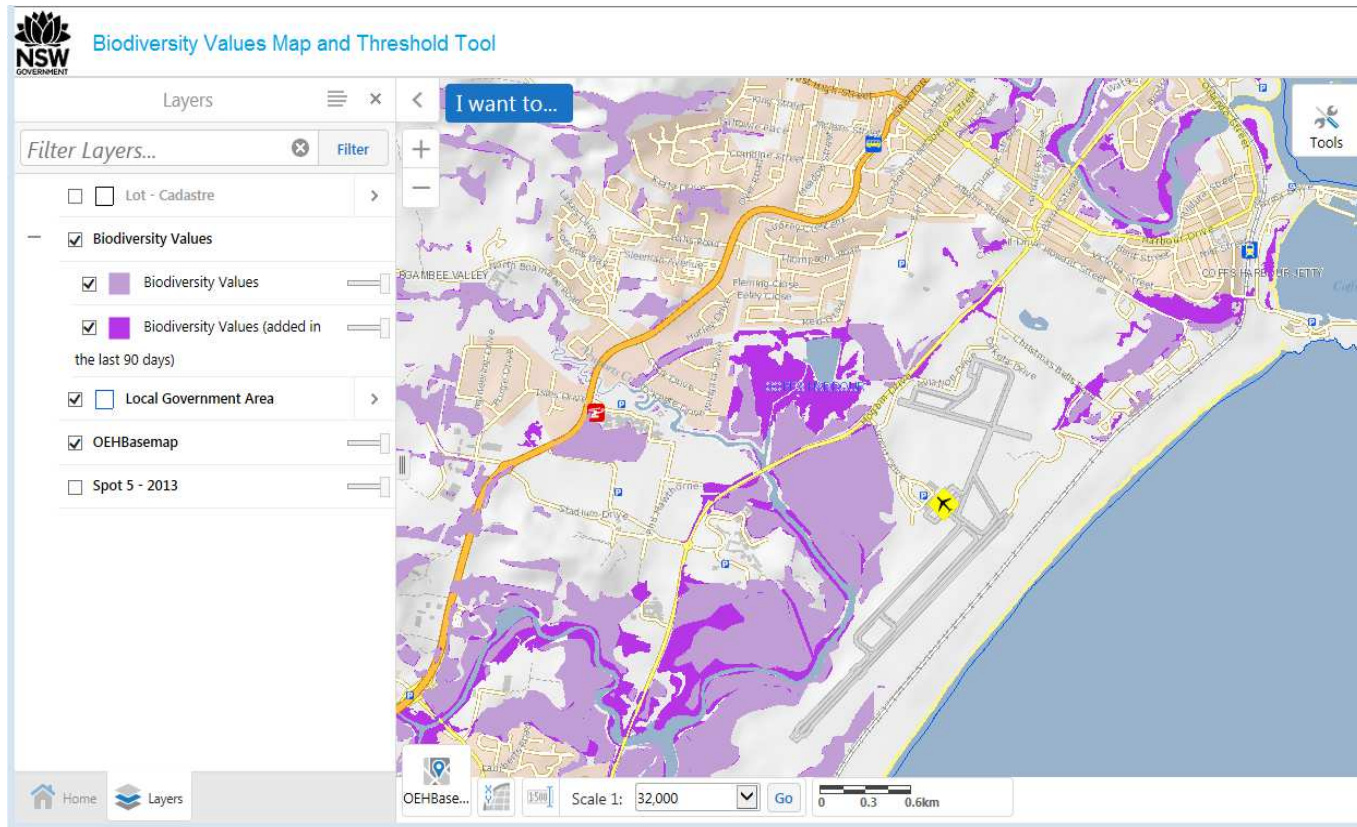
Proposed development subject to an application for planning approval does not trigger the BOS in an area added to the BV Map for 90 days after it has been added (cl.7.3 (5) BC Reg)

2 colours on the BV map:

Purple = added in last 90 days

Pink = on the BV Map more than 90 days

Areas added to the BV Map – purple



BMAT - Identify Tool

The screenshot displays the 'Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool' interface. At the top left is the NSW Government logo. The main title is 'Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool'. Below this, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow, the text 'Biodiversity Values (2)', and a search bar containing 'I want to...'. To the right of the search bar is a toolbar with icons for Home, Show Layer..., Initial View, Identify, Polygon, Edit, Erase, and Tools. The central part of the interface is a map showing a complex network of purple and yellow areas, representing biodiversity values. The purple areas are more extensive, while the yellow areas are more localized. On the left side, there is a list of 'Biodiversity Values' with details for each entry, including 'BV Land Status', 'Date added to BV Map', and 'BV Map Criteria'. At the bottom left, there is a pagination control showing 'Displaying 1 - 2 (Total: 2)' and 'Page 1 of 1'. The NSW Government logo and the text 'Planning, Industry & Environment' are located at the bottom left of the interface.

Biodiversity Values

- BV Land Status: Biodiversity Values
Date added to BV Map: 25 Aug 2017 10:00 AM
BV Map Criteria: Threatened species or communities with potential for serious and irreversible impacts
- BV Land Status: Biodiversity Values
Date added to BV Map: 25 Aug 2017 10:00 AM
BV Map Criteria: Protected Riparian Land

Displaying 1 - 2 (Total: 2)

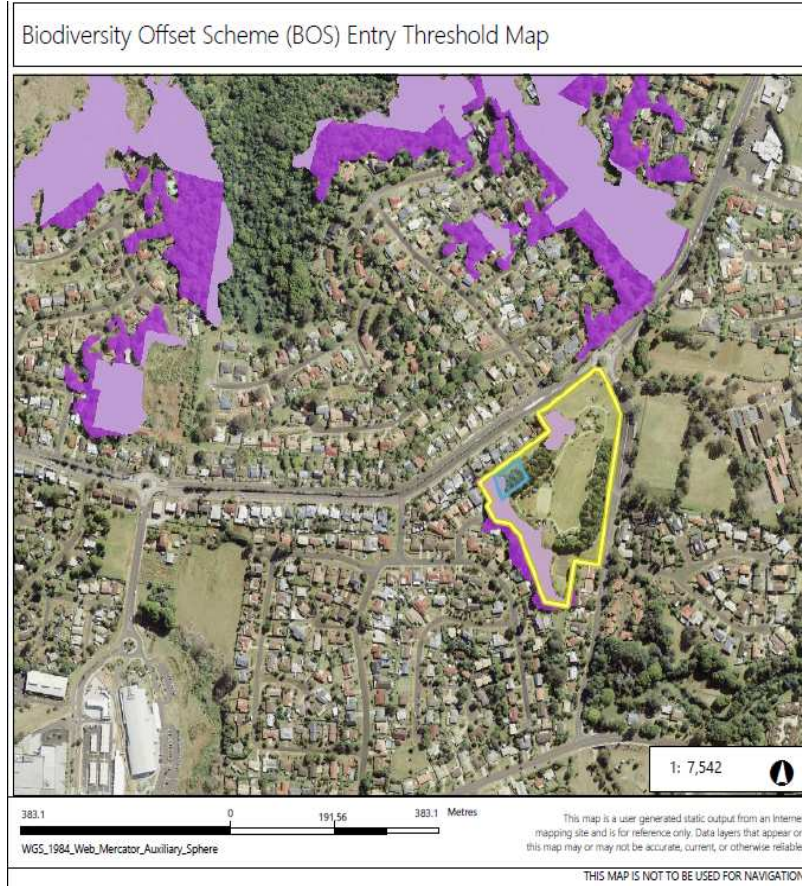
Page 1 of 1

NSW GOVERNMENT | **Planning, Industry & Environment**



BMAT Evaluation Report

- Produces a 2 page report with a map showing footprint, BV areas and results table
- Results table includes:
 - Area of footprint
 - Minimum Lot Size (MLS) Method and the MLS area
 - Area clearing threshold
 - Whether the BV Map triggers the need for a BDAR
- Reminder – clearing any native plants (including shrubs and grasses) on BV Map triggers the BOS and need for a BDAR

BMAT Report – Area on BV Map more than 90 days



Legend

-  Biodiversity Values that have been mapped for more than 90 days
-  Biodiversity Values added within last 90 days

Notes

© Office of Environment and Heritage

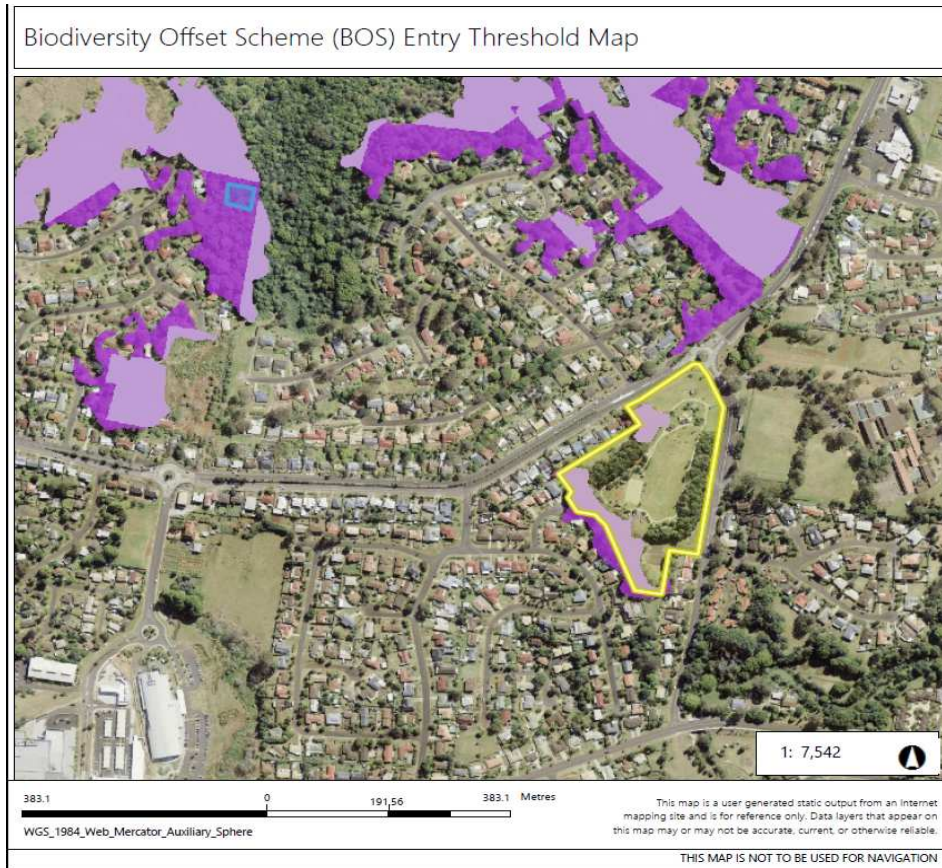
BMAT Report – area on BV Map more than 90 days

Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Report



Results Summary

Date of Calculation	01/05/2020 3:01 PM	BDAR Required*
Total Digitised Area	0.16 ha	
Minimum Lot Size Method	Lot size	
Minimum Lot Size	4.16 ha	
Area Clearing Threshold	0.5 ha	
Area clearing trigger Area of native vegetation cleared	Unknown #	Unknown #
Biodiversity values map trigger Impact on biodiversity values map(not including values added within the last 90 days)?	yes	yes
Date of the 90 day Expiry	N/A	

BMAT Report – Area on BV Map added in last 90 days



Legend

-  Biodiversity Values that have been mapped for more than 90 days
-  Biodiversity Values added within last 90 days

Notes

© Office of Environment and Heritage |

BMAT Report – Area on BV Map added in last 90 days

Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Report

Results Summary

Date of Calculation	01/05/2020 2:37 PM	BDAR Required*
Total Digitised Area	0.11 ha	
Minimum Lot Size Method	LEP	
Minimum Lot Size	0.04 ha	
Area Clearing Threshold	0.25 ha	
Area clearing trigger Area of native vegetation cleared	Unknown #	Unknown #
Biodiversity values map trigger Impact on biodiversity values map(not including values added within the last 90 days)?	no	no
Date of the 90 day Expiry	27/05/2020	

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold tool user guide

A step-by-step guide to using the Biodiversity
Values Map and Threshold tool



environment.nsw.gov.au

BMAT Tool Demonstration video

Local Government resources webpage

Implementation support

BOS: Educational videos

BV Map spatial data on SEED Portal

- BV map data is publicly available as webservice for use in own GIS – access via SEED
- <https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/biodiversity-values-map>
- Meta data and data quality statements available

BV Map spatial data on SEED Portal

The screenshot displays the SEED Portal interface for the Biodiversity Values Map dataset. The top navigation bar includes 'Log in' and the SEED logo. Below this is a blue navigation bar with 'DATASETS', 'MAP', 'FEEDBACK', 'HELP', and 'ABOUT'. The breadcrumb trail shows the path: 'Organisations / Office of Environment and ... / Biodiversity Values Map'. A 'How to View Datasets' button is visible in the top right of the content area.

Biodiversity Values Map

Organisation

Office of Environment & Heritage
Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)

OEH cares for and protects NSW's environment and heritage, which includes the natural environment, Aboriginal country, culture and heritage, and built heritage.

[read more](#)

License

OEH licence

Biodiversity Values Map

The Biodiversity Values Map (BV Map) identifies land with high biodiversity value that is particularly sensitive to impacts from development and clearing. The BV Map is one of the triggers for determining whether the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) applies to a clearing or development proposal. The BV Map has been prepared by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) under Part 7 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act). A range of mapping layers are included in the BV map. These mapping layers have been developed by a range of agencies and councils. The inclusion of these layers on the BV map requires the approval of the Chief Executive of OEH. The BV Map shows areas that have been added in the last 90 days as the BOS does not apply to development proposals lodged within this time period. More information on the BV map is available at - <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-values-map.htm>

Data and Resources

- Data Quality Statement**
Data quality statement for Biodiversity Values Map [Explore -](#)
- Web Service**
REST Service for BV map [Explore -](#)
- BMAT Tool and Viewer**
The Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold (BMAT) tool is a web-based mapping... [Explore -](#)

Additional Info

BV Map Updates

Minor updates (new)

- every 4 - 5 weeks
- 90 day colour changes – dark purple areas change to light purple and trigger BOS
- Changes arising from landholder-initiated map reviews
- Removal of biocertified land

Major updates

- Biannual – May/June and November/December
 - Removal of developed land
 - Revised mapping
 - New mapping
-
- Summary of changes in each Update are on the BV Map Webpage
 - V.11 planned for Nov 2020

Future work

- New and revised SAI species mapping
- Revised SAI threatened ecological community mapping
- Remove more “developed land” from BV Map - hardstand surfaces mapping
- Quicker inclusion of changes arising from landholder-initiated map reviews
- Inclusion of a native vegetation extant layer into the BMAT Tool – to calculate area threshold trigger

The screenshot shows the NSW Government website page for Biodiversity Offsets Scheme entry requirements. The page features a dark navigation bar with the NSW Government logo and menu items: HOME, TOPICS, RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS, FUNDING & SUPPORT, LICENCES & PERMITS, and ABOUT US. A search icon is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar is a large image of red and white flowers. The main content area includes a breadcrumb trail: Topics > Animals and plants > Biodiversity conservation > Biodiversity Offsets Scheme > Entry requirements. The page title is "Biodiversity Offsets Scheme entry requirements". The main text states: "Entry to the Biodiversity Offset Scheme is triggered by developments, projects and activities that meet certain thresholds for significant impacts on biodiversity, or on an opt-in basis." Below this, it says "The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme applies to:" followed by a list item: "local development (assessed under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979) that triggers the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Threshold as is likely to significantly affect". On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with items: "Biodiversity Offsets Scheme", "How the Scheme works", "Biodiversity Offsets Scheme support", "Entry requirements" (highlighted with a green bar and a hand cursor), "Biodiversity Values Map", "Threatened species test of significance", "Assessing biodiversity impacts of Part 5 activities", and "Rules". On the right side, there is a "Contact us" section with the text "Department of Planning, Industry and Environment" and contact options: "1300 361 967", "Email", and "Online". Below the contact section is a "Biodiversity Offsets Scheme support" section.



Q&A

This session will not be included in the webinar recording.

Written questions and answers will be attached to the online webinar recording.

Questions asked during these webinars also contribute to the development of the [Assessor Q&A](#) page, future webinars and other Biodiversity Offsets Scheme supporting resources.

John Spencer/DPIE



Thankyou for your participation

Webinar recordings will be available to view online on the [BOS Support webinars](#) page.

For further support, contact us via the [BOS Support](#) page.