



Biodiversity
Conservation
Trust

Biodiversity Conservation Trust Guideline for Biodiversity Stewardship Sites

Tracks, trails and other exclusions | August 2019

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Background Information

These guidelines relate to areas within a Biodiversity Stewardship Site that are to be excluded for the purposes of credit generation.

The Biobanking Assessment Method (BAM) states that biodiversity credits are created from vegetation zones which are defined as *an area of native vegetation on the subject land that is the same PCT and has a similar broad condition state* (5.3.1.1).

Land where biodiversity credits will not be created is not included in an area of a vegetation zone used to calculate credits.

Biodiversity credits may be created in asset protection zones (APZ). Activities required in an APZ that conflict with the long-term improvement of the vegetation condition of the site may limit the number of credits generated. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) (with more information to be provided in the Stage 3 Ops manual).

The BCT will consider exceptions to the guidelines below with adequate justification provided in the Biodiversity Stewardship Site Annual Report (BSSAR). Accredited assessors are encouraged to contact the BCT to discuss proposed exceptions.



Circumstances where credit creation will not be approved in a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) site application	Mapping
Land not owned by the landholder or subject to a management regime that may at some time substantially limit biodiversity gain. For example: paper or made crown roads, covenanted land and utility easements on land title such as electricity transmission lines and high-pressure gas lines (more information provided in the BCT Due Diligence guidelines).	Land must be mapped outside the BSA site boundary
Underground utility infrastructure identified in a 'Dial before you Dig' search that is not within an easement on land title: e.g. water, wastewater or stormwater pipes	The location of the infrastructure must be mapped outside the BSA site boundary and the accredited assessor must confirm an accurate location with the utility provider and an appropriate width for a maintenance corridor if required
Land covered by legal regulations that specify a vegetation maintenance or clearance buffer, e.g: section 88b fence-line buffer	Land must be mapped within the BSA site as a Management Zone in the Management Actions Map.
Non-vegetated areas that are not subject to management actions to restore native vegetation: e.g. trails, private roads and waterbodies	Land must be mapped within the BSA site as a Management Zone in the Management Actions Map. (See below for guideline widths)

Guideline widths for non-vegetated areas where biodiversity credits may not be created

Vehicular track widths specified below include the carriageway width (trafficable surface) and formation width e.g. shoulders, verges, drains.

Type of exclusion	Width Guideline
Category 1 Fire Trail	6m width
All other vehicular tracks and Category 7 and 9 Fire Trails used regularly or intermittently with modified or hardened mineral earth surface	3.5m width
Walking or bicycle tracks including boardwalks with a modified or hardened surface \geq 1.2m (grade 1)	1.2m width with an appropriate maintenance buffer (i.e. credits may be created for narrower widths)
Farm dams and other waterbodies such as recreational lakes, higher order streams and estuaries	Water surface area which does not support a PCT or terrestrial vegetation under normal conditions
Small scale infrastructure such as sheds and tanks	Infrastructure footprint and an appropriate buffer

Other Considerations

The Biodiversity Stewardship Site Management Plan should include management actions and costs for tracks and trails to maintain access and manage drainage so that the biodiversity values of the BSA site are protected.

The Management Plan should include costed management actions to close trails and remove internal fences not required to undertake site management and which may threaten site biodiversity values (e.g. trails used for rubbish dumping and illegal 4WD recreational access, internal fences that impede fauna movement).

Suggest establishing or using existing management trails as boundaries for fire management units. Temporary trails as fire-lines not included.

For tracks and trails present in a site owned by a public authority such as a council reserve, the BSA application should include evidence of the intention of the public authority (e.g. a council resolution) that the track management actions in the BSA site management plan are reflected and consistent with an endorsed plan of management.