

BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS



Understanding the process of setting up a biodiversity stewardship agreement (BSA)

STEP 1. EXPLORE



Start a conversation

Your first step is to contact the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to find out more about our programs and whether a BSA is right for you and your property. Before contacting us, read through the [BSA Landholder Guide](#) on our website and prepare your questions in advance. We'll discuss your options and answer any questions. Consider submitting an [expression of interest](#).



Carry out a feasibility assessment (optional)

This is a quick and cost-effective assessment of your property by a suitably qualified person before committing to a full biodiversity assessment. They'll estimate the biodiversity credits your property might generate.



Develop a business case (optional)

A suitably qualified person can give you a detailed assessment to help you determine how viable your land is for a BSA and whether there is likely to be a market for your biodiversity credits.

STEP 2. APPLY



Site assessment

If your site is suitable for a BSA, you'll need to engage a suitably qualified person to apply the biodiversity assessment method. This person, referred to as an accredited assessor calculates the number and type of biodiversity credits that can be generated at your site. They'll work with you to develop a management plan and can oversee the involvement of other suitably qualified professionals to identify management costs, the sum of which will make up the total fund deposit.



Submit your application

You then submit your BSA application and associated documents via the Biodiversity Offsets and Agreements Management System (BOAMS) and pay your fee.



BSA application review

We'll confirm your application is complete and meets eligibility requirements. If incomplete, we'll put your application on hold until we have all the necessary documents.



Site visit

We'll arrange a site visit by one of our staff to validate the number and type of biodiversity credits, the proposed management plan and the calculated management costs.



Make any required amendments to your application

We'll work with you and your accredited assessor to finalise the BSA.

bct.nsw.gov.au

email: info@bct.nsw.gov.au | phone: 1300 992 688

[f](#)@NSWBCT [t](#)@BCT_NSW



STEP 3. ESTABLISH



Accept, sign and register

Once the application is approved, we'll draft the agreement and send it to you for signing. We'll then sign the agreement and arrange for it to be registered at NSW Land Registry Services. This adds details to the title of your land. Once the agreement is registered, biodiversity credits are issued to you.

STEP 4. MANAGE



Management actions

Once the BSA commences, you are responsible for completing the agreed actions to manage your land.



Biodiversity credits sold and total fund deposit paid

It's important that you are able to sell your credits. Once enough credits are sold to cover the cost of the total fund deposit, your site becomes active and annual management payments commence. The proceeds of any further credit sales are retained by the credit owner.



Annual management payments and reporting

Annual management payments are made to you according to the agreed schedule in your BSA. You'll need to complete and submit a report each year showing how you are meeting your obligations under the agreement. The BCT will conduct an annual site audit to review progress and provide support.

IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Biodiversity credits

Biodiversity credits are generated when you establish a BSA. There are two groups of biodiversity credits: species credits and ecosystem credits. Biodiversity credits represent the expected improvement (gain) in biodiversity that will result from protecting and managing your biodiversity stewardship site. The number and category of biodiversity credits generated by a BSA vary depending on the type and condition of the vegetation, threatened species present and how your land will be managed to improve its biodiversity.

Accredited assessor

An accredited assessor is a suitably qualified person who is accredited to apply the biodiversity assessment method.

Total fund deposit

Your total fund deposit (TFD) is the present value of all your biodiversity stewardship site management actions and recurring costs as outlined in your management plan.

It is the amount you will need to pay into the Biodiversity Stewardship Payments Fund, using the money received through the sale and retirement of your credits before you receive your first annual management payment. Alternatively, you may choose to pay your TFD up front and commence active management immediately.

FIND OUT MORE

- Go online to access comprehensive resources on the [NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme](#).
- Use the [biodiversity offsets scheme enquiry form](#) if you have a question about any aspect of the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.
- Find an [accredited assessor](#) who can assist you to get involved in the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme by applying the biodiversity assessment method.