

Biodiversity Offsets in New South Wales

INFORMATION SHEET

NSW

What is the Biodiversity Offset Scheme?

The Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) is an NSW Government initiative that requires infrastructure developers to offset project impacts on biodiversity that cannot be otherwise managed, minimised or mitigated.

The BOS aims to unite developers and landowners who want to protect and manage biodiversity values on their properties into the future.

How does it work?

Landowners can enter into a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) to establish a Biodiversity Stewardship Site (BSS) on their property.

The BSS will generate credits which an infrastructure developer can purchase to offset their biodiversity impacts. Under the conditions of the BSA, landowners will manage the BSS into perpetuity to improve biodiversity values on site.

How can a landowner set up a stewardship site?

Landowners will need to engage an accredited assessor who must apply the biodiversity assessment method (BAM) to assess the biodiversity values of the area proposed for a stewardship site.

The accredited assessor will develop a report and identify the biodiversity value in the form of credits. These credits, once approved by the NSW Government, can be purchased by the developer.

To learn more about biodiversity offsets, visit the BCT website at bct.nsw.gov.au.

About Inland Rail Biodiversity Credits

During the construction of Inland Rail, there will be some impacts to biodiversity. The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) must purchase and retire biodiversity credits to compensate for this biodiversity loss under NSW and Federal legislation.

These credits can include existing credits ready for purchase or proposed credits that would be created on a landowner's property.

ARTC's interest in biodiversity credits is determined primarily by the type of vegetation present and the property's location within a subregion. Generally, ARTC will consider properties located within 100km of the rail alignment and from north of Narromine to the Qld border.

Other influencing factors include:


- + whether the property contributes to local or regional biodiversity values, such as within a wildlife corridor or adjacent to a protected area
- + the ownership of the property, such as Crown Lease or presence of mining leases
- + whether the vegetation is already protected under other mechanisms, such as Set Asides under the Local Land Services Act 2013, State or Commonwealth reserves or Property Vegetation Plans.

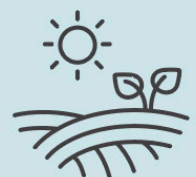
If you have existing or proposed credits on your property that meet Inland Rail's requirements, ARTC may be interested in purchasing your credits. ARTC is interested in a select range of ecosystems and species credits listed on the public demand credit register at – Biodiversity Offsets Scheme public registers | NSW Environment, Energy and Science.

Want to know more?

To learn more about Inland Rail's Biodiversity Offset Program and to register your interest:

 IRNSWBioOffsets@artc.com.au

 1800 732 76





ARTC is committed to working with landowners, communities, state and local governments as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input. If you have any questions or comments about this fact sheet, please let us know.

 **1800 732 761 (24 hours, 7 days)**

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