

# Biodiversity Offsets in New South Wales



## What is the Biodiversity Offset Scheme?

The Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) is an NSW Government initiative that requires most developments in the state to offset project impacts on biodiversity that cannot be otherwise avoided, 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 NSW Government to establish a Biodiversity Stewardship Site (BSS) on their property.

The BSS will generate credits which a 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 BSS.

The accredited assessor will develop a report and identify the biodiversity value and the number of credits to be created. 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](http://bct.nsw.gov.au).

## About Inland Rail Biodiversity Credits

During the construction of Inland Rail in NSW, there will be some impacts to biodiversity. Inland Rail Pty Ltd (Inland Rail), a subsidiary of Australian Rail Track Corporation, 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.

Inland Rail's interest in biodiversity credits is determined primarily by the type of vegetation present and the property's location within a subregion. Generally, properties located within 100km of the proposed Inland Rail alignment and from north of Narromine to the NSW/ Qld border will be considered for potential offset sites.

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 property and any encumbrances, 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.

While Inland Rail is not currently sourcing biodiversity offsets for our remaining NSW sections, purchasing of credits will be required to facilitate any future planning for construction of NSW sections north of Narromine, subject to Australian Government consideration.

Find out more



We remain committed to working with the community to ensure the best outcome for the region and encourage you to get in touch with us, with questions big or small. Call **1800 732 761** or email [inlandrailnsw@inlandrail.com.au](mailto:inlandrailnsw@inlandrail.com.au).



To see how Inland Rail achieved its biodiversity offset targets on the Narrabri to North Star Phase 1 section in NSW, scan this QR code.

