

Biodiversity Offset Strategy: To
accompany proposal ID:
0099/2016/3605MP for SSD 7187
Flatrock Rd Mundamia – proposed
landfill extension of West Nowra
Recycling & Waste Facility

Environmental Planning and
Assessment Unit, Environmental
Services Section, Shoalhaven City
Council 2019

Background

This Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS) has been produced by an accredited Biobanking Assessor who is also an employee of Shoalhaven City Council (Council).

Assessor Name: Michael Smith
Assessor Number: 0099
Calculator Version: Biobanking Credit Calculator Version 2.0

This BOS is provided in response to correspondence, dated 29 July 2019, from the NSW Planning Industry & Environment (DPIE); Environment Senior Team Leader, Planning SE Branch, Biodiversity and Conservation to Planning Team Leader, Industry Assessments (DPIE reference DOC19/638304).

The correspondence states that the application SSD 7187 (which includes Council's Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR)) *has been adequately assessed under the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment (FBA) but a biodiversity offset strategy BOS must be prepared outlining how the offsets for the proposal will be delivered*. On the basis of this statement, the following BOS is provided for the following credits as calculated by the accredited Biobanking Assessor using the Biobanking Credit Calculator Version 2.0 applicable at the time of the assessment. This BOS is provided with the knowledge that the final credit total to be retired prior to the commencement of works will be the subject of a "determination of reasonable equivalence" potentially changing the credit obligation. The credit totals for which this BOS applies at the time of writing are:

- A. 719 ecosystem credits for PCT SR594,
- B. 197 Eastern Pygmy-possum "species credits", and
- C. 217 Squirrel Glider "species credits".

The executive summary in the BAR proposes several offset options but this BOS is provided following the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects (OEH, 2014a) and the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment (FBA) Table 22: Minimum information requirements for the Biodiversity Offset Strategy (stage 3) (OEH, 2014b). It should be noted, and has been discussed with the Illawarra Regional Operation Group of DPIE Environment Team, that given the changes in legislation since the FBA was written and that certain information in Table 22 is not available on the public registers in relation to the Offset Site, that this BOS does not strictly comply with the "minimum information requirements".

Biodiversity Offset Strategy

In the time since the FBA was published (2014) the NSW government has added the option of making a payment to the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), formed as part of *the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* reforms.

The BOS proposes payments to the BCT and the retirement of credits via “biobank” sites in the Shoalhaven Local Government Area (LGA).

Council would like to see the credit obligation met to the benefit of the Shoalhaven LGA. That is, that credits are retired in the Shoalhaven LGA, and this has been recommended to the DPIE in recent correspondence in relation to the SSD 7187 application.

Payments to the BCT

Squirrel Glider credits

Council proposes to meet its Squirrel Glider (SG) species credit obligation (217 credits) via a payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT). There are currently 7 listings for SG credits though none are for biobank / stewardship sites in the Shoalhaven LGA (Figure 1). In the absence of credits being available in the Shoalhaven LGA, council will meet its credit obligation via a payment to BCT (Figure 2) on the proviso that the recommendation to have all credits retired in the Shoalhaven LGA being a condition of the DPIE approval.

Search results for biobanking agreement(s)



Species scientific name - *Petaurus norfolcensis*
Species common name - Squirrel Glider

matched 7 biobanking agreements

ID	Landowner ID / Company name	IBRA sub-region	LGA	Status	Date Executed
167	204	Macleay Hastings - Northern Rivers	Kempsey Shire Council	Issued	30/07/2015
228	292	Peel - Namoi	Narrabri Shire Council	Issued	01/02/2018
288	Voyee Pty Ltd & Supaeast Pty Ltd	Macleay Hastings - Northern Rivers	Kempsey Shire Council	Issued	24/10/2018
353	Glenara Pastoral Pty Ltd	Murrumbateman - Lachlan	Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Issued	08/05/2018
391	510	Clarence Lowlands	Richmond Valley Council	Issued	10/12/2018
402	Markyl Pty Ltd	Clarence Lowlands	Clarence Valley Council	Issued	15/01/2019
449	Henribark Pty Ltd	Clarence Lowlands	Richmond Valley Council	Issued	15/01/2019

Figure 1 – sources of squirrel glider credits “screen grab” taken from public register on 25 September 2019

Biodiversity Offset Payment Calculator

Version: 1.3.6.0
Last updated: 01/08/20


Credit Offset Payment Calculator


Payments

Message!

If you would like to meet your offset obligation by making a payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund, please contact the BCT team at bct@environment.nsw.gov.au

Species credits for threatened species

Species profile ID	Species	Threat Status	Price per credit	Risk premium	Administrative cost	No. of species credits	Final credits price
10604	<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i> (Squirrel Glider)	Vulnerable	\$434.47	19.9900%	\$20.00	217	\$117,466.56
Subtotal (excl. GST)							\$117,466.56
GST							\$11,746.66
Total species credits (incl. GST)							\$129,213.22
Calculated as on: 23-08-2019 15:29:36							Grand total \$129,213.22

Figure 2 – squirrel glider offset payment calculation “screen grab”

Retirement of credits using an Offset Site

Eastern Pygmy-possum credits

Offset site identification

Council proposes to meet its Eastern Pygmy-possum (EPP) species credit obligation (197 credits) by retiring 197 of its 333 EPP credits from Council’s Huskisson Biobank Site at 235 Huskisson Road Huskisson.

At the time the BAR was prepared the Biobank site had not been formalised, but as of November 2017, Council has a legally binding biobank site **Biobanking Agreement, ID number BA320**, at 235 Huskisson Rd, Huskisson NSW 2540 (Lot 17 in Deposited Plan number 857006) containing the following credits (Figure 3):

Ecosystem credits summary

Plant Community type	Area (ha)	Credits created
Blackbutt - Turpentine - Bangalay moist open forest on sheltered slopes and gullies, southern Sydney Basin Bioregion	35.66	492.00
Red Bloodwood - Hard-leaved Scribbly Gum - Silvertop Ash heathy open forest on sandstone plateaux of the lower Shoalhaven Valley, Sydney Basin Bioregion	1.97	23.00
Swamp Mahogany swamp sclerophyll forest on coastal lowlands of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	17.68	184.00
Total	55.31	699

Species credits summary

Common name	Scientific name	Extent of impact Ha or individuals	Number of species credits created
Eastern Pygmy-possum	<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	48.06	333
Eastern Bristlebird	<i>Dasyornis brachypterus</i>	14.10	100
Green and Golden Bell Frog	<i>Litoria aurea</i>	11.44	81

Figure 3 – credits available, including Eastern Pygmy-possum species credits, as of 25 September 2019 at Council's Huskisson biobank site

The Huskisson Biobank site is approximately 22km south east of the development site (Figure 4).

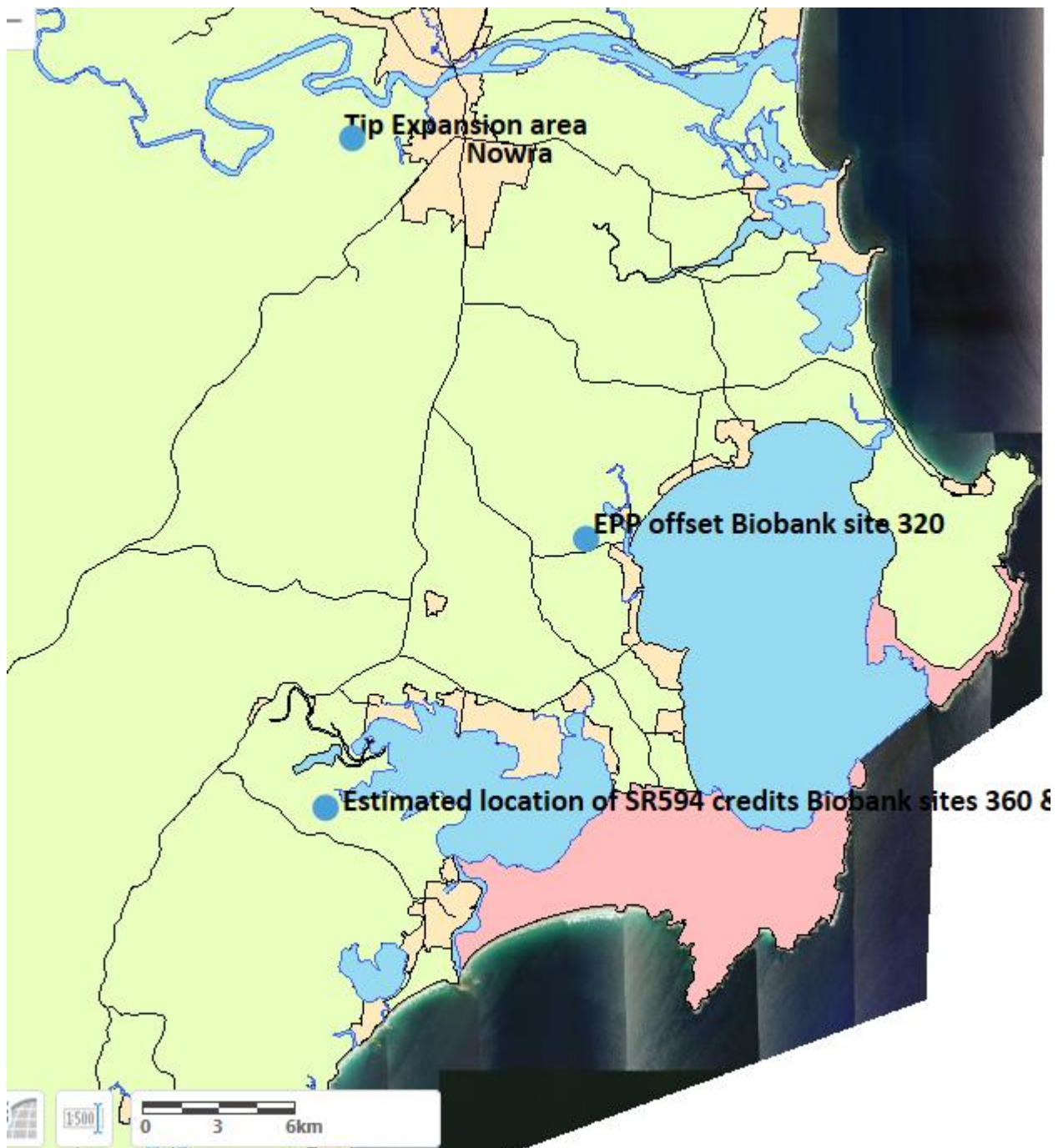


Figure 4 – location of offset sites relative to development site

Ecosystem credits for PCT SR594

Council has been in contact with the owner of biobank sites (Biobank Agreements 360 and 361) within the Shoalhaven LGA. The “screen grabs” below from Biobanking public register only identifies the owner of the sites and that site 360 is 354.6ha and site 361 is 250.3ha, both within the Jervis IBRA sub-region. The owners of the credits have agreed to sell the credits to Council. Site 360 has 1,008 SR594

credits available (Figure 5) which is greater than the number Council requires. Site 361 has 1,246 SR594 credits available (Figure 6) which is greater than the number Council requires.

Summary of biobanking agreement: 360

Status: Agreement issued

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Landowner ID/company name Sealark Pty Limited

Biobank site location details

Site area (ha)	Major Catchment Area	IBRA sub-region	LGA
354.6	Southern Rivers	Jervis	Shoalhaven City Council

Ecosystem credits

IBRA sub-region	Plant community type	Credits issued date	Total credits issued	Total credits available
Jervis	SR512/Bangalay - Old-man Banksia open forest on coastal sands, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	22/02/2019	928	928
Jervis	SR587/Needlebush - banksia wet heath on sandstone plateaux of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	22/02/2019	349	349
Jervis	SR592/Red Bloodwood - Blackbutt - Spotted Gum shrubby open forest on coastal foothills, southern Sydney Basin Bioregion	22/02/2019	1,309	1,309
Jervis	SR594/Red Bloodwood - Hard-leaved Scribbly Gum - Silvertop Ash heathy open forest on sandstone plateaux of the lower Shoalhaven Valley, Sydney Basin Bioregion	22/02/2019	1,008	1,008
Jervis	SR648/Swamp Mahogany swamp sclerophyll forest on coastal lowlands of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	22/02/2019	69	69
Jervis	SR650/Swamp Oak swamp forest fringing estuaries, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	22/02/2019	80	80
Jervis	SR651/Swamp Paperbark - Swamp Oak tall shrubland on estuarine flats, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	22/02/2019	100	100

Figure 5 – credits available at biobank site (ID 360) including 1,008 SR594 credits

Summary of biobanking agreement: 361

Status: Agreement issued

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Landowner ID/company name Sealark Pty Limited

Biobank site location details

Site area (ha)	Major Catchment Area	IBRA sub-region	LGA
250.3	Southern Rivers	Jervis	Shoalhaven City Council

Ecosystem credits

IBRA sub-region	Plant community type	Credits issued date	Total credits issued	Total credits available
Jervis	SR545/Forest Red Gum - Thin-leaved Stringybark grassy woodland on coastal lowlands, southern Sydney Basin Bioregion	22/02/2019	138	138
Jervis	SR587/Needlebush - banksia wet heath on sandstone plateaux of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	22/02/2019	110	110
Jervis	SR592/Red Bloodwood - Blackbutt - Spotted Gum shrubby open forest on coastal foothills, southern Sydney Basin Bioregion	22/02/2019	1,189	1,189
Jervis	SR594/Red Bloodwood - Hard-leaved Scribbly Gum - Silvertop Ash heathy open forest on sandstone plateaux of the lower Shoalhaven Valley, Sydney Basin Bioregion	22/02/2019	1,246	1,246
Jervis	SR648/Swamp Mahogany swamp sclerophyll forest on coastal lowlands of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	22/02/2019	18	18
Jervis	SR650/Swamp Oak swamp forest fringing estuaries, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	22/02/2019	7	7
Jervis	SR651/Swamp Paperbark - Swamp Oak tall shrubland on estuarine flats, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion	22/02/2019	24	24

Figure 6 - credits available at biobank site (ID 361) including 1,246 SR594 credits

The exact location of the Biobank sites is not provided on the public register but they are believed to be large lots between Sussex Inlet Road and St Georges Basin approximately 25km south of the development site (Figure 4).

Should the sale of the credits not eventuate, for any reason, and an alternative source of SR594 credits is not available, Council would make a payment to the BCT to meet its offset obligation.

References;

OEH, (2014a). *NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects*. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage for the NSW Government, 59 Goulburn St Sydney NSW 2000.

OEH, (2014b). *Framework for Biodiversity Assessment. NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects*. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage for the NSW Government, 59 Goulburn St Sydney NSW 2000.