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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 November 2021 7:24 AM  
**To:** Andrew Rode  
**Subject:** Question on Notice

Dear Andrew

At the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, I took on notice a Question: whether or not the management of the biodiversity offset sites after purchase is maintaining the site's biodiversity values.

My EIANZ colleagues who have experience working in the Scheme have put together the following response to the question:

"From viewing various submissions and presentations to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry, there have been submissions about offsets under a range of offset processes. We note that it is crucial to note that the methodology and processes around biodiversity offsets have significantly changed over time. A number of biodiversity offsets attracting negative press such as M7 (negotiated offset) and Western Sydney Airport (offsets by the Commonwealth government under the EPBC Act) have occurred outside of the previous Biobanking or the current Stewardship site processes, and as such cannot be compared to the current offset system in NSW.

With regards to outcomes from sites which have been conserved, it is most relevant to consider sites conserved and managed under Biobanking, as a number of these sites are now into their 10<sup>th</sup>+ year of active management, and as such can show maintenance and improvement of biodiversity condition.

Both Biobanking and Stewardship sites are required to complete annual reports which identify the management actions, and outcomes. Arrangements for Stewardship sites have significantly increased the amount of monitoring required.

With regards to improvement in condition, whilst this particular question would be best directed to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, as they will have relevant monitoring reports and should be able to provide details. However, below are a few Biobanking sites which were established early on. The original Biobanking agreements are available at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bimsprapp/SearchBiobankingAgreement.aspx?Start=1>, and can be located using the Biobanking Agreement (BA) number to search up the site, which is provided below for each site:

- Twin Towers Douglas Park (BA 40)
- Brownlow Hills Stage 1 (BA 3) – this site was in poor condition with African Olive which has since been removed and with extensive regeneration of ground cover
- Western Sydney Parklands sites (BA70, BA119, BA120)
- Puckey's Estate (BA 163).

In summary, once Biobanking and Stewardship sites are established and active management occurs, once sufficient credits are sold, then our members have seen not only maintenance but improvement of biodiversity values at conservation sites."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this response.

Regards

Bryan

Dr Bryan Jenkins  
President, Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand