



## First applications received

The BioBanking Scheme has received its first applications – an 80ha biobank site in south-west Sydney and three biobank sites and a development site in north-west Sydney. The application for the 80ha site has been reviewed and approved and we now have to finalise the agreement and have all parties sign it. We look forward to celebrating the establishment of several biobank sites in our next edition of *BioBanking Banter*.



## Tax guide available soon

*Tax implications of a biobanking agreement* will not be available on the BioBanking website until mid-late April, as we are awaiting a new authorisation number for the private binding ruling on GST from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). If you need *Tax implications of a biobanking agreement* before then, contact the Biobanking team who can email you a copy. Links to the full ATO rulings are available from the BioBanking website.

Electronic copies of all publications are available on the BioBanking website

## New Credit Calculator

A web-based Credit Calculator will be introduced late this year. The new Credit Calculator will feature a spatial component for maps and provides for assessments to be submitted online. The calculator will include a range of enhancements to improve security and usability.



## Publicise your interest in establishing a biobank site

Expressions of interest (EOIs) on the public register publicise a landowner's interest in establishing a biobank site. Developers, and other prospective purchasers of biodiversity credits, refer to the EOIs when they need to purchase biodiversity credits. Landowners only need to know the vegetation types and approximate area of their proposed site. There are currently 37 EOIs on the public register, several of which have been approached by prospective purchasers.



## BioBanking Assessors

The first assessor training course for 2010 was held in March at Ryde. Further courses are scheduled for June, September and November. Places are limited – bookings can be made at [www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au). There are now 57 accredited assessors – 49 commercial consultants, four CMA staff and four local government staff.

# 57

accredited assessors

## Information sessions

Members of the BioBanking team have been busy presenting information sessions to interested parties throughout NSW (landowners, developers, corporate environmental managers, and council and CMA staff). Sessions are usually two hours, which allows time for plenty of questions. So far this year presentations have included:

- CMAs – Hawkesbury Nepean, Hunter Central Rivers and Namoi
- local government – Queanbeyan City Council, Palerang Council and Campbelltown Council.

Call Trish Bancroft on 9995 6756 to arrange a presentation for your group.



## Assistance from the BioBanking team

The Biodiversity and Vegetation Programs unit, who administer Biobanking, are available to discuss options for biobank sites or development sites. If you need advice call the Environment Line on 131 555 and ask to speak to the BioBanking team or email the address below.

# 131 555

Environment Line

