

Submission  
No 55

**INQUIRY INTO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION  
AMENDMENT (BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS SCHEME) BILL  
2024**

**Organisation:** Tricketts Arch Biodiversity Site Aboriginal Corporation  
**Date Received:** 15 September 2024

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# Tricketts Arch Biodiversity Site Aboriginal Corporation

Tricketts Arch

ABN 78 255 391 447  
Supply Nation Registered

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12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Ms Sue Higginson MLC  
The Chair  
NSW Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry  
Into a Bill to Amending  
The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme  
Sydney

## **Re: Submission to the NSW Upper House Enquiry into the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme**

Dear Sue,

We have only in the last week become aware of the existence of your inquiry and being one of the few Aboriginal families and/or organisations involved in Biobanking and/or Biodiversity Offsets Schemes we feel it is appropriate that your inquiry is made aware of our experience and views in regard to the current state of the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.

**We are the oldest unfunded biodiversity offset site in NSW and one of only two Aboriginal family/companies involved in the scheme. For this reason we feel it is extremely important that your committee hear about our experience with its operation.**

Firstly a brief overview/history of us:

- My husband is a keen caver and purchased Tricketts Arch property in November 1982 to conserve the property's unique karst and ecological environments.
- Peter and I met in 1992 and brought up our 3 children on the property while working to pay off the mortgage and other debts.
- The property's use over the last 42 years has been predominately for conservation and protection of its biodiversity, Aboriginal, pioneer mining and karst values.
- In late 2008 we were informed of the Biobanking scheme.
- In 2009 we applied for funding under the LandAlive programme to participate in Biobanking and signed our agreement in 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011.
- The subsequent ecological survey undertaken as part of the biodiversity assessment methodology found that the Tricketts Arch property contained 2/3 of the known population of an extremely rare orchid *Diuris aequalis* (Buttercup Doubletail)
- 1243 Biobanking ecosystem and 910 species credits were created under the Biobanking scheme using the Biobanking Biodiversity Assessment Methodology; referred to as **BBAM** system credits.

- The major factors influencing our decision to enter the Biobanking scheme were:
  - ❖ A permanent conservation agreement over all but 2.5 ha around the homestead
  - ❖ Prior efforts at a conservation agreement had always excluded the previously cleared areas.
  - ❖ Stewardship payments in perpetuity.
  - ❖ A potential payment under the Part B provision which would help us fund the property transfer into an Aboriginal family company plus infrastructure costs needed to run the company.
  - ❖ Also a reasonable Part B payment would also allow the family to build on the Biobanking Agreement and its stewardship payments to become “biodiversity farmers” in what we felt could become a growing ‘Biodiversity Farming Industry’.
  
- The last decade and a half has nearly shattered this dream and our aspirations.
- Having signed a Biobanking Agreement we were virtually abandoned throughout the 2010’s.
  - ❖ There were no participation workshops; no field visits by OEH staff.
  - ❖ No information leaflets, no market price data, no possible projects needing offset – nothing.
  - ❖ The LandAlive Aboriginal staff that had guided us through the Biobanking process were sacked in late 2010, never to be replaced until the early 2020’s.
  - ❖ The only jobs that current BCT Aboriginal staff seems to us is to be part of is a photo shoot at talkfests/media occasions.
  - ❖ There was no market information on what was/is a realistic value (sale price) for the credits.
  - ❖ **IN SHORT NOTHING**
  
- In this vacuum of the lack of real market information we were like ‘**babes in a lion cage**’.
- In 2018 we sold 48 HN590 (PCT No 1197) for \$2,000 per credit for \$96,000 and afterwards when we became better informed on market prices we felt that **we had been totally ripped off**.
- In 2020 we sold 46 HN558 (PCT No. 963) for \$6,000 per credit for \$276,000 with the sale giving us a clearer picture that the credits were more valuable than we first estimated.
  
- In the 2020s as far as we were concern things went from bad to worse to utterly horrible; with only the last 12 months providing some glimmer of hope for a fair sale price for our offset credits.
- In early 2020 the BCT and/or OEH introduced a new Biobanking assessment methodology known as the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology or **BAM** credits system which in affect reduced the number of our Biodiversity Offset credits by approximately half for all our property’s ecosystems.
- This had a profound effect on us and on what we could expect our credits market sale to be.
- In effect, while the number of offset credits was on average reduced by half, the price of the **BAM** credits remained the same instead of doubling.  
(See attached spreadsheet - **TABSAC\_2\_BB Biodiversity Credits\_5-1-2.xls**).
- In May 2023 we applied to the BCT for market price estimation for our Biodiversity Offset Credits (see attached file - **TABSAC\_3\_PES00075 Price Estimation Statement.pdf**).
- Using these prices we were able to get an estimate of what the sale of all our BAM credits would bring; which is **\$3,386,400** (see the total in **Column O**, coloured orange in the attached spreadsheet).
- **This was for us an enormous shock and capped off a series of really bad years for us.**
- The 2020’s open for us with the devastating Black summer Bushfires of 2019/20 with the fire front coming within 3kms of the southern property boundary. When the rain did come in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February we endured 3 years of above average rainfall (**2020** -1452mm; **2021** – 1824mm; **2022** – 17833mm). Our 2 main property access tracks became almost impassable. To top it off weeds (blackberry) grew like they had just being sprayed with superphosphate. Finally this year a plague of pigs have ripped up whole sections of the property including some Aboriginal ceremonial grounds.
- We have applied to sell our credits to the BCT and Credit Supply Taskforce (CST) in 2021, 2022, 2023 but to not avail; as mentioned previously our asking price is too high.
  
- **We were/are on a merry-go-round in which no one – neither the BCT nor the CST seen willing to get off or negotiate a solution.**

- In early 2020 we decided that after a decade of going nowhere we needed to take matters into our own hands/destiny.
- During 2020 the family formed the Tricketts Arch Biodiversity Site Aboriginal Corporation (TABSAC) under the Office of the Register of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) as a not-for-profit-corporation with incorporation completed on 28/8/2020.
- In early 2022 I went on dialysis for kidney failure at Bathurst District Hospital which required me to travel 3 times a week from the property to Bathurst for dialysis, a round trip of 200 kms. With the boys football and school activities we have been doing on average between 800 and 1000 kms per week almost every week since January 2022.
- The property ownership was transferred from Peter's name into TABSAC 28/3/2023 with the biodiversity offset credits be transferred on 28/8/2023.
  
- With the transfer of property into TABSAC both Peter and I have subsequently lost our Centrelink pensions (my Disability Support Pension and Peter's Carers Pension).
- At present we survive on our savings, handouts and our 2 boys child Centrelink payment.
- **It was an enormous sacrifice but as both of us agreed someone had to get off the merry-go-round and our estimation was that it wasn't going to be either the BCT or the CST.**
  
- Two positive outcomes have occurred:
  1. We have managed to get funding under the Aboriginal owned Asset Program (AoAP) to repair and upgrade of our 2 main property access tracks (3.5 kms) – Homestead and Tuglow River access tracks to the value of \$1.3m.
  2. The CST has also blinked and is at present resurveying and reassessing our BOS credits as well as creating several new species credits.
  3. **The BCT have not moved an inch.**
  
- For us the following issues are of very real concern and should be for any responsible member of the NSW Parliament;
  1. The BCT potential price estimate gives a total sale price for all our BOS Credits of \$3.4m
  2. This amount would appear to be totally inadequate with funds for initial conservation works 'cleaning out the fund' within 2 years for the following reasons:
    - The main access tracks are costing \$1.34m to repair.
    - It is estimated that putting a firebreak around the southern, eastern and northern boundaries (4kms) is going to cost something similar to undertake to the main access tracks (\$1.0m)
    - The above would also have to have new pest proof property fencing as the existing fencing is 50+ years old and no longer keeps both pigs and wild dogs out.
    - There are 5 fire management zones only 1 of which has ever had an ecological burn some 30 years ago. The property has been described as having a fire management problem like a ticking atom bomb – cost per burn are estimated to around \$40,000 - \$50,000 p/burn
    - The last few years has seen an explosion in weeds (blackberry and serrate tussock) and costing is currently being sort.
    - An extensive Aboriginal site and artefact surveyed needs to be undertaken; at present 4 sites are listed on the AHIMS database and it is estimated that this will blow out to 20+ sites and with a large number of artefacts.
    - There are a large range of other management actions needing to done.
    - We would like to employ an Aboriginal trainee ranger to help TABSAC properly manage the Tricketts Arch property; estimated to cost \$100,000+ p/year.
  3. **In reality if we had sold our BOS credits for the price the BCT 'thinks' they are worth, we would have run out of funds from the TFD after only 2 years.**
  4. Our rough estimated is that the TFD needs to be well north of **\$6m**; in affect the price of our BOS credits needs to double as it should have when the BAM prices were set, just to cover the work that need to be done, let alone give us a reasonable Part B payment.

## **In Summary:**

- The current price controls on the market of biodiversity offsets are unrealistic and unsustainable.
- The BCT operation of the “Calculator” is not only putting an unrealistic ‘floor price’ on what the owners of biodiversity offset credits can obtain, but the prices are well below prices delivering a sustainable long term Total Fund Deposits (TFD) for us and possibility many other biodiversity offset properties.
- We believe that the BCT is using the ‘Calculator’ to help fund its other activities at the expense of owners of biodiversity offset sites.
- In reality there is no market for BOS credits other than that operated by the BCT and CST.
- **Together the above 4 points have the possibility of leading to a catastrophic failure of the BOS system which because of the near monopolist operation of prices by NSW Government funded institutions could have serious financial issues/implementations for a future NSW Government.**
- The IPART enquiry into BOS prices underlining assumption is that the price for BOS credits is to be treated much like Local Government ‘tip fees’ to be regulated to an ‘acceptable price/s’ like other government fees and charges is unrealistic.
- **IPART should have treated the price of BOS credits like any other rural communities completely subject to the forces of supply and demand.**

Finally we like to thank John Seidel the Manager of the CST taskforce and OEH staff Dan Creedy and Lisa Hill.

John Seidel commissioned Oliver Tye from Abstarr Consulting in 2023 to commission a report on how the CST and OEH could engage with NSW Aboriginal land owners with native vegetation (principally Aboriginal Land Councils) to participate in Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. Oliver became aware of our existence and phoned us for our opinions on the BOS scheme. Together John and Oliver later visited us to see for themselves what we were trying to achieve. I provided him with our views on what our family thought are the major issues with the scheme. Attached is the same letter expressing TABSAC view on the main issue for us with the BOS scheme (See attached file – **TABSA C\_4\_Oliver\_Tye\_letter-16oct2023.pdf**). Also attached is TABSAC vision statement for People and Country. (See attached file – **TABSAC\_5\_Vision\_Statement.pdf**).

**John Seidel has gone much further, arranging for staff from OEH to reassess our property under the BAM system including creating a number of new species credits. We are extremely grateful to him and his staff for their help and assistance and would like the Committee to know that this is the first positive assistance we have had in 15 years and it is extremely appreciated.**

We wish the BCT could show a similar understanding to our plight and seek ways to help us out of the current merry-go-round.

Both the other family TABSAC Board members and I look forward to discussing the above issues/matters personally with your committee.

Yours in Unity

Sharon Ruby Dykes  
Chairperson  
Tricketts Arch Biodiversity Site Aboriginal Corporation.

Credit Id	Veg. Code	PCT No.	HBT	Vegetation Type	BBAM Credits	BBAM Credits Sold	BBAM Credits Avail.	BBAM Credit Sale Price	BBAM Total Est. Sale Value
230	HNS23	821	YES	Euabbie - Stringybark shrubby woodland on limestone in the Jenolan Caves Area, Sydney Basin Bioregion	216	-	216	\$6,000	\$1,296,000
231*	HNS58	963	YES	Narrow-leaved Peppermint - Mountain Gum - Brown Barrel moist open forest on high altitude ranges northern South Eastern Highland Bioregion	109	46	63	\$6,000	\$378,000
232	HNS72	1100	YES	Ribbon Gum - Snow Gum grassy forest on damp flats, eastern South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	206	-	206	\$6,000	\$1,236,000
233	HNS72	1100	NO	Ribbon Gum - Snow Gum grassy forest on damp flats, eastern South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	58	-	58	\$6,000	\$348,000
234	HNS76	1110	NO	River Tussock - Tall Sedge - Kangaroo moist grasslands of the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	9	-	9	\$0	\$0
235	HNS90	1197	YES	Snow - Mountain Gum tussock grass-herb forest of the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	547	-	547	\$6,000	\$3,282,000
236**	HNS90	1197	NO	Snow - Mountain Gum tussock grass-herb forest of the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	98	48	50	\$6,000	\$300,000
<b>Totals</b>					1243	94	1149		\$6,840,000

218				Buttercup Doubletail - <i>Diuris aequalis</i>	910	-	910	\$0	\$0
<b>BBAM Credit Sale Price</b>					BBAM Credit Sale Price is based on the sale of PCT 963 BBAM Biobanking Offset Credits sold to the BCT on 21st October 2020 at BBAM sale price of \$6,000 per BBAM credit				

* BAM Credits	BAM Credits Avail.	** BCT Credit Est. Price	Total Est. Sale Value	BAM Credits Avail.	BCT Credit Est. Price	Total Est. Sale Value
126	126	\$6,400	\$806,400	126	\$13,000	\$1,638,000
38	38	\$6,000	\$228,000	38	\$12,500	\$475,000
91	91	\$6,000	\$546,000	91	\$12,500	\$1,137,500
36	36	\$6,000	\$216,000	36	\$12,500	\$450,000
4	4	\$0	\$0	4		\$4
234	234	\$6,000	\$1,404,000	234	\$12,500	\$2,925,000
31	31	\$6,000	\$186,000	31	\$12,500	\$387,500
560	560		\$3,386,400	560		\$7,013,004
6	6	\$4,300	\$25,800			
BAM Credit Sale Price	BAM Credit Sale Price is based on Predicted Price Estimate provided by the BCT for PCT vegetation communities for the Offset Trading Group - Tableland Basalt Forest in the Sydney Basin and the South Eastern Highlands Bioregions					

\* Data from Tricketts Arch Statement of Reasonable Equivalence to Credits under the Biodiversity Offset Scheme provided to Peter and Sharon Dykes as at 25th February 2020

\*\* Data from a Price Estimate for Tricketts Arch Biodiversity Credits using the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator provided to Peter and Sharon Dykes on 26th May 2023

Owner ID - 766 (TABSAC), previously Owner ID - 35 (Peter Dykes); Agreement No. 33; Tricketts Arch Biodiversity Site Aboriginal Corporation (TABSAC) -

\*\*\* The BAM credit total of 38 BAM for Credit Id. 231 (HNS58), PCT 963 is based on 109 BBAM Credits, as the Statement of Reasonable Equivalence was done before the sale of 46 BBAM credits to the BCT.

\*\*\*\* The BAM credit total of 31 BAM for Credit Id. 236 (HNS90), PCT 1197 is based on 50 BBAM Credits not the original 98 credits because the Statement of Reasonable Equivalence was done after the sale of 48 BAM credits to NSW RMS (NorthConnex).



# Price Estimate for biodiversity credits using the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator

## Price Estimate

The statement provides Predicted Credit Price for credits determined by the Biodiversity Offset Payment Calculator that is an indicative price that may be useful for planning purposes but should not be used as the final price for credits. It may not be the same as the price to pay to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF) under section 6.30 (1) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act). The price estimate may not reflect the price of credits trading in the market. Applicants should review other sources of market information when considering the likely value of biodiversity credits.

A price estimate cannot be used to make a payment into the BCF. To do this please use the [BCF Charge System Application Form](#).

### PART A - APPLICANT DETAILS

Applicant			
Full name	Peter Dykes		
Phone		Mobile	
Fax		Email	
Mailing address (if no email address is provided above)			
Address			
Suburb/city			
State/territory		Postcode	
Application Details			
PES Number	PES00075		
Type	BSA		
Application Name	Tricketts Arch Biobank Site		

## PART B – CREDIT DETAILS

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The BCT has issued a Predicted Price for one credit of each OTG/Species identified in the application.

IBRA subregion	Offset trading group or threatened species name	Species Cat.	Predicted Credit Price	Method
Oberon	Central Gorge Dry Sclerophyll Forests <50%	N/A	\$6,400.00	T1
Oberon	Tableland Basalt Forest in the Sydney Basin and South Eastern Highlands Bioregions	N/A	\$6,000.00	T1
Oberon	Temperate Montane Grasslands >=90%	N/A	\$5,400.00	T1
Oberon	<i>Diuris aequalis</i>	M3D1	\$4,300.00	T2



## PART C – NOTES AND DISCLAIMERS

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### **A price estimate cannot be used to make a payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.**

The Species Categorisation is as defined in [Rules for Allocating Species Categories](#).

The credit price in the statement may not be the same as the price to pay to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF) under section 6.30 (1) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act).

The Predicted Credit Price is an indicative price that may be useful for planning purposes but should not be used as the final price for credits.

The Predicted Credit Price has been calculated by the methods identified in the [BOPC Order](#). The method code is as follows:

T1 = cost structure model – ecosystem credits, Tool 1 in BOPC order

T2 = cost structure model – species credits, Tool 2 in BOPC order

T3 = econometric model, Tool 3 in BOPC order

T4 = market soundings, Tool 4 in BOPC order

+ = price triangulated between methods.

R5 = Capped price under Rule 5, Transitional Price Cap Rule, valid until on 16 October 2023.<sup>1</sup>

Predicted Credit Price does not include GST, Risk Premium and Delivery Fee. If payment to the BCF occurs, addition of Delivery Fee (5%) and Risk Premium (between 11.1 and 16.7%) will apply. These are the values as of March 2023 and are subject to review.

If you have queries regarding this document, please contact the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) via telephone on 1300 992 688 or email at [bcpayments@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bcpayments@bct.nsw.gov.au).

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<sup>1</sup> Under transitional arrangements the value of some charges have been capped at 20% of the previous Biodiversity Offset Payment Calculator Price (called 'BOPC Capped' in the method in Table 2 and 3). The charge for these credits is only valid until 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 when the transitional arrangements to cap price increases cease. After 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 new BCF charge system prices will apply for payments. Estimates of the BCF charge post October 2023 for these limited credit types will be available from 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023. More information on the Transitional Price Cap Rules are here - [www.bct.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-09/DOC22%20869154%20%20Rule%205%20-%20Transitional%20Price%20Cap.pdf](http://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-09/DOC22%20869154%20%20Rule%205%20-%20Transitional%20Price%20Cap.pdf)



# Tricketts Arch Biodiversity Site Aboriginal Corporation

Tricketts Arch

ABN 78 255 391 447

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16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Ollie Tye  
Abstarr Consulting

**Re: Abstarr Review of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme for the BCT and OEH  
with a focus on the involvement of Aboriginal Organisations**

Hi Ollie,

Peter and I have had several conversations since John and you left with regard to the activities of the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), the Credit Supply Taskforce (CST) and the whole operation of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) under the Office Environment and Heritage (OEH).

Firstly we would like to state that we were extremely concerned about the whole motives of the BCT and the OEH in employing you to develop a “plan” to encourage Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) to participate in BOS. Secondly we deeply respect your motives in engaging with us and your willingness to hear our concerns about our experiences with BOS. We really appreciated yours and John’s visit with us and to our property “Tricketts Arch”. We extend a big “Thank You” to the both of you.

Secondly, we want to make our feelings and opinions quite clear on what we believe is both the BCT and OEH motives. As Peter regularly states, native vegetation in existence at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1993 is ineligible for Carbon Abatement Credits (CACs). Yet this vegetation is extremely important for climate change/global warming in that it forms 1 of 3 national and international “Carbon Sinks”; the others being coral reefs and algal (seaweed) forests. First Nations Peoples in Australia and around the world are major ‘**owners, carers and guardians**’ of these significant carbon sinks. They live to protect these areas because their culture, spirit and beliefs holds that the trees, plants, animals, reefs and seaweed forests are sacred, to be treasured and protected. Non-Aboriginal Australia has rarely appreciated or understood this connection to land and biodiversity that all First Nations Peoples hold so dearly.

Yet while companies making solar panels, putting up wind towers, storage batteries, or planting pine trees etc. are able to get billions and billions of dollars in CACs; first nations peoples are on their guts in the gutters trying to get a few louse dollars for their efforts. It’s really wrong; it’s immoral and ethically wrong and it is doubtful if the current CACs arrangements will stop or even slow global warming.

**But for us there is a more fundamental issue at stake that we want to emphasise to you.**

For the last 30 or more years governments around Australia have viewed the market and market forces of supply and demand as primacy to the operation of ‘good government’ and ‘good economics’. Government services like the CES and government companies like the Commonwealth Bank and State Electricity

Providers have all been privatised in the name of ‘free enterprise competition’ and ‘better use of government and community financial and natural resources’.

For my people living at Brewarrina and Weilmoringle it has meant that the price of fuel, food, housing and government services like water are all now open to the ‘free market forces’. They live with the same level of Centrelink benefits as Peter and I get but can pay double or up to a factor of 3 to 4 times the price for basic services. So as Peter put it to me “*why in the bloody hell should companies clearing our land of its vegetation and animals that connect us to the land be allowed to do so at highly subsidised rates and not be subjected to the same ‘market forces’ that my people are daily subjected to?*”. *Why aren’t Aboriginal owned lands eligibility for CACs if they have over then a conservation agreement in perpetuity?*

The answers to the above are always wrapped in government mumbo jumbo with the same answer – because it’s just this or that. But it is just the same old racism package with very sophisticated rationales that non-Aboriginal Australia has practiced for the last 200+ years since they got off the boat at Sydney Harbour. Both Peter and I have had enough of this racist bullshit.

So to cut to the chase; what we are saying is that we would like you to point this out to the BCT and OEH in your report.

Further we believe that if the BCT and OEH are serious about engagement with Aboriginal Land Councils (ALCs) and Aboriginal People they will immediately cease the operation of the ‘Calculator’ as the means for the purchase of biodiversity offset credits and will allow market forces of supply and demand to operate.

To be blunt if they attempt to ‘sell’ the current system of offset credit price determination via the use of the ‘Calculator’ or something similar to Aboriginal organisations; Peter and I will go on the war path and travel across NSW to speak against their ‘Calculator’.

My mother, Essie Coffey’s maiden name was “Essie Shillingsworth” because a white squatter reckoned that her grandfather was only worth paying a shilling for his work while he paid white stockman with pound notes. The Calculator is just a bit more sophisticated and modern version of this same old racism that my people have put up with for generations. NO MORE. These modern day ‘land clearer squatter attitudes’ by business to get what they want at dirt cheap prices have to change, they must be made to pay market prices based on supply and demand for ours and other landowners biodiversity offset credits before getting clearing permission.

**The days of our people putting up with subtle government racism are over  
as are the days of us taking this sort of crap.**

Yours in Unity

Sharon ‘Ruby’ Dykes  
Chairperson  
Tricketts Arch Biodiversity Aboriginal Corporation  
And a signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart



# Tricketts Arch Biodiversity Site Aboriginal Corporation

Tricketts Arch

ABN 78 255 391 447  
Supply Nation Registered

## Submission – Upper House Enquiry in to Biodiversity Offset Scheme

### Property Summary Statement:

Forty years ago in November 1982 my husband Peter Dykes finalised the purchase of a rural bush block containing a significant karst area. Peter is a keen caver, speleologist and conservationist but above all he wanted to preserve the area and its unique karst and biodiversity values. Since then our family have grown to love and appreciate the property we call ‘The Farm’. As an Aboriginal family we have endeavoured to keep our dream of preserving and conserving the property’s cultural, karst and biodiversity values as listed below and in the accompanying PowerPoint presentation. It is our family’s hope that with the sale of the Biobanking Biodiversity Offset ecosystem and species credits that we will be able to finance our family vision of cultural programmes, employment opportunities and farm infrastructure improvements that will build on our **TABSAC - Vision for People and Country**.

<b>Site Name:</b>	Tricketts Arch Biobanking Conservation Site	
<b>Property Owner:</b>	Tricketts Arch Biodiversity Site Aboriginal Corporation (TABSAC)	
<b>Contact:</b>	Chairperson	Sharon (Ruby) Dykes
	Secretary	Yularna Dykes
<b>Phone Landline:</b>		
<b>Mobile:</b>		
<b>E-mail:</b>		
<b>Credit Owner Id:</b>	No. 766	
<b>Biobanking Agreement No.:</b>	No. 33	
<b>IBRA Region:</b>	South Eastern Highlands	
<b>IBRA Subregion:</b>	Oberon	
<b>Statement of Reasonable Equivalence:</b>	Yes	



**Albino pikipila (Murrwarri for echidna) found living on Tricketts Arch**



**Buttercup Doubletail (*Diuris aequalis*) found along Chimney Creek**

**Home to the albino pikipila (Echidna) and  
The rare Buttercup Doubletail (Diuris aequalis)**

**TRICKETTS ARCH BIODIVERSITY SITE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION  
VISION FOR COUNTRY AND PEOPLE**

Our family like many Aboriginal families is a very large extended family with a high proportion of young people. Some live without hope of long-term employment and in an atmosphere of despair fuelled with drugs and alcohol. Our family vision is to use the opportunity that both the ownership of Tricketts Arch property and the eventual sale of the biobanking ecosystem credits offers to help finance a way out of poverty with the prospect of real long-term employment for our Aboriginal youth, cultural renewal and working for country and people can offer.

We plan to tackle our family members' poverty with a strategy of cultural renewal; employment and caring for culture, country and people.

**Cultural Renewal**

Aboriginal People are very spiritual people and it is this spirituality that defines their culture, loss of culture means loss of one's spirit and this leads to loss of self-respect. All through the process of establishing a Conservation Agreement over the property we made provision for the establishment of a cultural centre and bush camping ground. It is our intention to eventually seek funding available to community organisations to fund the construction of both facilities and to use them to run school culture camps; drug and alcohol programmes and "artist in the bush" camps. Our dream is to see the youth in our family grow up strong with a sense of culture, respect and determination. Among our family members are a social worker; care providers, budding artists and a drug and alcohol counsellor. Using their skills and the proposed facilities we have received positive initial responses from the education sector, Department of Community Services and Elders Councils to establishing and operating culturally appropriate programmes.

**Employment**

Employment is the key to breaking out of the poverty. With secure employment Aboriginal people are able to participate in the broader Australian economy. For many of our family members employment is casual and never secure or long-term. We hope to break this cycle and replace it with not just employment, but with self-confidence and careers. We will be taking some of our family members out of their current situation of long-term unemployment and giving them a sense of hope and self-worth.

We hope that both the conservation agreement and the ownership of the property as a Not-For-Profit Aboriginal Corporation will facilitate funding opportunities for the immediate employment of a farm ranger to undertake the management actions agreed to in the Tricketts Arch Biobanking Conservation Agreement. However it is our vision to go further and to use this position to help fund an additional two trainee Aboriginal land management positions in partnership with government and non-government agencies. Also the construction of the culture centre and camping ground along with an office and improvements to the exiting family residence will provide an addition two short-term construction positions. With the proposed cultural renewal activities we hope to also provide employment for 3 people on long-term basis. Among our extended family are many with land management and construction skills that would benefit from the employment that we would be able to offer.

**Caring for Culture, Country and People**

*Caring For Country* is a key Aboriginal value and a basic component in respect for culture and people. Working on country and looking after sites, plants and animals is something that gives Aboriginal people not just a job but a sense of respect for Elders, cultural values and tradition and a love for their people.

It is our hope to seek funds from private and government funding bodies to fund the purchase of additional bush blocks in the Jaunter and other areas where appropriate and to build a viable base of employment and opportunity for Aboriginal land management of country. This is what the

**TICKETTS ARCH BIODIVERSITY SITE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION  
VISION FOR PEOPLE AND COUNTRY IS ALL ABOUT**

<b>Credits Available:</b>		<b>Ecosystem Credits:</b>			
<b>Cr ID</b>	<b>PCT</b>	<b>Plant Community Name</b>	<b>HBT</b>	<b>BBAM</b>	<b>BAM</b>
<b>Offset Trading Group:</b>		<b>Central Gorge Sclerophyll Forests % cleared value &lt;50%</b>			
230	821	Eurabbie – Stringybark shrubby woodland on limestone in the Jenolan Caves area, Sydney Basin	Yes	216	126
231	963	Narrow-leaved Peppermint – Mountain Gum – Brown Barrel moist open forest on altitude ranges, Northern SEH Bioregion	Yes	63	22
<b>Offset Trading Group:</b>		<b>Tableland Basalt Forest in the Sydney Basin &amp; South Eastern Highlands Bioregions</b>			
232	1100	Ribbon Gum – Snow Gum grassy forest on damp flats, Eastern South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	Yes	206	91
233	1100	Ribbon Gum – Snow Gum grassy forest on damp flats, eastern South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	No	58	36
<b>Offset Trading Group:</b>		<b>Temperate Montane Grasslands % cleared value &gt;90%</b>			
234	1110	River tussock – Tall Sedge –Kangaroo Grass moist grasslands of the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	No	9	4
<b>Offset Trading Group:</b>		<b>Tableland Basalt Forest in the Sydney Basin &amp; South Eastern Highlands Bioregions</b>			
235	1197	Snow Gum – Mountain Gum tussock grass-herb forest of the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	Yes	547	234
236	1197	Snow Gum – Mountain Gum tussock grass-herb forest of the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	No	50	31
		<b>Species Credits:</b>			
218		Buttercup Doubletail ( <i>Diuris aequalis</i> )		910	6

Also recorded in the ecological assessment done for the Biobanking Agreement are the following threatened species:

- Plants Australian Anchor Plant (*Discaria pubescens*) listed under EPBC Act as ROTAP 3RCa
  - Birds Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) and Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*)
  - Mammals Eastern Bent-wing Bat (*Miniopterus oceanensis*), Large-footed Myotis (*Myotis macropous*)
- All told 7 different bat species were recorded plus 1 unidentified Long-eared Bat species (*Nyctophilus sp.*)  
And also the property has habitat for Koalas and Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies