

Sydney Flower Market Update – from Stuart Henry Biosecurity Weeds Officer Strathfield Council

I have been performing regular, twice weekly, inspections at the Sydney Flower Markets at Flemington. Alex Mackenzie, also from Strathfield Council, has in addition carried out some surprise visits out of my normal scheduled days. We haven't found any nonsalable weeds within the markets, but there are rumours that goods prohibited from sale are being traded very early in the morning (2-3am) outside of normal market hours. Vehicle inspections didn't find anything, so we have to treat this as just a rumour, until some proof is found.

The previous Cut Flower Group Biosecurity Permit system, was replaced on May 31 2019. There is currently a grace period of approximately six weeks, until compliance action is enforced in regard to the new permit system. Until then education will be implemented only for the four previously listed species, unless they do not meet the conditions of the previous permit conditions. Other Non-Saleable weeds will still be targeted during this period without any grace period.

There are currently four species on *Schedule 3*, that are able to be sold under permit. They are:

- *Asparagus aethiopicus*
- *Asparagus plumosus*
- *Salix matsudana*
- *Salix nigricans*

It is feasible several other species may be added to this list, such as *Asparagus macowanii* (Ming Fern)

This permit authorises the sale of the specified weeds in commercial capacity in accordance with the conditions of this group permit. It does not exempt any person from their General Biosecurity Duty, rather it permits the supply and use of the plant parts for the flower industry where the risk of weed spread is low.

An outline of the new permit system

There is a Biosecurity Permit Application form and a Record of Movement form to be used in relation to permit arrangements for the cut-flower industry to use weeds listed in Schedule 3 of the Biosecurity Regulation.

As stated on the Biosecurity Permit Application form, permit applications are to be sent to DPI in Grafton. DPI will then forward them to the relevant Local Control Authority for processing. Once permits have been issued, the Record of Movement form needs to be completed by all permit holders and kept on record for every consignment movement in the supply chain to the point of sale at the Sydney Markets.

It needs to be completed by:

- Any permit holder in NSW importing permitted material from outside of NSW

- Any permit holder supplying permitted material to anyone in the supply chain up to and including the Sydney Markets
- Any permit holder (including sellers covered by the Group Permit at the Sydney Markets) purchasing permitted material to be sold through the Sydney Markets.

This system will in theory make it easier to trace consignments and also to match invoices with consignments, to ascertain the origin of species permitted under the permit system. Please note that the Record of Movement does not apply to movement of material out of the Sydney Markets.

Biosecurity Permit Application

NSW Biosecurity Act 2015

This form is an approved form to be used to apply for a new permit, a renewal of a permit or a variation of a permit (made by a holder of the permit) under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act).

A permit authorises conduct that, but for the permit, would or might contravene a requirement imposed by or under the Act. You cannot proceed with the proposed activity until a permit is granted.

Note: for a permit to keep non-indigenous animals please use the *Non-Indigenous Animals Permit Application* form available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Conditions of a permit

The relevant decision-maker may impose conditions on a permit when granting or renewing a permit, or at any other time by variation of the permit. The conditions of a permit may include (but are not limited to) conditions for insurance cover (s348), conditions for biosecurity audits (s349), and conditions requiring financial assurances (s350).

The relevant decision-maker may, at any time, vary a permit by notice in writing (s344). A variation includes the imposition of new conditions on a permit, the substitution of a condition, or the omission or amendment of conditions.

Fees and charges

A fee is prescribed by Schedule 5 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*. A fee will be determined and charged on a case-by-case basis. The application should be completed and submitted, and an invoice may be sent to the applicant for payment based on an administrative charge of \$80/per hour.

How to submit this form

- Email to weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- Mail to

Biosecurity Permits
NSW Department of Primary Industries
PMB 2
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Notification

You will be notified of the outcome of the application by email where supplied, or otherwise by post.

Contact

For weeds biosecurity matters please contact NSW Department of Primary Industries at weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au or on 1800 680 244.

1) Type of Application

New Renewal Variation

2) What type of permit are you applying for?

Individual permit (for you) Group permit (for a group of people)

3) Applicant's details

Full name

Company name and ACN (if applicable)

Residential registered address or in the case of a company applicant, registered business address

Suburb

State

Postcode

Property Identification Code (PIC); Lot number; DP number

Phone

Email

4) This permit application relates to:

- Animal pests and diseases
- Aquatic pests and diseases
- Contaminants and residues
- Fertiliser
- Invasive species - animals
- National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)
- Plant pests and diseases
- Invasive species - weeds

5) Why are you applying for a biosecurity permit?

- a contravention of a biosecurity undertaking/direction (Please attach a copy, if available)
- a contravention of the regulations, clause (if known)
- a contravention of the Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities), clause (if known)
- dealing with prohibited matter
- a contravention of a control order
- a contravention of an emergency order
- a contravention of conditions of a biosecurity registration
- a contravention of the Act
- a prohibited dealing (dealing with a non-indigenous animal listed in Schedule 3 of the Act)
- I am not sure

6) Please describe why you need this permit. Include the biosecurity matter (ie pest or disease), the carrier (i.e. the equipment, animal, or plant), and/or the activity you are applying for.

7) What steps have you identified that you can take to manage biosecurity risks associated with this permit?

8) Is this permit for the purpose of moving the biosecurity matter or carrier from one location to another?

Yes (if yes, please answer 9-12)

No (if no, please proceed to 13)

9) Place of Origin

Property Identification Code (PIC); Lot number; DP number

Name of individual, corporation, body corporate, Trustee of Family Trust

If a company, name of contact person

Residential or business address

Suburb

State

Postcode

Phone

Email

10) Destination

Property Identification Code (PIC); Lot number; DP number

Name of individual, corporation, body corporate, Trustee of Family Trust

If company, name of contact person

Residential or business address

Suburb

State

Postcode

Phone

Email

11) Transport Details

Describe how the item is to be transported

Transport Company (if applicable)

Contact person of company (of applicable)

Phone

Mobile

Email

Address

State

Postcode

12) Proposed movement date/s (include time of day, if relevant)

13) Requested duration of permit:

14) Has the applicant in 3) been found guilty of an offence under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*, *Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017* or any other Act or law?

No

Yes. Please provide details in the space provided below.

If additional space is required, please attach separate pages and indicate below the number of pages.

15) Privacy Statement

This information is collected by the collecting agency identified in this form in relation to its functions under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. This agency may use and disclose this information as reasonably necessary for the purpose of performing biosecurity risk functions under, or reasonably contemplated by, the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

I hereby declare that the information contained in this application is complete and accurate.

Name			
Signature		Date	

Note: It is an offence under section 308 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* for a person to furnish information that the person knows to be false or misleading in a material particular; in or in connection with an application under the Act, or in purported compliance with any requirement imposed by or under the Act.



Record of Movement

Cut flowers – Weeds of National Significance

I,
Name of responsible person

pursuant to the conditions of a biosecurity permit make the following record of movement:

a) Movement date

b) Description of permitted material consignment

Plant variety	Number of plants/stems/batches (please specify)
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> – Ground asparagus	
<i>Asparagus plumosus</i> – Climbing asparagus fern	
<i>Salix matsudana</i> – Tortured willow	
<i>Salix nigricans</i> – Dark-leaved or black willow	

c) Origin of material (address at which it was produced/grown)

Name of place				
Street address				
Suburb		State		Postcode
Phone		Email		

d) Destination of material

Street address				
Suburb		State		Postcode
Phone		Email		

Declaration

I hereby declare that the information contained in this record is true and correct.

Full name

Signature

Date

Phone

Email

A copy of the completed form must be kept by the person responsible and produced when requested by an Authorised Officer.