

Greater Sydney RWC Meeting 17: BUSINESS PAPER

Agenda Item 7	Sydney Flower Markets – Weeds Biosecurity Officer
ATTACHMENTS	
BACKGROUND	<p>Since 2014 there have been ongoing discussions about the need for a weeds Biosecurity Officer at the Sydney Flower Markets, Flemington.</p> <p>Early on NSW DPI stated that they don't have the resources or capacity to provide such an officer.</p> <p>The then, Sydney Weeds Committees pursued Weeds Action Program (WAP) funding for this position and Strathfield Council kindly agreed to host the officer. In this regard, Strathfield Council has been a WAP project partner and received WAP funds since 2015.</p> <p>Throughout this time the most significant change has been the introduction of the NSW <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and the WAP funded Biosecurity Officer greatly helped the flower markets with the transition and what the changes in legislation meant to them.</p> <p>The most recent Biosecurity Officer left Strathfield Council in July 2019. Council has indicated that they have no plans to replace this role and that they feel this should be the responsibility of Department of Primary Industry to implement.</p> <p>Council has also advised that they no longer wish to be involved as a partner of the Greater Sydney WAP Project.</p>
FOR ACTION/DECISION/NOTING	Action
DECISIONS REQUIRED BY RWC MEMBERS	The Regional Weed Committee writes to the Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW and requests that a Weeds Biosecurity Officer position be provided for the Sydney Flower Markets.