



Australian Government
Inspector-General of Biosecurity

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK



PART-TIME INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF BIOSECURITY

January 2022

ABOUT THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF BIOSECURITY

The Inspector-General of Biosecurity provides assurance over Australia's biosecurity risk management systems through independent evaluation and verification.

The Australian Government established the statutory office of the Inspector-General of Biosecurity to independently review the performance of functions and exercise of powers by the Director of Biosecurity. The Director of Biosecurity is the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Mission

Australia's biosecurity system plays a critical role in preventing or responding to the incursion of pests and diseases that threaten our environment, economy and way of life. The department applies biosecurity measures offshore, at the border, and onshore, undertaking a range of policy, operational and compliance functions. These functions are supported by new and emerging technology, research, intelligence, data analytics, communication and education programs. The department's activities include screening and inspecting cargo, vessels, mail and passengers for biosecurity threats, and working closely with many stakeholders to detect and respond to incursions.

The Inspector-General's mission is to enhance the integrity of the government's biosecurity operations through independently evaluating and verifying the performance of biosecurity functions and exercise of powers by officers within the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Framework

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* and Biosecurity Regulation 2016 define the Inspector-General's role, authority and independent powers. The Inspector-General is appointed by the agriculture minister to:

- undertake independent reviews of the performance of functions and exercise of powers by the Director of Biosecurity and make recommendations for overall system improvements
- provide an assurance framework of the department's biosecurity functions to stakeholders
- review the process used by the department in preparing draft biosecurity import risk assessments.

The Inspector-General role does not cover the assessment and review of issues related to human biosecurity, international trade and market access opportunities.

Independence

The Inspector-General is independent of the minister and the Director of Biosecurity. However, the Inspector-General may:

- consider a request for a review by the minister; and/or
- seek immediate action from the Director of Biosecurity (or senior department executives) and the minister to protect or enhance the integrity of Australia's biosecurity systems.

Scope

The Inspector-General has authority to review biosecurity risk management measures and systems that:

- are prescribed under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and are the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
- relate to human health and the environment and are undertaken by Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's biosecurity officers on behalf of the Department of Health.

Responsibilities and functions

The Inspector-General sets an annual review program in writing, in consultation with the Director of Biosecurity and the minister. This review program is published on the Inspector-General's website.

Australian Government departments must provide reasonable access to documents, staff and facilities to allow the Inspector-General to undertake their functions. Under the Act, the Inspector-General may require a person to answer questions, give information in writing or produce documents relevant to a review, within a certain time frame.

When conducting a review, the Inspector-General may invite written submissions from the public or organisations on a subject area and publish them as part of a transparent review process.

Partnerships with other stakeholders

The Inspector-General may liaise with stakeholders, including:

- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Health
- state and territory authorities and agencies
- overseas authorities and agencies
- companies and individuals.

Tenure, remuneration and support arrangements

The Inspector-General is a part-time position, with remuneration and allowances determined by the Remuneration Tribunal, available at www.remtribunal.gov.au/part-time-office. The current determination is \$1,333 per day (capped at 175 days per year).

The department supports the Inspector-General to discharge responsibilities, including providing staff, office space and travel required in relation to reviews.

Further information

Further information can be found at igb.gov.au.

ABOUT THE POSITION

Eligibility

To be appointed as the Inspector-General of Biosecurity, an individual must:

- be an Australian citizen
- have a degree in veterinary science, agricultural science or equivalent qualification from an Australian tertiary institution, or a comparable overseas qualification recognised in Australia.

Key requirements of the position include:

- achievement or significant experience in the field of biosecurity, veterinary/agriculture science or equivalent area of expertise, and understanding of Australia's biosecurity arrangements
- strong leadership experience in order to set the strategic vision of the position, as well as manage a diverse team including specialist and technical staff in a challenging, complex and fast paced environment
- excellent stakeholder relationship skills and the ability to work collaboratively in an engaging and collaborative manner to achieve objectives and meet outcomes.

You will need to demonstrate:

- suitable qualifications or experience in science, auditing or systems assessment
- understanding of domestic and international biosecurity arrangements
- ability to negotiate, liaise and communicate effectively
- ability to prepare accurate, coherent and concise reports on technical issues.

The successful candidate will also require a high level of judgment and the ability to demonstrate evidence of working to the highest levels of professional and personal standards, coupled with personal integrity.

A security check may also be required.

Information from applicants

Applicants interested in being considered for appointment as the Inspector-General should provide:

- a letter of application outlining expertise in the applicable listed fields (up to 1200 words)
- a short curriculum vitae (no more than four pages)
- details of two referees.

ENQUIRIES

Applications will be lodged on the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment website awejobs.nga.net.au. For information about the position or the selection process please contact Nola Sampson at Nola.Sampson@awe.gov.au.