POSITION DESCRIPTION

District Veterinary Officer (Tatura)

The District Veterinary Officer (DVO) will work as a member of the Animal Health and Welfare Unit, to ensure the delivery of major animal health projects that include disease surveillance; livestock legislation and enforcement management; emergency preparedness and response; and traceability and auditing. As the supervisor of the staff in their district, the DVO is accountable for the delivery and quality assurance of the Animal Health and Welfare program in their district.

District Veterinary Officers are required to lead disease and animal welfare investigations in their district. By utilising their clinical experience in the prevention, investigation, diagnosis, control, eradication and treatment of diseases of farmed livestock in Victoria, they will contribute to better veterinary outcomes in these investigations.

The successful applicant will manage staff delivering services that contribute to protecting and improving market access, work effectively as a member of a team, enjoy flexible working arrangements and undertake a wide variety of work across the division, involving;

- Management of animal welfare risks
- Disease surveillance
- Domestic and Export certification
- National Livestock Identification System auditing
- Preparedness and response to animal disease outbreaks
- Response to animal welfare issues

As part of an integrated and flexible business model within the Biosecurity and Agriculture Services Branch (BAS), you may also provide support to other programs or other regions.

You must work effectively and cooperatively in a team environment and with other agencies such as Victoria Police, CFA, and private veterinarians within the district. You will establish strong working relationships with internal staff and various external stakeholders including private landowners, community and industry groups as well as local and state government agencies.

As this is a regulatory position, you will be required to conduct investigations and appear in court. This position has responsibilities under the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 (all livestock), the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986, the Stock (Seller Liability and Declaration) Act 1993, the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical (Control of Use) Act 1992, the Food Act 1984 and the Livestock Management Act 2010.

Are you?

Seeking an opportunity to learn, grow and achieve?

Looking for a challenge, variety and flexibility?

Enthusiastic and self-motivated?

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	District Veterinary Officer (Tatura)
Position Number:	021693
Classification:	Sci C
Salary Range:	$103,920- $125,735 (plus superannuation)
Group/Branch:	Agriculture Victoria / Biosecurity and Agriculture Services / Animal Health and Welfare
Usual Work Location:	Tatura
Usual Hours of Work:	Full Time (flexibility may be available)
Tenure:	3 year fixed Term
Further Information:	Dr Karin Morgan (Regional Manager, Animal Health and Welfare, Northern)
Phone:	0428 999 261
Position Reports To:	Regional Manager, Animal Health and Welfare, Northern

About the department

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) was established to ensure Victoria's strong economic performance by growing industries and regions. Here at DJPR, we're making sure Victoria's economy benefits all Victorians by creating more jobs for more people, building thriving places and regions and nurturing inclusive communities.

Our work supports a range of diverse portfolios and operates across metropolitan, regional and international offices. We also oversee various public entities, including public corporations, regulatory authorities and specialist boards.

The Department strongly encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and offers reasonable adjustments for applicants with disabilities.

Our values are accountability, integrity and respect, and underpin everything we do.

For more information about the department, please visit our website: www.djpr.vic.gov.au.

The Group

Agriculture Victoria works with industry and community stakeholders to support the agriculture, food and fibre sector to become more globally competitive, innovative and resilient.

Agriculture Victoria consists of Agriculture Victoria Research, Biosecurity and Agriculture Services, Agriculture Policy, Animal Welfare Victoria and Agriculture Regulatory Policy, and Agriculture Victoria Business and Finance Services. Across these areas Agriculture Victoria delivers:

- Policy and program development for agriculture, food safety, food security, biosecurity, agriculture and veterinary chemicals
- Domestic animal and animal welfare research, policy, education and compliance
- Emergency preparedness, response and recovery
- Research in science and technology leading to innovative farming systems, products and services
- Facilitation of development projects
- Community and industry engagement, education, practice change and enforcement services
- Regulation and oversight of statutory regulators
- Assistance to drive export activity, market access and investment attraction.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Branch

The Biosecurity and Agriculture Services (BAS) branch designs and delivers services, provides technical advice and influences policy to support the agriculture sector to achieve sustainable growth while managing risks and minimising adverse impacts to the economy, environment and public health and safety. Key services include:

- maintaining and improving access to domestic and international markets for Victorian products,
- preparing for, responding to and facilitating recovery from biosecurity and natural disaster emergencies;
- ensuring early detection and preventing the introduction and spread of plant and animal pests/diseases and invasive species;
- ensuring compliance with responsibilities associated with animal welfare, chemical use, invasive species, plant and animal pest and diseases;
- designing and delivering targeted information, products and services that support the adoption of technology, innovation and new knowledge across the irrigation, livestock, dairy, grains and horticulture sectors.

Key Accountabilities

These accountabilities are not in priority order, however will form the basis of an individual's Performance Plan:

1. Monitor, provide quality assurance and feedback on the delivery of the Animal Health and Welfare Program within the district and report on results.
2. Manage livestock disease investigation, diagnosis, control and prevention programs and animal welfare investigations in the district including developing and maintaining strong relationships with private veterinarians through the Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) Program.
3. Ensure compliance with the statutory requirements of the Acts and Regulations administered by Animal Health and Welfare Unit, including the provision of disease certification for live animal and animal product movements within Victoria, interstate and for export.
4. Contribute to the development and implementation of other livestock industry research and extension projects to ensure effective integration of Animal Health programs with the livestock industries projects within DJPR.
5. Lead the development of plans (in consultation with other DJPR staff and external agencies), manage preparation and implement procedures to ensure preparedness, response to, and recovery from agricultural emergencies.
6. Lead and manage a small district team and build a positive team culture. Actively participate in the leadership of the Animal Health and Welfare Regional team and work effectively and cooperatively in a team environment with other agencies such as Victoria Police, CFA, and within DJPR.

Key Selection Criteria

Applicants are encouraged to outline their relevant experience broadly against the following skills, knowledge and personal capabilities required for the position.

1. Detailed knowledge of and experience in the application and review of procedures used in the prevention, investigation, diagnosis, control, eradication and treatment of diseases of farmed livestock in Victoria. Demonstrated experience working with and handling farm livestock, including sheep, cattle, pigs and horses, and a practical knowledge of their husbandry.
2. Well-developed leadership skills, including the ability to develop, motivate and empower others, build a constructive team culture and drive change.

3. Ability to actively manage conflict in the workplace and deal with conflict as it arises to achieve a timely and pragmatic solution. Ability to clarify the problems and seek options to resolve issues and confidently communicate and handle difficult and sensitive communications well.
4. Well-developed written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to work with staff to deliver concise, authoritative, high quality information and materials.
5. Ability to problem solve including anticipating potential problems and pre-empting required actions. Ability to continually liaises with key stakeholders to ensure full understanding of issues and evaluate implemented courses of action and make adjustment as required.

Mandatory Qualification

- A tertiary degree in Veterinary Science registrable with the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria.
- Candidates must have these qualifications to be considered eligible and verification is required prior to appointment.

Desired Experience/Qualifications

- Experience liaising and negotiating with government departments, farmers, livestock agents and other industry representatives.
- Good understanding of the livestock industries in Victoria, and of the disease control, emergency management and chemical residue minimisation programs administered by DJPR.

Pre-employment Misconduct Screening Requirements

All applicants may be subject to the following pre-employment checks:

- National Police Records Check
- Qualification Check (where a mandatory qualification is required)
- Declaration of private interests
- Pre-employment misconduct screening declaration
- Successfully complete an approved psychometric test which demonstrates suitability for an Authorised Officer position. Such a test will include assessment of personal attitudes to honesty, risk and authority, levels of personal resilience and psychological wellbeing, attention to detail and observational aptitude.

The position has the following inherent requirement level of intrinsic risk:

- A high degree of responsibility over finance and public assets (medium)
- Interaction with vulnerable members of the Victorian community (high)
- Contact with community members (medium)

Position Specific Requirements

This position has the following specific requirements:

- This position is a designated DJPR Authorised Officer and has responsibilities under the legislation relevant to the role. Gazettal as an Inspector or Authorised Officer under the Livestock Disease Control Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Stock (Seller Liability and Declaration) Act, Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act, Food Act and Livestock Management Act.
- A Victorian Firearms Licence for Category A, B & C firearms and DJPR firearms accreditation must be obtained and kept current.

- Animal Health and Welfare Program staff are expected to humanely destroy animals by an approved method e.g. captive bolt, firearm or other approved method
- This position has a requirement to participate in an out of hours standby roster to respond to suspected emergency animal diseases or animal welfare emergencies
- This position may have a requirement to work shift work or out of hours work that could involve evening or weekends and occasional overnight travel
- Current Drivers Licence for a motor vehicle
- This position has a requirement to travel

Health and Safety Requirements

You may be required to undertake relevant medical and other safety compliance requirements that relate to any risks associated with this role.

- Hold a current Applied First Aid Certificate (Level 2 to be completed during probation period)
- Vaccination against diseases including tetanus, seasonal influenza and Q fever is required to be undertaken.
- Audiometric testing is conducted on commencement of employment and every two years for firearms users.

The occupational health and safety requirements of this position include, but are not limited to activities involving:

- Driving
- Sedentary desk work
- Manual handling

Employment Information

- Applicants must be an Australian Citizen, Permanent Resident or hold a valid work permit or visa.
- Recipients of Victorian Public Service (VPS) voluntary departure packages should note that re-employment restrictions apply.
- Non-VPS applicants will be subject to a probation period of six months from commencement of employment within the Victorian Public Service.
- All new appointments to the department will be subject to a National Police Records Check.
- Employees are covered by the *Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2020.*
- The collection and handling of applications and personal information will be consistent with the requirements of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.*

Emergency Response Requirements

The department plays a major role in Victoria's emergency response activities, biosecurity incursions and compliance actions. Employees can be directly employed for these roles or may be called upon to support these activities as required following appropriate training and suitability assessment.