

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Position Description

Position details

Position title:	Principal Veterinary Officer – Disease Surveillance
Position number:	081906
Classification:	Sci D
Salary range:	\$127,467 - \$170,579 plus superannuation
Employment type:	Ongoing
Group:	Agriculture Victoria
Division & Branch:	Biosecurity and Agriculture Services
Work location:	Flexible within Victoria Hybrid work arrangement available: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Reports to:	Director, Animal Health & Welfare
Direct reports:	☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, how many?
Further information:	Les Howard 0436 619594

Position purpose

This position supports the Director, Animal Health & Welfare in the provision of high level technical, policy and strategic advice on a broad range of livestock disease surveillance issues.

The position will provide leadership and technical direction on animal health disease surveillance at a state level whilst also driving innovation through the adoption of new technologies in disease surveillance. The position will also contribute to emergency preparedness and response activities.

The successful applicant is expected to have extensive experience in the provision of high level technical and policy advice on complex animal health issues relevant to disease surveillance, or have necessary skills to do so, and have well developed written and oral skills. An attention to detail and ability to produce high quality work outputs are considered essential for this position. An ability to work with minimal supervision is also important.

The successful applicant will work effectively as a member of a team, enjoy flexible working arrangements and undertake a wide variety of work across the organisation and in collaboration with a broad range of external stakeholders in public and private sectors.

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.

Context

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 & Programs, 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.

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.

Accountabilities

- Provide high level leadership and technical, policy and strategic advice at an authoritative level on animal health disease surveillance issues, to the Director, Animal Health & Welfare, Senior Veterinary Officers and other senior departmental staff.
- Influence and provide technical direction on animal health disease surveillance including development of the annual disease surveillance operational plan for Victoria.
- Working in collaboration with the Chief Veterinary Officers Unit and Agribio, drive innovation in the program through the identification and adoption of new and emerging technologies to improve the delivery of animal health disease surveillance in Victoria.
- Build strong partnerships with external stakeholders including diagnostic services to resolve complex animal health issues.
- Provide high level technical and policy advice for emergency preparedness planning and response.
- To practice cultural safety by creating environments, relationships and systems free from racism and discrimination so that people can feel safe, valued and able to participate.

Key Selection Criteria

The key selection criteria specified below outline the capabilities required for the position.

Specialist/Technical Expertise/Qualifications

- **MANDATORY-** A tertiary degree in veterinary science and eligible for registration with the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria.
- **PREFERRED-** Post-graduate veterinary qualifications in a relevant area will be advantageous.

Capabilities

1. A strong track record of developing and delivering high level and high quality technical, policy and strategic advice on complex and contentious animal health issues, including with a high attention to detail.
2. A high level of technical knowledge of contemporary animal health field surveillance in Australia, including experience in designing surveillance projects.
3. Ability to thinking innovatively and collaborate with others to identify change that delivers positive outcomes.
4. Collaboration and stakeholder engagement skills to work effectively across projects within the Department, across the Victorian Government and with a broad range of external stakeholders.
5. Well-developed understanding of emergency animal disease preparedness and response arrangements including experience at incident management team level.

Position specific requirements

Authorisation	• This position is a designated DEECA 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. • An annual Declaration of Private Interests is required to be completed by all Authorised Officers.
The occupational health and safety requirements of this position may include, but are not limited to:	• This position may have a requirement to participate in an out of hours standby roster to respond to suspected emergency animal diseases or animal welfare emergencies on the direction of the Director, Animal Health & Welfare. • 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. • Current Drivers Licence for a motor vehicle • This position has a requirement to travel • Sedentary desk work • Field work • Manual handling • Use of hazardous substances • Emergency response work
DEECA will conduct relevant checks about applicants and the information provided within an application. Checks will include but are not limited to:	A Declaration and Consent form consenting to DEECA contacting current and previous employer(s) to substantiate employment history, past conduct and performance is required. A satisfactory National Police Check will be required (for all non-DEECA employees). Under the DEECA COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements Policy, it is a requirement that all employees have an up-to-date vaccination status (3 doses) against COVID-19 to undertake work outside of their ordinary place of residence (unless a medical exemption applies). Inability to provide this may impact your subsequent employment to the department.

	This position has a requirement to work shift work or out of hours work will be required that will involve evening or weekend work including occasional overnight travel.
Employment terms and conditions	Are governed by the <i>Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2020</i> and the <i>Public Administration Act 2004</i> . 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
Privacy	The department affirms that the collection and handling of applications and personal information will be consistent with the requirements of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.

About the Department

DEECA employs more than 4,800 staff in 91 locations across the state and is a key manager of Victoria's public estate. We directly manage \$8 billion of assets, mostly comprising various categories of public land and a further \$1.8 billion of other assets, including roads and tracks, office buildings, depots, recreational facilities, firefighting and road maintenance equipment, crossings, water bores and mobile plant.

Our challenge is to improve Victoria's liveability while protecting our natural environment, infrastructure and heritage for future generations. DEECA brings together Victoria's climate change, biodiversity protection, resources, water, energy, land management, agriculture, forest and fire management functions. We take an integrated approach to creating thriving environments and communities and supporting Victoria's economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19.

For further information about the department, please visit our website www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Our values

Our values are the foundation of our culture and guide how we work together, with our ministers, stakeholders, partners and the community. The departments values are **Teamwork, Service Excellence, Ownership and Wellbeing & Safety**.

Emergency Response and Health and Safety Requirements

The department plays a major role in Victoria's emergency response activities, through an all-hazards, all-emergencies approach. Staff may be directly employed for these roles or may be called upon to support these activities as required following the appropriate training and "fit for work" assessment.

A Diverse, Inclusive and Flexible Workplace

DEECA welcomes applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds and we focus on the essential requirements of the job and being consistent and fair in our treatment of all applicants. Our diversity and inclusion outcome pillars:

1. We are connected to liveable, inclusive, sustainable communities
2. We are diverse
3. We are inclusive and flexible
4. We are safe and respectful

DEECA can provide reasonable adjustments for people with a disability. If you need assistance to fully participate in the application or interview process, please use the contact listed under 'Position Details'.

Aboriginal Cultural Safety

Cultural safety of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians, as an underpinning principle of self-determination, is embedded in everything we do. Under the Aboriginal Cultural Safety Framework DEECA is committed to creating a culturally safe workplace, where there is space for culture to live and for spiritual and belief systems to exist. For further information, please contact self.determination@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Balancing your Life / Hybrid Working

We understand that a balanced life is important to our employees and we offer a wide range of flexible options to help you manage family, health, carer responsibilities, study, career or personal interests. Options may include working some days from home or other suitable locations, starting early or late, working part time, job share or accessing paid or unpaid leave in line with our flexible working policy.

To receive this information in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre: 136 186, TTY: 133 677, or email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au