

Job Description Form (JDF)

Position details

Position title: Senior Veterinary Officer (Epidemiology)
Position number: 70191277
Classification: Specified Calling Level 4
Physical location: Perth Metropolitan Area
Award: PSA 1992
Agreement: PSCSAA 2022
Pillar: Sustainability and Biosecurity
Directorate: Biosecurity
Branch: Animal Biosecurity and Welfare

Reporting relationships

Reports to: Technical Area Manager (70191314), Specified Calling Level 4

This position

Direct reports: 2

Role summary

At a highly recognised professional level (nationally or across industry/government) and demonstrating leadership and superior initiative and judgement, contributes to the review and development of biosecurity and disease and pest databases/information systems to support proof of freedom claims, disease trends, and other analysis at state and national levels to underpin and enhance market access claims by:

- Coordinating scientific advice and analysis to underpin the strategic policy direction of livestock and/or aquatic biosecurity in Western Australia.
- Initiating and coordinating timely risk assessments and policy development to underpin biosecurity programs, prioritise investment and work with industry on a

national level to implement innovative surveillance and disease control programs.

About us

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) role is to ensure that primary industries and regions are key contributors to the Government's agenda for economic growth and diversification, job creation, strong communities and better places. Our goals are to:

- **Protect:** to manage and provide for sustainable use of our natural resources and soils, and to protect Western Australia's brand and reputation as a reliable producer of premium, clean and safe food, products and services.
- **Grow:** to enable the primary industries sector and regions to increase international competitiveness, grow in value and social amenity and become a key pillar of the State's economy.
- **Innovate:** to support a culture of scientific enquiry, innovation and adaptation across primary industries and regions to boost industry transformation, economic growth and employment.

Our values

Our values are critical in creating a healthy and dynamic culture that helps each and all of us to make our best contribution, to develop a workplace where we feel excited about our work and results and where other people will increasingly want to join our team. Our values underpin how we operate:

- We value **relationships** - Our relationships with our clients, colleagues and stakeholders are at the heart of everything we do
- We are **resilient** - We recover from setbacks, embracing and adapting to change because we have a clear focus on the big picture and long term impact
- We are **responsive** - We understand the needs of our clients, colleagues and stakeholders and add value by tailoring our solutions accordingly
- We focus on **results** - We strive to develop and provide excellent services that delivers meaningful results to the community we serve.

Key responsibilities

The key responsibilities of the role include, but are not limited to, the following:

Veterinary Epidemiology

- Plans and conducts epidemiological surveillance and risk assessments for animal health management strategies, including intra and interstate movement protocols.
- Undertakes and oversees analysis and risk assessment of import permit applications.
- Develops and implements disease surveillance approaches and provides advice on the management of reportable diseases.

- Supports preparedness and responses to emergency animal disease incidents of consequence to the economy and human health, including working in responses and emergencies as required.
- Mentors and guides biosecurity staff in applying sound epidemiological and risk management principles.
- Drives development of disease surveillance control and preparedness policy.
- Coordinates and undertakes risk analysis to enable the prioritisation of investment in disease prevention, control and eradication strategies.
- Prepares high-level reports on the health status of WA animal based on data generated through observation and laboratory testing.

Project Management

- Leads projects relating to the State's livestock and aquatic industries, including the conduct of project work, management of expenditure within budget, management of human and physical resources to meet project milestones, agreed outputs and internal and external reporting requirements.
- Develops and maintains relationships essential to coordination and the achievement of project deliverables.
- Other duties as required.

Policy Development & Coordination

- Designs, develops and coordinates strategic animal health and/or welfare policy initiatives across the department and whole of government and prepares recommendations for consideration by the department and government.
- Develops and applies risk management methodologies to assist policy development, resource allocation and strategic planning, as required.
- Develops new projects and prepares project proposals to relevant funding bodies as appropriate.
- Provides epidemiological animal health policy input to inter-departmental committees, peak industry groups and national committees to facilitate the development of the State's livestock and aquatic industries and the maintenance of social licence.
- Monitors technical input into communication requirements of the Animal Biosecurity program.
- Provides high-level information and briefings on animal health, welfare and/or policy to a range of internal and external stakeholders.

Strategic Analysis and Advice

- Leads Provides strategic advice on livestock and aquatic industry matters to the Chief Veterinary Officer, Executive Director Biosecurity, Department executive, Minister and other key internal and external stakeholders as required.
- Coordinates department's animal health and/or welfare strategic planning activities.
- Analyses and evaluates the effectiveness of key animal health and/or welfare policy initiatives.

- Develops, maintains and promotes effective working relationships with stakeholders, industry groups and other agencies and organisations, in accordance with the department's Customer Service Charter.
- Promotes change and prepares high quality reports and effectively disseminates the results of research in a way that meets client needs.

General

- Represents the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on National and State working groups and committees.
- Prepares and reviews Ministerial briefing notes, responses to Ministerial and Parliamentary Questions and other reports, summaries and general correspondence, as required.
- Participates in emergency responses as required.
- Other duties as required.

Work related requirements

In the context of the role:

Essential criteria

Role specific

1. Extensive knowledge of the diagnosis and epidemiology of major endemic and exotic livestock and/or aquatic diseases of importance to WA industries.
2. Extensive knowledge of epidemiological principles and methods, including patterns of disease, data management, surveillance, diagnostic testing, environmental scanning and risk assessment.
3. Substantial experience in the design and implementation of system for collection, analysis and reporting of animal health data.

Core capabilities

4. *Build effective relationships:* Highly-developed and effective written, verbal and interpersonal skills, including the ability to confidently liaise, collaborate with and communicate scientific information to department staff, industry and the community. Must be able to integrate, interpret and explain complex technical information in a digestible form, readily shareable to a wider audience.
5. *Challenge for innovation:* Highly-developed ability to think creatively and laterally anticipating opportunities and risks to provide high quality, future focuses results.
6. *Think strategically:* Highly-developed research, conceptual and analytical skills including heightened ability to identify, research, resolve and advice on animal health and/or animal welfare issues.

7. *Deliver in a changing environment:* Highly-developed organisational skills with the ability to manage competing deadlines, drive continuous improvements, effectively manage change and to conceptualise, develop and apply complex techniques for veterinary science and manage to enable the generation of specialist input into animal biosecurity and welfare planning processes.
8. *Lead and empower others:* Highly-developed leadership and management skills with the ability to negotiate with, motivate and influence people; and a focus on providing sound strategic advice.

Desirable criteria

1. Post graduate training and/or college membership in Epidemiology or Public Health.

Special requirements/equipment

- A degree in Veterinary Science (obtained from an Australian university or recognised equivalent), and current recognised registration (or able to obtain prior to commencement) with the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Western Australia – registration must be maintained whilst employed by the department.
- A current and valid Western Australia C (car) class driver's licence, or equivalent is required (if not currently held, must be acquired prior to commencement at applicant's expense).
- An acceptable National Police Certificate (police clearance) is required. If not currently held, must be acquired prior to commencement at applicant's expense
- Occasional travel to and from metropolitan and regional offices may be required.
- The contract of employment specifies terms and conditions relating to this position

Certification

The details contained in this document are an accurate statement of the duties, responsibilities and requirements of this position.

Delegated authority

Endorsed by:	Bruno Mezzatesta
Position title:	A/Deputy Director General, Sustainability and Biosecurity
Endorsement Date:	23 December 2022