

Job Description Form (JDF)

Position details

Position title: Veterinary Officer (Epidemiology)
Position number: 70220461
Classification: Specified Callings Level 2
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: Senior Veterinary Officer (Epidemiology) (70191277) Specified Callings Level 4

This position

Direct reports: Nil

Role summary

Under general guidance and utilising independent 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.
- Advises and liaises on scientific matters that underpin the strategic policy direction of livestock and/or aquatic biosecurity in WA.
- Assists with risk assessment 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.

- Assists in the development and documentation of complex scientific/industry techniques within a specific area of expertise.

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

- Conducts epidemiological surveillance and risk assessments for animal health management strategies.
- Undertakes analysis and risk assessment of import permit applications.
- Adopts 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.

- Collaborates with biosecurity staff in applying sound epidemiological risk management principles.
- Contributes to the development of disease surveillance, control and preparedness policy.
- Assists with risk analysis to enable the prioritisation of investment in disease prevention, control and eradication strategies.
- Prepared draft reports on the health status of WA animal based on data generated through observation and laboratory testing.

Project Management

- Contributes to projects relating to the State's livestock and aquatic industries, including the conduct of project work, adherence to project milestones, agreed outputs and internal and external reporting requirements.
- Contributes to relationships essential to coordination and achievement of project deliverables.

Policy Development and Coordination

- Contributes to the design, development and coordination of animal health and/or welfare policy initiatives across the department and prepares draft recommendations under general direction.
- Applies risk management methodologies to assist policy development and planning as required.
- Assists to develop new projects and prepare draft project proposals for relevant funding bodies as appropriate.
- Provides draft epidemiological animal health policy input for consideration by inter-departmental committees, peak industry groups and national committees to support development of the State's livestock and aquatic industries and the maintenance of social licence.
- Provides technical input into communication requirements of the Animal Biosecurity program as required.
- Provides information and briefing on animal health, welfare and/or policy to stakeholder as required.

Strategic Analysis and Advice

- Prepares draft advice on livestock industry and aquatic matters to the Chief Veterinary Officer, Executive Director Biosecurity, executives, Minister and other key internal and external stakeholders as required.
- Contributes to the Department's animal health and/or welfare planning activities.
- Analyses and evaluates the effectiveness of key animal health and/or welfare policy initiatives, under general direction.
- Develops and maintains effective working relationships with stakeholders, industry groups and other agencies and organisations.
- Prepares reports and effectively disseminates the results of research in a way that meets client needs.

General

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

Core capabilities

4. *Build effective relationships:* Well-developed verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills, both verbal and written, including the ability to consult, advise and convey information to stakeholders to achieve strategic outcomes.
5. *Challenge for innovation:* Demonstrated ability to investigate and apply research and contemporary best practice approaches.
6. *Think strategically:* Well-developed conceptual and analytical skills including the ability to provide practical solutions to challenging issues and problems.
7. *Deliver in a changing environment:* Well-developed ability to plan, prioritise and organise work in line with organisational goals and project outcomes, and communicate changing priorities to the team.
8. *Lead and empower others:* Ability to lead teams and work collaboratively in a team environment contributing to the achievement of team goals.

Special requirements/equipment

- A degree in Veterinary Science and registrable with the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Western Australia.
- A current and valid Western Australian manual 'C' class or automatic 'C-A' class driver's license or equivalent.
- 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