

Position Description

Position Title	Manager, Diagnostics
Reports to	General Manager, Partnerships and Innovation
Date Prepared	March 2023

1. About PHA

Plant Health Australia (PHA) is the trusted coordinator of the Australian plant biosecurity system. For over 22 years we have brought together world-class expertise, knowledge and stakeholders to implement best-practice solutions vital to improving Australia's plant health.

In a rapidly changing biosecurity environment, PHA has a critical role to play in working closely with industry, government and associated stakeholders to reduce the threat and impact of plant pest incursions and protect Australia's plant industries, market access, environment and community.

We are a future-oriented and solutions-focussed team of highly skilled specialists with a proud history of achievement and a culture of continuous improvement.

2. About the Position

With general direction from the General Manager, Partnerships and Innovation the role of the Manager, Diagnostics has responsibility for leading the development of a cost-effective and sustainable national approach to plant biosecurity diagnostics to achieve [PHA's strategic goals](#). The position provides leadership and strengthen effective partnerships and enhance integration to support PHA's aim of improving Australia's ability to identify and detect biosecurity threats. This includes contribution to corporate reporting (as needed), national committees, and capturing greater benefits from national and international initiatives for PHA's members and broader biosecurity stakeholders.

The position has management of staff, projects and activities in the areas of diagnostics and RD&E. Main responsibilities and duties include leadership and management of PHA's:

- Program of diagnostic activities including leadership of diagnostics partnerships, systems and processes, and RD&E to improve Australia's ability to identify and detect plant biosecurity threats.
- Coordinated delivery of activities, investments and actions in the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Strategy and implementation plan.
- Network project team, Coordinator and Project Officer, responsible for the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network (NPBDN) and the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific (PSNAP).
- Facilitate the development and review of national diagnostic and surveillance protocols on behalf of the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics and the Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance.
- Contribute to PHA corporate reports reporting, including quarterly PHA board papers, Plant Health Committee papers, associated reports, contracted milestone reports, media and

communications, including website content, e-newsletter content, industry articles and other PHA reports relating to the program area.

The position is based in Canberra and is available on a full-time basis until July 2024, with the potential for extension. Remote working arrangements may be considered for suitably qualified and experienced candidates.

3. Working and Reporting Relationships

The position reports to the General Manager, Partnerships and Innovation. The position will act as a conduit between PHA members and other stakeholders across Australia to strengthen partnerships amongst our members, the supply chain and the science and technology community and to enhance integration to support PHA's aim of improving Australia's ability to identify and detect biosecurity threats. The position will be involved in developing detailed information for consideration by Plant Health Committee and its subcommittees. The position requires the incumbent to develop a good working relationship with PHA members, the plant health community and key stakeholders in the broader biosecurity area including industry peak bodies, regional representatives, local, state and federal government delegates as well as with relevant research funding agencies. The position requires a highly developed understanding of Australia's agri-innovation system to ensure PHA can integrate plant biosecurity into national innovation opportunities.

The position may be asked to be the PHA representative member of the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics (SPHD) and will contribute to Working Groups established under the SPHD (e.g. the Diagnostics Protocol Working Group) and the Subcommittee for National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS), in conjunction with the National Manager, Surveillance.

Good working relationships with SPHD and SNPHS members and entomologists/pathologists working in plant biosecurity. An ability to work with the plant biosecurity policy and regulatory staff is critical.

The position has direct reports including the Networks Coordinator and Protocols Project Officer.

4. Key Responsibilities

Key Responsibilities	Key Performance Indicators
With general direction from the General Manager, Partnerships and Innovation, lead and manage the diagnostics program to ensure the Australian plant biosecurity systems are future-oriented and solutions-focused.	- Effective implementation, review, coordination and management of PHA's measures and outcomes related to the diagnostics program - Development and dissemination of information and knowledge relating to all aspects of diagnostics program management - Manage third party contracts - Representation on nominated national committees and provision of support for national meetings
Develop and deliver projects that support Australia's ability to identify and detect biosecurity threats.	- Identification of funding opportunities for ongoing delivery of innovative technologies for diagnostics - Improved plant biosecurity outcomes that are valued by PHA members

In collaboration with key stakeholders and other PHA staff, identify, develop and delivery training and awareness materials and systems to improve diagnostics.	- Increased awareness and adoption of innovative technologies and approaches in plant biosecurity for the benefit of the economy, environment and community - Projects initiated, developed, delivered that align with PHA strategic goals
---	---

5. Decision Making Authority

Decisions expected	Recommendations expected
	Recommend to the General Manager, Partnerships and Innovation: - Annual budget for responsible area - Purchase of goods, services and contracts - Staff and PHA member training needs - PHA communications and member engagement activities.

6. Key Capabilities and Experience

Key capabilities necessary for the role, including behavioural competencies, relevant experience and qualifications.

Experience / Knowledge / Attributes	Essential/Desirable
Demonstrated experience in a research, government or other relevant area, with highly advanced skills and knowledge in the development and management of programs/projects in plant biosecurity	Essential
Demonstrated ability to manage complex projects, and negotiate contracts and agreements	Essential
Excellent stakeholder and relationship management skills	Essential
Demonstrated ability to work autonomously under limited direction while managing diverse functions and competing priorities	Essential
Demonstrated critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills, as well as strong attention to detail	Essential
Qualifications	
Graduate qualification in science (majoring in plant health disciplines), agriculture (or equivalent)	Essential
Post-graduate qualification in science, management or agriculture discipline	Desirable