

Job Description Form (JDF)

Position details

Position title:	Senior Veterinary Officer (Field)
Position number:	70191285
Classification:	Specified Calling Level 3
Physical location:	Various
Award:	PSA 1992
Agreement:	PSCSAA 2024
Pillar:	Biosecurity and Emergency Management
Directorate:	Animal Biosecurity and Welfare
Branch:	Surveillance and Control

Reporting relationships

Reports to:	Senior Veterinary Officer (Field) (70191286), Specified Calling Level 3 This position
Direct reports:	Nil

Role summary

This section provides a brief summary of the key functions of the position.

At a broadly recognised professional level, demonstrating considerable initiative and independent judgement, contributes to the surveillance, regulation, controls and emergency preparedness that underpins Western Australia's extensive market access for our livestock and aquatic industries by:

- Working closely with team members, private veterinarians, industry groups, and producers to undertake diagnostic and investigational veterinary work to maintain the biosecurity status of Western Australia's livestock and aquatic industries;
- Providing animal health and biosecurity consultation, advice and support towards research, policy and planning for the department; and
- Participating in the development and production of animal health plans and policies.

About us

Our department (DPIRD) leads sustainable development of WA's regions and agriculture, aquaculture, food and fisheries sectors. Our Ministerial portfolios are Agriculture and Food, Fisheries and Regional Development.

We **unlock and guide economic opportunities** for these sectors and regions, balanced with the **stewardship of our land and aquatic resources**.

In everything we do we take the approach of:

- **Protect** through stewardship of our people, land and aquatic resources.
- **Grow** our primary industries and regions through balancing social, economic and environmental drivers.
- **Innovate** through a culture of inquiry and adaptation.

We draw on our grow, protect, innovate approach to deliver priorities under three outcome areas:

1. Management and stewardship of WA's land and aquatic resources.
2. Capable and empowered communities.
3. Dynamic regions and primary industries

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:

- **Working together** – We achieve better outcomes with our colleagues, stakeholders and the community by engaging with their ideas, knowledge and expertise.
- **Acting with integrity** – We foster a culture where individuals are accountable for their actions, behaviours and contributions.
- **Responding with purpose** – Our actions and reactions are intentional, well thought out and align with a specific objective or goal.
- **Embracing curiosity and creativity** – There is always space to be innovative, through curious and creative thinking.
- **Aspiring for a better future** – Our combined efforts deliver sustainable results – environmentally, socially and economically.

Key responsibilities

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

Animal Biosecurity

- Plans and undertakes surveillance for animal diseases of national and state significance.
- Undertakes disease investigations and disease control activities as required.
- Provides advice and undertakes enforcement on provisions of relevant Acts, regulations and guidelines.
- Services communication requirements of the Animal Biosecurity program.
- Develops and maintains effective relationships with relevant staff members, farmers, private veterinarians, community and industry groups to actively promote biosecurity, including technology, services and resources that are available, collaborate and remain aware of relevant projects and trends.
- Provides scientific expertise to assist in biosecurity policy, planning and preparedness, presents information as required at conferences, seminars, workshops and field days.
- Assists in the development and implementation of projects and maintains the conduct of project work, effectively managing expenditure within budget, and meeting project milestones, agreed outputs and internal and external reporting requirements.
- Supports preparedness and responses to emergency animal disease, residue and welfare incidents, including working in responses and emergencies as required.

Research and Development

- Develops and maintains an up-to-date knowledge and awareness of relevant research, development findings, issues and trends.
- Prepares submissions for internal/external funding to industry funding bodies and progress reports to support the research program.

Strategy Planning and Policy Development

- Researches, analyses and evaluates input into strategic planning and other planning processes regarding animal health.
- Participates in the development and production of strategic animal health research and policy across the Department.
- Provides practical assistance to operational areas in translating strategic animal health policy into relevant local policy and strategies.

General

- Prepares reports, summaries and general correspondence as required.
- Provides supervision and direction of technical and casual staff as required.
- Participates in incident and emergency management activities commensurate with capability, capacity, training and level of experience.
- Other duties as required.

Work related requirements

In the context of the role:

Essential criteria

Role specific

1. Demonstrated knowledge and experience in production animal medicine, including the ability to investigate disease at an individual and herd/flock level; carry out clinical and necropsy examinations; select and submit appropriate specimens to a diagnostic laboratory; and formulate plans for treatment and control.
2. Demonstrated knowledge of emergency animal diseases and their controls, and the ability to apply research, conceptual and analytical skills, sound judgement and problem solving techniques to these.
3. Demonstrated understanding of disease and residue reporting requirements, and how they are linked to planning and evaluation, with competent use of ICT applications such as databases, spreadsheets, models and word processing.

Core capabilities

4. *Build effective relationships*: Strong verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills, including the ability to confidently liaise, collaborate with and communicate scientific information to departmental staff, industry and the community.
5. *Challenge for innovation*: Well developed abilities to establish clear plans and timeframes, evaluate performance, identify the need for change, determine action and see tasks and projects through to completion.
6. *Think strategically*: Well developed research, conceptual and analytical skills including the ability to provide innovative solutions to complex and challenging issues and problems.
7. *Deliver in a changing environment*: Strong project, time management and organisational skills including the ability to effectively contribute to the management of change and the ability to develop and apply complex veterinary science techniques to enable the generation of specialist input into animal biosecurity and welfare planning processes.
8. *Lead and empower others*: Proven ability to lead teams and work collaboratively in a team environment contributing to the achievement of departmental level outcomes.

Desirable criteria

1. Detailed knowledge and understanding of state and national livestock and associated industries and relevant biosecurity legislation.

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 Australian 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.
- DPIRD is an Emergency Management Agency and all employees may be required to work or travel during, or outside of, normal business hours to assist with incidents and emergencies.
- 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

Position title: Deputy Director General, Biosecurity and Emergency Management

Endorsement Date: 2 June 2026