

Job Description Form (JDF)

Position details

Position title: Entomologist
Position number: 70191222
Classification: Specified Calling Level 2
Physical location: Perth Metropolitan Area
Award: PSA 1992
Agreement: PSCSAA 2021
Pillar: Sustainability & Biosecurity
Directorate: Biosecurity
Branch: Plant Biosecurity

Reporting relationships

Reports to: Plant Pathologist (70191213), Specified Calling Level 3

This position

Direct reports: Nil

Role summary

At an experienced professional level, under general direction, using initiative and independent judgement, undertakes research into pests of economic importance and to prevent the introduction of exotic insects, which may become harmful to agriculture in Western Australia.

Undertakes planning, risk analysis, surveillance, monitoring and control programs for plant pests of state and national significance.

Under general direction, provides scientific advice and analysis in support of policy development for plant biosecurity in Western Australia.

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:

Entomology

- Conducts entomological research to protect agricultural production, market access or eradication.
- Conducts and records surveillance for plant pests of national and state significance under general direction.
- Remains prepared to recognise and respond to exotic insect incursion, emerging pests, residue issues or other significant conditions of plants.
- Contributes to submissions to national and state risk assessments and policy reviews prepared by the Commonwealth and other State and Territory governments to protect the State's plant industries from exotic insects.
- Provides scientifically-based advice to support claims of pests freedom and official control in accordance with national and international phytosanitary agreements and policy.

- Meets communication requirements particularly with regard to plant pests and laboratory diagnostics.
- Contributes scientifically-based risk analysis and entomology input to plant biosecurity programs as required.
- Contributes to the review of import permit applications for plant pests, plants and their products in accordance with existing phytosanitary measures imposed by Western Australia.

Research and Development

- Carries out entomological research under general guidance to protect agricultural production and market access.
- Conducts laboratory and/or field experiments that lead to improved pest management, market access or eradication.
- Provides entomological expertise to prepare information for seminars, workshops and field days as required.
- Conducts project work meeting project milestones, agreed outputs and reporting requirements.
- Maintains an up-to-date knowledge and awareness of relevant research, development findings, issues and trends.
- Develops effective relationships with relevant staff members and stakeholders; promote technology, services and resources that are available.

Strategic Planning and Policy Development

- Provides entomology input into strategic planning and other planning processes regarding plant health.
- Conducts risk assessments for plant pests and contributes to development of intra and interstate phytosanitary policy in accordance with national and international phytosanitary agreements and policy.
- Provides assistance to operational areas in translating strategic plant health policy into relevant local policy and strategies.

General

- Prepares draft reports, summaries and general correspondence as required.
- Participates in emergency responses as required.
- Performs other duties as required.

Work related requirements

In the context of the role:

Essential criteria

Role specific

1. Knowledge and experience in entomology (such as risk analysis, surveillance, investigations and/or control activities related to plant pests).
2. Knowledge of entomology principles and methods including plant pest ecology, biology, data management, risk assessment and diagnostic testing.

Core capabilities

3. *Build effective relationships*: Well-developed 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.
4. *Challenge for innovation*: Demonstrated ability to establish clear plans and timeframes, evaluate performance, identify the need for change, determine action and see tasks and projects through to completion.
5. *Think strategically*: Well-developed conceptual and analytical skills including the ability to provide practical solutions to challenging issues and problems.
6. *Deliver in a changing environment*: Well-developed project and time management and organisational skills including the ability to effectively respond to change and to develop and apply advanced entomology techniques to enable the generation of advice for plant health.
7. *Lead and empower others*: Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively in a team environment contributing to the achievement of team goals.

Desirable criteria

1. Knowledge of state, national and international legislation, agreements and guidelines relating to plant biosecurity.
2. Knowledge of emergency plant pests and their controls.

Special requirements/equipment

- A degree in Agricultural science, or approved equivalent with undergraduate training in entomology.
- 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:	Heather Brayford
Position title:	Deputy Director General, Sustainability and Biosecurity
Endorsement Date:	14 October 2022