



## Job Description Form (JDF)

### Position details

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Position title:    | Plant Pathologist            |
| Position number:   | 70191247                     |
| 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:     | Technical Area Manager (70220040), Specified Calling Level 4 |
| Direct reports: | Nil  |

### Role summary

At an experienced professional level, under general direction and using initiative and independent judgement, undertakes plant pathologist duties. Utilises plant pathology expertise in the investigation, diagnosis and reporting of plant diseases in plant species, including surveillance for emergency plant diseases, emerging diseases, residue incidents and endemic disease diagnosis. Performs gross and microscopic pathological examination of plants, coordinates diagnostic submissions, interprets and integrates laboratory results and provides input into comprehensive reports to internal and external stakeholders. Contributes scientifically valid diagnostic and surveillance data to support WA and national plant health monitoring and market outcomes, including surveillance for conditions of state and national significance.

### 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:

### Plant Pathology

- Undertakes plant disease investigations using pathology skills and laboratory techniques and resources.
- Undertakes and records surveillance for plant diseases of national and state significance under general direction.
- Remains prepared to recognise and respond to exotic disease incursion, emerging diseases, 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 plant diseases.
- Provides scientifically-based advice to support claims of disease freedom and official control in accordance with national and international phytosanitary agreements and policy.
- Meets communication requirements particularly with regard to plant disease and laboratory diagnostics.
- Contributes scientifically-based risk analysis and pathology input to plant biosecurity programs as required.

- Contributes to the review of import permit applications for plant diseases, plants and their products in accordance existing phytosanitary measures imposed by Western Australia.

### **Research and Development**

- Carries out research under general guidance to protect agricultural production and market access.
- Conducts laboratory and/or field experiments that lead to improved production efficiency and growth, market confidence and value added products.
- Provides plant pathology 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 pathology input into strategic planning and other planning processes regarding plant health.
- Conducts risk assessments for plant diseases 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 plant pathology; including in risk analysis, surveillance, investigations and control activities related to plant diseases

#### **Core capabilities**

2. *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.
3. *Challenge for innovation:* Ability to establish clear plans and timeframes, evaluate performance, identify the need for change, determine action and see tasks and projects through to completion.

4. *Think strategically:* Well-developed conceptual and analytical skills including the ability to provide practical solutions to challenging issues and problems.
5. *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 plant pathology techniques to enable the generation of advice for plant health and laboratory practice.
6. *Lead and empower others:* Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment contributing to the achievement of team goals.

## **7. Desirable criteria**

1. Knowledge of state, national and international legislation, agreements and guidelines relating to plant biosecurity.

## **Special requirements/equipment**

- A degree in Agricultural science, or approved equivalent with undergraduate training in plant pathology.
- 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: Deputy Director General, Sustainability and Biosecurity

Endorsement Date: 13 December 2022