

Job Description Form

Position Details

Position Title: Research Scientist or Senior Research Scientist (Fire Science)	Position Number: DBCA3169120	Level: Specified Calling Level 2 or Specified Calling Level 3
Division: Biodiversity Conservation Science	Branch: Fire Science Program	Section:
Employment Agreement: PSA 1992 / PSCA 2024	Location: Manjimup or Perth (Kings Park/ Kensington)	Effective Date: 17 March 2025

Our Values

Our values drive the way we make decisions, interact with each other, and work together to achieve results.

Integrity

Commitment to knowing and doing what is right



Collaboration

Commitment to team, partnership and the support of others



Accountability

Commitment to being transparent, taking ownership and personal responsibility



Respect

Commitment to the respect of people, culture and place



Excellence

Commitment to quality, innovation and continuous improvement



Reporting Relationships

Position Title Principal Research Scientist	Level/Grade SC4	⇄	Position title Senior Research Scientist Research Scientist x 5	Level SC3 SC2
Responsible to <div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 2px;">This position</div>				

Officers under *direct* responsibility

Position Title Technical officers	Level/Grade L3	Approx. no. FTEs supervised 1.0
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About the Role

Working independently and with other research, technical, operational, and policy staff, undertake research and provide technical advice to support fire and conservation management across WA. Apply spatial and statistical modelling, field survey and experimental approaches to study: fire risk, behaviour, regimes, severity, outcomes and effects; contemporary and cultural burning; and decision support tools.

Individuals undertake their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the department's [Code of Conduct](#), policies and procedures, and relevant Government legislation.

Position Title Research Scientist (Fire Science)		
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Responsibilities:

- Plan and undertake research in fire science. 30%
- Analyse data, prepare and publish scientific papers and reports. 25%
- Prepare project proposals, plans and reporting, manage project budgets; manage technical staff (directly, and through collaborations/ secondments) to assist with research projects, including leading, or assisting with recruitment for project/program teams. 15%
- Liaise with regional and operational staff to understand operational fire research needs and opportunities and provide information about research findings; Work with the Program, Directorate, Fire Management Services and other stakeholders to develop strategy and plans for fire research. 10%
- Provide technical advice and prepare tailored communication materials to assist with communications strategy; support the Department by contribution to internal and external working groups and committees relevant to the role. 10%
- Participates in fire management activities that contribute to bushfire suppression and prescribed burning operations commensurate with capability, capacity, training and level of experience. Other duties as directed. 10%

Selection Criteria

Applicants should address the following four criteria. These should be addressed in no more than two pages in total.

Note: For this role, we consider fire science to include study of fire regimes, fire behaviour, fire management, fire risk, fire effects, and related subjects.

‘SC2’ and ‘SC3’ refer to Specified Calling appointment Level 2, and Level 3, respectively.

1. BSc or equivalent qualification in a discipline relevant to fire science (PhD DESIRABLE).
2. Experience (**SC2**), or extensive experience (**SC3**), in designing and undertaking research in a discipline relevant to fire science, and; demonstrated (**SC2**) or demonstrated high level (**SC3**) understanding of fire science principles.
3. Demonstrated relevant analytical skills and technical capability (e.g. GIS, remote sensing, statistics, modelling) (**SC2/SC3**), and significant experience in applying these in a research setting (**SC3**).
4. Communication skills across a range of media and settings, including ability to publish scientific findings, translate technical information to diverse audiences, and develop plain language summaries for operational and general audiences (**SC2**) and technical and policy advice (**SC3**).

The following essential criteria will be assessed at some stage during the selection process. Desirable criteria will be assessed as required:

5. Experience working effectively with diverse stakeholders and teams

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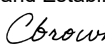
6. Experience in planning and safely undertaking field-based research programs – covering OHS, logistics, data, personnel (e.g., technical officers, students, volunteers, colleagues) and communications – including in remote or challenging environments.
7. Experience and training in use of 4WD (DESIRABLE)
8. Ongoing willingness and ability to participate in fire management activities that contribute to bushfire suppression and prescribed burning operations commensurate with capability, capacity, training and level of experience.

Behaviour Expectations [Leadership Expectations](#) provides a common understanding of the mindset and expected leadership behaviours for all public sector employees. The expected behaviour for this role is [Leading Others](#).

Other position-related information (only relevant ones will be populated)

Position Status - Permanent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	FTE: 1.0
National Police Check <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No For more information refer to the department's guidelines on National Police checks .	
Current WA Driver's Licence or equivalent (only specify yes if a drivers licence is required for appointment to the position) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Medical Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Working with Children <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If this position works with children, refer to http://www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au/checkwwc/WWC+Check/	
Allowance and Special Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> District Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Air Conditioning <input type="checkbox"/> Ranger Leave (Rangers only) <input type="checkbox"/> North West Leave <input type="checkbox"/> No Fixed Hours (Rangers only) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify)	

Certification

Verified by: Recruitment and Establishment Section
 Registered JDF
18 March 2025