

Job Description Form (JDF)

Position details

Position title: Agricultural Economist
Position number: Generic
Classification: Specified Callings Level 1
Physical location: Perth Metropolitan Area
Award: PSA 1992
Agreement: PSCSAA 2024
Pillar: Primary Industries Development
Directorate: Policy Innovation and Performance
Branch: Industry Economic Analysis

Reporting relationships

Reports to: Senior Policy and Projects Officer (70180036), Level 6
This position
Direct reports: Nil

Role summary

Under immediate guidance of senior staff, conducts assigned economic research, analysis and policy advice activities. Contributes to the sustainability of resources and economic development of the agri-food industry with a focus on export led growth and/or maintenance/protection of productive agricultural systems/resources. The work generally impacts at the enterprise level or equivalent.

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:

Research Policy and Advice

- Assists with economic research, analysis and policy advice related to the economic, agricultural business, biosecurity and natural resource effects of policy decisions.
- Assists with monitoring and reporting on key issues and changes that importantly affect the profitability of agricultural industry sectors.
- Assists with economic, business and policy analysis methodologies to assist in strategic planning, project planning and appraisal, and resource allocation, as required.

- Assists with providing economic, business and policy input to assist in the development of sustainable farming practices.
- Assists with developing and improving bio economic, business and industry sector models to provide a critical basis for industry, region and farm level analysis.
- Assists with economic analysis to improve policies, technologies and market opportunities, the environmental and economic sustainability of agricultural businesses and to identify profitable opportunities for technical change and industry structural change.
- Assists with appraisals of investments in industry sector level research, development, extension, biosecurity, natural resource management and policy change.
- Assists with input to the assessment of performance indicators reported by the Department and projects.
- Maintains up-to-date knowledge and awareness of research, findings, issues and trends relevant to area of expertise.
- Under immediate guidance, completes progress reports to meet project specifications.
- Contributes to the preparation of project reports.
- Participates in section/project planning processes.
- Under immediate guidance, reviews and publishes relevant media and technical publications.
- Additional specialised capabilities may be required depending on requirements of specific roles.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Maintains effective working relationships and assists in the promotion of industry development and market intelligence with stakeholders, industry groups, farmers, other agricultural research and development organisations and agribusinesses.
- Under immediate guidance, prepares and disseminates the results of research by mass media including reports, articles, broadcasts and field days so that findings may assist farmers, department officers and the wider scientific community.
- Assists with monitoring and reporting of policy, market, technological and organisational changes affecting the profitability of agricultural industries.
- Assists in the development and application of economic and farm business management methodologies to assist in project planning.
- Assists in developing new initiatives and prepares project proposals to relevant funding bodies, as appropriate.
- Applies decision support systems and models to assist in conducting analysis and evaluation of systems and processes.
- Deals with general enquires and correspondence, and reports on activities.

General

- Maintains budgeting processes as directed and assists with managing expenditure.
- Supervises technical and support staff as required.
- Cooperates and collaborates with staff from other organisations.
- Carries out duties under relevant State and Commonwealth Acts.
- Applies risk management to all business processes.

- Undertakes emergency response duties as required.
- Undertakes other duties as required.

Work related requirements

In the context of the role:

Essential criteria

Role specific

1. Knowledge of basic principles of economic research, analysis and policy advice, as required.
2. Knowledge of an agri-food industry sector.

Core capabilities

3. *Build effective relationships:* Demonstrated written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to relate to people from a wide and varied range of backgrounds, both internal and external to the organisation.
4. *Challenge for innovation:* Ability to contribute to the development of plans and projects and able to use initiative to deliver improvements to outputs/outcomes.
5. *Think strategically:* Able to apply good conceptual, analytical and problem-solving skills to resolve identified issues.
6. *Deliver in a changing environment:* Ability to organise and prioritise work and complete tasks within deadlines as priorities change.
7. *Lead and empower others:* Ability to work autonomously and in a team environment.

Desirable criteria

1. Honours Degree in Agricultural Science, Agricultural Economics, Economics, Science or an approved equivalent.

Special requirements/equipment

- 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, Primary Industries Development

Endorsement Date: 11 April 2025