

Job Description Form (JDF)

Position details

Position title:	Agricultural Economist
Position number:	Generic
Classification:	Specified Callings Level 2
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 general guidance and utilising independent judgement, conducts economic research and analysis and develops policy advice. 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

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

- Provides economic, business and policy input to assist in the development of sustainable farming practices.
- Develops and improves bio economic, business and industry sector models to provide a critical basis for industry, regional and farm level analysis.
- Conducts economic analysis to; improve policies and technologies, identify and develop profitable opportunities across the supply chain, ensure the environmental and economic sustainability of agricultural businesses for technical change and industry structural change.
- Undertakes appraisals of investments in industry sector level research, development, extension, biosecurity, natural resource management and policy change.
- Provides input to the assessment of performance indicators reported by the department and projects.
- Develops and maintains up-to-date knowledge and awareness of research findings, issues and trends relevant to the area of expertise.
- Completes progress reports to meet project specifications.
- Prepares project reports.
- Contributes to section/project planning processes.
- Reviews and publishes relevant scientific research.
- Extends results of economic, business and policy analysis, as appropriate.
- Drafts press releases and writes reports of industry significance.
- Publishes work in relevant media and scientific journals.
- Additional specialised capabilities may be required depending on requirements of specific roles.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Maintains and promotes effective working relationships and the promotion of industry development and market intelligence with stakeholders, industry groups, farmers, other agricultural research and development organisations and agribusinesses.
- 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.
- Participates in monitoring and reporting of policy, market, technological and organisational changes affecting the profitability of agricultural industries.
- Participates in the development and application of economic and farm business management methodologies to assist in project planning.
- Supports the development of new initiatives and prepares project proposals to relevant funding bodies, as appropriate.
- Utilises 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

- Assists in the preparation and maintenance of 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.
- Other duties as required.

Work related requirements

In the context of the role:

Essential criteria

Role specific

1. Demonstrated experience in economic research, analysis and provision of policy advice, as required.
2. Sound knowledge of an agri-food industry sector.

Core capabilities

3. *Build effective relationships:* Well-developed verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills, both verbal and written, including the ability to consult, advise and convey information to stakeholders in-order to achieve strategic outcomes.
4. *Challenge for innovation:* Ability to establish clear plans and timeframes, evaluate performance, identify the need for change, determine action and focus on quality whilst seeing 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, time management and organisational skills including the ability to effectively contribute to the management of change.
7. *Lead and empower others:* Ability to lead teams and work collaboratively in a team environment contributing to the achievement of team goals.

Desirable criteria

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

Special requirements/equipment

- Bachelor degree in Agricultural Science, Agricultural Economics, Economics, Science or an approved equivalent.
- An acceptable National Police Certificate (police clearance) is required (if not currently held, must be acquired prior to commencement at applicant's expense).
- Honours Degree in Agricultural Science, Agricultural Economics, Economics, Science or an approved equivalent.
- 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