

Job Description Form (JDF)

Position details

Position title: Senior Agricultural Economist
Position number: Generic
Classification: Specified Callings Level 3
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 limited direction and demonstrating considerable initiative and independent judgement, requiring the capabilities of a broadly recognised professional, provides high level economic research and analysis and policy advice that contributes to the economic development of the agri-food industry with a focus on export led growth. The work generally impacts at the industry, industry sector 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:

Policy Advice

- Provides analysis and 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 importantly affect the profitability of agricultural industry sectors.
- Applies economic, business and policy analysis methodologies to assist in strategic planning, project planning and appraisal, and resource allocation, as required.
- Undertakes economic, business and policy analysis of practices or changes aimed at improving the environmental and economic sustainability of agricultural businesses.

- Provides economic, business and policy input to assist in the development of sustainable farming practices.
- Extends results of economic, business and policy analysis, as appropriate.
- Undertakes economic, business and policy analysis of issues to determine their potential value for or impact upon agricultural industry sectors and their supply chains.
- Develops and improves bio economic, business and industry sector models to provide a critical basis for industry, region and farm level analysis.
- Undertakes and communicates 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.
- Reviews and publishes in a variety of media to communicate findings of significance to an industry sector and or geographic region.
- Publishes work in relevant journals.
- Applies for and attracts additional funding, where appropriate

Stakeholder Engagement

- Promotes industry development and market intelligence through contact with key industry sector level stakeholders including farmer groups, agri-business, other researchers and government agencies.
- Represents the Department on committees, working parties or inquiries as required.
- Where appropriate, collaborates with other groups or disciplines and contributes to the sharing of information and skills within the economics, business and policy discipline.
- Directs the work of specialist consultants and assists in the preparation of project specifications as required.

General

- Undertakes emergency response duties as required.
- Provides project reports.
- Prepares and maintains budgets and manages expenditure.
- Supervises support staff as required.
- Cooperates and collaborates with staff from other organisations.
- Contributor to section/project planning processes.
- Applies risk management to all business processes.
- Other duties as required.

Work related requirements

In the context of the role:

Essential criteria

Role specific

1. Well-developed knowledge of an agri-food sector and, proven practices of economic research analysis and policy advice.

Core capabilities

2. *Build effective relationships:* Well developed verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills, including the ability to confidently liaise, collaborate with and communicate pertinent industry information to; departmental staff and industry participants and practitioners.
3. *Challenge for innovation:* Well developed abilities 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:* Good, conceptual and analytical skills including the ability to provide innovative solutions to complex and challenging issues and problems.
5. *Deliver in a changing environment:* Good project, time management and organisational skills including the ability to effectively contribute to the management of change.
6. *Lead and empower others:* Proven ability to lead teams and work collaboratively in a team environment contributing to the achievement of departmental level outcomes.

Desirable criteria

1. Possession of, or progress towards a relevant postgraduate qualification.

Special requirements/equipment

- Bachelor degree in Agricultural Economics or 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)
- 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