



EL 1 – Assistant Director, Plant Sciences & Risk Assessment

Job Reference: 2021/496

Who we are

Biosecurity Plant Division provides a contemporary, responsive, sustainable, intelligence-led and science-based plant biosecurity system that protects Australia's plant health status. The work of the division supports agricultural productivity, competitiveness and market access for plant and plant products imports and exports. The division pursues new market access for Australian exporters, particularly opportunities arising from finalised free trade agreements. The division conducts plant pest and disease risk analyses, develops and implements risk mitigation measures and works collaboratively to strengthen Australia's plant pest prevention, preparedness and response capabilities both within Australia and regionally.

The Plant Sciences and Risk Assessment branch within the Plant Division develops science-based import policies that protect Australia's plant-based industries, the natural environment and the community from exotic plant pests and diseases. The branch also provides scientific and technical submissions that help to maintain, improve and open overseas export markets for Australian plants and plant products.

There are positions available in several teams in the branch.

The Jobs

Duties may include but are not limited to:

- leading, managing and coordinating delivery of projects related to biosecurity risks
- providing technical knowledge and advice on the development of plant biosecurity policy including risk assessments and technical market access submissions
- collaborating and liaising with relevant areas across the department and with other stakeholders, including engaging with state/territory departments of agriculture and industry, to progress and effectively develop and implement plant biosecurity policy
- supervising and mentoring team members
- developing and leading work programs within a project management framework and a culture of continuous improvement and accountability
- creating a positive and engaged workplace that provides a safe environment and encourages staff learning and development whilst upholding the APS values.

Please note that relocation assistance for this position is subject to negotiation.

What we are looking for

Knowledge and experience

Demonstrable knowledge and experience in the following areas are highly desirable:

- sound knowledge of agricultural science and biosecurity principles
- knowledge or experience in pest risk assessment including the preparation of risk analysis reports, responses to stakeholders and associated correspondence
- knowledge or experience in market access and maintenance activities
- experience supervising staff and providing technical support to Director level
- knowledge or experience in project management
- experience in representing an agency in a professional technical specialist context
- Knowledge of agency IT systems, and/or experience contributing to the development of new IT systems including workflow, data storage and analysis will be well regarded.

Skills and capabilities

- Demonstrable skills and capabilities required for the role include:
- ability to provide high level technical advice on specific issues and complex research and analysis in area of specialisation
- excellent written and verbal communication skills, including ability to communicate in the context of situation and audience to engage internal and external clients
- Effective management of employees, taking responsibility for the achievements of self and team outcomes,
- Working with a level of independence under broad direction, monitoring progress and delivering quality outcomes
- ability to build effective working relationships, work collaboratively to solve problems and resolve conflict, and represent the agency's position and manage sensitivities.

Mandatory qualifications

A science qualification in a relevant area of plant pathology, biological, agricultural or environmental science.

Applications close: 11.00pm (AEDT) on Wednesday, 24 March 2021.

WEB LINK