



Entomologist

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| Job Reference | 2023/2454 |
| Classification | APS 5 - \$78,548 - \$86,168 |
| Division | Biosecurity Plant and Science Services |
| Branch | Science & Surveillance |
| Section | Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) |
| Location | Darwin, NT - 1 Pederson Road, Eaton NT 0820 |
| Employment Status | Ongoing (permanent) |
| Hours | Full Time |
| Security Clearance | Baseline Vetting |

Who we are

The Biosecurity Plant and Science Services Division (BPSSD) safeguards Australia's plant health status to achieve, maintain and expand overseas markets, while protecting the economy and environment. The division includes four branches, which together focus on providing scientific analysis and technical advice, facilitating the safe importation of plants and plant products, improving systems, market access, capacity building and stakeholder engagement. The division provides diagnostics, with advice on biosecurity risk and measures, and biosecurity training. The division conducts surveillance and response at first points of entry and approved arrangements sites nationally, and delivers plant, animal and aquatic health surveillance in northern Australia. The division works closely with communities and Indigenous rangers and regulates biosecurity risk in the Torres Strait.

Science and Surveillance Group (SSG) is comprised of scientists, operations and support staff responsible for regulatory advice and training, technical input to biosecurity policy, regulation activity in Torres Strait and diverse surveillance and diagnostic services around Australia, including animal and plant health surveillance measures under the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy.

NAQS is an operational branch of the Science Services Group (SSG). The NAQS domestic operation extends across coastal northern Australia from Broome in Western Australia to Cairns in Queensland and includes the islands of the Torres Strait. NAQS provides biosecurity surveillance for targeted pests across this region.

The Job

Under the direction of senior staff, you will work within a team of scientists to undertake the following tasks and responsibilities:

- Diagnosis of insects and other invertebrates, particularly high priority pests.

- Conduct multidisciplinary scientific surveys throughout northern Australia, and in countries to our near north as required.
- manage samples from Indigenous Ranger Monitoring Programs, including identification and curation of insect specimens collected in this work
- collect and manage survey data - preparing samples for internal and external diagnostics
- curate the insect collection
- maintain accurate records including for quality management systems
- manage your time to provide an efficient and effective service to meet internal and external client expectations in a regulatory environment
- work independently or under limited guidance to support the work practices of the team and the day-to-day operations
- participate in working groups and network meetings and contribute to the development and review of national policies and procedures - promote and ensure compliance with departmental WH&S policies and guidelines
- assisting in preparation of samples for DNA extraction including sample receipt and other tasks as required by the Molecular Biologist
- provide technical advice both internally and externally, and assist in the delivery of the NAQS program, including public awareness and Indigenous community liaison activities.

What we are looking for

Knowledge and experience

A significant aspect of this position involves the operational application of technical knowledge and expertise. The successful applicant will have:

- demonstrated knowledge of insects, arachnids and/or invertebrate pests of biosecurity significance to Australia
- practical experience in performing accurate morphology-based identification of invertebrate specimens (additional experience in molecular diagnostics may be advantageous)
- experience in scientific fieldwork, with a focus on tropical pest surveillance and monitoring
- technical knowledge of agricultural and biological science

Skills and capabilities

- Demonstrated ability to perform routine diagnostics of invertebrates, including the ability to correctly identify pests of biosecurity significance.
- The capability to conduct diagnostic tests including morphological identification and/or molecular assays to confirm species level identification.
- The ability to effectively develop further technical capacity in specific areas where required.
- Well-developed ability to interpret scientific literature and implement new diagnostic protocols.
- Well-developed ability to record data, analyse information and prepare reports and documentation.
- The ability to think laterally, solve problems and implement innovative solutions to improve existing practices whilst under limited supervision.
- Well-developed ability to provide timely and quality science-based risk advice.
- The ability to work in the field in a tropical environment and support biosecurity surveillance activities.

Mandatory qualifications

Tertiary qualifications (bachelor's degree) in agriculture, ecology or a related field that emphasises entomology, with practical experience in invertebrate diagnostics.

Eligibility and other requirements

Citizenship - To be eligible for employment with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry you must be an Australian citizen.

Security Clearance - This position requires a **Baseline Vetting** security clearance. You will be required to obtain and maintain a clearance at this level.

Pre-employment Check - Your suitability for employment will be assessed through a pre-employment screening process. This process includes a requirement to undergo and satisfy a National Police Check, referee checks, character clearance and where required a pre-employment medical assessment, specified mandatory qualification(s) validation and a probation period of 6 months.

Requirement to be vaccinated under public health orders

It may be a condition of your employment that:

1. if you are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 under an applicable Australian law; or
2. if the department is unable under an applicable Australian law to permit you to attend for work (i.e., outside of your usual place of residence) unless you are vaccinated against COVID-19,

you must be up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations, and you must also comply with all recommendations from public health authorities regarding any additional vaccinations that ensure the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine that you have received.

The successful applicant must:

- hold a current Apply First Aid Certificate or have the ability to obtain this qualification
- hold and maintain a current manual driver's licence and ability to drive a 4WD vehicle
- hold and maintain a valid Australian motor vehicle drivers licence
- meet physical fitness minimum standards to undertake work within the role including firefighting as needed
- note that relocation assistance is subject to negotiation
- note that the physical requirements of the role(s) involve a combination of outdoor and office-based work
- note that the position may require them to participate in an on-call roster (for which an appropriate restriction allowance will be paid) and be available to perform duty outside standard hours
- note that you may be required to perform occasional out-of-hours and weekend work
- note that you will be required to complete specific training (including refresher training) related to the role including remote area training, defensive driving, first aid and CPR courses
- note that you will be required to travel in remote/isolated locations in northern Australia or its near northern neighbours, using a variety of transport including vessels, light/commercial aircraft, helicopters and manual four-wheel drive vehicles

- note that you will be required, from time to time, to work in difficult, remote and harsh environments (possibly for extended periods) under limited supervision or in teams
- wear an official uniform supplied by the department, including during field operations (as applicable), in accordance with the department's uniform policy
- wear appropriate protective personal equipment and clothing to comply with departmental Work Health & Safety policies and procedures.

Statement of claims

Applicants are required to submit a statement of claims (**1500 words maximum**) outlining why you are interested in this position and why you believe that you have the skills, capabilities, knowledge and experience to be considered for this role. Please provide examples which demonstrate your ability to perform the duties of the position.

The key areas, or points, listed above describe the particular skills, capabilities, knowledge, and experience and where applicable the qualifications required to achieve the desired outcomes for the role and your statement of claims against these is an essential part of the shortlisting process. If shortlisted, applicants may be asked to attend an interview to provide further examples against these key areas/points to demonstrate their ability to perform the duties of the position.

Applicants must demonstrate the ways in which they will be of value to the job and the organisation. You must make sure that you adequately address each key area or point and cite evidence of your suitability. Do not simply state that you meet the requirements - it is essential that you provide examples from your current or past role(s) which demonstrate how you meet each of the key areas or points. You should focus on how your experience, achievements and capabilities will enable you to successfully undertake the responsibilities of the role(s).

Work Health and Safety Obligations

All workers (APS1-Secretary) have a duty to take reasonable care for their own health and safety whilst at work, to ensure their acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons and to comply with any reasonable instruction given to comply with the Work Health and Safety legislation.

All supervisors and managers (APS5-EL1) play a significant role by modelling safe work behaviours and clearly setting the standard for acceptable behaviour in the workplace. Supervisors and managers play a critical role in supporting 'Officers' to exercise due diligence and in consulting with duty holders.

An Officer (EL2-Secretary) makes and participates in making decisions that affect the whole or a substantial part of the department. Employees at the SES Band 2 and above classification are considered to be Officers under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth) with all EL 2 and above required to complete officer due diligence training. Officers have a duty to be proactive and continuously ensure that the department complies with relevant duties and obligations.

RecruitAbility

RecruitAbility applies to this vacancy. Under the RecruitAbility scheme you will be invited to participate in further assessment activity for the vacancy if you choose to apply under the scheme; declare you have a disability; and meet the minimum requirements for the position. For more information see <https://www.apsc.gov.au/recruitability>.

Contact

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Closing Date

Applications close: 11:00 pm (AEST) on the 4th of October 2023.