



Plant Pathologist

Job Reference	2022/7883
Classification	APS 5 - \$76,260 - \$83,658
Division	Biosecurity Plant and Science Services
Branch	Science & Surveillance
Section	Operational Science and Surveillance
Location	Sydney, NSW - Building 2 Level 7 185 O'Riordan Street Mascot NSW 2020
Employment Status	Ongoing (permanent)
Hours	Full Time
Security Clearance	Baseline Vetting

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.

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.

The Operational Science and Surveillance team provide diagnostic services including pathogen and pest identification, biosecurity status and risk management advice to biosecurity inspectors. We perform surveillance activities including vector monitoring at first points of entry.

The Job

Under the general direction of the Senior Plant Pathologist, the Plant Pathologist will contribute to scientific services, and operational and policy advice. The duties of the role will include, but are not limited to:

- delivery of timely plant disease diagnostics across a broad range of commodities and pathogens, using a range of methods, including microscopy, culturing, and molecular methods

- provision of advice on biosecurity risk of plant pathogens and associated biosecurity measures for goods under biosecurity control
- maintaining accurate computer-based and manual records of laboratory workflows, accessing reference databases and harnessing information to support laboratory outcomes
- participating in the management of day-to-day operations of laboratories including ordering, consumables, stock control, negotiating with suppliers, and maintaining equipment
- participating in the development and deployment of laboratory quality management systems and innovative diagnostic technology in the laboratory
- participating in inspections, surveillance, and response activities, as required • assisting with the development and delivery of training and awareness courses for inspection staff and other stakeholders, as required
- participating in working groups and other network meetings and contributing to the provision of technical advice and reports related to policy, auditing, inspections, and risk management
- prioritising and managing time to provide efficient and effective services to meet internal and external client expectations in a regulatory environment
- working independently or under guidance with a high level of initiative, integrity, and flexibility to contribute to teamwork practices and day-to-day operations of the laboratory
- ensuring compliance with departmental WHS policies and guidelines and being alert for and reporting risks regarding WHS issues.

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 candidate will ideally have:

- experience and/or knowledge in diagnostic plant pathology, preferably with experience and/or knowledge in molecular diagnostics and plant identification skills
- a good understanding of plant sciences in relation to plant health.
- knowledge of the Australian biosecurity environment and the application of disease risk mitigation measures

Skills and capabilities

- Ability to perform routine diagnostics of plant diseases, including the ability to correctly identify diseases and pathogens of biosecurity significance.
- Ability to interpret scientific literature and implement new diagnostic protocols.
- Well-developed skills in recording data, analysing information, preparation of reports and documentation.
- Demonstrated ability to think laterally, solve problems and implement innovative solutions to improve existing practices under limited supervision.
- Demonstrated initiative, self-motivation and ability to commit energy and drive to see that goals are achieved in an efficient and timely manner.
- Well-developed ability to provide timely and quality science-based risk advice.

Mandatory qualifications

The successful applicant must have tertiary qualifications (Bachelor degree) in biological science, agriculture, ecology, or a related field that includes plant pathology, plant sciences or microbiology.

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.

MSIC and ASIC Licences – If the position requires unescorted access within an aviation or maritime security zone, you will be required to obtain and maintain an Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) or Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC).

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 (ie 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 and maintain a valid Australian motor vehicle drivers licence,
- note that the physical requirements of the role(s) involve a combination of outdoor and office-based work,
- note that you may be required to perform occasional out-of-hours and weekend work,
- 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 (**750 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 (AEDT) on Tuesday, 29 November 2022.

Other Advertising Details

- Note that intra and interstate travel is potentially a requirement of the position.
- Note that there may be a requirement to work out of hours (including on weekends and public holidays) to provide out of hours diagnostic support, participate in emergency response and other activities.