



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Assistant Director – Surveillance

- Supervise a national team delivering 2 of our key border surveillance programs
- Ongoing (permanent) position
- Play a major role in preventing entry of exotic pests, diseases or weeds

This job can be performed in any of the following locations:

Cairns QLD; Brisbane QLD; Melbourne VIC; Sydney NSW, Adelaide SA and Darwin NT

The Job

In consultation with the Director – OSS Surveillance Section, the Assistant Director – Surveillance will be responsible for:

- Providing leadership to a national set of teams of border surveillance (NBS and Vector) staff within OSS, including managing staff and their performance, financial management, corporate governance and leading change and implementation of policy frameworks and changes to work processes in line with national work instructions.
- Managing and deploying a significant resource base (including laboratory and field facilities and equipment) with high degree of discretion for their day to day management.
- Liaising, negotiating, engaging and effectively communicating with key internal stakeholders, in particular policy staff related to NBS and Vector programs.
- Developing, implementing and monitoring against plans, including setting work area priorities and evaluating activities and working methods.
- Developing, preparing and reviewing high quality written material including reports, briefing papers, business cases and other documents related to the OSS Surveillance Section and SSG more broadly.
- Contributing to strategic planning for programs and projects, with a particular emphasis on addressing continuous improvement and delivery of practical outcomes.
- Applying creativity and originality in developing new approaches or techniques, in consultation with policy colleagues.
- Collaborating with national coordinators and policy area for Vector Monitoring NBS to contribute to strategic planning for national policies and projects.
- Providing timely and science-based risk mitigation advice including providing direction (in consultation with policy colleagues) to OSS border surveillance staff responding to known or potential detections of exotic species.

- Identifying and responding to biosecurity and business risks and developing and implementing innovative solutions to conducting border surveillance in consultation with national NBS and Vector Monitoring coordinators.
- Contributing to building Surveillance Section staff capability by coaching and motivating team members, building cooperation and succession planning.
- Leading, promoting and ensuring effective implementation of the Australian Public Service (APS) Values, Employment Principles and Code of Conduct, WHS and rehabilitation policies.

Please note that this recruitment process will initially be used to fill one ongoing vacancy and that the role may be performed from any of the locations listed above. The merit pool established through this selection process, which is valid for a period of eighteen months from the date the vacancy was advertised in the Public Service Gazette, may also be used to fill future ongoing vacancies in the branch where the duties are of a similar nature.

What we are looking for

Knowledge and experience

The successful candidate will have:

- Extensive experience in conducting and coordinating surveillance activities for plant diseases, pests and/or weeds.
- Significant knowledge and experience in botany, entomology or plant pathology, particularly relating to biology, ecology, management and diagnostics.
- Demonstrated project management experience.
- Demonstrated experience in achieving operational results within national policy frameworks.

Mandatory qualifications

Post-graduate qualifications in agriculture or biological science (preferably in botany, entomology or plant pathology) and ideally involving field studies.

Eligibility and other requirements

The successful applicant must:

- Hold and maintain a valid Australian motor vehicle 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.
- 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 appropriate protective personal equipment and clothing to comply with departmental Work Health and Safety policies and procedures.

Job Reference 2022/8272

Applications close: 30 January 2023

Apply here: [Assistant Director – Surveillance](#)