

Role description

General information

Title:	Senior Research Officer, Entomology			Classification:	PO2
Division:	SARDI	Branch:	Crop Sciences		Business unit: Entomology
Type of appointment:	Term	Hours of duty:	37.5	Location :	Waite Campus, Urrbrae

About us

South Australia is internationally recognised for the quality of its agriculture, food, and wine. Our regions are the backbone of our state and the economic powerhouse that drives prosperity for all South Australians.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency working in partnership with our primary industries, regional stakeholders and across all levels of government to advance the prosperity and sustainability of South Australia's primary industries and regional communities.

We are a passionate team of around 800 people working across metropolitan and regional South Australia to develop and protect our state's regions and food, wine, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, grains, livestock, dairy and horticulture industries.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the role is to support and lead entomology research to benefit SA grains and horticulture industries, and to provide diagnostic and scientific advisory services to Biosecurity SA to support the state's Biosecurity goals and Emergency Management response programs.

The role contributes delivering the agency's [priorities](#) including economic sustainability of primary industries of SA through the development and adoption of improved integrated pest management (IPM) strategies within the grains, horticulture and viticulture industries.

The role contributes to delivering research programs, supervising staff, reporting to clients and providing the delivery of the grains pest diagnostic and advice service. This includes the processing, curation and data-storage of identified pest samples, investigating unusual grain pest occurrences, developing pest management research and extension skills by contributing to major IPM projects, and assisting in the delivery of invertebrate pest and beneficial insect diagnostic training workshops for agronomists and growers.

Key accountabilities

- Overseeing diagnostic capability for entomology.
- Coordinating research in development and delivery of diagnostic services for insect pests.
- Ensuring high quality delivery of research programs in integrated pest management and biosecurity.
- Managing existing research and technical staff to achieve high quality outcomes.
- Developing research projects in collaboration with the SARDI Entomology team
- Building effective working relationships with key stakeholders in industry

Key deliverables / results

- Contributing to the development of entomology projects, delivered to a high level to benefit the SA grains and horticulture industries.
- Contributing to the acquisition, validation and data storage of diagnostic, biosecurity and pest surveillance records.
- Investigating unusual pest occurrences and writing reports
- Contributing to the delivery of invertebrate pest and beneficial diagnostic training workshops for agronomists and grain growers.
- Supervising staff effectively to achieve high quality outcomes.
- Building effective working relationships with invertebrate taxonomists and diagnosticians and grains IPM researchers nationally.

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Relationships

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role reports to Research Scientist/ Sub-Program Leader, Entomology • Works closely with Research Officers and Operation Officers within Entomology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds working relationships and networks with collaborating agronomists, growers and their regional grower groups, and SARDI and PIRSA staff. • Participates in working groups or committees as required. |
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Requirements

- Possession of a current driver’s licence and willingness to drive.
- Out of hours work and inter / intrastate travel may be required.
- Australian residency or current works permit is required (responsibility of applicant to provide evidence of a current work permit).
- You acknowledge your work, health and safety obligations and our expectations when applying for a role.
- The incumbent will be required to undertake emergency management training and must be willing to participate in emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities required by government agencies.

Qualifications

- Essential: Degree in Agricultural or Biological Sciences
- Desirable: PhD or specific training in Agricultural Entomology and malacology

Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
<p>Professional and Technical Knowledge</p> <p><u>Demonstrates</u> specialized knowledge of invertebrate biology, taxonomy and IPM, pest management challenges in the horticulture and grains industries and biosecurity threats to the state.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialised knowledge of invertebrate taxonomy, biology, ecology and IPM. • Sound knowledge of the broad direction, culture and pest management challenges facing industry. • Specialist knowledge in insect pest and beneficial groups. • Proven high-level research and communication skills. • Actively develops contemporary skillsets and knowledge of the scientific literature relevant to the field. • Highly developed interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills, and the ability to advise on and communicate concepts and scientific information clearly and concisely, negotiate successful outcomes, and train and mentor colleagues in laboratory practices
<p>Attention to Detail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivers outputs that reflect a high level of precision, care, and verification, and routinely check calculations, validate data, and follow established protocols to ensure results are correct. • Checks all possibilities methodically. • Maintains exceptionally thorough and well-organized records of all experimental work
<p>Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents complex technical information in a form that is clearly understood and relevant to the audience.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displays high-level written communication skills, including scientific and non-scientific writing and oral presentation skills. • Communicates ideas and information in a form well matched to, and well received by staff at all levels
Achievement Orientated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works proactively to achieve program objectives and deliver measurable outcomes. • Develops clear goals for projects, staff, and meetings. • Sets personal priorities and allocates time and resources accordingly.

HRMS no.:	A789131	ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	A7407673
Delegate approval:	Deputy Executive Director - SARDI			Date:	17 March 2026
Approved and reviewed by People and Culture:	Principal; HR Business Partner - March 2026				