

Role

General information

Title:	Senior Plant Biosecurity Inspector – Investigations	Classification:	OPS4		
Division:	Biosecurity	Branch:	Plant and Invasive Species Biosecurity	Business Unit:	Plant Biosecurity Operations
Type of Appointment:	Term Contract	Hours of Duty:	37.5	Location:	Glenside

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 Senior Plant Biosecurity Inspector – Investigations contributes to the goals and objectives of the Plant Biosecurity program by supporting the planning, delivery, review, and reporting of plant biosecurity programs, activities and outcomes. The Senior Plant Biosecurity Inspector – Investigations is also responsible for undertaking projects and activities to ensure that movements of horticultural produce are compliant with national market access and quarantine requirements. This includes coordinating and conducting audits and inspections, provision of advice relating to market access and verifying and issuing plant health certifications to meet legislative requirements.

The Senior Plant Biosecurity Inspector – Investigations performs regulatory activities and obligations, that are associated with plant and plant product market access functions. This includes identifying, investigating and managing actions associated with, and reporting on, actual or suspected plant pest incursions, and other contraventions of the legislation. The position also contributes to the regular review and the improvement of policies, standards and processes associated with the *Plant Health Act 2009*, and other regulatory standards.

The Senior Plant Biosecurity Inspector – Investigations maintains effective relationships with stakeholders through the delivery of professional and timely responses to queries and issues raised by the general public. A range of other expert technical and general information is also delivered to individuals, primary producers, market agents, growers, wholesalers, transport companies and horticultural associations to facilitate compliance with market access and quarantine requirements.

Key Accountabilities

- Ensuring activities including audits, direct inspections, inspection and certification of compliant produce are effectively planned, coordinated, conducted and reported on in accordance with Auditing Procedures, Work Instructions, procedures and instructions to ensure high level service and ensuring plant biosecurity goals and objectives are met.
- Ensuring accurate and timely information is delivered, to individuals, primary producers, market agents, growers, wholesalers, transport companies and horticultural associations, to facilitate compliance with market access and quarantine requirements.
- Enforcing, administering, and effectively interpreting the *Plant Health Act 2009*.
- Managing non-compliant movements, activities and materials are identified through monitoring of Manifests and Quarantine Direction Orders, and appropriate actions, including segregation and quarantine processes, are implemented.
- Investigating and managing non-conformances and incident reports are drafted and responded to in timely manners.
- Develop capability in biosecurity emergency response through training, exercises and participation in responses

Key Deliverables / Results

Role

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert understanding of SA Domestic Quarantine to facilitate compliance with plant quarantine requirements and providing accurate and timely advice to stakeholders, individuals, primary producers, market agents, growers, wholesalers, transport companies and horticultural associations. Coordinates, leads, and undertakes regulatory activities and obligations, associated with plant and plant product market access functions, are coordinated and conducted to meet Agency, State and National Plant Biosecurity goals and strategies. Non-compliant movements, activities and materials are identified through monitoring of Quarantine Direction Orders, and appropriate actions, including segregation and quarantine processes, are implemented. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant biosecurity programs and projects are effectively performed to meet Agency, State and National Plant Biosecurity Objectives. Activities including audits, direct inspections, accrediting individual and businesses, inspection and certification of compliant produce are effectively planned, coordinated, conducted and reported on in accordance with Auditing Procedures, Work Instructions, procedures and instructions to ensure high level service and ensuring plant biosecurity goals and objectives are met. Investigations into suspected and confirmed non-compliance under the <i>Plant Health Act 2009</i> are appropriately and effectively planned, executed and reported on. |
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Relationships

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports to the Senior Plant Biosecurity Officer – Market Access Works closely with industry and operational staff of other government agencies. Works closely with Market Access and Systems staff, other Senior Plant Biosecurity Officers and other Senior Plant Biosecurity Inspectors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works with Manager, Plant Biosecurity Operations, Plant Health Inspectors, the Compliance group and the staff at Quarantine Stations Maintains positive working relationships with industry groups and individual business operators. Maintains positive networks and relationships within the broader SA Government community, as necessary. |
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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.
- You acknowledge your work, health and safety obligations and our expectations
- Detection and/or outbreaks of fruit fly and other declared pests and diseases may occur anywhere in the state and at any time of the year. The incumbent will be expected to join the First Response Team (FRT) and may be required to be available to travel and work anywhere in the State at short notice, therefore a flexible approach to working significant and out of hours work will be required during outbreaks.

Qualifications

- Desirable:
 - ICA Auditors Course (or complete within 6 months of appointment).
 - Relevant tertiary qualifications or extensive equivalent experience, associate with plant security.
 - Certificate IV in Government (Statutory Investigation & Enforcement) or equivalent.

Capabilities

Professional & Technical Knowledge

Demonstrates sound knowledge of contemporary biosecurity and plant biosecurity practices, systems and theories.

- Explains technical information clearly to non-technical people
- Interprets and applies legislation, policies and procedures which are relevant to area.
- Understands the general issues facing the 'industry'.
- Sound skills in use of office-based computing programs used by Plant Biosecurity e.g. Word, Excel, Outlook.
- Demonstrates a sound working knowledge of OHS&W obligations, policies and procedures

Role

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assimilates new/complex information quickly. analyse and interrogate information in written and verbal contexts
<p>Quality Focus</p> <p>Systematically monitors the standard of own and others performance and strives for quality results.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivers a high standard of performance under pressure. Monitors the effectiveness and quality of existing practices. Actively works to maintain and further build the reputation of the organisation and builds trust in relationships through maintaining confidentiality and following through.
<p>Communication</p> <p>Communicates effectively with a wide range of people and expresses ideas clearly and coherently, both verbally and in writing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates ideas and information in a form well matched to, and well received by, staff at all levels and shows tact and diplomacy in dealing with people. Listens carefully, asks questions to clarify meaning and communicates understanding. Puts complex technical information in a form that is clearly understood and relevant to the audience. Acts sensitively and constructively in conflict situations so as not to escalate the problem; seeks to identify the key issues; recognises own role in conflict
<p>Planning and Organising (Work Management)</p> <p>Manages own and others time efficiently, plans resource availability and use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages numerous tasks in priority order allowing sufficient time to meet deadlines Demonstrates a flexible approach to unplanned events and interruptions whilst maintaining focus on priorities Sets priorities effectively, allocating and managing time and resources accordingly.

HRMS No:		ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	A3990005
Delegate Approval:	A/Executive Director, Nick Secomb			Date:	20 March 2026
Approved and Classified by People and Culture:					

Role

Updated on 5 May 2023 7 July 2025

