

Role description

General information

Title:	Animal Health Officer (Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness)	Classification:	PO2		
Division:	Biosecurity	Branch:	Animal Biosecurity	Business unit:	EAD Preparedness
Type of appointment:	Term-contract - 12 month	Hours of duty:	37.5	Location :	Murray Bridge or by negotiation

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.

PIRSA's Animal Biosecurity program protects and facilitates market access and livestock productivity, public health and consumer confidence through the health, welfare, quality, safety and image of South Australian livestock and livestock products, and other animals. Global trade access for livestock and livestock products increasingly requires demonstrated minimum standards of animal health and welfare. The Animal Biosecurity group provides a system for animal disease early warning and early detection of exotic diseases; develops programmes for data collection to allow monitoring of animal health status and proof of disease freedom; and maintains capacity for emergency animal disease management.

Purpose

This Animal Health Officer role contributes to delivering the agency's [priorities](#) including increasing productivity of our livestock industries and agribusinesses, securing production through biosecurity and efficient and sustainable use of resources, and maintaining market access by working with livestock industries to respond to evolving requirements of domestic and global markets and consumers. The role contributes to the management of the risks to South Australia posed by animal pests and diseases. The Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Preparedness program leads the Animal Biosecurity team in preparing to respond to key disease threats to South Australia's livestock industries.

The primary purpose of Animal Health Officer (EAD Preparedness) is to work within the EAD Preparedness team to develop regional preparedness plans for EAD response in South Australia. The role will be required to deliver operational EAD training across the agency and engage extensively with the South Australian livestock industries and other stakeholders at a local level to build strong networks with local knowledge that increases the likelihood of successful EAD response.

Key accountabilities

- Builds networks with regional communities, including with regionally influential groups and individuals to build trust and awareness of emergency animal diseases
- Develops and delivers industry and region-specific EAD awareness and preparedness materials and training, covering disease detection, prevention, monitoring, and reporting
- Builds the capacity of the local community in EAD preparedness and response
- Works to development region-specific strategies for EAD preparedness
- Oversees and participates in regional exercises for EAD preparedness
- Works on developing regional strategies for effective operation of an EAD response, applying policies and procedures to the regional and local level
- Collaborates effectively with relevant internal and external stakeholders to promote improved biosecurity and reduced risk of EAD entry and establishment, focusing on areas of highest risk
- Fosters regional cross-agency and external stakeholder EAD risk awareness

Key deliverables / results

Role description

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks are established with regional communities, including with regionally influential groups, building trust and awareness of emergency animal diseases • Industry and region-specific EAD awareness and preparedness materials and training and development and delivered • Capacity of the local community in EAD preparedness and response is developed • The outputs of epidemiological risk analysis and advice is applied to develop region-specific strategies for EAD preparedness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional exercises for EAD preparedness are undertaken • Regional strategies for effective operation of an EAD response are developed • Collaboration is undertaken with relevant internal and external stakeholders to promote improved biosecurity and reduced risk of EAD entry and establishment • Regional cross-agency and external stakeholder EAD risk awareness is developed • Contribute to the preparedness of PIRSA to respond to emergency events including participating in emergency disease response training and undertake a management role during an emergency event. |
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Relationships

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role reports to Manager (EAD Preparedness) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with other South Australian government agencies and livestock industry stakeholders to support program outcomes |
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Requirements

- Possession of a current driver’s license 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](#)

Qualifications

- Essential: Degree in veterinary or animal health science or equivalent
- Desirable: Demonstrable experience in emergency animal disease response

Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
<p>Professional and Technical Knowledge</p> <p>Demonstrates and applies knowledge of animal health and the livestock industries, including emergency animal disease management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates good working knowledge of all relevant aspects of animal health and emergency animal disease management • Maintains an up-to-date knowledge of developments in animal disease management • Demonstrates an ability to develop and apply effective animal health policies and procedures • Maintains a good working knowledge of the South Australian livestock industries at the State, regional and local level • Explains technical information accurately and clearly to non-technical people • Is recognised as knowledgeable in emergency animal disease preparedness planning and acts as a source of information internally and externally
<p>Relationship building and maintaining</p> <p>Develops productive working relationships with peers, staff, and stakeholders by initiating contact, building rapport,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds relationships of trust and cooperation with key stakeholders, identifying leaders and those with influence • Respectfully interacts with people from diverse backgrounds and experiences responding positively to their comments and suggestions • Speaks confidently to others, expressing own ideas and opinions in an easily understandable way

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<p>understanding needs, and delivering to expectations; able to relate to and communicate with people from diverse cultures, locations, and ages.</p>	
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<p>Collaborative approach Adopting a style of work that recognises the value of input from others at all phases of projects; working with others formally and informally to achieve shared objectives; fostering a sense of shared ownership from others with multiple perspectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops ideas and shared goals with other people to promote ownership and ensure relevance to them • Establishes the need for and the degree of consultation/collaboration required • Promotes the accomplishment of shared goals by accepting/promoting joint responsibility
<p>Planning and organising (work management) Establishing a course of action for self and or others to accomplish specific goals; planning effective, timely work assignments and the appropriate allocation of resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies capabilities and resources needed to get the job done • Sets priorities effectively, allocating and managing time and resources accordingly • Manages numerous tasks in priority order allowing sufficient time to meet deadlines

HRMS no.:		ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	
Delegate approval:	Georgie Cornish, Executive Director Biosecurity			Date:	27/04/2026
Approved and classified by People and Culture:	[Date] [Reference number]				