

Role description

General information

Title:	Technical Specialist - Wildlife			Classification:	PO3
Division:	Biosecurity SA	Branch:	Animal Biosecurity		Business unit: HPAI Response Program
Type of appointment:	12 months	Hours of duty:	37.5 hours per week	Location:	Adelaide Metropolitan

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 Technical Specialist - Wildlife is a member of the HPAI Response Program and provides expert technical advice on wildlife populations, ecology, behaviour and management in the context of HPAI and other wildlife disease risks. The role provides specialist analysis and evidence-based advice to support operational decision-making, planning and risk management throughout preparedness, response and recovery activities.

Working collaboratively with the Incident Management Team and relevant functional leads, the role contributes specialist technical expertise to incident action planning, wildlife surveillance, response strategies and assessment of potential impacts on wildlife. The role draws on contemporary scientific knowledge, wildlife management practices and established technical networks to ensure response activities are informed by the characteristics of affected wildlife populations and practical operational considerations.

Key accountabilities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide expert technical advice on wild bird and mammal populations, wildlife ecology and management, and wildlife disease risks to inform PIRSA's HPAI preparedness, response and recovery activities and support operational and strategic decision-making. • Contribute specialist technical expertise to HPAI incident action planning, wildlife surveillance strategies, risk assessments and response activities. • Analyse technical information, surveillance findings, wildlife data and emerging issues to identify risks, assess impacts and inform PIRSA's HPAI response priorities. • Provide specialist technical input to public information materials, operational guidance, situation reports, briefings and other response documentation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and communicate technical risks, operational constraints and potential impacts on wildlife associated with proposed response activities, recommending practical mitigation strategies where appropriate. • Develop and maintain effective working relationships with wildlife organisations, technical experts, research organisations, laboratories, government agencies and community stakeholders to ensure advice reflects current knowledge and best practice. • Contribute to the development, review and continuous improvement of response procedures, operational guidance and preparedness activities. |
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Key deliverables / results

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely, accurate and evidence-based technical advice is provided to support PIRSA's HPAI preparedness, response and recovery activities and operational decision-making. • Technical risks, potential impacts and mitigation strategies are identified, analysed and communicated to inform HPAI response planning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife surveillance and response activities are supported through expert technical advice on wildlife populations, disease risks, surveillance approaches and control measures. • Technical briefings, guidance materials and specialist input to reports are delivered to support operational personnel and informed decision-making. |
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- Specialist technical advice is incorporated into operational plans, Incident Action Plans and HPAI response strategies.

- Effective working relationships are established and maintained with wildlife organisations, technical experts, laboratories, research organisations and government agencies to support coordinated HPAI preparedness and response outcomes.

Relationships

- The Technical Specialist - Wildlife is part of the HPAI Response Program team.
- Reports to the Program Manager, HPAI Response Program
- Works closely with the Epidemiology Coordinator and Public Information Officer.

- Works closely with Department for Environment and Water, Landscape Boards of South Australia and other Government Agencies as required.
- Liaises with wildlife organisations, technical experts, research organisations, universities, laboratories and relevant community stakeholders to ensure specialist advice reflects current knowledge and practice.

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 qualification in Veterinary Science, Wildlife Biology, Zoology, Ecology, Environmental Science, Animal Science or another relevant discipline, together with demonstrated expertise in wildlife health, wildlife management, biosecurity or disease surveillance.
Desirable: Demonstrated experience in emergency animal disease preparedness or response, wildlife disease management, surveillance programs or incident management. Training or experience in AIIMS and/or AUSVETPLAN would be highly regarded.

Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
Professional and Technical Knowledge Demonstrates recognised expertise in wildlife ecology, wildlife management, wildlife health and disease risks, applying specialist knowledge to support HPAI surveillance, operational planning, risk assessment and response decision-making.	- Demonstrates sound knowledge of wildlife ecology, population dynamics, wildlife management and animal health principles relevant to emergency animal disease preparedness and response. - Maintains up-to-date knowledge of emerging animal diseases, wildlife disease risks, scientific developments and contemporary wildlife management practices. - Applies specialist knowledge to assess the potential implications of HPAI and response activities for wild bird and mammal populations, habitats and relevant stakeholders. - Sources, interprets and applies scientific and technical information to support evidence-based advice and operational decision-making. - Explains technical information clearly and accurately to non-technical audiences, including operational personnel and stakeholders.
Builds Networks Develops and sustains strong, collaborative relationships across government, industry, and community sectors to	- Develops and maintains constructive relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders, recognising different perspectives, interests and areas of expertise. - Builds trust and cooperation through timely, open and respectful engagement. - Uses professional networks to share knowledge, access expertise and support effective problem-solving.

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achieve shared objectives, exchange information, and create mutual benefit. Leverages networks to resolve issues and identify new opportunities.	Establishes and maintains networks that support collaboration, knowledge sharing and achievement of shared objectives.				
Innovation Demonstrates the ability to generate and apply original ideas and approaches to improve outcomes, processes, and strategies. Actively seeks opportunities to incorporate new concepts and develop practical, workable solutions.	- Includes rational, intuitive, lateral, and creative thinking in defining and solving problems, including incorporating the ideas and creative solutions of others - Develops policy directions and business insights that translate into realistic, forward-looking plans, considering long-term implications, emerging trends, risks, and opportunities. - Maintains awareness of new tools, technologies, and methodologies, proactively seeking opportunities to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, while adapting strategies based on evidence, feedback, and lessons learned.				
Communication Effectively conveys information, ideas, and perspectives both verbally and in writing, fostering understanding and collaboration across diverse audiences. Builds strong connections through clear, respectful, and purposeful communication.	- Adapts language and style to suit the needs of the audience and situation and to achieve the desired outcomes - Delivers accurate, relevant information in a structured, concise manner through well-organised written documents and impactful verbal messages aligned with organisational standards. - Presents positions confidently using evidence and reasoning, while acknowledging and respecting differing viewpoints.				
HRMS no:		ANZCO Code:	234711	Objective ID:	
Delegate approval:	Executive Director, Biosecurity			Date:	
Approved and classified by People and Culture:	Principal HR Business Partner				