

Role Description

General Information

Title:	Research Officer – Inland Waters (Plant Ecology)			Classification:	PO1
Division:	South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)	Branch:	Aquatic and Livestock Sciences		Business Unit: Inland Waters and Catchment Ecology
Type of Appointment:	Term	Hours of Duty:	37.5	Location:	West Beach

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 provide technical and scientific support to the Plant Ecology (PE) Sub-program and broader Inland Waters and Catchment Ecology Program (IWCE) to deliver high-quality scientific data and information across government, industry and the community for the conservation, management and rehabilitation of inland waters and estuaries. The role contributes directly to a range of vegetation monitoring and research projects particularly in the Lower River Murray and Coorong.

The role contributes to delivering the agency's priorities including (1) Securing production through biosecurity and efficient and sustainable use of resources (Sustaining the Resource); (2) Growing regions by supporting key regional development drivers and growing opportunities available to our regional communities; (3) Building partnerships with industry, stakeholders, research organisations and regional communities; and (4) preparedness to contribute to PIRSA's response and recovery obligations in emergency situations.

Key Accountabilities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing to research projects that inform the management of South Australia's inland and estuarine aquatic resources. Undertaking data entry, analysis, and some data interpretation while coordinating and undertaking data management and storage processes. Undertaking a range of fieldwork, including on vessels. Ensuring professional and unbiased data collection using field, mesocosm and laboratory approaches. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist technical and casual staff with the delivery of project outcomes and contribute to project milestone reports in a timely manner. Operating successfully as a key member in a small research team while ensuring WHS principles are adhered to. Maintaining collaborative working relationships with Branch and project team members and contributing to program and project milestone reporting in a timely manner. Upholding the ethical behaviour and professional integrity standards as contained in the Public Sector Act, 2009 |
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Key Deliverables / Results

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving fieldwork, mesocosm and laboratory in a timely manner. Delivering support for the successful completion of research objectives. Achieving a scientifically accurate analysis of vegetation survey data. Providing high quality scientific data, analysis and information in relation to the sustainable management of South Australian freshwater dependent ecosystems. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the preparation of research presentations for stakeholders. Contributes to progress and final reports to stakeholders and funding bodies being delivered on time and accepted. Professional operation in a small research team. |
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- Undertaking research related data management and storage processes and professional, accurate and unbiased recording of field and experimental data.

Relationships

- Role reports to the Plant Ecology Sub-program Leader (IWCE)
- The incumbent will work closely with other staff in the IWCE Science Program

Requirements

- Regular intra-state and occasional inter-state travel.
- Fieldwork may require extended periods on small vessels.
- Possession of a current driver's licence and willingness to drive.
- 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: tertiary qualification in a field of scientific research (e.g. environmental, biology, ecology)
- Desirable: understanding/ experience in vegetation field sampling and laboratory processing

Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
Professional & Technical Knowledge Demonstrates technical knowledge and research ability in plant ecology, particularly vegetation field studies and laboratory processing.	• Demonstrated understanding of current research and management issues concerning freshwater/estuarine ecosystems particularly in the Lower Murray and Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region. • Planning and organizing (work management) • Experience of vegetation field sampling, mesocosm experiments and laboratory processing • Demonstrated ability to independently collect, collate and manage data. • Experience in ensuring compliance with, and the full implementation of OHS&W and EO principles in the workplace.
Achievement Orientation Sets and achieves individual goals; manages workload and plans ahead to meet deadlines, accomplishing the results desired.	• Ability to work independently • Workload management • Working to deadlines
Attention to detail Pays attention to detail to ensure one's own work is timely, accurate and reliable.	• Demonstrates attention to detail

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Initiative Acts autonomously within scope of duties; looks for alternative ways to ensure work is completed; anticipates problems and takes actions.	• Demonstrates ability to work alone and shows initiative
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HRMS No:		ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	
Delegate Approval:	Professor Michael Steer, Executive Director SARDI			Date:	16/06/2026
Approved and Classified by People and Culture:	Reviewed by HR Business Partner – 11/09/26				

