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| **Cluster** | Primary Industries and Regional Development  |
| **Agency** | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development |
| **Division/Branch/Unit** | Research Assurance / Research Services / Research Services Operations |
| **Location** | Various |
| **Classification/Grade/Band** | Technical Officer Grade 1-3 |
| **ANZSCO Code** | 234111 |
| **PCAT Code** | 1119192 |
| **Date of Approval** | June 2016 (updated June 2025) |
| **Agency Website** | www.dpird.nsw.gov.au |

Agency overview

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is the department dedicated to growing primary industries and supporting regional economic development to deliver long term benefits to the state. Our focus is to protect, support and develop our primary industries, mining sector, and regions.

DPIRD brings together Agriculture and Biosecurity; Fisheries and Forestry; Local Land Services; NSW Resources; Regional Development and Delivery; the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation; NSW Public Works and Soil Conservation Service.

We have nearly 5,000 employees, with almost 80 per cent of us living and working in regional NSW.

The Agriculture and Biosecurity Group plays a key role in protecting, supporting, and developing sustainable, future-ready agricultural and biosecurity sectors across NSW. Through its work, the group shapes the future of agriculture and safeguards the state’s biosecurity.

Comprising of five divisions :  Agriculture, which leads industry development through science and research;  Biosecurity and Food Safety, which manages biosecurity risks and food safety while responding to emergencies; Climate and Natural Resources , which drives policy on climate, drought, soil, and water to support resilience; Research Assurance , which ensures a commercially viable, high-quality research framework; and Strategy and Regulatory Policy, which delivers policy reform and oversees regulatory integrity.

Primary purpose of the role

The Farm Manager is accountable for the operational farming activities undertaken. The role involves the strategic management of farming activities:

* demonstrate best practice management techniques,
* facilitate research projects and trials,
* deliver commercial production outcomes
* maintaining a strong connection with local industry partners

Agriculture Research Centre enterprises are diverse and include horticulture, dry land and irrigated cropping and livestock production. The Farm Manager provides an essential link between management, research staff, local office staff, commercial partners and farm operations

# Key accountabilities

* Plan and manage all farm operations including cropping and livestock programs and resource management
* Lead and manage a team of staff and contractors to work in accordance with Departmental standards
* Establish and maintain relationships with stakeholders for the purposes of development and implementation of operational plans
* Utilise farming expertise to guide and inform research and commercial activities
* Develop and oversee farm maintenance and security programs
* Develop and manage farm budgets and records relating to farming operations and provide reports and analysis of operations and activities
* Market farm produce to best advantage
* Comply with work standards according to the level of appointment in the Technical Officer Merit Progression Guidelines

Key challenges

* Balancing competing demands for resource allocation to ensure objectives are achieved
* Tailoring communication to diverse stakeholders
* Balancing the interests of researchers, best practice farming and commercial interests

Key relationships

| Who | Why |
| --- | --- |
| **Internal** |  |
| Cluster manager | Provide information, reports and analysis on farm operations and activities. In consultation, develop budgets and monitor farm income and expenditure |
| Farm staff | Allocate work and ensure activities are undertaken as planned. Motivate team, provide direction and manage performance |
| Business and Research Operations Branch staff and other Departmental staff | Work collaboratively to achieve business outcomes |
| Researchers | Discuss and coordinate farm plans and activities |
| **External** |  |
| Contractors | Employ and manage contractors to complete specified duties |
| Suppliers, customers, agents | Negotiate the supply, purchase and sale of goods, livestock and produce |

# Role dimensions

## Decision making

* Authorised to make all decisions relating to farm planning, resource allocation and emergency response, within agreed parameters
* Allocates work to farm staff and contractors and monitors progress
* Manages staff, contractor and visitor compliance with WHS legislation

## Reporting line

Cluster Manager

## Direct reports

This role leads a team of ongoing and casual staff

## Budget/Expenditure

Authorisation for expenditure of allocated project resources under applicable Departmental delegation

# Essential requirements

* Qualifications in accordance with Part 2 (xviii) of the Crown Employees (Department of Industry) Technical Staff Award
* Demonstrated experience in cropping and pasture management systems
* Valid driver’s licence

# Capabilities for the role

The [NSW public sector capability framework](https://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/workforce-management/capability-framework/the-capability-framework) describes the capabilities (knowledge, skills and abilities) needed to perform a role. There are four main groups of capabilities: personal attributes, relationships, results and business enablers, with a fifth people management group of capabilities for roles with managerial responsibilities. These groups, combined with capabilities drawn from occupation-specific capability sets where relevant, work together to provide an understanding of the capabilities needed for the role.

The capabilities are separated into **focus capabilities** and **complementary capabilities**.

# Focus capabilities

*Focus capabilities* are the capabilities considered the most important for effective performance of the role. These capabilities will be assessed at recruitment.

The focus capabilities for this role are shown below with a brief explanation of what each capability covers and the indicators describing the types of behaviours expected at each level.

| FOCUS CAPABILITIES |
| --- |
| **Capability group/sets** | **Capability name** |  | **Behavioural indicators** | **Level**  |
|  | **Act with Integrity**Be ethical and professional, and uphold and promote the public sector values | Behave in an honest, ethical and professional wayBuild understanding of ethical behaviourFollow legislation, policies, guidelines and codes of conduct that apply to your role and organisationSpeak out against misconduct and illegal and inappropriate behaviourReport apparent conflicts of interest | Foundational |
|  | **Commit to Customer Service**Provide customer-focused services in line with public sector and organisational objectives | Recognise the importance of customer service and understanding customer needsHelp customers understand the services that are availableTake responsibility for delivering services that meet customer requirementsKeep customers informed of progress and seek feedback to ensure their needs are metShow respect, courtesy and fairness when interacting with customersRecognise that customer service involves both external and internal customers | Foundational |
|  | **Demonstrate Accountability**Be proactive and responsible for own actions, and adhere to legislation, policy and guidelines | Take responsibility for own actionsBe aware of delegations and act within authority levelsBe aware of team goals and their impact on work tasksFollow safe work practices and take reasonable care of own and others’ health and safetyEscalate issues when these are identifiedFollow government and organisational record-keeping requirements | Foundational |
|  | **Technology**Understand and use available technologies to maximise efficiencies and effectiveness | Display familiarity and confidence when applying technology used in roleComply with records, communication and document control policiesComply with policies on the acceptable use of technology, including cyber security | Foundational |
|  | **Manage and Develop People**Engage and motivate staff, and develop capability and potential in others | Collaborate to set clear performance standards and deadlines in line with established performance development frameworksLook for ways to develop team capability and recognise and develop individual potentialBe constructive and build on strengths by giving timely and actionable feedbackIdentify and act on opportunities to provide coaching and mentoringRecognise performance issues that need to be addressed and work towards resolving issuesEffectively support and manage team members who are working flexibly and in various locationsCreate a safe environment where team members’ diverse backgrounds and cultures are considered and respectedConsider feedback on own management style and reflect on potential areas to improve | Intermediate |

# Complementary capabilities

*Complementary capabilities* are also identified from the Capability Framework and relevant occupation-specific capability sets. They are important to identifying performance required for the role and development opportunities.

Note: capabilities listed as ‘not essential’ for this role are not relevant for recruitment purposes however may be relevant for future career development.

| COMPLEMENTARY CAPABILITIES |
| --- |
| **Capability group/sets** | **Capability name** |  | **Description** | **Level**  |
|  | Display Resilience and Courage | Be open and honest, prepared to express your views, and willing to accept and commit to change | Foundational |
| Manage Self | Show drive and motivation, an ability to self-reflect and a commitment to learning | Intermediate |
| Value Diversity and Inclusion | Demonstrate inclusive behaviour and show respect for diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives | Foundational |
|  | Communicate Effectively | Communicate clearly, actively listen to others, and respond with understanding and respect | Foundational |
| Work Collaboratively | Collaborate with others and value their contribution | Foundational |
| Influence and Negotiate | Gain consensus and commitment from others, and resolve issues and conflicts | Foundational |
|  | Deliver Results | Achieve results through the efficient use of resources and a commitment to quality outcomes | Foundational |
| Plan and Prioritise | Plan to achieve priority outcomes and respond flexibly to changing circumstances | Foundational |
| Think and Solve Problems | Think, analyse and consider the broader context to develop practical solutions | Intermediate |
|  | Finance | Understand and apply financial processes to achieve value for money and minimise financial risk | Foundational |
| Procurement and Contract Management | Understand and apply procurement processes to ensure effective purchasing and contract performance | Foundational |
| Project Management | Understand and apply effective planning, coordination and control methods | Foundational |
|  | Inspire Direction and Purpose | Communicate goals, priorities and vision, and recognise achievements | Foundational |
| Optimise Business Outcomes | Manage people and resources effectively to achieve public value | Foundational |
| Manage Reform and Change | Support, promote and champion change, and assist others to engage with change | Foundational |