Australian National University

Position Description

Position Title:	Agricultural Economist
College/Division:	ANU College of Science
Faculty/School/Centre:	Fenner School of Environment and Society
Department/Unit:	Sustainable Farms
Classification:	ANU Officer Grade 8 (Research)
Position No:	TBC
Responsible to:	Director, Sustainable Farms

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Sustainable Farms is a trans-disciplinary initiative at the ANU with a vision to empower farmers to adopt regenerative farming practices. Co funded by the ANU, philanthropy and industry Sustainable Farms has been created to accelerate on-ground changes in practices that will better conserve farmland biodiversity and enhance environmental condition but at the same time secure mental health benefits for farmers. Through its established farmer network, Sustainable Farm continues long-term biodiversity monitoring on farms, whilst leveraging this vital data set via an innovative and influential farms-based outreach and extension program to increase engagement, awareness and adoption of regenerative farming practices. Sustainable Farms works across three colleges at the ANU and includes the Research School of Finance and Actuarial Studies, the Centre for Mental Health Research and the Fenner School of Environment and Society where the project is based.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITY AREAS

Position Dimension & Relationships:

The Agricultural Economist will report to Sustainable Farms' Director, Michelle Young, and will work in collaboration with world leading researchers to deliver economics and evaluation outputs in the Sustainable Farms project. This position works closely with Professor David Lindenmayer, Professor Bruce Chapman and Associate Professor Tim Higgins. To develop the scope and quality of the research outputs delivered through this position, the Agricultural Economist will build productive collaborations with leading economists in other national institutions. The incumbent will have experience working with or with respect to Australian farming communities.

Role Statement:

Under broad direction, the Agricultural Economist will:

1. Design and manage the conduct of high-level data synthesis and analysis, develop and review the relevant analysis report and briefs including identifying key issues and making recommendations, disseminating and presenting relevant research findings through high quality publications, seminars, workshops and conferences.
2. Deliver ADOPT or a similar diagnostic tool/analysis to assess project impact and inform future project activity and policy engagement. This would entail:
    - Independent research in the relation to the investment framework for enhancing farm dams and the application of a diagnostic impact tool such as ADOPT for this purpose.
    - Structured engagement with farming sector, including NRM agencies, farm advisors and farmer groups, to deliver the ADOPT model (or equivalent), and collect information for the sustainable farms evaluation in collaboration with Sustainable Farms project staff.
    - Synthesis of the data sets collecting under the monitoring and evaluation framework to evaluate the contribution of the sustainable farms project on the uptake of enhanced natural asset management on farms.
    - Publication of original and innovative results in refereed journals
3. Design a 2-year program of economics research for the Sustainable Farms initiative to identify high value research questions and supporting research questions to deliver the interdisciplinary research goals of the Sustainable Farms project, as described in the Strategic Plan. This may include:
    - The investment framework for restoration and enhancement of natural assets on farms
    - The financial profitability of natural asset management

4. Pro-actively manage and coordinate the operational aspects of the relevant research activities, assisting with the financial management of the research team, monitoring contractual milestones, adhering to reporting requirements, recommending and implementing measures to manage contingencies to ensure timely and on budget delivery of research output.
5. Develop and maintain effective communications and relationships with various stakeholders and organisations associated with the research activities. Proactively identify and source relevant funding opportunities, assisting with developing funding proposals and grant applications
6. Maintain knowledge of national and international research programs and discipline by participating in internal and external networks. Advise on and develop new strategies for the support and implementation of research programs.
7. Comply with all ANU policies and procedures, in particular those relating to work health and safety and equal opportunity.
8. Other duties as required that are consistent with the classification of the position.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Postgraduate qualification in Agricultural Economics, Resource Economics or a related area, with a track record of independent research in the economics of farming systems, and the field of environmental policy.
2. A track record of articulating and prosecuting innovative and interdisciplinary research on farmer adoption including risk analysis and investment frameworks as evidenced by publications in peer-reviewed journals.
3. A demonstrated ability and commitment to apply for competitive external funding to support individual and collaborative research activities.
4. The demonstrated ability to work as part of a team, contributing to team management and meeting deadlines for project elements.
5. A high level of understanding of evaluation and experience with synthesising information to prepare program evaluation reports.
6. A record of developing and maintaining collaborations and by other measures such as awards, and invitations to present at conferences.
7. Excellent oral and written English language skills and a demonstrated ability to communicate and interact effectively with a variety of staff and students in a cross-disciplinary academic environment and to foster respectful and productive working relationships with staff, students and colleagues at all levels.
8. A demonstrated understanding of equal opportunity principles and policies and a commitment to their application in a university context.

References: Professional Staff Classification Descriptors

Pre-Employment Work Environment Report

Position Details

College / Div / Centre	CoS	**Dept / School / Section**	FSES
Position Title	Agricultural Economist	**Classification**	ANUO 8
Position No.	TBC	**Reference No.**	

In accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991 the University has a duty of care to provide a safe workplace for all staff.

- This form must be completed by the supervisor of the advertised position and forwarded with the job requisition to Appointments and Promotions Branch, Human Resources Division. Without this form jobs cannot be advertised.
- This form is used to advise potential applicants of work environment issues prior to application.
- Once an applicant has been selected for the position consideration should be given to their inclusion on the University's Health Surveillance Program where appropriate – see . http://info.anu.edu.au/hr/OHS/__Health_Surveillance_Program/index.asp Enrolment on relevant OHS training courses should also be arranged – see http://info.anu.edu.au/hr/Training_and_Development/OHS_Training/index.asp
- 'Regular' hazards identified below must be listed as 'Essential' in the Selection Criteria - see ' Employment Medical Procedures' at http://info.anu.edu.au/Policies/_DHR/Procedures/Employment_Medical_Procedures.asp

Potential Hazards

- Please indicate whether the duties associated with appointment will result in exposure to any of the following potential hazards, either as a **regular** or **occasional** part of the duties.

TASK	regular	occasional	TASK	regular	occasional
key boarding	X	☐	laboratory work	☐	☐
lifting, manual handling	☐	☐	work at heights	☐	☐
repetitive manual tasks	☐	☐	work in confined spaces	☐	☐
catering / food preparation	☐	☐	noise / vibration	☐	☐
fieldwork & travel	☐	X	electricity	☐	☐
driving a vehicle	☐	X			
NON-IONIZING RADIATION			**IONIZING RADIATION**		
solar	☐	☐	gamma, x-rays	☐	☐
ultraviolet	☐	☐	beta particles	☐	☐
infra red	☐	☐	nuclear particles	☐	☐
laser	☐	☐			
radio frequency	☐	☐			
CHEMICALS			**BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS**		
hazardous substances	☐	☐	microbiological materials	☐	☐
allergens	☐	☐	potential biological allergens	☐	☐
cytotoxics	☐	☐	laboratory animals or insects	☐	☐
mutagens/teratogens/ carcinogens	☐	☐	clinical specimens, including blood	☐	☐
pesticides / herbicides	☐	☐	genetically-manipulated specimens	☐	☐
			immunisations	☐	☐

OTHER POTENTIAL HAZARDS (please specify):

Supervisor's Signature:		**Print Name:**	Michelle Young	**Date:**	7/09/2020