

Department of State Growth

Statement of Duties

Position Title:	Scientific Officer (Earth Sciences)
Position number:	372870
Award/Agreement:	Tasmanian State Service Award
Classification level:	Professional Stream 2
Division/branch/section:	Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage
Location:	Hobart
Employment status:	Flexible
Supervisor:	Manager, Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage Program

Forest Practices Authority

The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) is the independent statutory authority responsible for forestry regulation on Crown and private lands. The role of the FPA is to foster responsible industry self-management and compliance with the requirements of the Forest Practices Act and the Forest Practices Code through an emphasis on the provision of expert advice, the development of planning tools, training and research. The FPA employs a number of specialists in natural and cultural values, whose role is to provide expert advice and carry out research associated with the provisions of the Forest Practices Code. The FPA also has statutory requirements that include the production of an annual report, and a State of the Forests report every 5 years. The provision of advice to industry and the generation of reports that are useful to government and the wider community relies heavily on information technology systems and expertise.

The FPA's website (www.fpa.tas.gov.au) provides more information.

Position Objective

Undertake and assist with providing advice, scientific monitoring and research, training and technical tasks within the Forest Practices Authority's Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage Program, with a focus on Earth Sciences.

Major Duties

- Advise Forest Practices Officers on the management of geomorphological and geoconservation issues and soil and stream management the forest estate.
- Assist with research and monitoring to determine the risks of erosion in commercial forests, to quantify erosion observed and recommend mitigation measures, assess the significance of geological features and to assess the effectiveness of management prescriptions.
- Prepare reports and scientific papers as appropriate and help develop planning tools for foresters.

- Contribute to training and field days relevant to the work of the Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage Program.
- Represent the Forest Practices Authority at meetings and other forums, and present reports, papers and other information to forest industry personnel, land managers, the scientific community and the public.
- Undertake special duties / projects required to assist with work programs and priorities of FPA.

Scope of Work: (Responsibility, Decision-Making and Direction Received)

The appointee will operate under the supervision and general guidance of the Manager, Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage and within departmental policy and objectives. It is anticipated that the appointee will exercise initiative and professional judgment and will work both with the Manager and external staff to achieve tasks and work independently when appropriate.

Selection Criteria (Knowledge and Skills):

- Demonstrated knowledge and field experience in identifying geological features, landforms and soils and understanding geological processes. Familiarity with interpreting geological maps and databases and identifying risks associated with forestry operations.
- Demonstrated ability to write authoritative reports on the management of soils, streams and geological features including karst landforms in forests.
- Demonstrated knowledge of practices, legislation and policies relevant to managing environmental values in Tasmanian forests and detailed understanding of the Tasmanian Forest Practices Code.
- Experience in field-based scientific research with external agencies and a good research publication record in geomorphology and/or soil science or a related field.
- Well-developed organisational and time management skills, including the ability to work in a team, manage resources, work to deadlines and meet health and safety requirements at all times.
- High-level communication and negotiation skills, including the adaptability to present oral and written information to foresters and non-specialists and scientific audiences, and to liaise effectively with a variety of stakeholders.

Position Requirements

Pre-employment

- Nil

Essential

Evidence of the following must be provided prior to appointment to this role:

- *Satisfactory completion of an appropriate post-graduate qualification at a recognised University*

Desirable

- *Knowledge of, or interest in, historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage*
- *A current drivers license*
- *Good computing skills, including a knowledge of GIS and Arcinfo*
- *Field experience in Tasmania and an ability to work in difficult terrain*

Working at State Growth

The Department of State Growth works to grow our economy and provide opportunities for all Tasmanians. We provide support and strategy advice in relation to key economic drivers including energy, industry sectors, resources, regulation and infrastructure. We support the delivery of a range of public services and have a strong focus on investment attraction and the development of innovative strategies that drive state growth.

The [department's website \(http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/\)](http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/) provides more information.

Our department is a diverse, inclusive and flexible workplace that enables our people to contribute to their full potential. We value the diverse backgrounds, skills and contributions of all employees and treat each other and our clients with respect.

State Growth is a values-based organisation. Our aim is to attract, recruit and retain people who will uphold our values and are committed to building a strong values based culture. Our values and behaviours reflect what we consider to be important, that is

Our people who are at the heart of the organisation; *our decisions* which are based on sound principles; and *our clients* who are at the centre of what we do.

We have the **Courage to Make a Difference** through:

- **Teamwork** – our teams are diverse, caring and productive
- **Respect** – we are fair, trusting and appreciative
- **Excellence** – we take pride in our work and encourage new ideas to deliver public value
- **Integrity** – we are ethical and accountable in all we do

We are committed to high standards of performance relating to Workplace Health and Safety and all employees are expected to participate in maintaining safe working conditions and practices. State Growth has zero tolerance to violence, including violence against women and any form of family violence. We will take an active role to support employees and their families by providing a workplace that promotes their safety and provides the flexibility to support employees to live free from violence.

All employees are responsible for ensuring that the standards of behaviour and conduct specified in the State Service Principles and Code of Conduct are adhered to (*State Service Act 2000*). These can be located at State Service Management Office (www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/ssmo)
