



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Industry Extension Officer - Irrigation

September 2024

UNIVERSITY of 
TASMANIA

Position Summary

College / Division	College of Sciences and Engineering
School / Section	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
Location	Hobart/Launceston/Burnie
Classification	<u>HEO Level 5</u>
Reports to	Principal Research Fellow/Centre Leader, Horticulture
Direct reports	0
Delegation level	<u>No Delegation</u>

Position Overview

The University of Tasmania (UTAS) is committed to delivering sustainable outcomes for Tasmania and the world. The Industry Extension Officer - Irrigation will support a three-year research program to boost sustainability and profitability for Tasmanian farmers through the efficient use of irrigation.

This role sits within Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), a joint venture between the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania that supports sustainable agricultural and food sectors through high-impact research, development, extension, and education.

The Industry Extension Officer - Irrigation will work with a multidisciplinary team of economists, extension and industry development experts, soil and irrigation scientists and assist in ensuring that this novel irrigation research initiative engages fully with industry stakeholders.

This role is about facilitating the uptake of new innovations on-farm/at local level, focusing on best practice irrigation management to enhance irrigation performance, efficiency and sustainability. The Industry Extension Officer - Irrigation will be encouraged to develop advanced extension skills and to build industry networks in the agricultural and food industries.

About the University of Tasmania

Welcome to the University of Tasmania, your island campus 1,270 million years in the making. This is heightened education at a slower pace of life. A place that attracts the highest percentage of scientists per capita in the world. Home to towering temperate rainforests, 60,000 years of human knowledge and underground cultural experiences of legend. Take your time to breathe it all in.

Our journey began in 1890, with a seed of academic excellence sown on our island. We inspire and encourage people to flourish and thrive. Our unique circumstances have made us resilient, transforming us into creative problem solvers. Our success is a testament to our quiet determination and adaptability.

We are more than just a place of learning. We are a catalyst for economic growth, a beacon for literacy, a champion for health and a guardian of our environment. We generate powerful ideas for and from Tasmania. We invite inquiring minds, from near and far, to join us in our pursuit of the extraordinary.

Accountabilities and outcomes

Purpose

The role will provide extension support for the adoption of improved irrigation practices. This will facilitate the expansion, development and implementation of irrigation research on dairy, grazing, rotation and perennial horticultural crops across Tasmania's premium growing regions.

Key Outcomes

- Provide industry feedback to a multidisciplinary team of scientists to achieve the on-ground adoption of improvements in irrigation practices that lead to greater irrigation efficiency and sustainability (reduction in water logging and crop losses, improvement in soil health).
- Assist the team in engaging industry with demonstration trials, and investigating the impact of irrigation on Tasmania's agricultural soils
- Work with the TIA and Hub communication teams to prepare and disseminate information about relevant knowledge through a range of media (e.g., social media, face-to-face events)
- Work closely with colleagues both within TIA, the Tasmanian Farm innovation Hub and UTAS, and with external stakeholders including the Industry Development Extension Community of Practice, to achieve the awareness, understanding and adoption of improved irrigation practices.
- Assist the research team in guiding farmers to relevant information and tools, helping translate the knowledge of others to support on-farm adoption and by explaining the benefits of implementing efficient and effective irrigation to achieve climate resilience.
- Develop project logic, monitoring and evaluation plan and a communication plan to drive delivery and extension of project outcomes
- Undertake other duties as reasonably requested

Behavioural Expectations

We aim for everyone to have a positive experience at our university, and all staff contribute toward creating a university culture that is safe and supportive, enabling our community to flourish by:

- Treating all others – staff, students and community with fairness, equity and respect.
- Ensuring the workplace is an inspiring and safe place to be.
- Ensuring the workplace is free from harassment, bullying, victimisation and discrimination.

Success profile

Personal Attributes

- Supportive: Understands others through listening and empathy, works well in a team and actively involves others by valuing individuals' unique perspectives.
- Flexible: Has an optimistic approach and readily recovers from setbacks. Embraces change and invites feedback to adapt and improve in the face of new challenges.
- Investigative: Readily takes up opportunities to learn and acquire new skills and is able to identify issues and make intuitive judgements.
- Structured: Works methodically to organise and plan tasks, upholds standards and works quickly, able to multitask to produce outcomes.

Core Capabilities

- Strategy into Action: Able to set, operationalise and activate strategy into specific actions,

timelines and responsibilities to enable the University to deliver on key strategic goals.

- Self Awareness and Interpersonal Skills: Recognises and regulates emotions and behaviour in the work context and effectively builds relationships with others to create a collaborative and empowering environment that enables people to achieve and thrive.
- Holistic Decision Making: Able to form sound judgements based on all available information, considering the potential impacts of decisions from a broad range of perspectives before taking definitive action.

Role Specific Skills, Knowledge and Experience

- Demonstrated capacity to undertake on-farm/local level extension and adoption activities.
- Ability to co-operate with others to achieve organisational and project objectives and to build trust and reciprocity.
- Ability to communicate effectively and develop productive relationships with a diverse range of collaborators.
- Ability to liaise, collaborate, negotiate and influence industry stakeholders.

Qualifications and Licences

- Drivers licence.
- Regular intrastate travel.

Other Requirements

To be eligible for this position, you are required to hold Australian or New Zealand Citizenship, permanent residence or a valid visa that enables you to fulfil the requirements of this role.

As part of our commitment to a safe and inclusive workplace, employment history and criminal background checks may be conducted as part of the selection process.



Learn more

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The intention of this Position Description is to highlight the most important aspects, rather than to limit the scope or accountabilities of this role. Duties may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the position