# Research Scientists, Economists and Statisticians

**Job Reference** 2019/1496

**Classification** APS Level 6 (Policy & Technical) - $82,346 - $93,713

**Division** ABARES

**Branch** Several

**Section** Various

**Location** Canberra, A.C.T

**Employment Status** Both Ongoing (permanent) and Non-Ongoing (temporary)

**Hours** Full-time or Part-time

**Security Clearance** Baseline Vetting

**Work Environment**

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) is a research bureau within the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture. ABARES provides professionally independent research and analysis to inform public and private decision-making, underpinned by authoritative economic and scientific data and analysis, and multidisciplinary research. We work at the interface between research and policy, with strong connections to agricultural, fisheries and forest industries, with strengths across agricultural and natural resource economics and sciences. ABARES undertakes research and analysis in the fields of economics, science, social science, mathematics, statistics, risk assessment, and resource modelling, covering the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food, biosecurity, and natural resource sectors.

**The Jobs**

ABARES has a number of exciting opportunities available for Research Scientists, Economists and Statisticians. These interesting and varied roles include:

**Research Scientists**

ABARES Research Scientists conduct research and analysis on issues affecting the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food, biosecurity and/or natural resource sectors to assist policy development and natural resource management. The duties of this role include:

* analysing scientific data that tracks the status and trends over time in natural resources and industry
* undertaking high-quality scientific research by conducting literature reviews, developing conceptual frameworks, collating, analysing and interpreting data, and writing up results
* assisting in the development and application of novel scientific methodologies and models
* providing scientific advice to ABARES Executive and policy advisers in government and industry
* preparing briefing and reporting materials on a wide variety of scientific issues
* working with other researchers and analysts in government, academia and industry to provide multidisciplinary research and advice.

**See Research Scientist Role Statement** on website for more information on the role.

**Economists**

ABARES Economists provide research and analysis on the productivity, profitability and international competitiveness of Australia’s agricultural industries. The duties of this role include:

* analysing economic data to forecast demand, supply and prices
* assisting in the development and application of novel forecasting and foresighting methodologies and models
* providing economic advice to ABARES Executive and policy advisers in government and industry
* undertaking high-quality research by conducting literature reviews, developing conceptual frameworks, analysing and interpreting data, and writing up results
* preparing briefing material on a wide variety of economic issues
* working with other researchers and analysts in government, academia and industry to provide multidisciplinary research and advice.

**See Economist Role Statement** on website for more information on the role.

**Statisticians**

ABARES Statisticians play an important role in the design of ABARES farm surveys and contribute to data analysis to assess the current financial and production performance of Australian farms. The duties of this role include:

* contributing to the design of ABARES surveys and maintaining a high standard of data collected
* assisting with the development and application of innovative statistical techniques to develop weights for sample surveys
* working closely with users of the data to determine how best to meet their requirements, and identifying innovative data collection and management systems to increase the efficiency of data collection, processing and client access
* supporting the integration of farm data collections from ABARES and other organisations
* assisting in the development of an ABARES spatial statistics program to meet user requirements for spatially linked data
* working as part of the team to increase the access to, and usefulness of ABARES data sets to other users, with the additional aim of reducing the respondent burden of farmers and others.

**Please note** that this recruitment process is being used to fill both ongoing and non-ongoing positions. Non-ongoing positions will be offered for an initial period of 12 months with the possibility of extension up to a maximum of three years in total. Some of these non-ongoing position(s) may become ongoing in the next 12 months. Should a position become ongoing then the merit pool established through this selection process, which is valid for a period of twelve months from the date the vacancy was advertised in the Gazette, may be used to fill the vacancy on an ongoing basis.

**Knowledge and experience**

Applicants will have one or more of the following:

* knowledge or understanding of the agriculture industry
* experience undertaking economic and data analysis for government, industry or resource management organisations
* experience working with data (spatial, quantitative or qualitative data) and analytics.

**Additional knowledge and experience for the Statistician roles**

* Demonstrated knowledge of survey design methodology and the use and calculation of sample weights.
* Experience working with databases.

**Skills and capabilities**

* Strong written and verbal communication skills.
* Strong attention to detail and organisational skills.
* The ability to demonstrate leadership, identify priorities and proactively plan and undertake research.
* The ability to manage and support junior staff to achieve their development goals.
* The ability to preparing complex documents to a high standard, and present technical data concepts and research to diverse audiences.
* The ability to problem solve and use economic logic to understand market dynamics and policy issues using data that are often ambiguous or incomplete.
* The ability to undertake analysis on the economics of industries and markets, and understand the contribution of natural resources to the productivity and profitability of industry.
* The ability to collaborate with colleagues and stakeholders to develop and apply scientific analysis that deliver insights on policy and management issues relating to natural resources and their dependent industries

**Additional skills and capabilities for the Statistician roles**

* Well-developed SAS programming skills.
* The ability to utilise databases.

**Mandatory qualifications**

A tertiary qualification in the field of economics, science or statistics is mandatory. A postgraduate qualification or an Honours Degree would be an advantage.

**Eligibility/Other requirements**

These positions require a Baseline Vetting security clearance. The successful applicants will be required to obtain and maintain a clearance at this level. To be eligible for employment with the Department of Agriculture an applicant must be an Australian citizen. An applicant's suitability for employment with the department will be assessed through a pre-employment screening process. This process includes a requirement for the applicant to undergo and satisfy a National Police Check, referee checks, character clearance and where relevant a pre-employment medical assessment, specified mandatory qualification(s) validation and a probation period of 6 months. Any applicant that, in the course of their work, requires unescorted access within an aviation or maritime security zone will be required to obtain and maintain an Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) or Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC).

**Statement of claims**

Applicants are required to submit a current CV/resume and a statement of claims (**1000 words maximum**) outlining why you are interested in these positions and why you believe that you have the necessary qualifications, skills, knowledge and experience to be considered for these roles. Your statement of claims should focus on your **capabilities and characteristics which best match the selection criteria as described below, noting that you do not need to individually address all of the criteria**.

The key areas, or points, listed above describe the particular skills, abilities, knowledge and where applicable the qualifications required to achieve the desired outcomes for the roles and your statement of claims against these is an essential part of the shortlisting process. If shortlisted, applicants will be asked at interview to provide further examples against these key areas/points to demonstrate their ability to perform the duties of the positions.

Applicants must demonstrate the ways in which they will be of value for the jobs and the organisation. Do not simply state that you meet the requirements - it is essential that you provide examples from your current or past role(s) which demonstrates how you meet each of the key areas or points. You should focus on how your experience, achievements and capabilities will enable you to successfully undertake the responsibilities of the role(s).

**Selection Criteria**

*Selection Criteria – Research Scientist*

* Demonstrated knowledge of an appropriate scientific discipline within the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, natural resource management, biosecurity or invasive species, and an ability to apply this knowledge to scientific research and/or analysis.
* Well-developed ability to gather and analyse data from diverse sources to support scientific analysis of issues in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, natural resource management, biosecurity or invasive species.
* A demonstrated ability to interpret and communicate scientific results and analysis effectively, both orally and in writing.
* Highly developed interpersonal skills, including the ability to work productively in teams, establish strategic networks and represent ABARES in a range of fora.
* A high degree of personal integrity including a demonstrated ability to challenge issues constructively, and to acknowledge mistakes and learn from them.
* Demonstrated knowledge and some experience in the management and/or monitoring of projects/project activities.

*Selection Criteria – Economist*

* Demonstrated knowledge of economics and an ability to apply this knowledge to the economic analysis of commodity markets and/or policy.
* Well-developed ability to gather and analyse data from diverse sources to support economic analysis of commodity markets and policy.
* A demonstrated ability to interpret and communicate economic analysis effectively, both orally and in writing.
* Highly developed interpersonal skills, including the ability to work productively in teams, establish strategic networks and represent ABARES in a range of fora.
* A high degree of personal integrity including a demonstrated ability to challenge issues constructively, and to acknowledge mistakes and learn from them.
* Demonstrated knowledge and some experience in the management and/or monitoring of projects/project activities.

*Selection Criteria – Statistician*

* Demonstrated technical proficiency in survey design and weighting methodology, strong data analysis skills and experience in the use of SAS programming language to analyse and manipulate data.
* Demonstrated capacity to focus strategically, exercise sound judgement and initiative in designing complex surveys and assigning weights.
* Effective communication skills, particularly in relation to expressing complex survey design concepts, communicating research results and negotiating with various stakeholders.
* Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and deliver quality statistical products.
* Ability to develop and maintain effective relationships with internal and external clients, and demonstrated ability to work effectively within multi-disciplinary teams.
* Demonstrated application of integrity, personal drive and self-awareness, including commitment to personal development and a demonstrated understanding of and commitment to APS Values and Code of Conduct.

**Work Health and Safety Obligations**

All workers (APS1-Secretary) have a duty to take reasonable care for their own health and safety whilst at work, to ensure their acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons and to comply with any reasonable instruction given to comply with the Work Health and Safety legislation.

All supervisors and managers (APS5-EL1) play a significant role by modelling safe work behaviours and clearly setting the standard for acceptable behaviour in the workplace. Supervisors and managers play a critical role in supporting ‘Officers’ to exercise due diligence and in consulting with duty holders.

An Officer (EL2-Secretary) makes and participates in making decisions that affect the whole or a substantial part of the department. Employees at the SES Band 2 and above classification are considered to be Officers under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth) with all EL 2 and above required to complete officer due diligence training. Officers have a duty to be proactive and continuously ensure that the department complies with relevant duties and obligations.

For further information relating to work health and safety obligations please email WHS@agriculture.gov.au.

**Contact**

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**Closing Date**

Applications close: 11:00 pm (AEST) on 12 August 2019