

## SGRR Biosecurity Officer/Manager: Position description

Position	Biosecurity Manager
Reports	NZGSTA General Manager, Seed and Grain Readiness and Response (SGRR) Chair,
Direct reports	Nil
Location	Templeton, Canterbury
Time input	0.5 FTE (or 1.0 FTE if combined with other vacancy)
Start date	TBC

### Organisation Outline

The New Zealand arable industry has had several biosecurity incursions in the last few years and is aware that import and multiplication of seeds is a high biosecurity risk activity.

In response to this, the Government has reviewed the New Zealand Biosecurity system and, with industry, has developed the Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response (GIA), which is used to manage biosecurity readiness and response in New Zealand. As part of the GIA, representative groups of the arable industry (United Wheat Growers, Foundation for Arable Research, NZ Grain and Seed Traders Association, NZ Flour Millers Association, Federated Farmers Arable Group) have formed Seed and Grain Readiness and Response (SGRR), which is committed to working with government and other sector groups to provide readiness for and responses to biosecurity incursions.

### Position Outline

The position is offered as a 0.5 FTE position but dependant on candidates' skills, expertise and working preferences but may be combined to a 1.0 FTE if combined with another current vacancy. Salary will be determined based on how the position/s are filled and will be in the range of \$40,000 for 0.5 FTE or \$80,000 for 1.0 FTE.

The Biosecurity Officer/Manager will carry out functions in adherence to the GIA its responsibilities to facilitate investigations and responses to biosecurity related queries and work. The New Zealand Grain and Seed Trade Association (NZGSTA) oversees on behalf of the seed and grain industry the regulatory and phytosanitary environment that governs the import of seed for sowing and export of seed and grain to and from NZ.

### Position Objectives

The purpose of the Biosecurity Manager position is:

- to coordinate/assist with/lead seed and grain/arable industry readiness activities for new and emerging biosecurity risks to the seed and grain industry and the implementation of programmes to manage these risks
- to coordinate/assist with/lead the technical delivery of seed and grain/arable industry commitments under existing and new Government and Industry Agreements (GIA) for significant biosecurity risks to the seed and grain Industry.
- To ensure the correct legislative risk management pathways are in place to allow the seed and grain/arable industry to undertake ongoing management of velvetleaf, blackgrass and other significant pest and pathogen risks to the seed and grain Industry.
- To facilitate and action work and responses in the biosecurity area affecting the import and export of seed and grain to and from NZ.

## Core Responsibilities for SGRR

- Advise on biosecurity risks and controls required for exotic pests and diseases of high risk to the seed and grain/arable industry, and maintain links to the Ministry of Primary Industries;
- Maintain priority pest and disease lists for the seed and grain/arable industry;
- Assist with progressing Government Industry Agreements for Biosecurity Readiness and Response (GIAs), including preparation of operational agreements;
- Coordinate the programme of work to increase the seed and grain/arable industry's level of biosecurity preparedness, including preparation of generic or pest-specific response plans.
- Promote best practice biosecurity in the seed and grain industry, including development of information that builds awareness, supports growers and assists them to manage biosecurity risks;
- Set up and maintain the seed and grain/arable industry's biosecurity capability network, to make sure that capability needed during a response can be accessed when needed (including maintaining information on capability, establishing agreements on access to capability, and developing capability), and coordinating this with the national biosecurity capability network;
- Input into future biosecurity responses that affect the seed and grain industry (e.g., as a member of MPI biosecurity response groups);
- Work with our policy partners to influence development or reviews of biosecurity legislation, policies, standards or practices, including review of proposed Import Health Standards and pre-border/border policy and practice to ensure this is sufficient to keep risks offshore.
- Work with industry and industry partners on specific issues from time to time, to promote the interests of the seed and grain industry; and
- Adhere to health and safety requirements.

## Candidate Competencies

- Biosecurity/regulatory and/or technical expertise and experience, preferably with a relevant tertiary qualification or equivalent experience
- Clear, analytical thinking that allows for the organisation of information and data into trends, patterns and workable solutions.
- Able to monitor and maintain high levels of compliance through appropriate and systematic management of information and effective communication with all key stakeholders.
- Defines objectives clearly, plans activities and projects well in advance and manages time effectively to achieve objectives within agreed timeframes and specifications.
- Skilled at making presentations, expressing opinions, and undertaking public speaking with a sound level of self-confidence.
- Can write clear, succinct, and well-structured reports that meet the needs and understanding of the intended audience.
- High level of interpersonal and influencing skills, which enables good relationships with a broad network of stakeholders both inside and external to the organisation.

## Relationships

### External

- Farmers and growers (and their industry representative groups)
- Local and regional councils
- Crown agencies
- Government departments
- Biosecurity New Zealand
- Research providers
- Other interest groups and NGOs
- Importers and exporters

### Internal

- SGRR chair and executive
- Foundation for Arable Research
- NZ Grain & Seed Trade Association