

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION: Research Project Manager, Soil Carbon Research Program

REPORTS TO: Professor Annette Cowie

POSITION OBJECTIVE:

To provide research management and implementation of the NSW node of the national Soil Carbon Research Program (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry).

This program will focus on attaining new data and particularly to 'fill the gaps' in knowledge on how adoption of best management practice or new practices may change soil carbon fractions under NSW agricultural systems (including cropping/pasture rotations/systems, reduced/no tillage crops, irrigated crops and high intensity cropping). The successful applicant will facilitate the dissemination of information between the relevant project participants, and will oversee the day-to-day field and laboratory components of the project, providing guidance where necessary.

DUTIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES:

1. Overall responsibility for management of the project including organisation, administration, and procedural conduct of the project as per the program guidelines set out by the administering body (viz. Dr. Jeff Baldock, CSIRO) and the steering committee.
2. In consultation with the steering committee, manage and undertake the planning, development, and implementation of the collection and analyses of field data. This may include the formulation and/or revision of protocols for field sampling and analytical methods.
3. Foster and maintain linkages with field and laboratory teams across NSW, project heads in CSIRO, landholders and the steering committee.
4. Draft formal results of the study for scientific publication and prepare progress and milestone reports for the granting body. Present project results where applicable at project meetings and workshops.
5. Manage local database and prepare data in a suitable format such that it can be made available for a range modelling activities to inform government policy.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential:

1. Applicants must hold a PhD in a relevant area with a track-record of recent peer-reviewed publications;
2. Demonstrated knowledge of terrestrial (especially soil) carbon science and accounting;
3. Demonstrated experience in managing research projects and preparing reports and other technical instruments to state and federal government bodies;
4. Good understanding of statistical design and analysis, especially of large datasets, in relation to landscape level processes;
5. Good understanding of NSW crop and pasture systems;
6. Practical experience in soil sampling and analysis;
7. Excellent interpersonal, written and oral communication skills and a demonstrated ability to liaise with a variety of personnel including landholders, extension officers and scientists;
8. Hold a current driver's licence; and
9. Demonstrate awareness of the University's OH&S and EEO policies.