# Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Position Description




## Position details

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| **Position title:** | Senior Applied Fire Scientist – Bushfire Simulation and Validation |
| **Position number:** | 50947551 |
| **Classification:** | VPS Grade 5 |
| **Salary range:** | $113,022 - $$136,747 plus superannuation  |
| **Employment type:** | Ongoing |
| **Group:** | Bushfire and Forest Services  |
| **Division & Branch:** | Policy and Planning; Knowledge, Planning and Risk  |
| **Work location:** | Flexible within Victoria Hybrid work arrangement available: [x] Yes [ ]  No  |
| **Reports to:** | Tegan Brown, A/Team Leader Applied Fire Science |
| **Direct reports:** | **Yes** [ ]  No [x]  If yes, how many?  |
| **Further information:** | Tegan Brown on tegan.brown@deeca.vic.gov.au or 0458 521 393 |

Position purpose

The Senior Applied Fire Scientist – Bushfire Simulation and Validation will lead review, testing and validation of Victoria’s bushfire simulators to ensure models and configurations produce operationally useful outputs. The position involves analysing existing datasets, generating new data, system design and communicating with a range of internal and external stakeholders to ensure Victoria’s bushfire simulation systems are fit for purpose.

The position is part of the Fire Risk and Applied Science unit, which builds the capability to understand and manage bushfires by providing innovative tools, models and processes that are applied to inform policy decisions, risk based planning and operational responses to fires and related hazards.

Context

**Group**

Bushfire and Forest Services (BFS) is the public land manager for 3.2 million hectares of State forests, including delivery and maintenance of recreation assets, tourism services and forest health activities, and leads DEECA’s works across the state in preparing for and responding to fire and other emergencies, to reduce impacts on people, property and the environment.

Underpinned by our commitment to work in partnership with Traditional Owners, BFS collaborates across government and DEECA to deliver key policies and outcomes in support of communities and industries that use our forests and is directly responsible for recreation policy and service delivery in state forests.

BFS plays a key role in working alongside emergency services under the Victorian Government’s ‘all communities, all emergencies’ operating framework, including meeting DEECA’s responsibilities before, during and after an emergency event.

BFS undertakes regulatory functions for biodiversity, public land use and fire prevention, leads development and advice on forest, fire and emergency management policy, strategy and legislation, and delivers safe and fit-for-purpose capability solutions including statewide assets, equipment, technology and learning, ensuring consistency with the Victorian Government’s broader strategic objectives.

**Division**

The Policy and Planning Division provides advice and develops policy, strategy, strategic planning frameworks and legislation for forest, fire and emergency management. We lead and support design and delivery of knowledge and engagement support services across the Bushfire and Forest Services Group and DEECA.

We collaborate across government and DEECA to deliver key policies, plans and regulations that support the sustainable public use and management of Victoria's forests. We are committed to progressing and advancing self-determination and supporting the delivery of DEECA's associated obligations.

We lead the strategic approach to bushfire risk management that evolves in response to climate change, utilising sophisticated science and evidence to inform, design and support forest management, and Forest Fire Management Victoria and the broader bushfire management sector's work to reduce the risk, severity and impacts of fire.

We deliver one-DEECA emergency management policy advice and deliver priority projects to uplift capability, capacity and support continuous improvement. We also have governance and coordination functions across DEECA, supporting DEECA’s participation in key inter-governmental committees, as well as internal committees and governance systems.

**Branch**

The Knowledge, Planning and Risk branch will lead the development, application and translation of evidence, knowledge and science to inform best practice forest and fire management in BFS.

Accountabilities

* Lead review, testing and validation of both the science and real-world performance of fire simulators to ensure available systems and configurations are fit for purpose.
* Work with technical and predictive services specialists to ensure that Victorian fire simulation systems have appropriate governance and strategy, user support, and accessibility.
* Initiate, build and maintain effective relationships with internal and external state and national level stakeholders and committees to support Victoria’s input into fire simulator development, and other bushfire related priority projects as required.
* Identify emerging complex or highly sensitive issues, risks and trends impacting on the successful achievement of objectives and priorities and develop innovative solutions and options.
* Manage projects and forward plan to deliver business objectives, fostering an environment of continuous improvement and high-performance.
* Actively contribute to a positive, open, delivery focused culture that values, supports and mentors' people and is based on collaboration, accountability and performance excellence.
* Practise cultural safety by creating environments, relationships and systems free from racism and discrimination so that people can feel safe, valued and able to participate.

Key Selection Criteria

The key selection criteria specified below outline the capabilities required for the position.

**Specialist/Technical Expertise/Qualifications**

* Experience in fire behaviour science or hazard modelling and/or prediction is mandatory.
* Experience in programming and/or using a programming language such as SQL, Python or R is mandatory.
* An appropriate tertiary qualification in natural resource management, environmental science, geospatial science or equivalent is highly desirable.
* Technical expertise or experience in spatial data analytics, insights, and management in desktop or cloud-based technology is highly desirable.

**Capabilities**

* **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Takes into account wider business context within business unit when considering options to resolve issues. Identifies recurring problems and prevents future recurrence by integrating solutions into work process. Delivers tangible business outcomes as a result of critically evaluating problems from multiple perspectives and delivering effective solutions.
* **Innovation and Continuous Improvement:** Uses understanding of clients or stakeholders’ context to design and implement systems for continuous improvement within team or organisation; Reviews and analyses internal and external information to improve effectiveness and quality of work; Creates team environments where innovation and creativity are fostered and rewarded.
* **Communicate with Impact:** Makes a positive impression on others and comes across with credibility; Communicates orally in a manner that is clear fluent and holds the listeners’ attention; Able to deal with difficult and sensitive topics and questions.
* **Project Delivery:** Defines tasks to be delivered to meet agreed outcomes; Coordinates and guides others

in the execution of work activities; Monitors progress of tasks against plans and takes corrective action when required.

Position specific requirements

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| Financial Delegation Value | A declaration of Private Interests will be required for positions with financial delegations of >$20,000 |
| The occupational health and safety requirements of this position may include, but are not limited to: | * Sedentary desk work
* Field work
* Manual handling
* Emergency response work
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| DEECA will conduct relevant checks about applicants and the information provided within an application. Checks will include but are not limited to:  | A Declaration and Consent form consenting to DEECA contacting current and previous employer(s) to substantiate employment history, past conduct and performance is required. A satisfactory National Police Check will be required (for all non-DEECA employees). |
| Employment terms and conditions | Are governed by the *Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2024* and the *Public Administration Act* *2004.*Recipients of Victorian Public Service (VPS) voluntary departure packages should note that re-employment restrictions applyNon-VPS applicants will be subject to a probation period of six months |
| Privacy  | The department affirms that the collection and handling of applications and personal information will be consistent with the requirements of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. |

About the Department

We employ approximately 6,300 staff, including around 600 seasonal staff, across more than 86 locations throughout Victoria, across energy, environment, climate action, water, agriculture, and resources portfolios.

Our challenge is to maintain Victoria’s liveability, with a population expected to almost double by 2050, while responding to climate change and protecting our natural environment, infrastructure and heritage for future generations. We take a community-centred approach and involve communities and key stakeholders in decisions and policies that affect them and we collaborate across our portfolios to design and deliver services and programs.

For further information about the department, please visit our website [www.deeca.vic.gov.au](http://www.deeca.vic.gov.au)

Our values

Our values align with the core [Public Sector values](https://careers.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-sector/public-sector-values-integrity) – responsiveness, integrity, impartiality, accountability, respect, leadership and human rights. Additionally, we use our Leadership Model to shape the way we work. Using the principles of ‘Work Together’, ‘Do What Matters’ and ‘Make a Difference’ we create a culture that puts our people at the centre of everything we do. The Leadership Model reminds us of what’s important in our daily interactions with each other, and in the actions and decisions we take to deliver our work.

Our Community Charter

We are committed to the Victorian Government Public Engagement Framework that enables meaningful and inclusive engagement to make better decisions and improve the lives of Victorians. Our Community Charter is our promise to be available, be involved and listen, and take action as we deliver services and create opportunities that supports thriving, productive, and sustainable communities, environments and industries.

Emergency Response and Health and Safety Requirements

The departmentplays a major role in Victoria’s emergency response activities, through an all-hazards, all-emergencies approach. Staff may be directly employed for these roles or may be called upon to support these activities as required following the appropriate training and “fit for work” assessment.

A Diverse, Inclusive and Flexible Workplace

DEECA welcomes applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds and we focus on the essential requirements of the job and being consistent and fair in our treatment of all applicants. Our diversity and inclusion outcome pillars:

1. We are connected to liveable, inclusive, sustainable communities
2. We are diverse
3. We are inclusive and flexible
4. We are safe and respectful

DEECA can provide reasonable adjustments for people with a disability. If you need assistance to fully participate in the application or interview process, please use the contact listed under ‘Position Details’.

**Aboriginal Cultural Safety**

Cultural safety of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians, as an underpinning principle of self-determination, is embedded in everything we do. Under the Aboriginal Cultural Safety Framework DEECA is committed to creating a culturally safe workplace, where there is space for culture to live and for spiritual and belief systems to exist. For further information, please contact self.determination@deeca.vic.gov.au.

**Balancing your Life / Hybrid Working**

We understand that a balanced life is important to our employees and we offer a wide range of flexible options to help you manage family, health, carer responsibilities, study, career or personal interests. Options may include working some days from home or other suitable locations, starting early or late, working part time, job share or accessing paid or unpaid leave in line with our flexible working policy.

To receive this information in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre: 136 186, TTY: 133 677, or email customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au