

Job Description

Position Title: **Environmental Scientist - Freshwater**
Hub: Environmental Services and Protection
Section: Science
Team: Environmental Science

Community Outcomes

Council is committed to achieving the three key outcomes identified by our local community:

- Tairāwhiti Tangata - Our people
- Tairāwhiti Taonga - Our environment, culture and economy
- Tairāwhiti Wawata - Our aspirations realised through the democratic process.

Strategic Objectives

Manaaki Tangata People first

simple end to end user-friendly processes
 -
 being a kind, helpful, creative, people centered organisation
 -
 doing the right things in the right way

Financially smart and strong Kia āuaha te ahumoni

make sensible long term decisions on investments and borrowing
 -
 always seek the best value for community money

Kaitiakitanga of Tairāwhiti Guardianship of Tairāwhiti

clear about environmental expectations
 -
 education and dialogue to achieve compliance, and be fair and transparent about enforcement
 -
 working in partnership with our community

A high performing culture Kia ahurea te kokiri

putting safety and wellbeing at the forefront of all decision making
 -
 be innovative and creative in the use of Council resources
 -
 actively look for and find better ways of working and thinking

We will get there by...

1. Supporting our staff to deliver.
2. Developing solutions together with our community.
3. 90-day plans - working group to prioritise.
4. Shared KPIs - lead from the top.



Purpose of the Position

Role of Environmental Services and Protection Hub

The Environmental Services and Protection Hub's purpose is to promote the sustainable management of the physical and natural resources of the district as well as contribute to the wellbeing of people and the built environment. The Hub undertakes service delivery, policy and regulatory activities to promote a vibrant, wealthy, safe, healthy and attractive environment.

The function of the Hub is to:

- Provide advice on the development of appropriate policies, plans and strategies.
- Monitor, evaluate and implement these documents as well as the standards, national policies and legislation.
- Administer the laws and bylaws that apply to the use of natural and physical resources and the interaction of people with each other and with the environment in which they live.

Key activity areas are resource management policy development; planning; resource use and building consents; environmental health; animal/stock control; parking; water, soil and coastal resource management – including monitoring and compliance, and biosecurity.

Role of Environmental Monitoring and Science Section

The role of the Environmental Monitoring and Science Section is to undertake the environmental monitoring and science based provisions with regard to the management of the Gisborne District's natural and physical resources.

Environmental and Science Services undertakes and commissions science and research, disseminates information, assists, advocates, educates, regulates, monitors and reports on sustainable land, air, water and coastal resource management. The activity enables the Council to give effect to Statutory Plans and responsibilities under the Local Government Act, Biosecurity Act, Resource Management Act and Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act.

Role of Environmental Scientist - Freshwater

This position contributes to the sustainable management of water resources by:

- Carrying out State of the Environment monitoring, data analysis and reporting around water quality and aquatic ecosystems
- Provide technical support and input to resource consents, compliance and policy development
- Assisting with the development of regional monitoring programmes and providing input to Resource Management Act and Local Government Act policies, plans and bylaws
- Develop and implement quality assurance systems to ensure water quality, aquatic ecosystem and other environmental data is collected, managed and analysed correctly.

Primary Functions

1. Health, Safety and Wellbeing

- Take responsibility for your own health and safety
- Model a culture of safety and wellbeing for your others
- Ensure own actions keep self and others safe
- Identify, report and assist to eliminate hazards in work place
- Participate in local work place safety management practices
- Participate in workplace wellbeing initiatives
- Ensure compliance under health and safety legislation.

2. Environmental Monitoring

- Design, plan, manage and implement aquatic ecosystem health, water quality and other environmental monitoring programmes. Develop and maintain Standard Operating Procedures to manage key environmental monitoring functions of the team as required, ensuring adherence to National Environmental Monitoring Standards and any other National quality standards.
- Undertake and co-ordinate field work to implement these functions
- Develop and oversee the implementation of annual monitoring programmes, environmental and water quality investigation projects.

3. Regulations

- Provide technical input into resource consents which could impact on aquatic ecosystem values such as river crossings, forestry and disturbance of riparian areas.

4. Advice and Information

- Provide advice and information to internal Council staff around interpretation of data, environmental quality, environmental health, aquatic ecosystem health and water quality investigations
- Provide advice and information to community members and tangata whenua around the state of the environment
- Receive and action specific requests for service as required by the Team Leader and Manager

5. Data Management, Quality Assurance, Analysis and Reporting

- Develop appropriate data management systems and quality assurance processes for aquatic ecosystem monitoring programmes and water quality monitoring
- Undertake data analysis and reporting of environmental quality and data including State of the Environment reporting and provision of reports to inform policy development and resource consents.

6. Project Management, Surveys, Reports and Plans

- Oversee and project manage water quality investigation projects and other environmental investigations in priority areas as identified by the Team Leader and Manager.
- Assist with the development of surveys, reports, plans and project work related to Regional and District resource management policies and plans, and work requiring technical aquatic ecosystem and water quality input.

7. Research

- Participate in research projects and develop knowledge of water quality and other environmental monitoring issues and best practice management approaches

8. After Hours Response/On Call

- Participate in after-hours response teams as required by the on-call roster for Environmental Monitoring and Science staff. Respond to incidents promptly.

9. Teamwork and Collaboration

- Be an active team member and contribute positively to the Environmental Science Team.
- Actively engage across Council with different teams to enhance learning and development and to achieve positive outcomes
- Participate in and contribute to corporate projects and inter-departmental initiatives.
- Take responsibility for self-development and continued learning.
- Participate in annual review processes, KPI setting and professional development as requested.

Competencies

Academic / Professional

Essential:

- Appropriate tertiary degree in environmental science, freshwater ecology, geography, natural resources or equivalent.

Skills / Knowledge

Essential:

- Full "clean" NZ Driver's Licence
- Comfortable with outdoor/field based work with the ability to work independently
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Computer literacy to enable effective production of reports, presentations, monitoring and statistical information and information access
- Experience working as a team member as well as self-directed
- A practical can do attitude
- Decision making skills and a degree of autonomous ability
- Strong scientific skills and technical knowledge of the principles underlying scientific data collection and management.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of the Tairāwhiti district, including hapu, iwi and Maori groups and organisations.
- Four wheel drive road vehicle competency or course attendance.
- Four wheel drive motor bike competency or course attendance.
- Experience with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) GIS applications e.g. ArcMap.
- Two-way radio literate

- Knowledge of the Resource Management Act and its application

Work Experience

Minimum two years technical work experience relevant to this position

Expected Behaviours

- Uphold Council's vision, values and strategic objectives
- Act in accordance with Council's Tikanga, commitments, policies, procedures and guidelines
- Act with integrity and respect and treat others the same
- Be open minded, listen, seek to understand and take ownership of our work
- Represent Council and its activities in a positive manner



Additional Responsibilities

The job holder must participate in emergency management training initiatives upon request and assist with any civil defence emergencies as required. Work will be on sites where exposure to hazards will be unavoidable. Safety procedures must be adhered to, protection being on the hierarchy safety principle of eliminate – isolate – minimise.

Relationships

External:

- Forestry contractors and companies
- Rural land holders.
- Community groups
- Tangata whenua.
- Contractors and Consultants.
- Government Departments.
- Non-government organisations.

Internal:

- Team members
- Other sections of Council - particularly strategic policy, consents and enforcement.

Approval / Sign-off

Position Holder:

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Name

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Signature

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Dated

Manager:

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Name

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Signature

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Dated