



Position Description

Senior Economist

Position No: M00532
Reports to: Manager, Economics
Classification Code: AS06
Type of Appointment: Full-time

Position Description Approval

Chief Executive Officer

7 December 2021

Date

Position Description

Purpose of Position

The Senior Economist is responsible for the provision of financial and economic analysis to facilitate achievement of the Essential Services Commission (**Commission**) objectives. In particular, the Senior Economist is responsible for conducting and explaining the outcomes of complex economic and financial modelling and analysis in relation to the Commission's price regulation, industry monitoring and, as required, advisory and Inquiry functions.

Reporting Relationships

The Senior Economist:

- ▶ reports to the Manager, Economics
- ▶ works closely with all staff members of the Commission, and
- ▶ maintains professional working relationships with a range of external stakeholders, including consumer bodies and representatives, industry participants and other stakeholders, as well as South Australian Government agencies which provide services to the Commission.

Organisation Background

The Essential Services Commission is a statutory authority established as an independent economic regulator and advisory body under the Essential Services Commission Act 2002. Our purpose, values, people and culture, directed by our Strategy and performance plan, drive us in meeting our objective.

Objective: Protect the long-term interests of South Australian consumers with respect to the price, quality and reliability of essential services.

Purpose: Add long-term value to the South Australian community by meeting its objective through its independent, ethical and expert regulatory decisions and advice.

Values:
We will be responsive and accountable
We will challenge and be open to innovation
We will build inclusive relationships

Special Conditions

The Commission is committed to providing a work environment which allows for flexibility to facilitate the balancing of work and personal responsibilities. These arrangements reflect the Commission's collective commitment to a professional working environment where our focus is on high-quality outcomes for our individual, team and organisational objectives. At times, this may involve some longer hours being worked in order to meet critical deadlines.

Some interstate or intrastate travel may be required.

Key Accountabilities

Technical and Regulatory

- ▶ Research and prepare reports, discussion papers and information packages for industry participants and consumers and other documents concerning matters associated with industries regulated by the Commission.
- ▶ Undertake economic and financial modelling and analysis in relation to the Commission's regulatory roles, and also (as required) in relation to its advisory and inquiry functions.
- ▶ Provide analysis and advice on economic and financial matters, including (but not limited to) access, market structure and conduct and competition issues.
- ▶ Contribute to other regulatory programs, inquiries and reviews as required.
- ▶ Contribute as required to the administration of regulatory determinations made by the Commission.

General

- ▶ Enabling the achievement of the achievement of the Commission's objective by:
 - Contributing to an environment which facilitates collaboration and productive teamwork, learning and professional development, and
 - actively participating in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Commission's Strategy and Performance Plan.
- ▶ contributing to the Commission's WH&S obligations and commitments and a strong culture of safety and wellbeing by demonstrating safe working practices and adhering to WH&S legislation, regulation, policies and practices.
- ▶ Contributing to the effective operation of the Commission's Corporate Governance Framework by complying with all corporate policies and procedures, which includes keeping accurate and complete corporate records.
- ▶ Adhering to the Commission's zero tolerance approach toward domestic violence and disrespectful behaviours of any kind in the workplace, and in the broader community. This includes the expectation that employees conduct themselves in a manner that is non-threatening, courteous and respectful. Employees are also expected to comply with an instructions, policies, procedures or guidelines regarding acceptable workplace behavior.

Acknowledged by Occupant

Signature

Date

Essential Minimum Requirements

(those characteristics considered absolutely necessary)

Educational/Vocational Qualifications

- ▶ Tertiary qualifications in economics or relevant discipline.

Personal Abilities/Aptitudes/Skills

- ▶ Ability to think analytically, creatively and laterally and exercise independent judgement.
- ▶ Ability to conduct complex economic and financial analysis with limited direction.
- ▶ Ability to plan, prioritise and organise work to achieve goals and meet deadlines, including dealing with competing demands and managing multiple projects and tasks in a complex environment.
- ▶ Ability to be proactive, work independently, and to take responsibility for achieving results.
- ▶ Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment, to be supportive and contribute to the development of other team members.
- ▶ Demonstrated professional performance, competence and ethical approach that indicates a high degree of personal integrity and credibility.
- ▶ High level written and verbal communication skills, including business writing, presentation and interpersonal skills. Able to explain complex economic concepts in simple language for a general audience.
- ▶ Willingness to keep abreast of relevant policy developments and ability to participate in policy discussions with stakeholders.

Experience

- ▶ Experience in the conduct of economic or financial analysis.
- ▶ Experience in research and report preparation, conveying complex technical information to a range of audiences.
- ▶ Experience in interpreting and working with legislation.
- ▶ Expert in the use of Excel and other programs to analyse and present data.

Knowledge

- ▶ Understanding of the purpose of economic regulation and the Commission's purpose.

Desirable Characteristics

(to distinguish between applicants who have met all essential requirements)

Experience

- ▶ Experience in the conduct of research and analysis in areas of relevance to the Commission, including the industries regulated and/or regulatory experience.
- ▶ Experience in the use of statistical software programs.

Knowledge

- ▶ Knowledge of the regulated industries and regimes administered by the Commission.
- ▶ Knowledge of legislation relevant to the Commission.