

Job Description

Position Title: *Scientist – Water Quality*

Responsible to: Team Leader – Land & Water

Responsible for: Students
Contractors and Consultants

Relationships:

Environment Quality and Resource Management staff
Business Information and Technology Services team
Other Taranaki Regional Council staff, as required
Central government departments and agencies
Other regional and local authority staff
Resource consent applicants, holders and their consultants
Research agencies, consultants and science providers
General public, iwi/hapū and special interest groups

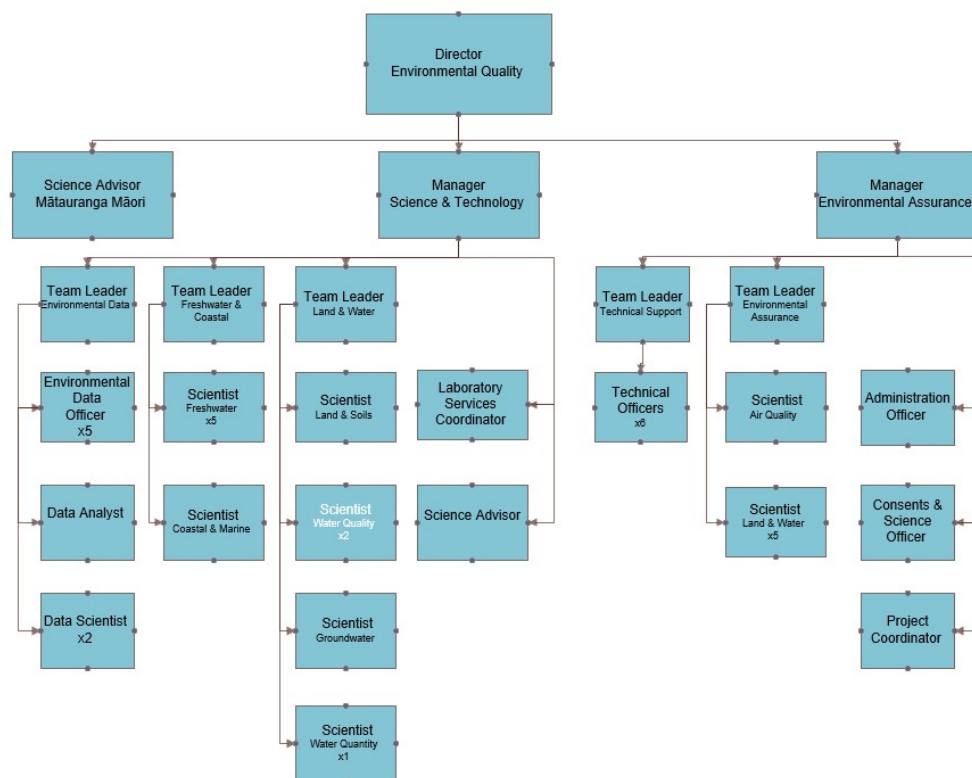
Salary: A market salary for the position will be negotiated, depending on experience, qualifications and aptitude.

Location: Stratford, although travel throughout the region will be required as part your daily duties

Job Context: Permanent Full Time

Position Number: TBC

Holder: Vacant



Role of a Scientist – Water Quality

The role of Scientist – Water Quality is to contribute specialist expertise, knowledge and technical leadership in the area of water quality management. You'll use your skills to develop, coordinate and deliver environmental monitoring and reporting programmes, along with scientific and environmental investigations, and contribute specialist input across a wide range of Council activities. You'll do this working in close collaboration with staff across the Council, providing technical advice and guidance that will inform both regional and national policy development and implementation, and support the wider Environment Quality group in the delivery of state of environment and compliance monitoring and reporting.

Key Skills

Qualification

- Required: a tertiary qualification in environmental or physical sciences, with a speciality in freshwater science, chemistry, ecology/biology or a related field
- Desired: at least 3 years relevant work experience in scientific monitoring and investigation design, techniques, data analysis and technical report writing

Knowledge

- Technical and practical proficiency and competency in water quality monitoring techniques, data analysis, with sound knowledge and understanding of the physical and chemical drivers of water quality and ecosystem health, interactions between surface water and groundwater, and the influence of environmental factors and human activities on freshwater health
- An ability to design, implement and manage environmental monitoring and research programmes with a focus on water quality
- Computer literacy, including confidence in a range of Microsoft Office products, the use of environmental databases and GIS, previous experience with 'R'/python, and Hilltop software will be viewed favourably
- Good data management skills, with a high level of accuracy and meticulous attention to detail
- Knowledge of New Zealand water resource management tools, including the Resource Management Act 1991, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) and relevant regulations and national standards
- Understanding and appreciation of Māori cultural and spiritual values and protocols

Skills / Experience

- Able to demonstrate experience in water quality monitoring and reporting, preferably in a local government environment
- Ability to critically analyse environmental data related to land use, water quality, ecosystem health, and recreational suitability including the use of statistical methods. Experience using 'R' or a similar programming language will be viewed favourably
- Strict attention to quality control, data management and accurate record keeping
- Strong skills in written and verbal communication, able to convey and interpret data/information to meet a diverse range of audience needs
- Good organisation and time management skills with an ability to multi-task, delivering complete solutions within agreed timeframes
- Able to quickly grasp new processes and technologies, and solve problems effectively
- Health and safety practices for field work
- Experience working in isolation, in remote locations, and working in and around streams and large rivers, in remote locations

Personal Attributes

- Team player with a collaborative approach, proven interpersonal and conflict resolution skills
- Practical problem solver, with good judgement and initiative
- Results oriented, with finely tuned attention to detail and time management
- Good level of fitness and eyesight
- Confident working in and around water
- Innovative and self-motivated, committed to continuous improvement
- Willingness to adapt
- Customer focussed

Tasks

- To oversee the delivery of Council's monitoring and evaluation of water quality, and assessment of environmental effects of a range of environmental and human drivers on freshwater receiving environments
- Advise on the design, implementation and reporting of state of the environment and compliance monitoring and research programmes/projects relating to water quality, including: programme design and audit, day to day programme management, assigning and undertaking inspections/investigations, sampling, record keeping, database entries, and collation of information, analysis of data and interpretation of results, and preparation of reports and dissemination of results to internal and external parties, including effective recommendations
- Proactively identify knowledge gaps or research needs in relation to water quality and scope programmes of monitoring, further investigations or analyses to address these
- Provide robust scientific expertise and support to a professional standard in the form of specialist advice and evaluation of strategy and policy development, submissions, evidence for hearings and prosecutions, consent application assessments, and monitoring programme design and development, for the Council, and for LMOs, Policy and Planning, Inspectorate and Consents teams
- Advise Council staff on effective mitigation of the effects of water quality on the well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems
- Provide guidance to resource users and the public on the management of freshwater
- Co-ordinate responses to internal and external requests for water quality data and any associated information, including managing data flows for national environmental reporting and shared data platforms e.g. Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA)
- Effectively communicate complex science to a range of technical and non-expert audiences
- Foster constructive relationships with external parties who are involved and affected, including iwi/hapū, land owners and resource users, industry groups, and community members
- Maintain and develop specialist knowledge relevant to this role through research in relation to best practice, current scientific advancements, and statutory requirements
- Delivery of products and/or services on behalf of the Council that meet the required standard
- Any other task and duties as required by the Team Leader – Land & Water, Manager – Science & Technology, Director – Environment Quality, or the Chief Executive

Special requirements

- May be required to work outside normal working hours including weekends
- Will be required to work in and around streams and large rivers, in remote locations
- Full drivers Licence and experience with 4-wheel drive vehicles
- Must be able to undertake the physical requirements of the position, which can include heavy lifting, and working in uneven and steep terrain
- May be required to work with hazardous and toxic materials

- May be expected to work under conditions in which personal risk may be incurred and safety procedures must be adhered to in accordance with the Council's Policies and Procedures

Health and Safety

The Taranaki Regional Council is committed to a process of continuous improvement in order to achieve excellence in the management of health and safety at all of our workplaces. We recognise the positive impact that the values and benefits of enhanced health and safety bring to the organisation, our employees and our communities. There are two key points to health and safety:

- The safety of our people and the communities in which we operate always comes first.
- We are all empowered and expected to challenge any unsafe situation at work.

We will achieve these by:

- Building culture
- Aiming for zero harm
- Taking reasonable practicable steps
- Managing contractors
- Communicate
- Develop knowledge
- Investigate and learn
- Ensure competence to do the job

Mission and Key Messages

Our Mission:

To work for a thriving and prosperous Taranaki by:

- Promoting the sustainable use, development and protections of our natural and physical resources
- Safeguarding Taranaki's people and resources from natural and other hazards
- Promoting and providing for significant services, amenities and infrastructure
- Representing Taranaki's interests and contributions to the regionally, nationally and internationally community

We will do this by leading with responsibility, working cooperatively, encouraging community participation, and taking into account the Treaty of Waitangi.

Our Key Messages:

The Taranaki Regional Council works with the Taranaki community:

- Improving lifestyles
- Supporting livelihoods
- Taking Taranaki forward

Values:

We are committed to:

- Public service
- Service First
- Improving the quality of our performance
- Working safely
- Effective communication and teamwork
- Initiative and the right to make mistakes
- Accountability and results
- Presentation, respect and care
- Job satisfaction