

## WATER RESEARCHER (MURRAY-DARLING BASIN)

### Position Description



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| <b>TITLE</b>            | Water Researcher   |
| <b>REPORTS TO</b>       | Rivers and Nature Campaign Manager   |
| <b>SALARY</b>           | EV 4.1 (\$80,660) pro rata   |
| <b>STATUS</b>           | Hours negotiable between 0.4FTE and 0.8FTE. Short-term contract, 2 to 4 months depending on availability of applicant. |
| <b>APPLICATIONS DUE</b> | Monday 8 May, early applications encouraged.   |

### WHO WE ARE

Environment Victoria is one of Australia's leading not-for-profit environment groups, with a history of running strategic, dynamic, people-powered and successful campaigns to take action on climate change, protect nature and promote a more sustainable society. Our campaigning is solutions-based, founded on research and aims to build enduring community power. Our team of about 20 staff is nimble, creative and fun.

We have run a healthy rivers campaign for decades and, in collaboration with other groups, have campaigned for more water to be returned to the environment under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Negotiations around the plan are ramping up and we require a researcher to help create briefing papers and reports making the case for why environmental water is needed.

### WHO YOU ARE

You are dynamic, passionate, hard-working and professional. You care about nature, protecting rivers and wetlands, and building resilient rural communities in the face of climate change. You have excellent research abilities and communication skills and can translate information into a variety of formats for different audiences.

You could come from an academic research background, have experience as an environmental campaigner or activist, have worked in a political office or government agency relating to water and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, or have knowledge of the water market through another field.

You already know many of the key information sources relating to water policy and ecological impacts in the Murray-Darling Basin and can hit the ground running to create some important, influential research ready to launch in coming months.

### In this role you will:

- Conduct research and act as the lead co-ordinating author on briefing papers and reports covering topics such as ecological risks, threatened species, corporate ownership of water and government policy positions.
- Contribute to research conducted by others through peer-reviewing their work and condensing or expanding text to suit different formats.



- Collaborate with Environment Victoria's communications team to turn your research into content for the media, website or social media that is succinct and compelling without sacrificing accuracy.
- Initiate new research ideas in a fast-changing political environment as the campaign ramps up.

This is not a public-facing role and you will not be required to do media, but may be called upon to brief the Rivers Campaigner, Policy & Advocacy Manager or CEO about your research ahead of interviews.

#### **Selection criteria:**

- Knowledge of water policy in relation to the Murray-Darling Basin and familiarity with the Murray-Darling Basin Plan
- Previous research experience, whether in an academic setting, government department, consultancy (environmental or otherwise), with the ability to tailor information for different audiences and formats
- Qualifications in a relevant field, such as environmental science, hydrology, water engineering or ecology
- Knowledge of the water market
- Understanding of how to access existing public data sources relating to water
- Demonstrated ability to write at a professional research standard with thorough referencing, but also to summarise complex concepts and information for a general audience
- Availability over the three months from May to July 2023 with an interest in further work dependant on funding
- A commitment to environmental sustainability and healthy rivers

***Freelancer writer/researchers and consultants are also encouraged to apply.*** While this is currently a short-term role of approximately 2 to 4 months, our campaign on this topic is rapidly growing and there may be additional opportunities in the future pending funding decisions.

For further inquiries not addressed by the criteria above, please call campaign manager Greg Foyster on 0410879031 [g.foyster@environmentvictoria.org.au](mailto:g.foyster@environmentvictoria.org.au) (Hours: Mon-Wed, Friday)

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

Please submit the following:

- A cover letter explaining your interest in the role and addressing the selection criteria
- A current CV, including names and contact details of two referees

Please email your application to [admin@environmentvictoria.org.au](mailto:admin@environmentvictoria.org.au) by **11am on Monday 8 May 2023**.