

# POSITION DESCRIPTION



<b>Position</b>	Soil Education and Engagement Officer
<b>Level/Classification</b>	HEW0707
<b>Reports to</b>	Associate Professor Industry Engagement for Research and Teaching Networks in Agriculture
<b>Unit</b>	Centre for Sustainable Farming Systems Food Futures Institute
<b>Directorate</b>	Research and Innovations
<b>Positions Supervised</b>	Nil

## Position Purpose

The Regional Soil Education and Engagement position is responsible for delivering regionally tailored, novel soil education, training, and engagement activities as part of the National Soils Education Opportunity. The role contributes to the development of scalable, evidence-based education resources that support industry training and capacity building across the agricultural sector.

Working within a nationally coordinated program, and with the direction of the Regional Node Leaders for each of the Western, Northern and Southern GRDC regions, the position activates education and engagement at the regional level, supporting enduring legacy through digital platforms, modular learning content, and a national soil knowledge hub. The position plays a critical role in connecting growers, consultants, advisors, and partners to best-practice soil science education.

## About Murdoch University

Murdoch University is a young and dynamic university with a foundational commitment to the environment, social justice and inclusion, and making education accessible to more people. Founded as Western Australia's second university in 1974, today, Murdoch has more than 21,000 students and 1,700 staff across campuses in Perth, Singapore and Dubai. With more than 90,000 Alumni, Murdoch graduates can be found all over the world, making a positive difference.

Our Strategy – Ngala Kwop Bididi. Building a brighter future, together – guides the University's direction and reaffirms our shared purpose to change lives and society for the better through accessible education and research.

The Strategy is focused on three key themes:

- Sustainability: Be a leading university in education, teaching and translational research in sustainability.
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Build a welcoming, diverse and inclusive community.

- First Nations: Become the University of first choice for First Nations peoples.

Murdoch is also committed to building engagement with our local community, State, nation, and global society with a track-record in creating strong partnerships with business, government and industry.

### About the Work Area

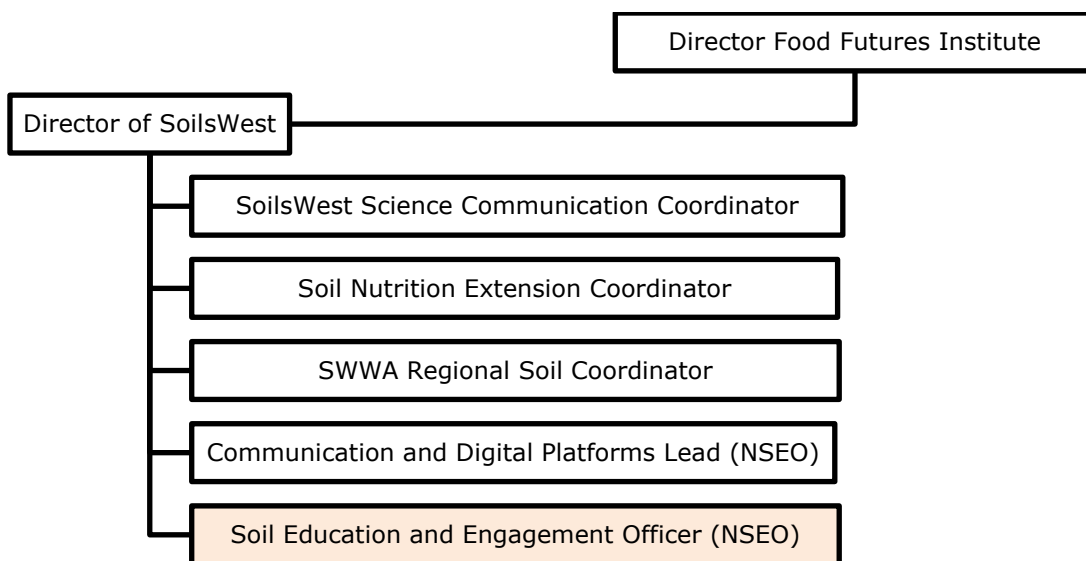
The Regional Soil Education and Engagement Officers are key members of the National Soils Education Opportunity (NSEO) regional delivery network. The position is responsible for delivering regionally tailored soil education, training, and engagement initiatives across the Western region, with aligned positions in the Southern and Northern GRDC regions.

The position in the Western Region is based at Murdoch University within the SoilsWest team and reports to the SoilsWest Director and National Lead for the National Soils Education Opportunity, Associate Professor Frances Hoyle.

The position works closely with regional stakeholders and national project teams to co-develop and deliver practical, evidence-based soil education aligned with regional production systems, industry priorities, and emerging soil science research. Activities may include field demonstrations, virtual soil pits, workshops, blended learning initiatives, and contributions to online learning modules and extension materials designed to improve soil literacy, industry capability, and adoption of best-practice soil management.

Murdoch University will work in partnership with several collaborators including the University of New England (Northern Region Node Lead), the University of Adelaide (Southern Region Node Lead), and The University of Western Australia (National WP4) to deliver an integrated national program. Together, these institutions support a coordinated national framework with regional delivery nodes in the Western, Southern, and Northern GRDC regions. Murdoch University leads the coordination of national activities, communications, and administration, while Regional Node Leads are responsible for regionally tailored delivery aligned with national priorities.

### Reporting Relationships



## Key Responsibilities/Duties

### Regional Education Delivery and Activation

1. Plan, coordinate, and deliver regionally bespoke soil education activities, including workshops, field-based learning events, and intensive training programs.
2. Undertake and/or support delivery of engagement activities including, for example, virtual soil pits, practical demonstrations, and blended learning activities to enhance regionally specific soil literacy and skills.
3. Build and maintain strong working relationships with local grower groups, consultants, advisors, and government agencies to support participation and relevance.
4. Act as a trusted regional point of contact for soil education and engagement activities.
5. Work with national and regional leads within the NSEO, as well as other node officers to coordinate educational products, activities and training.

### Content Development and Engagement

6. Contribute to the development of modular learning content by providing regional context, case studies, and support activities to identify knowledge gaps and priority needs through engagement.
7. Support review of existing soil education tools and resources and identify gaps relevant to regional production systems.
8. Support the national learning design and digital teams to integrate regionally relevant content into the soil education website.
9. Engage with stakeholders involved in existing grains industry projects to identify opportunities to incorporate educational outcomes, practical examples, and extension value into project activities and resources.

### Behavioural Insight and Engagement

10. Support implementation of behavioural insight approaches to enhance learner engagement, module completion and adoption of soil education across industry audiences.
11. Participate in regional user testing groups (e.g. growers, advisers, consultants) to provide feedback on learning design and engagement approaches.
12. Assist with baseline and follow-up assessments of regional participant needs, attitudes, and behaviours relating to soil education and innovation.
13. Support baseline assessments and ongoing evaluation activities, including surveys, interviews, and workshop feedback. Provide regular progress reports.
14. Carry out and assist with other duties as required.

## Selection Criteria

### Essential

1. A degree or equivalent professional experience in agriculture, soil science, environmental science, education, extension, or a related discipline relevant to the position description.
2. Demonstrated experience planning, coordinating, and delivering education, training, or extension activities, including workshops, field-based learning events, and/or intensive training programs, within an agricultural, natural resource management, or related context.
3. Demonstrated ability to build and maintain effective working relationships with industry participants, including growers, consultants, advisors, grower groups, and government or research organisations, to support participation, relevance, and impact of project activities.
4. Experience contributing to the development or adaptation of education, engagement or learning content, including the ability to incorporate regional context, case studies, and identified learner needs into modular or scalable resources.
5. Demonstrated high level of organisation, team working, time and workload management and skills, including the ability to prioritise workload to meet deadlines.
6. Demonstrated organisational and communication skills, including the ability to work independently within a regional remit while contributing effectively to a nationally coordinated, multidisciplinary team.

### Desirable

8. Scientific writing experience.
9. Understanding of, or experience with, engagement-focused or learner-centred approaches (including behavioural insights, user testing, or feedback-driven design) to improve participation, completion, and adoption of education or training programs.
10. Experience supporting monitoring and evaluation activities, including baseline and follow up assessments, surveys, interviews, or workshop feedback, and the ability to provide clear, timely progress reports aligned to program objectives.

### Work Requirements

- Australian permanent residency or possession of a valid visa with work entitlement in Australia.
- Current "C" class driver's licence
- Inter- and intra-state travel may be required.

### General Obligations

While at work, an employee must:

- take reasonable care for their own health and safety and ensure that their acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons;
- report incidents, injuries and hazards;
- comply with any reasonable instruction that is given by Murdoch University; and
- comply with Murdoch University policies and procedures.

## Guiding Principles and Values/Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

### Our Values

- Authenticity
- Integrity
- Respect
- Inclusivity
- Openness

### Our Principles

- Act with justice, respect and responsible care.
- Be collegiate and respectful of other points of view.
- Protect academic freedom.
- Be agile, flexible and resilient.
- Make decisions at the most appropriate level.
- Be transparent in decision-making and with information.
- Adopt common approaches to common tasks.
- Be careful stewards of our resources.

All staff will comply with the University's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct and demonstrate a commitment to its Equity, Diversity and Safety principles and the general capabilities of personal effectiveness, working collaboratively and demonstrating a focus on results.

All Staff complete a Development Review Annually. A Commencing Development Review should be completed within 3 months of commencement.

*We acknowledge that Murdoch University is situated on the lands of the Whadjuk and Binjareb Noongar people. We pay our respects to their enduring and dynamic culture and the leadership of Noongar elders past and present. The boodjar (country) on which Murdoch University is located has, for thousands of years, been a place of learning. We at Murdoch University are proud to continue this long tradition.*