



**SENIOR ECONOMIST**

**JOB & PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**AUGUST 2019**

# 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 position reports to the Manager, Economics, and is a member of the Consumer Protection and Pricing Group. This position also works closely and collaborates with other staff members of the Commission and may be required to report to other project managers within 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.

The Commission's primary objective is the protection of the long-term interests of South Australian consumers with respect to the price, quality and reliability of essential services.

The Commission regulates the provision of essential services in the water and sewerage, electricity, gas, ports and rail industries, conducts formal public inquiries and provides advice to South Australian Government on economic and regulatory matters.

The Consumer Protection and Pricing group is responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriately targeted regulatory frameworks that promote the delivery of services valued by customers at efficient prices. Its function includes consumer protection, price regulation and access regulation.

The Commission is committed to providing thought leadership in economic regulation and regulatory policy and undertakes extensive stakeholder engagement to inform its work.

## Special Conditions

Some out of hours work may be required.

Some interstate or intrastate travel may be required.

## Key Accountabilities

### Technical or 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

Contribute towards the achievement of the Commission's strategic direction by:

- ▶ adhering to and demonstrating standards of behavior consistent with the Commission's values
- ▶ contributing to an environment which facilitates collaborative and productive teamwork, and learning and professional development
- ▶ contributing to the ongoing development and achievement of the Commission's corporate objectives, and actively participating in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Commission's Strategy and annual Performance Plan
- ▶ developing and enhancing strong positive relationships, both within the Commission and with our external stakeholders, including regulated businesses, consumers and their representative organisations, other regulators and government agencies, and
- ▶ enhancing the Commission's performance by embracing and implementing process improvement, whether through new technology or changed practices, as required.

Contribute to the work, health and safety of the Commission and a strong culture of safety by demonstrating safe working practices and adhering to work health and safety legislation, regulation, policies and practices.

Contribute 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.

Undertake other tasks as directed.

## 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.
- ▶ 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 the use of Office 2016 or similar, inclusive of email, word processing, spreadsheet construction, graphing and tabulations, text and graphics presentations.

### Knowledge

- ▶ Knowledge in spreadsheets and database financial modelling.
- ▶ An understanding of the principles of work health and safety.

### 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.
- ▶ Significant experience in the use of databases and spreadsheets.
- ▶ Experience in the use of statistical software packages.

## Knowledge

- ▶ An understanding of Commissions' roles and objectives.
- ▶ Knowledge of the regulated industries and regimes administered by the Commission.
- ▶ Knowledge of legislation relevant to the Commission.



## HOW TO APPLY

Applications should be addressed to Justin Hinora. Please visit [henderconsulting.com.au](http://henderconsulting.com.au) to apply.

For a confidential discussion, please call Justin Hinora or Christian Gaszner on (08) 8100 8849.

### **Please Note**

Your application will be automatically acknowledged by a return email.