

# ENVIRONMENT SOUTHLAND

## Natural Hazards Scientist

To initiate and deliver timely, high-quality natural hazards science which enable council outcomes to be achieved.

### About us

#### Our mission

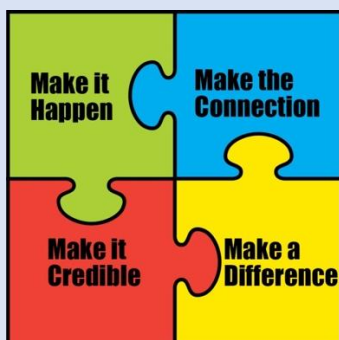
Working with the community to enhance Southland's environment.

#### Our vision:

A thriving Southland (Te taurikura o Murihiku)

#### Our values:

Here at ES, we -



### Role purpose

The **Environmental Scientist Natural Hazards** contributes to the overall performance of the **Science Integration Team** by providing research, analysis and reporting in the field of natural hazards.

As an expert in the organization, you will be responsible for managing and contributing to complex studies, mentoring others, and assisting with mitigation and adaptation strategies.

You will be expected to apply advanced modelling and analysis to address critical natural hazard challenges, working with cross-disciplinary teams and stakeholders.

## About your role

Grade: 17

Pathway: T5

**Group/Division:** Science Group /  
Science Integration Team

### Reports to

Science Integration Manager

### Who you will be working with

#### Direct reports:

- Nil

#### Indirect reports:

- Nil

### Key stakeholders

#### External:

- Ratepayers
- Iwi
- Research and funding partners and providers
- Community and special interest groups
- Professional and industry associations
- Territorial Local Authorities and Central Government
- Consultants and advisors

#### Internal:

- Chief Scientist
- Divisional Managers
- Councillors
- Other Council staff

### Delegations

In line with the Environment Southland Delegations Manual

## Your leadership profile – Individual Contributor

*Your crucial challenge as an Individual Contributor is to find a way to add value while working effectively with others.*

*To be an effective **Individual contributor**, aim to:*

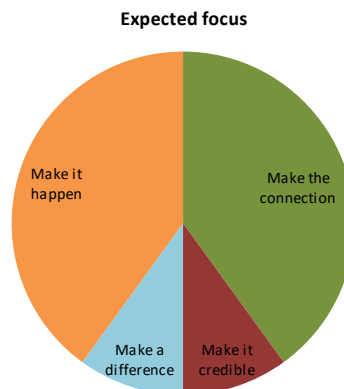
**Make it Happen** – Show initiative, take accountability and deliver high-quality work on time.

**Make the Connection** – Focus on meeting your customers' needs and work collaboratively as part of your team.

**Make it Credible** – Communicate clearly, show integrity, and focus on building your professional skills.

**Make a Difference** – Show curiosity, make thoughtful and evidence-based decisions, and aim to understand the wider context for your work.

While all elements of the Environment Southland Leadership Competency Framework are important, as an **Individual Contributor**, you will have a stronger focus on Make it Happen and Make the Connection.



## Your accountabilities

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Research and expertise</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct scientific research, monitoring, analysis and modelling of natural hazards focusing on their causes, impacts and frequency.</li> <li>• Develop and use hazard prediction tools to understand potential future events and their impacts.</li> <li>• Assess and quantify the risk posed by various natural hazards to ecosystems, human communities and infrastructure, including producing hazard maps and vulnerability assessments.</li> <li>• Conduct field surveys to collect environmental data, monitoring changes in hazard-prone areas, and validate models.</li> <li>• Contribute to strategies to reduce the risk and impact of natural hazards.</li> <li>• Provide expertise to assist with disaster preparedness, environmental protection, and climate change.</li> <li>• Provide expert advice to Environment Southland planning and other staff, including assisting in evaluating the suitability and effectiveness of options for policies and methods in regional plans.</li> <li>• Provide technical analysis and expert advice to Council, Council Committees and Environment Court as required.</li> <li>• Ensure all scientific monitoring and investigations comply with relevant regulatory requirements, industry standards and safety protocols.</li> <li>• Maintain awareness of national and international science relevant to natural hazards.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Relationships and influence</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and maintain good working relationships with the science and research community, adopt a proactive approach to addressing Environment Southland's research, science and technology needs, identify opportunities for partnerships and translate external science back into the organisation.</li> <li>• Ensure that other agencies, stakeholders and special interest groups are engaged with proposed and actual work and activities in natural hazards science.</li> <li>• Provide and contribute to the provision of data, advice and information to the public and other organisations on natural hazards science and support effective decision making.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Strategy and vision</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the implementation and delivery of Council's strategy</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Project management</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in projects which may be financial, transformational, strategic and/or leadership focused from time to time</li> <li>• Application in line with Council's corporate project management systems and processes.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Finance (budgets)</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider financial implications of actions.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Continuous improvement</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continually seek opportunities to improve services for your customers (internal or external).</li> <li>• Show flexibility, adaptability and a willingness to change and are open to feedback as an opportunity to improve.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Stakeholder relationships / customer service</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop strong and effective relationships with internal and external stakeholders.</li> <li>• Respond appropriately.</li> <li>• Understand situations from the customer's perspective.</li> <li>• Keep customers up to date about progress of queries/requests/projects</li> <li>• Maintain clear communication</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Other duties</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any other duties as may be directed by the [insert manager title] from time to time.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Your health, safety and wellbeing

- Work safely and take responsibility for keeping self, colleagues, contractors and customers free from harm;
- Report all incidents, near-misses, hazards and accidents promptly
- Communicate whereabouts when out of the office (e.g. use Where Am I, Get Home Safe)
- Activity risk assessments are completed as part of planning for all field-based activities prior to work being undertaken, with relevant parties
- Know what to do in the event of an emergency
- Participate in safety and wellbeing initiative and programmes as required
- Attend required health and safety training and induction sessions.

## Working with Māori

Working at Environment Southland requires all of our staff to uphold the council's Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities as part of their day-to-day role. This might be through the appropriate delivery of functions through various legislation where Te Tiriti o Waitangi or partnering with mana whenua is required or upholding the commitments that our elected councillors have made to Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku through the Charter of Understanding. Many of our established workstreams and programmes are delivered in partnership with the four papatipu rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu which hold mana whenua in Murihiku Southland.

This will regularly require:

- Understanding and delivery on Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations for Environment Southland that are identified for your role
- Ensuring partnership and engagement practices are planned for, and suitable to the relationship with Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku
- Undertaking regular learning and development for the role to support competency in delivering on Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities, as directed

## Your civil defence and emergency response responsibilities

All staff of Environment Southland may be required to undertake Civil Defence or Biosecurity duties in the event of an emergency. Training will be given as appropriate.

- Fulfil allocated Civil Defence and emergency response roles, as assigned.
- Manage or assist with other emergency responses that are required.
- Participate in Civil Defence and emergency response initiatives and programmes as required.

## Confidentiality, privacy and recordkeeping

All staff of Environment Southland are required to collect, retain, and maintain sensitive, confidential and personal information. Training will be given as appropriate to:

- Manage all information with care and respect in accordance with the Public Records Act 2005, Privacy Act 2020, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and all other relevant Local Government legislation.
- Retain information, regardless of format, e.g. records and data in official organisational systems.

- Ensure no sensitive, confidential, or personal information is inappropriately shared internally or externally without the appropriate approval.
- Report a privacy breach to the organisational Privacy Officer if a situation should occur.

## Your experience, knowledge and qualifications

### Knowledge/Experience

- Demonstrated knowledge to fulfil requirements of the key accountabilities specified for this position.
- A Master's degree or Ph.D. in Geology, Environmental Science, Meteorology, Geography, Earth Science, Civil Engineering, or a related field.
- A minimum 3 years relevant experience in natural hazard research, risk assessment, or related fields.
- Demonstrated expertise with hazard mapping, geospatial analysis (e.g., GIS), and scientific modelling.
- Familiarity with data analysis and visualization tools (e.g., R, Python, MATLAB).
- Ability to develop and maintain research collaborations.
- A good understanding of relevant resource management and natural hazard legislation.
- Experience working with stakeholders, community groups and iwi.
- A high level of experience with project management, budgeting and resource allocation.
- Experience in conveying complex technical information to diverse audiences.
- Awareness and understanding of tikanga Māori.
- Proven experience in effectively mentoring and leading people.
- Highly accurate and keen eye for detail.
- Full current driver's license (and the ability to drive a manual vehicle)

### Attributes

- Ability to influence through effective application of knowledge and logic.
- Understands the importance of building and maintain positive durable working relationships.
- Excellent communication skills – both written and verbal.
- Honesty, integrity and commitment to preserving confidentiality, i.e. can be trusted with confidential information.
- Ability to exercise sound judgment and initiative.
- Excellent communication and customer service skills with the ability to interact with Councillors and staff at all levels within the organization.
- Able to work effectively as part of a team, but without close supervision.

## Performance Review

We have a Professional Development Programme (PDP) that is the basis for performance assessment at all levels of the organisation. There is at least one formal meeting, annually, between the team member and their people leader, along with a six-month review and regular monthly catch-ups.

## Acknowledgement

I \_\_\_\_\_ have received a copy of the job description and have read and understand the duties and responsibilities and key relationships described therein.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_