The purpose of this position is to lead and undertake people-centred research and consultancy work to support the GNS Science Themes. The primary focus of this role is on the ‘Environment and Climate’ and ‘Energy Futures’ Themes, with the potential to also engage on natural hazards and disaster risk management projects. We are seeking someone with strong interpersonal skills who can undertake policy and socio-economic analysis, providing advice across several technical/science disciplines and communicate effectively with a range of audiences.

Position priorities and responsibilities

- Lead and shape robust policy and socio-economic analysis, summarise that analysis for non-policy experts and provide advice based on the analysis;
- Contribute to long-term strategic planning for social science research related to GNS science core Themes of ‘Environment and Climate’, ‘Energy Futures’, ‘Natural Hazards and Risk’ and ‘Land and Marine Geoscience’;
- Lead and support research programmes and contribute to and/or lead the development of commercial consultancy and technology transfer opportunities;
- Engage with a diverse range of social actors including scientists, government representatives, industry, community-based groups, and general public;
- Apply qualitative and/or quantitative social science research methods and analysis;
- Ability to understand technical information and support effective science communication across various disciplines;
- Support preparation of financial and administrative aspects of programmes/project implementation, including budgets, reporting, deadlines and quality;
- Prepare and contribute to research papers and articles for NZ publications and academic journals, including presentations relevant conferences and industry workshops;
- Work with the GNS Science Communications Team on science communication activities for research dissemination;
- Undertake other projects for your manager as and when required.

Reports to: Team Leader
Department: Society and Infrastructure
Group: Science
Tenure: Permanent
Location: Lower Hutt (Avalon), Auckland, Dunedin, Taupo (Wairakei)
Direct reports: Nil
Budget: Nil
Date: November 2020
Responsibilities of all staff

- Comply with all GNS Science policies and procedures.
- Contribute to making GNS Science a healthy and safe place to work by complying with the responsibilities and accountabilities outlined in the Health and Safety Management System Framework.

The responsibilities of this position will change over time to respond to changing needs. The incumbent will need the flexibility to adapt and develop as the company and its environment evolves.

Key working relationships

Internal:
- Research Science Group including science Programme Leaders, Project Leads and Theme Leaders
- Scientists and support staff across GNS
- GNS supporting functions including the Communications Team, Business Partnerships, Stakeholder Relations.

External:
- Tangata Whenua/Mana Whenua (Iwi/Hapu, Iwi Boards, Trusts, Authorities, Marae)
- Other CRIs and Universities
- Central government agencies (e.g. MfE, MBIE, MPI, DoC, NEMA)
- NZ Regional and Local Councils
- Industry partners
- National Science Challenges

Person specification

Skills, knowledge and attributes

- Practical experience and understanding in one or more of the following; i) environmental management including an understanding of related socio-economic factors (e.g. environmental economics, ecosystem services, freshwater management etc); ii) renewable energy policy frameworks; iii) climate change adaptation and/or mitigation; iv) natural sciences
- Knowledge of energy audits/carbon accounting practice at local and/or central government level and/or within industry;
- Experience with the roles and functions of government (public), and/or industry and private sectors, and/or NGOs and community organisations;
- An understanding of tikanga māori
- An understanding of Te Ao Māori, Pacific and indigenous world views and practices;
- Existing relationships with research stakeholders and end-users;
- Prior experience leading a work programme or a team;
- Demonstrated ability to solve strategic issues in the context of developing a long-term vision.

Experience

Essential:

- 5-10 years local government, consultancy, research or relevant industry experience
- Experience in applying social science and socio-economic methodologies in an environmental management and/or energy context
Desirable:
- Knowledge of earth sciences, in both New Zealand and international contexts
- Knowledge of New Zealand Science System
- Prior experience in research funding applications
- Experience in science communication

Qualifications

Essential:
- Tertiary qualification in a relevant discipline e.g. policy and planning, environmental science/management, economics, māori development, geography, social science, science communication, sustainable development, environmental engineering or similar.

Desirable:
- Post-graduate qualification in a relevant discipline (as identified above)

Other requirements

Essential:
- Facilitation, communication, oral presentation skills.
- Report and paper writing
- Ability to work broadly across disciplines
- Ability to work both autonomously and collaboratively as part of a team
- Availability to travel overseas

Desirable:
- Project management skills
- General computer skills
Competencies

The following competencies are expected of all staff:

► **Results Orientation**: The ability and commitment to achieve effective results, and work towards or exceed agreed goals.

► **Business Focus**: The ability and desire to apply appropriate principles and practices to maximise revenue, minimise cost, while meeting our obligations.

► **Relationship Management**: The ability and commitment to develop and maintain effective relationships with groups and individuals.

► **Communication**: The ability to express thoughts and ideas clearly and consistently (orally and in writing).

► **Innovation and Initiative**: The ability and commitment to seek and use better ways of doing things (to improve personal and GNS Science performance).

► **Teamwork**: The ability to establish and maintain effective and cooperative relationships.

► **Professional Integrity**: Act in a manner that conveys high personal and professional standards.

► **Technical Expertise**: The ability to maintain and develop technical expertise.

► **Leadership and Management Skills**: The ability to inspire others to achieve desired results and to develop and enable others to realise their full potential.