



Position Description: Research & Policy Officer (Plastic Investigations)

The Australian Marine Conservation Society is the voice for Australia's oceans. We are an independent charity, staffed by a committed group of scientists, educators and advocates who have worked to address the biggest threats to Australia's oceans for over 55 years.

This role is part of a project partnership with the Boomerang Alliance, a community-based 'peak organisation' representing 55 environment and community organisation members committed to a zero waste society. Boomerang's primary focus is on government and stakeholder engagement to establish effective policies and practices that reduce waste and litter.

We're seeking an experienced analyst with a passion for transparency and corporate responsibility to help stop ocean plastic pollution. Make a real difference in this role by spearheading a first of its kind audit of supermarket plastics use in Australia, and supporting policy development in ocean plastic reduction.

Position Title: Research & Policy Officer (Plastic Investigations)

Location: Negotiable, with a preference for Sydney or Brisbane.

Salary: \$70,000 - \$85,000 p/annum (pro-rata if part-time), plus Superannuation contributions of 11%

Hours: Part-time (0.5 FTE - 19 hours per week)

Contract period: Starting early 2023 on initial one-year contract, with a view to extending.

Purpose of the Position:

As part of an ambitious new corporate transparency project by AMCS and Boomerang Alliance, this position will be responsible for conducting an independent audit of plastic packaging in the Australian supermarket sector, producing reports and policy advice on effective plastic reduction interventions.

Using your experience in research and investigation, you will create and implement an audit framework, using a combination of market research, surveys and consumer audits. You will work with AMCS and Boomerang Alliance staff, partner organisations and community stakeholders to produce reports and policy advice on effective plastic reduction interventions.

The Research & Policy Officer will work closely with a new part-time [Outreach Officer \(Supermarket Plastics\)](#), to support the delivery of the audit.

These roles may be combined as a single full-time role for experienced applicants who meet the requirements of both positions.

Reporting and Accountability:

This position reports to the AMCS Plastics Campaign Manager, in conjunction with a project leadership team composed of AMCS and Boomerang Alliance staff. For more information on our teams see [our People page](#).

Primary Responsibilities:

Research and Investigation

- Create an audit framework and methodology for the Australian Supermarket Plastics Audit project, in consultation with an audit steering committee that includes external expertise.
- Conduct an investigation into the plastic packaging practices of Australian supermarkets, including but not limited to:
 - Sourcing and analysing market data on the use of plastic packaging.
 - Gathering information from supermarket sustainability teams through surveys or other techniques.
 - Supporting community members to conduct surveys of packaging on their supermarket shelves.
- Analyse and synthesize research and reports on plastic packaging and marine debris issues and solutions to inform campaign priorities and policy development.
- Undertake monitoring and evaluation of the impact of plastics campaign work, assisting with reports for senior management and funders.

Policy Development

- Prepare policy analyses, briefings and proposals for internal use and for government submissions.
- Attend relevant stakeholder and government meetings and present research findings or policy advice as needed.
- As capacity allows and where necessary, provide limited input into or engagement with other environmental protection issues beyond the post holder's core work areas.

Communications

- Produce a detailed public report detailing the findings of the supermarket plastics investigation, with personalised change recommendations for each audited company.
- Assist in the production of high quality communications materials, such as infographic, images and videos.
- Assist in the development of media, online content, webinars and other informational materials.

Essential Selection Criteria

- Bachelor or masters level qualification in a social science, business, or research and policy related discipline or at least 2 years equivalent experience in a policy, analyst, consulting or research role.
- Experience in data collection and analysis using both qualitative and quantitative research methods and experience with statistical software (e.g. SPSS, SAS, STATA, NVivo).
- Experience undertaking literature searches and writing research reports and/or manuscripts.
- Demonstrated experience in conducting project and program evaluations, including designing and applying evaluation frameworks and approaches.
- Demonstrated self-management skills, including the ability to plan, organise and prioritise workload, and to work under limited direction.
- Commitment to achieving positive change and protection for the oceans, and upholding AMCS' values.

Desirable Selection Criteria

- Experience in investigative work into corporate practices or business sustainability reviews, or with the supermarket / retail sector (management experience would be well regarded).
- Previous knowledge in plastics reduction, waste management or environmental awareness, particularly in the non-profit and charities sector.

About AMCS

The Australian Marine Conservation Society is the voice for Australia's oceans. We are an independent not-for-profit charity. We deal with the big issues concerning the sea, working with the community to protect our marine wildlife, tackling major threats to our oceans and creating marine sanctuaries, places in the sea where sea life is safe from harm. Across our campaigns, we tackle climate change - the biggest existential threat to our ocean planet, with our Great Barrier Reef at the forefront. We are a committed group of professional and passionate scientists, educators and advocates who have defended Australia's oceans for over 55 years. Check out [this short video](#) highlighting some of the key impacts we've achieved for our oceans.

Our Values

- **Integrity.** *We are trusted, credible, independent and ethical in our actions.*
- **Courage.** *We are brave, respectful and honest advocates for marine life.*
- **Passion.** *We demonstrate commitment to and care for our oceans in all we do.*
- **Solidarity.** *We work together, embracing equity, diversity and inclusivity.*
- **Effectiveness.** *We are driven, professional, agile and resilient, working to deliver the best outcomes for Australia's people and wildlife.*
- **Innovation.** *We are creative, flexible, open, and solutions-focused.*

Application Details

To apply, please [submit your current CV and a cover letter](#) (maximum two pages) explaining why you're the perfect person for this role and addressing the selection criteria through the [application portal via EthicalJobs](#).

Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible, and no later than **9am (AEST) Tuesday 10th January 2023**.

AMCS is a strictly non-partisan and an equal opportunities employer. We strongly encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability, LGBTIQ+ people, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Please Note: Applicants must have the right to work in Australia. That is, you must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen, or hold a valid visa with permission to work on an ongoing basis.

For all enquiries about this position please contact us via email at recruitment@amcs.org.au or 07 3846 6777.

Please note that the AMCS office is closed from 24th December 2022 until 8th January 2023 inclusive and we will respond to inquiries after that date.

For more information about our organisation and our people please visit:

<https://www.marineconservation.org.au/>

