



Position Description

Senior Economist, Regulation

Reports to

Chief Economist (Regulation)

Purpose of Role

Provide technical expertise to enable the provision of complex economic analysis and advice.

Commission's Vision

Our vision is that New Zealanders are better off because markets work well and consumers and businesses are confident market participants.

Commission Values

The Commerce Commission is committed to acting with **integrity** and being fair, honest and impartial. We set high standards of **excellence** and exercise **good judgement** by understanding the environment we operate in and the impact of our actions. We are **accountable** to the people of New Zealand for our work and spending. We **respect** each other and value peoples' diversity and opinions.

Key Result Areas (KRAs)

- Provide economic input and support to Commission project teams
- Identify and gather relevant data/information
- Provide economic advice to the Regulation Branch and the Commission
- Provide quality assurance
- Team development

Competencies (Behaviours)

• Applying expertise and knowledge	• Persuading and influencing
• Planning, organising and delivering (results)	• Working with people
• Analysing and researching	• Learning and developing
• Writing and reporting	• Mentoring and leading
• Presenting and communicating (verbally)	• Formulating strategies and concepts

Key Result Areas

1: Provide economic input and support to Commission project teams

- Develop effective working relationships with project teams
- Inform project managers of the time needed for required analysis, or detailed modelling to be completed and allocate time.
- Keep project manager informed of any changes to approach/timeframes.
- Meet with project teams to establish key issues.
- Lead discussion and meetings with project teams to establish key issues.
- Identify lessons learned from an economic perspective as part of project de-brief.

Outcome:

- Project teams are confident that information delivered is relevant, timely and addresses the key issues.

2: Identify and gather relevant data/information.

- Seek advice on new methods of data manipulation or alternative sources to acquire relevant information e.g. for econometric analysis.
- Undertake stand-alone pieces of research on key issues to support quality advice and add value to the Commission.
- Share information with the Regulation Economics team as appropriate.
- Where necessary, learn and adopt new methods or seek out alternative sources to acquire relevant information e.g. for economic analysis.
- Attending conferences and keeping abreast of current local and international issues.
- Maintain positive relationships with stakeholders to facilitate information gathering and act as a key contact for them.
- Seek and incorporate comments from the project team and managers, into draft reports, papers and presentations.

Outcome:

- Project teams have relevant accurate, robust economic information to base their decisions on
- Research and analysis incorporates relevant information

3: Provide economic advice to the Regulation Branch and the Commission

- Communicate information, ideas, analysis and recommendations to the team and project teams.
- Analyse submissions and project plans to identify critical economic issues.
- Apply appropriate economic principles, frameworks and tools e.g. verbal analysis, modelling, econometrics and graphical analysis as a means of developing options and solutions to issues identified.
- Be aware of consistency issues in the application of economic principles and frameworks across the Commission.
- Develop or modify a range of options and solutions to complex problems identified.
- Consult with Regulation Economic team members and provide peer review.
- Evaluate the implications of research findings.
- Ensure recommendations are well researched and based on fact.
- Provide quality assurance for analysis to determine if further data gathering, research and/or modelling is required.
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of market/industry issues that are of relevance to the Commission.

Outcome:

- Commission benefits from advice, reports and presentations are clear, concise, professional and well balanced

4: Provide quality assurance

- Ensure consistent application of economic principles and frameworks across the Commission.
- Mentor economists as required in the development and delivery of economic analysis and advice.
- Draw on prior experience of different cases to see similarities and differences with the present case.
- Initiate the development of new economic approaches, models or frameworks that will assist the Regulation economics team's delivery advice and outcomes.
- Provide quality assurance into draft and final documents including presentations to Commissioners.

Outcome:

- Consistent application of economic principles and frameworks are applied across the Commission

5: Team development

- Provide assistance to the Chief Economist and other Economic roles as required.
- Maintain own knowledge in economics to build expertise.
- Regularly update the Regulation Economics team about issues and approaches that have added value to the branches.

Outcomes:

- Valuable contribution to the development of the Regulation Economics team and Regulation Branch.
- Self-development

Note: These responsibilities are not exhaustive. From time to time it may be necessary to change the position requirements in response to the changing nature of our work environment, including technological requirements or statutory changes. Such change may be initiated as necessary by your manager or General Manager and will be discussed with you.

Person Specification

Qualification

- Undergraduate degree (or equivalent) in Economics or a similar analytical discipline

Ability

Level

• Proven ability to make a positive contribution through the use of quantitative analysis and modeling, based on a sound knowledge of operations research and other techniques of quantitative analysis	Expert
• Demonstrated problem solving ability	Expert
• Proven verbal and numerical analytical ability	Expert

Experience

Level

• Significant work experience within the regulated sectors	Sound
• Demonstrated experience working within a project management framework	Sound
• Demonstrated experience in managing external consultants	Expert

Knowledge

Level

• Proficient knowledge of economics, legal or accounting best practice	Expert
• Knowledge of the technical functions of regulated industries and/or knowledge of industry trends and developments	Sound

Definitions

Basic

The job requires adeptness in a skill and experience in a variety of tasks. The skill may be related to specific activities that take time to acquire, extending beyond short term. (Typically 1-2 years related experience.)

Sound

The job requires highly relevant experience in a specific area of work, often involving specialised training in order to achieve competence. This is not short-term experience, but significant, longer-term experience, predominantly focused on acquiring specialist knowledge. (Typically 2-3 years related experience.)

Expert

The job requires experience of a broad nature, above that of a skilled person. Normally involves an awareness of work activities beyond the immediate job situation and the impact of the job on these activities. (Typically 3-5 years related experience.)

Strategic

The job requires highly relevant knowledge and experience, an understanding of immediate issues and long term effects of actions. This is a subject matter expert who can be focused on an organisation's goals as well as the specific short term issues. (Typically 5-10 years related experience.)