

# Candidate Information Pack

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**Grains Research & Development Corporation**

**Chief Information Officer**

Consultant: Joanne Davies

March 2026

## Advertisement

# Chief Information Officer

- Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)
- Shape GRDC's digital future in a high-impact, hands-on leadership role
- Canberra based

## About the Organisation

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is an Australian statutory corporation with a compelling purpose: to invest in world-class research, development and extension that creates enduring profitability for Australia's grain growers.

Operating through a collaborative, partnership-driven model, working alongside CSIRO, universities, state agencies and industry, GRDC translates scientific innovation into real-world outcomes for growers across the country. It is a lean, values-led organisation where every investment decision matters and where mission and accountability go hand in hand.

## About the Role

This is a pivotal moment for GRDC's technology capability. The groundwork has been laid, architectural principles are established and a new three-year IDT strategy is being finalised. Now GRDC needs the right leader to operationalise it.

Reporting to the General Manager Operations and CFO, the CIO will own the roadmap and drive delivery: leading cloud migration, modernising the investment management system, rationalising vendor contracts, shaping the organisation's AI strategy, and presenting confidently to the Board.

You will lead a small, capable internal team and a network of specialist partners, building trust and high performance while navigating a complex stakeholder environment. This is a role for someone who enjoys both the strategic and the hands-on, someone who will roll up their sleeves and get things done.

## About You

You are an experienced technology leader who combines strategic vision with genuine delivery capability. You have led cloud migrations and enterprise systems transformations, and you know how to manage vendor relationships and contracts in resource-conscious environments.

Ideally you bring experience from the public sector or similarly complex, purpose-driven organisations, and engage with credibly with boards, executives and regulators. Just as important is your leadership style: non-hierarchical, genuinely collaborative, and focused on building the culture and capability of your team.

You will be drawn to GRDC's mission and understand the unique responsibility that comes with supporting Australian grain growers.

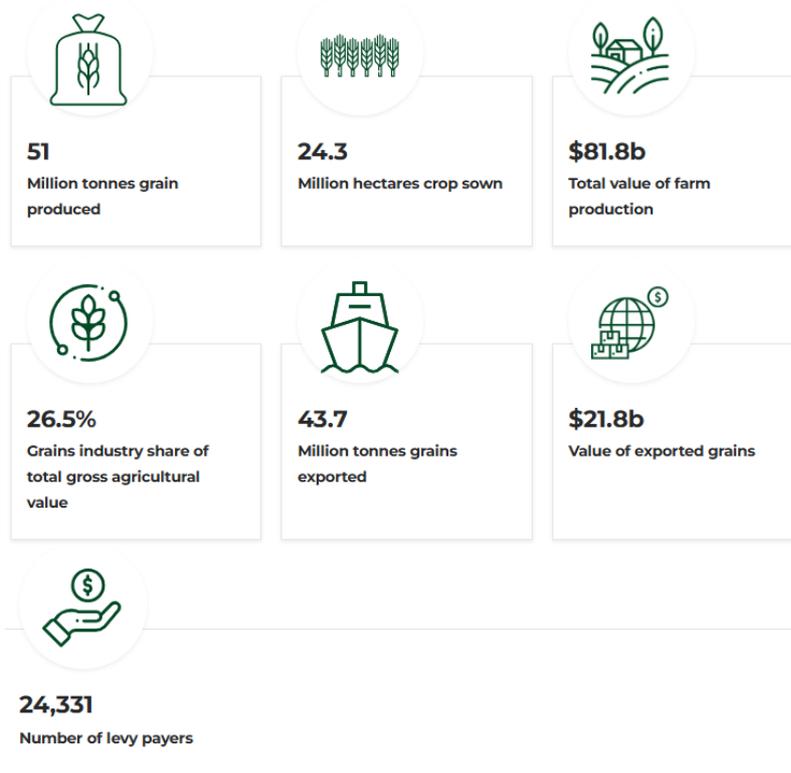
## How to Apply

### Applications close 22 March 2026.

To apply, visit [www.derwentsearch.com.au](http://www.derwentsearch.com.au) and select 'Search Jobs'. Please include a resume (up to four pages) and a cover letter (up to two pages) outlining your suitability. For enquiries, please contact Joanne Davies at [publicsector@derwentsearch.com.au](mailto:publicsector@derwentsearch.com.au)

## About us

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is an Australian statutory corporation founded in October 1990 under the Primary Industries Research and Development Act. The purpose of the organisation is to invest in research, development and extension (RD&E) to create enduring profitability for Australian grain growers and to drive the discovery, development and delivery of world-class innovation to enhance the productivity, profitability and sustainability of Australian grain growers.



## Collaboration and partnerships

GRDC cannot undertake research in its own right and so the organisation collaborates with other organisations. This collaboration and co-investment enables the organisation to:

- leverage resources and research capability
- share market knowledge, technologies and intellectual property
- reduce the risk associated with individual investments.

Our co-investors include:

- other R&D corporations
- state government departments
- CSIRO
- universities
- private groups
- private sector.

For further information, please visit the GRDC website at: <https://grdc.com.au/>

## Position Description

<b>Position Title:</b>	Chief Information Officer
<b>Location:</b>	Canberra
<b>Reports to:</b>	General Manager Operations and CFO

## Purpose of the Role

The Chief Information Officer provides specialist and strategic advice relating to GRDC's Information, Digital and Technology (IDT) team including security, strategy, compliance and budgets. The role leads the development of technology strategy and roadmaps and leads technology delivery working closely with a core team and partners. This is a people focused leadership role taking GRDC through the next phase of technology challenges and programs.

## Responsibilities

The Chief Information Officer will:

- Accountable for the overall management of the people, contractors and budget of the GRDC Information, Digital and Technology (IDT) core operating systems budget and the IDT team.
- Accountable for the effective management and delivery of the Technical Design Authority and Technical Steering Committee
- Responsible overall for providing high level strategic IDT advice to the Managing Director, GM Operations and the Senior Leadership Group (SLG) and Board; - including IDT security, digital engagement, driving the analysis and re-engineering of business processes, identifying developing the capability to integrate new tools, reshaping technology infrastructure and network access, and identifying and exploiting the enterprises knowledge resources to deliver on the GRDC Purpose of Investing in RD&E to deliver enduring profitability of Australian grain growers.
- Responsible for the identification and mitigation of risks associated with IDT Operations and delivery issues
- Responsible for the overall engagement of IDT services and to all GRDC sites and GRDC contractors to ensure systems, issues and constraints are dealt with effectively and in a timely manner and to provide strategic advice on IDT direction.
- Develop strong working relationships with the SLG, Business Groups and engage with advisers and other relevant industry stakeholders as required.
- Take direct day to day responsibility and accountability for cross organisational coordination and leadership of the development, and delivery of GRDC IDT outputs and appropriate support to stakeholders.
- Support the GM Operations and CFO in the management of issues including IDT future proofing, procurement, integration of IDT practices, compliance and operational systems support and delivery.
- Other duties as required from time to time. Ensure digital initiatives and frameworks are compliant with relevant legislation, including data protection and privacy laws.

## Strategy & Development

- Accountable for the development and implementation of GRDC's IDT Strategic Plan
- Facilitate development of sound strategy that takes into account the wide range of grower stakeholders, RD&E collaborators and industry partners regionally, nationally and internationally to facilitate the creation of RD&E outputs that deliver on GRDC's purpose.

- Responsible for delivering on GRDC's purpose by developing sound strategy that takes into account the wide range of stakeholders, RD&E collaborators and industry partners and the
- various pathways of IDT security, policies and practice, operational service delivery, continuous improvement and drive GRDC's core operating systems business outputs.
- Responsible for the GRDC's obligation around compliance with Australian Government Legislative requirements, i.e. IDT, Records Management, social media, Privacy, Security
- Responsible for leading the delivery of integrated IDT management plan of critical, high value projects for GRDC's to ensure projects meet the overall organisations business objectives and contractual commitment and/or internal business requirements and agreed quality standards, on time and within budget

### **Strategic Leadership and Capacity Capability**

- Responsible for coaching, mentoring and managing direct reports to achieve an aligned and engaged team that contributes proactively towards GRDC delivering on its strategic purpose.
- Align and prioritise the objectives of the IDT Group with those of the GRDC
- Promote cooperation, collaboration and teamwork both within the Business Group and across the organisation.
- Invest, create and foster the development of workforce capacity and industry leadership in your particular field.
- Anticipate, invest, create and foster the development of workforce capacity and industry leadership in your particular RD&E field.
- Model the GRDC values both internally and externally.

### **Technical advice, issues and ideas management**

- Responsible for sourcing expert technical advice on issues relevant to the business group.
- Analysis and advice to the SLG and Board on appropriate scope and strategy for IDT core operating systems, relevant user training/ technical documentation is captured, user committees are set up, SOP's are up to date, customer experience is measured, ability to leverage data, quality assurance processes and mechanisms are in place to ensure delivery of high-quality IDT outputs and mitigate threats and drive business growth.
- Provide advice to the SLG on monitoring and evaluation in relation to IDT compliance, engagement and adoption by users.

### **Procurement/Contract Management**

- Responsibility for ensuring that all IDT projects and initiatives are progressed consistent with GRDC policies and procedures.
- Ensure that GRDC's IDT operating systems and services are procured consistent with GRDC policies and procedures.
- Manage IDT infrastructure, plant and equipment as required.
- Responsible for managing any disputes and claims that arise within the Business Group

### **Financial management**

- Accountable for the preparation and management of the IDT Group budget
- Contribute to the successful financial performance of GRDC.

### **IP Management – 'Freedom to Operate' (FTO)**

- In collaboration with the Business Development team be responsible for managing IP relevant to the GRDC Business Groups including the development and implementation of strategies that address IP protection and FTO as well as identifying appropriate delivery pathways for GRDC RD&E outputs

- Responsible for ensuring all direct reports comply with GRDC's knowledge management policies and procedures.

## **WORK, HEALTH & SAFETY**

### ***Driving excellent WHS performance across GRDC***

- Comply with GRDC WHS & systems, including statutory obligations.
- Consistently deliver excellent WHS results
- Acts as a role model pursues safety for a positive WHS culture; encourage others to do the same.

## **AUTHORITY**

The incumbent has the authority to use all assigned resources and take any reasonable actions which are consistent with the responsibilities of the position and subject to any limitations set by GRDC Corporate Policies, Procedures or guidelines.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- The incumbent is accountable for the driving the strategic direction of their section and the Business Group as a whole.
- The incumbent is accountable for the quality of work, time management and productivity as well as safety for self and others working for them.
- The incumbent is accountable for ensuring all GRDC policies and procedures are adhered to within their team

## **POSITION REQUIREMENTS**

- Qualifications and/or extensive experience in IDT architecture and design, SMAC, (Social, mobile, analytics and cloud), PMO, change management and or similar role successfully implementing IDT core operating systems.
- Demonstrated experience in IDT and Research, Development and Grant Industry.
- Minimum 8 years' experience in a similar role(s)
- Proven experience in delivering large scale projects (budgets over \$1 million)
- Proven experience in contract management including management of consultants and subcontractors for projects
- Demonstrated experience in the application of risk management principles
- Exposure to commercial issues and demonstrated commercial acumen
- Proven experience in managing budgets
- Strong analytical skills and the capacity to leverage off external expertise and think strategically, including the ability to provide sound project and issue advice
- Highly developed presentation, interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to influence, motivate and develop others
- Ability to build strong stakeholder networks
- Demonstrated ability to write concise high-level briefs and board papers
- Proven experience coaching, mentoring and developing teams
- Demonstrated commitment to professional development
- Proven ability to work flexibly and adaptively in a complex environment with stakeholders.
- Must comply with all GRDC Policies, Procedures and Code of Conduct.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

- Prepared to travel as and when required.
- Must have a valid Australian Drivers Licence.
- This position requires a Pre-employment Medical
- Australian Citizen

## The Application and Selection Process

### *Applications*

**Closing date: Sunday, 22 March 2026.**

#### Applications:

All applications are to be received by Derwent. To apply, please go to [www.derwentsearch.com.au](http://www.derwentsearch.com.au) and “Search Jobs” where you will find links to submit your application. Your application should include a resume and a cover letter highlighting your suitability.

#### Inquiries:

Please contact Derwent by email [publicsector@derwentsearch.com.au](mailto:publicsector@derwentsearch.com.au) and we will reply with appropriate information and/or arrange a convenient time to speak. You may also contact Joanne Davies, Consultant Derwent on 02 9223 1855.

### *Merit based selection process*

The selection panel will assess applicants against the selection criteria to select a short list of applicants to be invited to attend an interview with the section panel. Candidates may also be invited to attend a pre-screening interview with Derwent to support the panel's decision making.

Candidates may be required to attend additional interviews and or complete additional assessments such as presentation task, or psychometric assessments.

### *Reference Checks*

Candidates at an advanced stage of consideration will be requested to provide at least two referees who may be contacted before an offer is made. Any written references provided will also be checked.

### *Pre-employment verification and background checks*

Before an offer of employment is made the following checks will be undertaken:

- Academic Qualification Check
- Professional Membership Check
- Criminal History Check
- Financial Regulatory Check
- Bankruptcy Check
- Media and public commentary searches.

### *Candidate Care*

We are committed to ensuring that potential applicants and candidates are treated respectfully and fairly. Derwent consultants are available to field inquiries and ensure that applicants are informed about developments as they become available. Candidates who are shortlisted and complete assessments including interviews will be offered a feedback session to discuss their experience and the assessment results.

### *Candidates with a Disability*

Derwent aims to ensure people with disability can access secure and sustainable employment opportunities and are respected for their skills and capabilities. If required, we will provide reasonable adjustments such as access, equipment or other practical support at relevant stages of the recruitment process. You can specify in the application if you have necessary adjustments, or please inform us at any stage, and we can arrange reasonable adjustments on your behalf. If you need to contact us about reasonable adjustments during the recruitment process, please contact [publicsector@derwentsearch.com.au](mailto:publicsector@derwentsearch.com.au)

**Thank you for your interest in Grain Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)**