



## Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities  
Australian Antarctic Division

# AERODROME PLANT OPERATOR – Wilkins Aerodrome

## Overview of the Role

As an Aerodrome Plant Operator at Wilkins you will be directly involved in the construction and maintenance of the Wilkins aerodrome. You will also have a role in the operation of the aerodrome after receiving appropriate training.

The Wilkins site is remote, some three hours by vehicle from Casey Station. You will be a member of a small team (8-12 people) who live at this site through the summer period for up to six months. Living in this environment requires all team members to complete a wide range of additional duties that are essential to maintaining the Wilkins accommodation and facilities. Changeable weather conditions at the site make it difficult for a daily routine to become established. Generally, there are periods of blizzards (high winds), when little of normal aerodrome operations can be undertaken, punctuated with windows of fine weather when most productive work is undertaken. During periods of fine weather, long work days can be expected (up to 12 hours). Night shifts may also be implemented during the operational flying season.

## What will you actually do on the job?

You will:

- operate a variety of machinery in support of runway construction and maintenance including:
  - Cat D7R Dozer
  - Cat 966G/H Loaders
  - Prinoth BR 350 Snow Groomer
  - Hagglunds all-terrain vehicles
  - Overaasen snow blowers
  - Case Quadtrac tractors towing compaction/proof rollers and trailers
- perform operator level preventative maintenance and servicing on plant.
- manually 'de-blizz' plant and machinery after strong winds.
- assist mechanics in conducting repairs and servicing to plant and equipment.
- undertake other construction tasks such as pot hole repairs, assisting the surveyor, etc
- undertake common duties necessary for the operation of the camp such as, refuelling generators, 'de-blizz' camp infrastructure, conduct resupply

activities, participate in search and rescue training/operations, assist in taking weather observations, water production and operate oversnow vehicles between the runway and Casey station.

- undertake duties necessary for the operation of the Aerodrome such as assisting in the following tasks; maintaining runway markers, operate and maintain runway lighting equipment, establishing terminal facilities, assisting with VHF/HF/iridium communication schedules, marshalling and supervising passengers, aircraft loading, handling cargo, aircraft marshalling, and responding to aircraft emergencies.

You will maintain a personal and practical commitment to AAD WHS and Environmental Policies. The safety and environmental roles and responsibilities relevant to your position will be communicated to you prior to deployment to Antarctica.

As well as these specific job roles you will also be required to, in common with all other expeditioners, perform duties outside those listed to support the community life of the expedition, such as general kitchen duties, garbage clearance, water duties etc. This may occur both at the Wilkins site and on Station.

As this role will require you to be involved in a Safety Sensitive Aviation Activities, a condition of employment is that you will be required to participate in drug and alcohol screening of urine and/or saliva samples.

### **Required Skills, Knowledge and Attributes**

You will demonstrate capability in the following:

- Significant experience in the operation of relevant plant.
- Experience in the servicing of plant and equipment.

### **Qualifications**

- You will hold relevant national licenses or CCF endorsements or recognised mine accreditation to operate the plant listed above.
- You will hold a current HR driver's licence valid in Australia.
- You will have a current statement of attainment in the following units of first aid - Apply First Aid (HLTFA301B) and Perform CPR (HLTCPR201A).

### **Personal Qualities Requirements**

As a member of a small community there are also personal attribute requirements which the Australian Antarctic Division assesses very closely. You will need to meet the personal qualities criteria listed below.

To be successful you will:

- demonstrate a strong work ethic.
- demonstrate that you can make a positive contribution to the community and team.

- demonstrate that you respond to authority and are compliant with the law, legislative requirements and AAD policies and procedures.
- demonstrate a commitment to Australian Antarctic program specific requirements.

Due to the working conditions at Wilkins there will be special emphasis on you having:

- a practical nature and a demonstrated ability to assimilate formal and on site training, and
- a high degree of tolerance for your work and living environment and well developed stress coping mechanisms.

### **Medical, Psychological and Security Screening**

If you are assessed as meeting the above job related and personal quality requirements, you will be required to undergo medical, psychological and security screening. Meeting and maintaining suitability in relation to these requirements is mandatory.

- The AAD's Polar Medicine Unit will decide on your medical fitness for duty in Antarctica following tests conducted on our behalf by a nominated medical practitioner. This will include comprehensive drug screening for compliance to undertake Safety Sensitive Aviation Activities (SSAA).
- Psychological assessments are conducted on our behalf by a nominated professional provider.
- A security check in the form of a police records check.