



Portfolio Manager, Agriculture

Location: Sydney, Australia preferred but any of New Forests' Australian locations will be considered (along with Australian regional locations, for the right candidate).

Reporting to: Head of Asset Management, Developed Markets

New Forests (www.newforests.com.au) seeks a qualified candidate for the above role.

This role will be primarily responsible for: management of the AIMCo agriculture special purpose vehicle (SPV) including the Lawson Grains asset and future asset acquisitions (the Fund); Supporting acquisition of potential new agricultural investments into the agriculture SPV fund and other additional agricultural fund investments made by New Forests.

New Forests is an investment management business offering leading edge strategies in forestry, land management, and conservation. We seek to manage sustainable landscapes for production and conservation and to generate shared value for our clients and the communities where we operate. Founded in 2005, we offer institutional investors dedicated investment strategies in Australia-New Zealand, the United States, Southeast Asia and Africa and have more than AUD 6 billion in assets under management. We manage sustainable forestry assets, forest carbon projects, rural land, and timber processing infrastructure. New Forests is headquartered in Sydney with offices in San Francisco, Singapore, New Zealand, Melbourne and Kenya.

Responsibilities:

Fund Management

- Overall performance of the Fund, including financial, environment, social and governance outcomes consistent with Fund constituent documents and New Forests internal processes and systems.
- Co-ordination, management and reporting of all Fund operations, to optimise the performance of the Fund.
- Managing the performance of the Funds property managers.
- Co-ordination and management of Fund and New Forests operational staff, engaged in specific funds or assets. This includes staff development, training and mentoring, performance reviews and determining appropriate resourcing allocation across the fund or asset activities.
- Leading major fund or asset strategic projects, in collaboration with property managers, with a strong focus on landscape sustainability initiatives. Close coordination with other internal functional teams, including: Investments, Investor Services, Finance, Legal, Risk and Compliance and Business Development.

Fund Governance

- Ensuring assets comply with investor constituent documents, internal policies and legal obligations in collaboration with internal and external company secretarial support, and legal risk and compliance staff.

- Management of Fund subsidiary property management company operations and governance, including fulfilling designated fund operating company Directorships in fund owned assets and operating companies.
- Aggregation and dissemination of all Investor and Management Committee quarterly and annual reporting, and presentation to Investor Annual Meetings. including ESG reporting requirements and long-term return forecasts for Funds/Assets.
- Responding to Investor enquiries and providing periodic updates and information to meet Investor requirements.

Fund Operations

- Managing engagement with Fund asset property managers, including performance management and reporting.
- Procurement and supervision of third-party providers including, property managers, auditors, consultants and valuers.
- Driving Fund level ESG performance through strategic initiatives via coordination with the property managers/asset level staff.
- Co-ordinating the Fund capital structuring, including review of loan structuring and taxation, actual expenses against budget, payment approvals where relevant, and review of Fund performance fee calculations.
- Leading compilation of Fund strategic plans, and financial model updates consistent with current internal processes including:
 - Reviewing of all crop, carbon, land, infrastructure and agricultural financial models and model assumptions provided by property managers. Includes provision of guidance to property managers on valuation methodology.
 - Preparation and reviewing Fund Operating Model, to ensure asset level models are imported to the fund level. Develop assumptions for Fund level scenario analysis and testing.
 - Coordinating generation of Fund/Asset carbon stocks – where relevant through third-party property managers.
- Leading coordination of
 - Fund level budget for investor approval, ensuring any significant differences to strategic model are explained and the strategic model updated to represent the budget.
 - Third-party valuations, including data handover, valuation review/feedback, compilation of valuation change analysis for internal and Investor reporting.
 - Relevant tax calculations, for the purpose of calculating annual taxation deductions at fund level.
- Leading the management of Fund insurance coverage, coordinating with asset property managers and other New Forests managed assets where appropriate.
- Evaluating and making recommendations for disposition of Funds and/or assets; working with the Investments team to manage an effective sale process.

Corporate Engagement

- Providing technical and specialist support to the Portfolio Managers of ANZFF, ANZFF2 and ANZFF3 in relation to agriculture asset management and land disposition and land acquisition within those fund mandates.
- Liaising with other New Forests functions which support the Fund, to ensure effective collaboration and task completion including finance, legal, risk and compliance, investor services, investment analytics and investments.
- Where appropriate, supporting fund raising and deployment of other New Forests managed fund vehicles.
- Liaising internally with New Forests ANZ and corporate teams to share operational information and intelligence and contribute to information needs and projects across the business.

- Contributing to corporate strategy, governance, sustainability and responsible investment activities across New Forests business.

We are seeking candidates with the following:

- Minimum of 10 years professional experience in agriculture, preferably in broad acre grains or grazing.
- Bachelor or Masters Degree in Agriculture (or related discipline), or equivalent qualifications and relevant experience.
- Qualifications or knowledge of institutional level corporate governance and responsibilities.
- Experience in agricultural funds management, highly preferential.
- Agricultural investment management or related field experience, and/or previous relevant experience in comparable roles within the agriculture industry.
- Experience in managing agricultural investments, including underlying financial modelling, budgeting and reporting, as well as overseeing field operations.
- Strong commercial skills including project management, negotiation, financial analysis and proven operational oversight of agricultural assets.
- Proven time management and organisational skills. Ability to set deadlines, delegate effectively and ensure timely delivery on client and internal matters.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Proven skills in working within cross functional teams, drawing on resources from the across the business.
- The experience and capability to manage a small team, or a third-party provider, to a high standard.
- A personal commitment to sustainable agriculture, and the role agriculture plays in the natural climate solutions.
- Ability to adapt to change, work in a variety of environments and communicate with different stakeholders, ranging from operational staff within assets, to executive level committees and institutional investors.
- Ability to travel as required.

What can we offer?

Our environment is busy and supportive, and the team is professional but relaxed. If you join us, you would be joining a growing, fast paced business which is an environmental and sustainable leader in forestry investment. You will also be working with professionals who are passionate about their work!

To apply, please provide your resume and cover letter, explaining your interest and qualifications for the position, in PDF format, to careers@newforests.com.au

Phone calls will not be accepted.

New Forests is an Equal Opportunity Employer that values diversity and inclusion. We offer flexible working arrangements to all employees to support their work/life balance. We are also a Certified B Corp.