

ARBORIST



Do you want to work in an exciting and ecofriendly industry that actively encourages women to apply and provides the following opportunities?

- **develop specialized skills**
- **run your own business**
- **advance your career**
- **negotiate flexible hours**
- **advance your education**
- **potential to make a substantial income**
- **portability of qualification**



OVERVIEW OF INDUSTRY

According to Arboriculture Australia, the industry employs over 40,000 workers with a turnover of over one billion dollars annually. However, there is an increased shortage of skilled workers to take up roles across the industry. Many arborist roles require aerial access work and operations of chainsaws – so it is vital the workforce is equipped with technical skills and sector specific safety standards. Arboriculture is vital to the welfare of trees, the ongoing protection of trees and their impact on the environment.

WHAT DOES AN ARBORIST DO

An arborist studies the structure and function of trees. Things like growth, cultivation, reactions to pruning, diseases, pests, nutrition, de-compartmentalization of decay, and all the various aspects of tree surgery. Arborists are also interested in the management and study of individual trees, shrubs, vines, and other woody plants.

Arboriculture is a profession focused on managing trees, typically in and around the places where people live, work and play. An arborist is a dedicated professional who specialises in tree care and has learnt about safe tree work operations through formal education in arboriculture.

An arborist provides services such as pruning, tree removal tree inspection and also includes other treatments such as insect control, fertilization, cabling, aeration, and lightning protection. They can also identify any diseases or parasites, ensure trees have sufficient support, and remove any damaging plants.

An arborist can provide consultations that will help determine when these services are necessary.

“I love working as an arborist because I’m outdoors working with nature to preserve and restore trees and positively contribute to the environment”

For further information or advise contact mae@agrifooditab.com.au



ARBORIST

Selection Criteria:

The role of an arborist can be quite diverse some of the general criteria for this job are -

- Enjoy working outdoors
- Good team player and communicator
- Not afraid of heights
- Physically fit
- Ability to read and write reports
- Drivers licence
- Ability to operate noisy machinery
- Ability to follow instructions and be self-aware

TASKS YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO DO

- Climb trees and use equipment such as EWP or cranes to prune or remove trees
- Operate a range of hand tools as well as a chainsaw
- Complete risk assessments and follow WHS instructions
- Prune young trees to ensure they grow into sound, well-structured mature trees.
- Protect and preserve trees on construction and development projects.
- Select and plant appropriate trees to suit location.
- Identify, diagnose and treat pests and diseases.
- Assess and manage tree risks to self and others

Training Requirements and Pathways

Entry level/traineeship qualification: AHC20520- Certificate II in Arboriculture

TRAINEE qualification: AHC30820- Certificate III in Arboriculture

You may also need to obtain a construction induction card (white card) prior to commencing work.

Traineeships generally take between twelve to twenty-four months to complete. Due to the high risks associated with this occupation some units of competence may require additional time on the job to be deemed competent.

Licence

Tree Contractors Association of Australia & Arboriculture Australia recently launched the Australian Arborist Industry Licence in recognition of qualified arborist professionals. The new arborist licence allows employers to quickly confirm that an arborist is qualified to perform tree work, and, in the future, professional tree workers will be required to present this licence.

Income/opportunities/outlook

According to the Australian Government Job Outlook, the number of people working in this profession has grown strongly in recent years. Arborists may find work across all regions of Australia. The arboriculture industry has a huge diversity of careers and opportunities to choose from. It's a growing industry with a national skills shortage so many employers are looking for staff.

Current wages

In Australia, a full time Arborist generally earns \$1,350 per week before tax. This is a median figure for full-time employees and should be considered a guide only (\$80,200 - \$100,000 annual salary currently being advertised). As you gain more experience or become a specialist you can expect a potentially higher salary than people who are new to the industry. Arborists in Australia may earn \$61,369 per year (or \$26.74 per hour) as per Payscale Australia.

An entry-level Arborist with less than 1-year experience can expect to earn an average total compensation of AU\$23.44/hour.

An early career Arborist (1-4 years of experience) earns an average total compensation of AU\$25.08/hour while mid-career Arborist (10-19 years of experience) earns an average total compensation of AU\$29.79.

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