

A Day in the Life of Environmental Consultant



Name: **Joel**

Degree: **Bachelor of Science (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology)**

Years at JBS&G: **5**

Why I Chose JBS&G

Variety of project work, time split between office and field based work. Opportunity to work with experienced industry leading Principal Scientists.

What My Week Typically Looks Like

My typical week is now predominantly office based. Early in my career at JBS&G I spent plenty of time in the field on sites of plenty of different kinds. Now I am predominantly office based in a team lead role. This role means approximately 20-40% of my time in a given week is dedicated to team resourcing and development.

I spend approximately 50% of my time writing reports for both my own projects and as assistance for senior members of the team on their projects.

The remainder of my time is dedicated to data analysis and governance, managing JBS&G's environmental data and the systems with which we store and collate it.

Example Day Snapshot

- 8:30am** Check emails and team calendar. Check in with team about what they are doing / daily priorities
- 9:30am** Project work, usually involving data management and analysis for future report writing, or continuation of existing report writing
- 10:30am** Client meeting. Sometimes on site, sometimes held online, involves project updates and discussion, opportunities for ideas and future project planning
- 11:30am** Internal discussions around client meetings, actioning of any details discussed during the meeting
- 1:00pm** Continuation of project work including reporting and data management / analysis
- 3:00pm** Briefing with field staff regarding site works occurring the next day
- 3:30pm** Continuation of project work including reporting and data management / analysis
- 5:00pm** General check in with team members about workload and upcoming priorities for the rest of the week

The Types of Projects I Work On

New Women's and Children's Hospital Development

- Coordination of large scale site investigation and waste soil classification
- Responding to unexpected finds and providing advice regarding site remediation options
- Client interaction and management across multiple facets of contaminated land

Department of Defence

- Data management for large scale PFAS investigations that impact multiple different stakeholder types
- Complex soil and groundwater sampling programs that require strategic planning
- Producing reports that can be relied upon by Regulators and Government

What Surprised Me Most

Very early on in my career I learned a lot more different skills than I expected. The sheer range of skills required is very broad but also very translatable. I was surprised just how many different types of projects I would work on and how many different ways I could use what I learned across multiple disciplines.

How I'm Developing

Over my time at JBS&G I have learned all of (but not limited to) the following:

- Data management using programs such as ESdat and ProUCL
- Multiple sampling techniques for soil, groundwater and soil vapour
- Writing multiple different types of reports for different client audiences.

As part of my training, I've obtained certificates and licences in (but not limited to):

- Radiation management and operation of radiation apparatuses
- Working on service station sites.

What Makes This Role Rewarding

One of the biggest drawcards about working at JBS&G is team culture. The Adelaide office includes a tight-knit group of young people as well as an amazing group of senior staff who are genuinely interested in passing on their knowledge to the next generation of professionals.

Another big plus is the variety of work. Each week is so varied and can include working on multiple sites and / or with multiple clients on multiple different types of projects with different members of the team and broader office.

Advice for Future Graduates

The thing that helped me the most when I started was being encouraged to get involved in as much office and team culture as I could. Participate in whatever activities are thrown your way and don't be afraid to ask any questions. After nearly five years I'm still yet to ask a stupid question, even when I've convinced myself I'm about to ask one.

Scan to stay connected for future opportunities

