A Day in the Life of
Environmental Consultant

JBS&G
A Geosyntec Company

Name: **Jack**

Degree: **Bachelor of Advanced Science (Chemistry)**

Years at JBS&G: **5**

Why I Chose JBS&G

I chose JBS&G based on recommendations from people within the industry, and the size of the company. JBS&G is large enough to undertake large, complex and interesting projects, yet small enough for you to feel known and supported

What My Week Typically Looks Like

My week is split between project management in the office and field works which can occur within the city, remote, or interstate. At my current career level, I oversee a variety of medium-scale projects, while supporting more complex efforts as part of a wider team.

My field work responsibilities have shifted to supporting logistically and technically complex field programs where my experience in mine compliance, radiation assessment, and site management can best be utilised.

Example Day Snapshot

8:30am Arrive at office, check in with team and emails which have come in. Call field team who are working on my project to ensure the days scope is clear

9:00am Work on reporting for projects including site management plans, annual compliance reports, and review of laboratory results

11:00am Technical review of proposal with a Principal Environmental Consultant to ensure the proposed approach is technically and commercially robust

1:00pm Meet with clients to coordinate logistics for an upcoming field program to a remote mine site. Plan out safety requirements, personnel, logistics, and management of samples based at a remote location in outback SA

2:00pm Site inspection of a former industrial facility near Adelaide, recording current chemical storage, potential sources or evidence of contamination, and interviews with long term employees to inform a Preliminary Site Investigation

5:00pm Check in with field team, confirm the day went smoothly and that the program is on track. Provide email summary to client to keep them informed. Leave office to head home

The Types of Projects I Work On

- I manage the assessment and remedial works on a former manufacturing facility which is under development for residential land use, including assessments of soils, groundwater, hazardous materials, and soil vapour. My responsibilities include field resource management, environmental reporting, and communications with both the client and environmental auditor for the site.
- I project managed and implemented groundwater monitoring works at a former industrial site in Darwin. These works involved the expansion of the existing monitoring well network to better assess plume movement and behaviour, as well as annual sampling and reporting of groundwater quality results for the site and adjacent areas.
- I am responsible for an environmental compliance program for a major regional port, assessing surface water, marine sediment, and terrestrial soils across the operational area. In addition to the above, the scope of compliance reporting included bioavailability assessments and monitoring of radiation within dust and gamma surveys.

What Surprised Me Most

The range of career directions that can be followed within this industry is extremely broad, with many opportunities to follow what interests you, whether it be complex project implementations, or becoming a remediation specialist or technical expert in many specialised fields.

How I'm Developing

I am developing through being given opportunities to take on interesting and complex projects, with the support of a team of expert principals and highly experienced experts who are happy to take the time to foster my growth and field my constant questions.

A range of internal and external training is offered, and I am encouraged to take these whenever possible. I have been given the opportunity to work in most states across Australia, getting exposure to different environments, industries and approaches.

What Makes This Role Rewarding

This role is rewarding for me because there are clear goals to be achieved for our clients, and each project requires a site specific approach to achieve the project targets on budget, on time, and in a technically sound manner. This problem-solving approach allows me to gives room to outside the box and come up with pragmatic and effective solutions to achieve tangible outcomes for human health and the environment.

Advice for Future Graduates

When working here, a sense of curiosity and desire to understand the situation is invaluable to growing and developing. In addition, ability to solve problems quickly and adapt to changing environments with a good attention to detail will help you throughout your entire career.

Scan to stay connected for future opportunities