



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

CAREER SNAPSHOT

Like most of her friends, Laura lives in the city, waking up each day in a one-bedroom apartment which she currently shares with her cat and her partner, before heading the 3km up the road to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources main office in Canberra's CBD. Unlike most romantic notions of working in agriculture Laura's day is not spent checking cattle, dams and fence lines. It's very similar to most office workers in cities. An average day is never consistent in the office with time spent drafting letters, preparing briefs, examining policy, managing grant recipients and liaising with external stakeholders.

Laura's career in policy plays a pivotal role for farmers and the community as policy acts as a blueprint for trade negotiations between Australian and other nations. It also sets the standards for environmental stewardship, animal wellbeing and the safety of food from padlock to plate. Good policy means we can effectively regulate and ensure the integrity of Australian agriculture and consumers can be confident their families are getting premium food that is nutritious and affordable.

In many ways Laura states "I enjoy what I do, sometimes I do feel isolated from the practical picture of food and fibre production, but I know what happens in the office is important to keep the clogs turning in all aspects of agriculture. I knew early on I was never going to contribute by standing in a paddock or working with animals, but I never let that stop me for caring passionately about agriculture, or my desire to study agricultural science. I'm lucky that I get to do what I love day in and day out."

This is Laura's career in agriculture. What will yours be?



LAURA PHELPS

LAURA IS A PROJECT
MANAGER WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND WATER
RESOURCES MAIN OFFICE
IN CANBERRA.

