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## **Kellie Agar and Matt Cavana – Remote area data capture and PDA Trial**

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### **The introduction of Pocket Personal Computers (Pocket PCs)**

- Kellie Agar and Matt Cavana advised that capital funding has recently been received to purchase new Pocket PCs.
- The new Pocket PCs have since arrived and have been distributed with one to almost every CALM district (in some cases however, there is one between a few districts such as in the Wheatbelt Region).
- A VISTAT Workshop during 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November 2003 allowed the Research and Information Management Unit the opportunity to distribute the Pocket PCs to staff and at the same time educate staff on their use and advantages in relation to collecting VISTAT data. The rest of the Pocket PCs were to be handed out during this PVS Workshop for any staff who were unable to attend the VISTAT workshop.
- The Pocket PCs are beneficial as they allow staff the ability to unload data (for example, from vehicle counters) directly onto the PCs whilst out in the field, which will save staff time and costs. Furthermore, the use of both Pocket PC's and GPS with Arcpad software will allow more accurate RecData to be collected with spatial information. All the benefits of Arcview can then apply to RecData. The data can then later be downloaded onto computers within the workplace, which will again save time and staff resources and also allows staff to gather more information during one field trip with only one or two pieces of machinery. A workshop on the use of the Pocket PCs with RecData is proposed later this year.

### **Where to from here.....**

In addition to updating the VISTAT database. The next step is to streamline RecData. This will involve recording and updating information on all the major fixed assets located on CALM managed lands and economizing on the amount of data to be collected. Streamlining the RecData will produce two major outcomes for the PVS Division:

1. the data and related information will assist greatly in developing maintenance work programmes for Districts; and
2. the data will assist in providing an important link to Visitor Risk Management.