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Encouraging scientists from interstate or overseas to work in Western Australia

'Government and cooperation are in all things the laws of life; anarchy and competition, the laws of death' (John Ruskin, 1819-1900).

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is keen to encourage scientists in Science Division to develop good working relationships with scientists elsewhere in Australia and overseas. Sometimes scientists working in similar fields to DEC scientists may be able to visit Western Australia on study leave.

DEC can benefit considerably from having scientists visit us to work on conservation and environmental management topics. Given our resource limitations there are always many more research topics that need addressing than we are able to fund ourselves. Additionally, interaction with scientists from other institutions and countries can often lead to advances in research that is already underway. Therefore, Science Division would like to attract Visiting Scientists at *minimum* cost to work co-operatively in any Research Centre.

Clearly, the Division is not in a position to provide air fares or large amounts of support money for Visiting Scientists. It can, however, offer the following:

- a stimulating environment in which Visiting Scientists can interact with the Division's

scientists, other DEC staff, relevant CSIRO scientists and academics at the tertiary institutions;

- provision of basic research facilities, including a desk and/or laboratory space and access to computers, photocopiers, telephones, the library, etc.;
- opportunity to accompany DEC's scientists on field work.

Longer term voluntary work by Visiting Scientists is also a possibility. In such cases DEC may be able to offer accommodation in a country town, use of a vehicle and, perhaps, a research grant.

You should discuss any proposal with your Project Leader, Research Centre Manager and Program Leader prior to issuing a firm invitation. You should bear in mind that costs will have to be borne by the relevant Research Centre and Science Program and provision needs to be made for these. Program Leaders should then seek the approval of the Director before the visiting scientist is formally invited. The Director may consult with the Director General.

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