

### FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENTS

The two pieces of legislation amending the Fisheries Act, 1905-1964, came into force on January 1, 1965. The amendments provide for increased penalties for breaches under the Act in respect to crayfishing for certain other matters. The Fisheries Act Amendment Act (No. 2), 1965, provides for the licensing of fish processors and the establishment of a fund to finance fisheries research, development and extension in this State.

Copies of the amendments will be distributed as soon as they are received from the Government Printer.

### WATERFOWL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Superintendent of Game Management Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Victoria (Mr. M. C. Downes) visited Western Australia between December 6 and 18.

Mr. Downes' visit was arranged through the good offices of Mr. A. Dunbavin Butcher, the Director of that Department, to advise on waterfowl and habitat conservation measures as well as on future research.

Mr. Downes has considerable experience in wildlife management, particularly in waterfowl conservation and management. The advice he has provided will prove invaluable to this Department in relation to the proposed introduction of a duck shooter's license in this State, which Cabinet has agreed to consider this year. In Victoria a license has been in force for some years and last year £42,000 was received in license fees at £1 per shooter. Practically the whole of the revenue received, together with other monies made available by the Victorian Government, is spent on conservation measures. These include the purchase of swamps and other suitable habitat to provide suitable and sufficient breeding grounds for waterfowl.

Over the years waterfowl sanctuaries and breeding grounds were seriously depleted in Victoria, as they have been in other States, by the drainage of swamps and destruction of habitat for agricultural development and other purposes.

Mr. Downes visited most of the important coastal lakes and swamps during his visit. Aerial observations were made north as far as Morawa and south as far as Busselton, as well as inland a little to take in the Arthur River system.

He also inspected the lakes at Rottnest Island. Several discussions were held with departmental officers and also with duck shooters, members of the Perth Gun Club and with Museum personnel. During the morning of December 17 he attended a meeting of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. He returned to Melbourne on the following day.