

MEDIA RELEASE

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Honoured scientist for Albany post

Honoured Australian plant conservation biologist Professor Stephen Hopper AC is headed for Albany to take up a new position at the University of Western Australia Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management (CENRM).

Professor Hopper was made a Companion in the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of his contribution as a global leader in science, particularly in the field of conservation of endangered species and ecosystems.

He is the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England, but last year he announced his intention to step down from the position he has held since October 2006 to take up a newly-created Chair in Biodiversity at the University of Western Australia, based at CENRM in Albany.

The Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and the Jack Family Trust each contributed \$48,000 over three years to support the position, ensuring much of Professor Hopper's time will be spent on CENRM-related activity on the South Coast.

CENRM Director Professor Peter Davies said Professor Hopper's appointment to the new Chair in Biodiversity was important for the continued development of the centre.

"Science conducted through CENRM is already contributing to our understanding of regional, national and international issues, particularly in relation to water resource management," Professor Davies said.

"Professor Hopper's plant conservation expertise will broaden the research base and add a new dimension of strength to CENRM's research and teaching.

"Colleagues and students at UWA and beyond will benefit from this appointment and CENRM's stature as a research centre will continue to grow," Professor Davies said.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said CENRM was fortunate to attract a scientist of Professor Hopper's calibre.



Building partnerships for regional prosperity

“Professor Hopper has international standing and a strong research record,” Mr Manning said.

“He is a major contributor to our understanding of biodiversity and conservation in the south-west of Western Australia.

“Professor Hopper will build links between CENRM and Kew Gardens, and will be involved in research related to biodiversity in Western Australia,” Mr Manning said.

Professor Hopper is a Fellow of the Linnean Society and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

He graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1973, has served as Director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and was the Foundation Professor of Plant Conservation Biology at UWA from 2004 to 2006.

Professor Hopper is the author or co-author of more than 250 scientific publications, and 14 books and monographs.

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