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*Dr David A. Morrison*  
*Executive Committee*  
*Society of Australian Systematic Biologists*

25th February 1997

Dear Dr Morrison

Thank you for your letter of 18 December 1996, on behalf of the Society of Australian Systematic Biologists, concerning funding levels for the Australian Biological Resources Study.

I appreciate your concern for the future of the Australian Biological Resources Study and its publications, including *Algae of Australia*, and for taxonomic research generally. Let me assure you that I am conscious of the importance of taxonomy in providing information that is basic to the management of biological diversity and that I recognise the important role played by the Australian Biological Resources Study in this respect.

As you would be aware, the Government has been obliged to make significant Budget cuts in order to turn around the unsatisfactory financial situation which we inherited. This has required all departments and agencies, including Environment Australia, to make substantial reductions to their expenditure. The reduced funding to the Australian Biological Resources Study reflects this requirement.

I have met with the members of the Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee to discuss possible future directions for the program and the Committee has subsequently provided me with a report and recommendations. I will take account of those recommendations when considering future Budget allocations.

Yours sincerely

Robert Hill  
Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Minister for the Environment  
Parliament House  
Canberra. ACT. 2600.