



China trip a key to rainforest research

A TRIP to China will allow Warnbro man Peter Machen to conduct critical research that will help preserve Australian rainforests.

Mr Machen is one of three WA Alcoa employees chosen for the expedition, which will investigate how rainforests are responding to climate change.

The project is part of the Alcoa Foundation's partnership with the Earthwatch Institute.

Mr Machen, who works at the Wagerup refinery, will travel to the Gutianshan National Nature Reserve in Zhejiang Province, China.

"As a chemist, I'm fortunate to be in a position that I have a pretty good understanding of the science and maths behind the analysis of climate change," he said.

"I hope this opportunity will give me the chance to see how people in other parts of the world devote their time to care for the environment and promote sustainability.

"The ability to delay instant gratification is often said to be a sign of emotional and social maturity.

"I think sustainability can be a bit like that.

"It's about what needs to be forgone now so that our resources endure for longer."

While Mr Machen believes the biggest challenge will be being fit enough to trek in jungle humidity, he's looking forward to what he'll be able to bring home.

"I think this experience will help me develop thought-provoking discussion for the CSIRO Science in Schools program, which I'm a part of in my spare time at Pinjarra High School," he said.

"And hopefully, I'll gain some first-hand information with an international grass-roots perspective for climate change and sustainability policy within Alcoa."

Mr Machen will leave on August 21 for the six-day expedition.



Warnbro man Peter Machen is one of three WA Alcoa employees to embark on a research trip to China.