

Setting up Photopoints

Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Purpose

Photopoints are a quick and easy way to show changes in your property over time. They are a great way to demonstrate the effort you have put into improving your property. Photopoints can give us a lot of satisfaction when we are looking back and comparing what an area looked like beforehand.

The Bucks For Bush program used photopoints to show how seedlings grow into large trees over many years. However, you can use them for many other reasons, i.e. changes from annual to perennial pasture or weed control in bushland or paddocks.

Setting up

To be effective, photopoints must be taken from the same spot each time. Similarly, the camera must be aimed at the same point each time. It is difficult to compare photos if these two rules are not followed, especially when revegetation is young.

How to do this

Identify and mark where each photo will be taken from; paint or tag a prominent fence post or paddock tree. Mark where you will aim the camera; put in a star dropper or use something obvious.

Avoid having seedlings close to the camera, they will grow and block the view. Put one photopoint 50m to 100m from your revegetation. As trees grow they will stay in frame.



Sitting your camera on a post and using the widest lens setting ensures a consistent image

Taking the photo

Most people will use a digital camera or their phone to take the photograph. Consistency is the key. Cameras with zoom lenses must use the same focal length for each photo. It is easiest to use the widest setting on the lens. SLR cameras should use a focal length between 35mm and 50mm.

Take the photos when the sun is behind you. Sunny days give brighter photos.

Write down what is in each photo and the day you took it. Include the types of seedlings and weeds in each photo.

Using an identifying marker to centre your aim





Beware planting tall trees in front! They will block the image in years to come

Downloading photos

When downloading the photos, name and file them in a manner that will keep them in chronological order and easier to find.

One way to name the files is by year/month/day/site, e.g. 2016 07 01 paddock 02.jpg.

Over time you will produce an amazing log of the progress of your site. But you have to start now!

How often should photos be taken?

Generally once or twice a year will show sufficient changes in revegetation sites. Try to take your photos at the same time of year to help with seasonal comparisons. If a major event such as a fire or flood occurs, this is also a good time to capture the site.

Acknowledgements

The content of this publication has been funded by the Australian Government and has been reproduced by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board with support from Mister Tucker's business, Ralph Scheel, Eucaleuca Native Services and from text reference "Planning Revegetation on Farms in the South East", Copyright 2010.

Disclaimer

Although reasonable care has been taken in preparing the information presented in this publication, neither the Limestone Coast Landscape Board nor the other contributing authors accept any responsibility or liability for any losses of whatever kind arising from the interpretation or use of the information set out in this document. Where products and/or their tradenames are mentioned, no endorsement of these products is intended, nor is any criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

202105 | Setting Up Photopoints | Reissued Feb 2021

Summary

1. Identify and mark a permanent place to take the photo
A prominent fence post (paint or mark it) or tree
2. Identify a prominent target to aim the camera at
Put a target star dropper inside the fence line
3. Sit the camera on your permanent marker (fence post)
4. Aim the camera at your target and take the photo
5. Download photos and rename files

More information

Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Mount Gambier Office

11 Helen Street
Mount Gambier SA 5290
Phone: 08 8735 1177

Keith Office

61 Anzac Terrace
Keith SA 5267
Phone: 08 8755 1620