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.

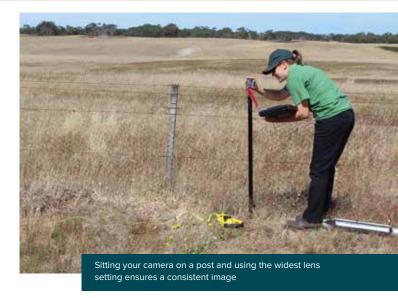
Setting up

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.



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.





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 reveg 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.

Summary

- 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

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