

How often should I take photos?

The frequency will depend on the management action and change you want to monitor. Some will be seen in the short-term, others are longer-term, for example:

Short term: 'before' and 'after' of spraying weeds.

Medium term: every six to twelve months where there is rapid change, e.g. recovery after a fire.

Long term: every few years where changes are slow, e.g. groundcover recovery following grazing changes.

Types of photopoints

Spot photos - used to record groundcover. They are taken from head height looking downwards almost vertically onto a square metre of ground. A simple one square metre frame may be made using electrical conduit with 90° elbows.



Fig 1: a one metre quadrat for groundcover monitoring. Note the flagged peg for future reference

'Trayback' photos – used to record sites with tall groundcover or shrubby bushland. They are taken from the back of a ute tray or anything else that provides similar elevation, e.g. stepladder.



Fig 2: Monitoring in shrubby bushland using a stepladder and permanent posts

Landscape photos – used to record changes over a broad area. They should include a fixed landmark feature e.g. a specific tree, fence post, rock outcrop, mountain range - with which to align future photos.

How to take better photos

- choose locations that capture the feature being monitored and are representative of the site
- anticipate future plant growth that may obscure the view
- bright, cloudy days are usually best for photos, to reduce shadowing
- take a copy of previous photos with you to align the new photos accurately
- avoid using a wide-angle or telephoto lens.

For more detailed instructions:

NRM South (Tasmania) [Photopoint Monitoring Guide](#)

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