

Appendix 2:

Establishing RAM photo monitoring points



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What is a photo monitoring? point (PMP)?

PMPs are permanently located using GPS points for photographing the same view over time. PMP photos provide a permanent visual record of a site(s) and are an important tool to evaluate management objectives.

Figure 8. LLS officer taking regular PMP



Why have PMPs?

Establishing a PMP that is well located and is regularly monitored (annually or as determined by the Monitoring and Audit Strategy for your region) coupled with RAM vegetation condition assessments (Part C) over many years on a site is a simple and efficient way to illustrate a distinct feature that you want to monitor such as:

- Tree or shrub regeneration
- Revegetation such as direct seeding or where tree planting has occurred
- Active weed control
- Rabbit harbour destruction
- Areas of erosion.

This enables the land manager to review existing management periodically and adjust management where required to meet the site objectives. See comparison PMP sites illustrated in Figures 9 and 10.

Where to locate PMPs?

Good PMPs provide:

- Easily recognisable locations with minimal access issues (Proximity to a road or track will aid efficiency for future monitoring).
- Photo views to illustrate a distinct feature that you want to monitor, e.g. a boundary between grazed and un-grazed vegetation, an area subject to weed control, or the growth of revegetation or plants regenerating.
- A permanent distinguishable feature in the photo view to assist in photo comparison.

Try and avoid east-west PMPs because at certain times of year the rising or setting sun can obscure your photo views.

How to establish PMPs?

Steps to establish PMPs:

1. Determine desired view to illustrate the distinct feature selected e.g. location and direction.
2. Record GPS location via data collection tool and view direction (often automatic depending on the photo software).
3. Establish permanent physical point for easy identification in future (e.g. steel dropper(s)).

Figure 9. Cox's TSR 2013



Figure 10. Cox's TSR 2016

