

# Biological image donations



*Photopoint post-wildfire and during regeneration of the native plant community, Cleland CP; 8/3/1983 & 18/11/1987.*

Photographs of landscapes, species or events in South Australia taken by researchers or members of the public may represent irreplaceable records of considerable scientific and/or historical interest. Catalogued, permanent storage of such images in institutional repositories maximises their potential value. Older collections would need to be converted from film or paper copies to digital format for long term storage of images. This factsheet advises under what circumstances the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) would be the most suitable organisation to accept collections of images and outlines other institutions' responsibilities. Important considerations are the subject matter, documentation, quality and format.

## Contributing images to DEW

Images from the public of South Australian subjects may be suitable for the DEW Biological Data Image collection if scientific criteria are met. Generally, only digital images with metadata (information about the image) can be accepted. It is recognised that the older the photo, the more likely it is to be unique, therefore certain hard copy images with adequate metadata may be considered.

Subjects of potential interest:

- Native plant or animal species with known scientific or unique common name
- High priority subjects such as threatened and extinct species or cleared landscapes
- Landscape/habitat or other point of interest captured at a known point in time
- Photopoints that have been documented so as to be repeatable
- Species behaviour/life stages/interactions
- Environmental disturbances
- Survey/monitoring or management methods or activities

The information required for each image is:

- Detailed location – preferably geographic coordinates, or a detailed location description, (e.g. distance and direction from a named place) – and location reliability
- Date and estimated date accuracy
- Description of subject or caption
- Source of image or context
- Author/photographer of image and its details
- Unique image name or number

Format of images that may be accepted:

- Tiff or Jpeg

Resolution:

- 180dpi or higher

The information should be entered in the Donated Images template which can be obtained from [DEWBioDataSupport@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWBioDataSupport@sa.gov.au).

## Alternative options for image storage

Other institutions may accept donations of image collections. The online South Australian Government Data Directory ([Data.SA](#)) lists image datasets managed and published by state institutions (such as the State Library of SA) and provides contact details. Enter search item: Image. Review the subject matter of these datasets to decide whether your images may be relevant.

Images that are aligned with specific themes, locations or taxonomic entities and are already in digital format may be relevant to other personal or organisational online image datasets. Local history or heritage groups, [Friends of Parks](#) groups or conservation groups may be interested in images that document an area, time period or theme.

If you are unsure whether your images are of interest to DEW, send an email to [DEWBioDataSupport@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWBioDataSupport@sa.gov.au)

### More information

Department for Environment and Water Website:  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au/Science/Information\\_data/  
Biological\\_databases\\_of\\_South\\_Australia](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Science/Information_data/Biological_databases_of_South_Australia)

Email: [DEWBioDataSupport@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWBioDataSupport@sa.gov.au)