QER Experiment

Rehabilitation of an oil shale mine

The four photographs on the following pages were taken at the QER oil shale mine at Yarwun near Gladstone, while standing in the same position on a 4WD track on the same day. Two of the photos are of one side of the track: untouched, native bushland. The other two are of the other side of the track, an exploratory shale oil site, cleared in the 1980s and rehabilitated twenty years ago. Rehabilitation is the process of restoring a disturbed site to its original state by re-establishing native plants.

Analyse these four pictures closely.

First determine the two pairs of pictures that belong together.

Then work out which pair is of the native bushland and which pair is of the rehabilitated site.

Give as many reasons as you can for your choices.

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