

Crown Land and Fossils

Collecting Fossils

Fossils cannot be collected on Crown land (this includes leasehold land) without lawful authority (subject to terms of the lease).

Fossils cannot be collected in a National Park (including reserves, wilderness protection areas other areas that have been declared as reserves for the preservation of fossils) without the permission of the relevant authority. This is pursuant to Section 30 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2016* and Section 24 of the *Wilderness Protection Regulations 2016*.

Fossils may be [Heritage](#) listed - *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (National Heritage list) and *Heritage Places Act 1993* (State).

Controls also exist over fossils being exported from Australia – *Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage Act 1986*.

Fossils cannot be collected from private land unless permission has been granted by the owner of the land.

On other public land such as road reserves and council owned land, permission of the relevant authority should be obtained before removal of any fossil material.

Collection on mining leases, including surface collecting on opal mining claims can only be carried out with the permission of the owner of the lease or claim.

Crown Land consent to take fossils

Consent can be considered where the collection of fossils is for research purposes.

Scientific research permits relating to fossils may be issued to appropriate bodies undertaking research and monitoring in DEW's reserves, wilderness protected areas and Crown land.

Scientific research permits for fossils are available on the DEW website:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/plants-and-animals/permits-and-licences/scientific-research-permits>

For more information

For enquiries, please contact the Department of Environment and Water:

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