



## Christmas Island National Park

### FERAL CAT ERADICATION

*This project involves practical action to improve the long-term viability of Christmas Island's native biodiversity, including recovery of 10 listed threatened species, through eradication of stray and feral cats.*

### Year 2 update (6-year project)

#### OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

- The first island-wide deployment of Eradicat® feral cat baits was completed, with over 16,000 baits deployed through the forest during June and October 2015. At the same time a baiting and trapping program was carried out by WA Department of Parks and Wildlife on roads, tracks and in the township.
- A second season of forest baiting undertaken during 2016 concentrated on targeted areas of the island and also incorporated shooting and trapping to capture feral cats wary of baits. However, as the unseasonably wet conditions resulted in the baits rapidly decaying, the forest baiting component had to be ceased early.
- The program to de-sex and register cats in town is complete, and domestic pet cats are no longer breeding. No further cats are allowed onto the island as pets. Ongoing management of stray cats around the township has resulted in the removal of 600 stray cats to date.
- Park staff are currently trialing novel elevated trapping platforms for cage traps around the town perimeter. Initial results are promising and this trial will be expanded to include the forest track network.
- High density motion sensor camera monitoring arrays have been established across the island. These will provide cat incidence and occupancy data that can be compared over time.
- Researchers from the National Environmental Science Program's Threatened Species Hub will be monitoring biodiversity responses to feral cat removal and developing strategies to support the eradication of cats from the island.



A feral cat on Christmas Island  
(photo by Neil Hamilton).