



## 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 1 update (6-year project)

#### OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

- Two pre-bait activity monitoring surveys were undertaken in early 2015 to gauge the effectiveness of island-wide cat control, using eighty motion sensor cameras and spotlighting along road and track networks. Post-bait monitoring will be undertaken annually to track trends in relative abundance of cats.
- The first island-wide deployment of Eradicat<sup>®</sup> feral cat baits was completed. Over 16,000 baits were deployed through the forest during the dry season between June and October 2015. The baiting was undertaken simultaneously with the biennial island-wide survey of crazy ants and red crabs. Five percent of these baits were monitored for uptake with 12 per cent of these baits considered likely to have been taken by individual cats.
- The WA Department of Parks and Wildlife baited all roads and tracks on the island. They also trapped stray cats around the township, and undertook the annual domestic cat survey.
- Results from the National Environmental Research Program (NERP) University of Queensland project investigating interaction between feral cats and their prey show that some rat control is warranted, with the outcome of cat eradication to benefit from robust rat control.
- More camera trap monitoring is planned for January to March 2016 and spotlighting will also be repeated in April. Post-baiting results and pre-baiting surveys will then be compared.
- Shooting, trapping and other techniques will take place over 2016 to capture feral cats wary of baits.



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