



## Kakadu National Park

### TARGETING THREATS FROM FIRE, WEEDS AND FERAL ANIMALS

*This project takes action to improve the conservation of Kakadu's threatened species through intensive fire management with associated weed and feral animal control.*

### Year 2 update (3-year project)

#### OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

- Fire management plans for each of the three project sites have been implemented. Controlled burning was completed for the 2016 dry season, focusing on strategic fire breaks in and around the sites, to prevent unplanned wildfires from entering or spreading and to retain fuel. Burning was undertaken by helicopter as well as ground burning with Traditional Owners. Wet season burning then commenced in December 2016, to reduce speargrass dominance and create a patch mosaic.
- Fauna monitoring using remote cameras is being undertaken by our partners, the Northern Territory Government Department of Land and Resource Management, with funding provided by the National Environmental Science Programme (NESP) Northern Australia Environmental Resources and Threatened Species Recovery Hubs.
- An aerial baseline survey of feral pigs, buffalo, cattle, horses and donkeys was undertaken to gather data on feral numbers, followed by aerial culling in December 2016, with a total of 255 animals removed from the project sites.
- Feral animal specialist, James Speed, from Biosecurity Queensland visited the park to advise on feral cat management strategies. Soft jaw leg hold traps set in elevated pits with scent lures have been selected as the most appropriate method of control for the Kakadu environment. Trials are underway without the leg hold traps to ensure the elevated pits pose minimal risk to native wildlife. If successful, the traps will be added to the pits and the results will be closely monitored.



Fire management in Kakadu National Park