Flora and Vegetation Assessment Acker Quarry (MCI 70/2), Christmas Island

Prepared for: Acker Pty Ltd

Prepared by: Christmas Island Environmental Services

Date: July 2025



Flora and Vegetation Assessment: Acker Quarry (MCI 70/2)

June 2025 Survey Report

Executive Summary

In June 2025, a flora and vegetation survey was conducted by Christmas Island Environmental Services within Mining Lease MCI 70/2, Christmas Island. This survey was undertaken to support an application for a clearing permit under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA) (CI) for future quarry expansion by Acker Pty Ltd. The survey identified a total of 36 flora species, of which 21 were native (including two endemics: Arenga listeri and Grewia insularis) and 15 were introduced weed species. Estimates of foliage cover indicated that weed species dominated seven of the ten waypoints. Only three sites were assessed as being in Good condition, with the remainder classified as Completely Degraded.





1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Purpose

Acker Pty Ltd commissioned a Level 1 flora and vegetation survey within MCI 70/2 to inform clearing permit requirements for quarry expansion. The quarry site is located on Christmas Island's eastern terrace near the existing limestone extraction area. The 2025 survey builds upon previous assessments, updating vegetation conditions following intense seasonal rainfall and localised weed proliferation.

2. Existing Environment

2.1 Location and Land Use

The survey area lies within Lot 3039 on Christmas Island, adjacent to active industrial operations and infrastructure depots. Land use is primarily industrial with historical clearing and stockpiling.

2.2 Climate

The island has a tropical monsoonal climate with distinct wet (Dec–Apr) and dry (May–Nov) seasons. Early 2025 conditions were unusually wet, with lingering soil moisture contributing to increased weed growth.

2.3 Geological and Physiographic Context

2.3.1 Geology and Soils

The area is underlain by limestone terraces with phosphate-rich soils and exposed pinnacles. Soil profiles are shallow, and red crabs influence organic turnover.

2.3.2 Landforms and Topography

Surveyed waypoints ranged from relatively flat terrace land to moderate slopes (5–10%).

2.3.3 Hydrogeology and Hydrology

Surface runoff is rare. Infiltration dominates due to the karstic limestone substrate.



2.4 Vegetation

Vegetation classification was informed by site inspection and cross-referenced with the GeoScience Australia (2014) Christmas Island Vegetation Map. Only two vegetation types were identified across the survey area:

- Semi-deciduous scrub native regrowth vegetation with a mixture of native and occasional weed species. Found in less disturbed sections of the lease.
- Weedy vegetation and pioneer regrowth heavily disturbed areas dominated by invasive plant species and early successional vegetation.

2.5 Flora

EPBC Act-listed flora known to occur on Christmas Island include Asplenium listeri, Pneumatopteris truncata, and Tectaria devexa var. minor. These species were considered during the desktop review and field assessment; however, none were observed within the survey area. Two endemic species were recorded during the survey: Arenga listeri and Grewia insularis. Both are restricted to Christmas Island and were observed at multiple waypoints, primarily in areas assessed as being in Good condition. Introduced species were dominant in degraded areas.

3. Survey Methodology

3.1 Desktop Assessment

Previous reports and the Christmas Island Vegetation Map (GeoScience Australia, 2014) informed pre-survey planning.

3.2 Field Survey

A map of the survey area, showing the proposed clearing boundary and the locations of all ten flora survey waypoints, is provided in Figure 1. The survey was conducted in June 2025 by an experienced environmental professional with over a decade of fieldwork experience on Christmas Island. Data was recorded using GPS-enabled tablets, and species were identified in the field or from photographs and reference materials.



3.2.1 Survey Limitations

Survey completeness was high. Some sites had dense vine or weed cover that limited access but these areas were already classed as degraded.



Figure 1. Survey Area and Flora Waypoint Locations

A spatial map showing the MCI 70/2 clearing boundary and the ten flora survey waypoints.

4. Results

4.1 Flora

A total of 36 species were recorded across the ten survey waypoints. Of these, 21 were native species (including two endemics: Arenga listeri and Grewia insularis), and 15 were introduced weed species.

Weed dominance was assessed based on percentage foliage cover estimates recorded in the field. Weed cover ranged from 50% to 96% at



degraded sites (Waypoints 4–10), with native vegetation contributing only a minor proportion of total cover in these areas. In contrast, Waypoints 1–3 exhibited higher proportions of native foliage cover. Native species accounted for between 50% and 58% of total foliage cover at these sites. While native vegetation remained the dominant structural component, the presence of weed species still indicates a level of ecological degradation.

4.2 Vegetation Condition

Vegetation condition was assessed using a Modified Condition Scale for Christmas Island Vegetation. This scale was adapted from Keighery's Bush Forever condition rating system to reflect the island's unique biophysical characteristics. The adapted scale allows better discrimination of vegetation integrity in local contexts and incorporates criteria such as native regeneration, weed dominance, age classes, and native species diversity. The original Keighery's Bush Forever system and the adapted Condition Scale for Christmas Island Vegetation are included in Appendix A for reference.

Condition ratings are as follows:

- - **Good**: Waypoints 1, 2, 3
- - Completely Degraded: Waypoints 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

This pattern indicates that only three of the ten survey sites retain reasonable structural integrity and native diversity, while the remainder exhibit advanced weed colonisation and structural collapse.

5. References

- GeoScience Australia (2014). Christmas Island Vegetation Map.
 Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.
- - Keighery, B.J. (1994). Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.).
- Range to Reef Environmental (2017). Flora and Vegetation Assessment – Mining Lease MCI 70/2, Christmas Island.



Appendix A. Condition Scales

The original Keighery's *Bush Forever* condition rating system and the adapted Condition Scale for Christmas Island Vegetation are shown below:

Condition scale used in BUSH FOREVER VOL 2, from Keighery BJ (1994)

Pristine (1)

Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance

Excellent (2)

Vegetation structure intact, disturbance affecting individual species and weeds are non-aggressive species.

Very Good (3)

Vegetation structure altered, obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and grazing.

Good (4)

Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbance. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and grazing.

Degraded (5)

Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and grazing.

Completely Degraded (6)

The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs



Modified Condition scale for Christmas Island Vegetation

Pristine (1)

Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance

Excellent (2)

High density native regeneration, no weeds, closed canopy, multiple age classes, previous disturbance

Very Good (3)

Medium density native regeneration, mostly native species, different ages, diversity of species

Good (4)

Medium density native regeneration, mostly primary (coloniser) species with weedy understory or mostly young native overstory

Degraded (5)

Low density native regeneration with weedy understory or native vine thicket e.g Schefflera, Maclura

Completely Degraded (6)

Little to no mature native species e.g. Fern field, Cordia, Cherry or Leucaeana thicket



Appendix B. Field Data Sheets

The following appendix includes the raw field data sheets collected during the July 2025 flora survey. These sheets contain species lists, percentage foliage cover estimates, vegetation condition assessments, and other observations recorded at each of the ten survey waypoints.

Waypoint 1 Field Data Sheet

Flora Survey							
Date: 25 Jun 2025	5 Time:	9:27am	Weather conditions: Warm, humid and overcast				
Surveyor(s): Leon	ard Stapp		conditions.	Temperature	e around 27	°C	
Location: MCI 70/	2						
Site ID: PT_MCI 70)/2_01						
GPS Coordinates ((WGS 84)	Zone: 48L	Easting: 575	5933.635	Northing: 8	847827.293	
Topography/Slope: Gentle, NW		Disturbance	e: Soil pushe	d up into wir	ndrows		
Soil type:	Skeletal limestone		Erosion: Nil				
Photo ID: 202506	25_092731		Vegetation	Condition:	Good		
Vegetation Class (circle one): Semi-de	eciduous scrub					
Genus :	Species	Family	<1m	1 - 5m	5 - 20m	20m+	% Cover
*Clausena	excavata	RUTACEAE	30	11	4		40
*Cordia	curassavica	BORAGINACEAE	5	5			7
*Leucaena	leucocephala	FABACEAE	2	2			2
*Turnera	ulmifolia	PASSIFLORACEAE	2				1
Allophylus	cobbe	SAPINDACEAE	5	1			1
Arenga I	listeri	ARECACEAE	1	2			2
Celastrus	paniculatus	CELASTRACEAE		2	1		3
Dysoxylum	gaudichaudianum	MELIACEAE		2	2		7
Guettarda	speciosa	RUBIACEAE	1				1
Macaranga	tanarius	EUPHORBIACEAE		1	1		5
Maclura	cochinchinensis	MORACEAE	1	2			2
Ochrosia	ackeringae	APOCYNACEAE	2	6	3		20
Pachygone (ovata	MENISPERMACEAE	1				1
Pittosporum	ferrugineum	PITTOSPORACEAE		1			1
Planchonella	duclitan	SAPOTACEAE			1		5
Terminalia	catappa	COMBRETACEAE	3	1			2
Tristiropsis	acutangula	SAPINDACEAE	1	3			2



Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 2 Field Data Sheet

Flora Survey							
Date: 25 Jun 203	25 Time :	10:00am	Weather conditions: Warm, humid and overcast				
Surveyor(s): Leo	nard Stapp		conditions.	Temperature	e around 27	°C	
Location: MCI 70)/2						
Site ID: PT_MCI	70/2_02						
GPS Coordinates (WGS 84) Zone: 48L			Easting: 57	5958.037	Northing: 8	847825.854	
Topography/Slope: Moderate, NNW			Disturbance	e: Cleared pr	eviously, mo	unds pushed	d up
Soil type:	Skeletal limestone		Erosion: Nil				
Photo ID: 20250625_100408			Vegetation	Condition:	Good		
Vegetation Class	(circle one): Semi-de	eciduous scrub					
Genus	Species	Family	<1m	1 - 5m	5 - 20m	20m+	% Cover
*Clausena	excavata	RUTACEAE	11	3	20		40
*Cordia	curassavica	BORAGINACEAE	4	12			20
*Leucaena	leucocephala	FABACEAE		2			1
*Melia	azedarach	MELIACEAE		2			5
*Tecoma	stans	BIGNONIACEAE		1			2
*Turnera	ulmifolia	PASSIFLORACEAE	1				1
Allophylus	cobbe	SAPINDACEAE		1			1
Arenga	listeri	ARECACEAE		2			2
Carmona	retusa	BORAGINACEAE		1			1
Celastrus	paniculatus	CELASTRACEAE		1			1
Macaranga	tanarius	EUPHORBIACEAE		1	2		8
Maclura	cochinchinensis	MORACEAE		1			1
Ochrosia	ackeringae	APOCYNACEAE	1	2	1		20
Terminalia	catappa	COMBRETACEAE	5	3	6		10
Tristiropsis	acutangula	SAPINDACEAE	1				1



Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 3 Field Data Sheet

Flora Survey								
Date: 25 Jun 202	5 Time:	10:00am	Weather co	nditions: W	arm, humid a	and overcast	-	
Surveyor(s): Leor	nard Stapp		conditions.	Temperatur	e around 27°	°C		
Location: MCI 70,	/2							
Site ID: PT_MCI 7	0/2_03							
GPS Coordinates	(WGS 84)	Zone: 48L	Easting: 57	5982.087	Northing: 8	3847814.79		
Topography/Slop	e: Moderate, N		Disturbance	e: Soil pushe	d up into mo	unds		
Soil type:	Skeletal limestone		Erosion: Ni					
Photo ID: 20250625_102602			Vegetation	Condition:	Good			
Vegetation Class	(circle one): Semi-de	eciduous scrub						
Genus	Species	Family	<1m	1 - 5m	5 - 20m	20m+	% Cover	
*Clausena	excavata	RUTACEAE	3	14	18		40	
*Cordia	curassavica	BORAGINACEAE		2	10		10	
*Leucaena	leucocephala	FABACEAE	9	7			25	
*Tecoma	stans	BIGNONIACEAE		4			5	
*Turnera	ulmifolia	PASSIFLORACEAE	12				2	
Allophylus	cobbe	SAPINDACEAE	1	5			5	
Celastrus	paniculatus	CELASTRACEAE		2			2	
Guettarda	speciosa	RUBIACEAE		2			2	
Kleinhovia	hospita	MALVACEAE			2		5	
Macaranga	tanarius	EUPHORBIACEAE			2		10	
Ochrosia	ackeringae	APOCYNACEAE	1					
Pachygone	ovata	MENISPERMACEAE		2			1	
Terminalia	catappa	COMBRETACEAE		1	1		3	

Waypoint 4 Field Data Sheet

Flora Survey							
Date: 25 Jun 20	25 Time:	10:45am	Weather conditions: Warm, humid and overcast				ıst
Surveyor(s): Led	nard Stapp	1	conditions.	Temperatur	e around 27	'°C	
Location: MCI 7	0/2						
Site ID: PT_MCI	70/2_04						
GPS Coordinate	s (WGS 84)	Zone: 48L	Easting: 57	6003.175	Northing:	8847808.6	91
Topography/Slope: Moderate, N			Disturbance	e: Prior clear	ed with we	edy regrow	th
Soil type:	Skeletal limestone		Erosion: Ni				
Photo ID: 20250625_104745			Vegetation	Condition:	Completely	degraded	
Vegetation Class	s (circle one): Weedy	vegetation and pione	er regrowth				
Genus	Species	Family	<1m	1 - 5m	5 - 20m	20m+	% Cover
*Acalypha	indica	EUPHORBIACEAE	1				1
*Clausena	excavata	RUTACEAE	12	4			8
*Cordia	curassavica	BORAGINACEAE	2	11			25
*Cyanthillium	cinereum	ASTERACEAE	10				1
*Ipomoea	nil	CONVOLVULACEAE	1	1			1
*Leucaena	leucocephala	FABACEAE	12	32			40
*Macroptilium	atropurpureum	FABACEAE		1			1
*Mimosa	pudica	FABACEAE	2				1
*Passiflora	foetida	PASSIFLORACEAE		3			1
*Tecoma	stans	BIGNONIACEAE	7	11			25
*Turnera	ulmifolia	PASSIFLORACEAE	13				7
Ochrosia	ackeringae	APOCYNACEAE	1				1
Sida	acuta	MALVACEAE	4	3			2



Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 5 Field Data Sheet

Flora Surve	у						
Date: 25 Jun 2	2025 Time:	11:08am	Weather conditions: Warm, humid and overcast				
Surveyor(s): L	eonard Stapp		conditions. Temperature around 27°C				
Location: MCI	70/2						
Site ID: PT_MC	CI 70/2_05						
GPS Coordinat	tes (WGS 84)	Zone: 48L	Easting: 57	6022.804	Northing:	8847806.1	.69
Topography/S	Slope: Moderate, NNW	,	Disturbance: Prior cleared with weedy regrowth			rth	
Soil type:	Limestone rock		Erosion: Ni				
Photo ID: 202	50625_110909	Vegetation Condition: Completely degraded					
Vegetation Cla	ass (circle one): Weedy	vegetation and pior	neer regrowth				
Genus	Species	Family	<1m	1 - 5m	5 - 20m	20m+	% Cover
*Cordia	curassavica	BORAGINACEAE	5	12			30
*Leucaena	leucocephala	FABACEAE	2	6			10
*Tecoma	stans	BIGNONIACEAE	6	18			50
Guettarda	speciosa	RUBIACEAE		1			5
Maclura	cochinchinensis	MORACEAE		2			2
Ochrosia	ackeringae	APOCYNACEAE		4			8
Pipturus	argenteus	URTICACEAE	1				1
Grewia	insularis	MALVACEAE		1			5
Colubrina	pedunculata	RHAMNACEAE		1			5

Waypoint 6 Field Data Sheet

Flora Survey							
Date: 25 Jun 202	25 Time:	11:25am	Weather conditions: Warm, humid and overcast				
Surveyor(s): Leo	nard Stapp		conditions.	Temperatur	e around 27	°C	
Location: MCI 70)/2						
Site ID: PT_MCI 70/2_06							
GPS Coordinates	(WGS 84)	Zone: 48L	Easting: 57	6045.428	Northing: 8	8847797.551	
Topography/Slo	pe: Moderate, NNW		Disturbance	e: Prior clear	ed with wee	edy regrowth	
Soil type:	Skeletal limestone		Erosion: Nil				
Photo ID: 20250625_112458			Vegetation	Condition:	Completely	degraded	
Vegetation Class	(circle one): Weedy	vegetation and pione	er regrowth				
Genus	Species	Family	<1m	1 - 5m	5 - 20m	20m+	% Cover
*Clausena	excavata	RUTACEAE	6	8			20
*Cordia	curassavica	BORAGINACEAE	3	20			30
*Tecoma	stans	BIGNONIACEAE	2	15			20
Allophylus	cobbe	SAPINDACEAE	3				1
Colubrina	pedunculata	RHAMNACEAE		7			20
Grewia	insularis	MALVACEAE		1			2
Maclura	cochinchinensis	MORACEAE		2			2
Ochrosia	ackeringae	APOCYNACEAE		1			2
Pachygone	ovata	MENISPERMACEAE		2			5
Schefflera	elliptica	ARALIACEAE		2			10



Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 7 Field Data Sheet

Flora Survey							
Date: 25 Jun 202	25 Time:	11:45am	Weather conditions: Warm, humid and overcast				
Surveyor(s): Leoi	nard Stapp	•	conditions.	Temperatur	e around 27	'°C	
Location: MCI 70	/2						
Site ID: PT_MCI 7	0/2_07						
GPS Coordinates (WGS 84) Zone: 48L			Easting: 570	6075.738	Northing:	8847795.88	
Topography/Slope: Moderate, NNW Disturbance: Prior cleared wit			ed with we	edy regrowt	:h		
Soil type:	Skeletal limestone		Erosion: Nil				
Photo ID: 20250625_114612			Vegetation Condition: Completely degraded				
Vegetation Class	(circle one): Weedy	vegetation and pione	er regrowth				
Genus	Species	Family	<1m	1 - 5m	5 - 20m	20m+	% Cover
*Cordia	curassavica	BORAGINACEAE		6			10
*Ipomoea	obscura	CONVOLVULACEAE	3				5
*Leucaena	leucocephala	FABACEAE		25			30
*Macroptilium	atropurpureum	FABACEAE	2	2			5
*Mimosa	pudica	FABACEAE	7				2
*Stachytarpheta	jamaicensis	VERBENACEAE	7				5
*Tecoma	stans	BIGNONIACEAE		15			30
Sida	acuta	MALVACEAE		12			20

Waypoint 8 Field Data Sheet

Flora Survey							
Date: 25 Jun 20)25 Time :	11:56am	Weather conditions: Warm, humid and overcast				•
Surveyor(s): Led	nard Stapp	•	conditions.	Temperatur	e around 27	°C	
Location: MCI 7	0/2						
Site ID: PT MCI	70/2 08						
GPS Coordinate	Zone: 48L	Easting: 57	6110.059	Northing: 8	8847815.822		
Topography/Slo	pe: Moderate, NW	oderate, NW Disturbance: Prior cleared with weedy regrowth					
Soil type:	Skeletal limestone		Erosion: Ni				
Photo ID: 2025	Vegetation	Condition:	Completely	degraded			
Vegetation Clas	s (circle one): Weed	y vegetation and pione	eer regrowth				
Genus	Species	Family	<1m	1 - 5m	5 - 20m	20m+	% Cover
*Carica	рарауа	CARICACEAE		1			1
*Cordia	curassavica	BORAGINACEAE	2				3
*Leucaena	leucocephala	FABACEAE	10	30			50
*Macroptilium	atropurpureum	FABACEAE	5				15
*Melia	azedarach	MELIACEAE		1			3
*Muntingia	calabura	MUNTINGIACEAE		1			3
*Turnera	ulmifolia	PASSIFLORACEAE	1				1
Grewia	insularis	MALVACEAE		1			3
Gyrocarpus	americanus	HERNANDIACEAE		2			5
Sida	acuta	MALVACEAE	10	30			40



Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 9 Field Data Sheet

Flora Survey								
Date: 25 Jun 202	25 Time:	12:09pm	Weather conditions: Warm, humid and overcast					
Surveyor(s): Leo	nard Stapp		conditions.	Temperatur	e around 27	'°C		
Location: MCI 70	/2							
Site ID: PT_MCI 7	'0/2_09							
GPS Coordinates	(WGS 84)	Zone: 48L	Easting: 57	6126.615	Northing:	8847851.518	3	
Topography/Slope: Moderate, WNW			Disturbance	e: Prior clear	ed with we	edy regrowt	n	
Soil type:	Skeletal limestone		Erosion: Ni					
Photo ID: 20250	Photo ID: 20250625 120803			Vegetation Condition: Completely degraded				
Vegetation Class	(circle one): Weedy	vegetation and pion	eer regrowth					
Genus	Species	Family	<1m	1 - 5m	5 - 20m	20m+	% Cover	
*Cordia	curassavica	BORAGINACEAE	2	6			25	
*Leucaena	leucocephala	FABACEAE	5	12			30	
*Macroptilium	atropurpureum	FABACEAE	4				5	
*Stachytarpheta	jamaicensis	VERBENACEAE	2				1	
*Tecoma	stans	BIGNONIACEAE	6	13			35	
Sida	acuta	MALVACEAE	6				10	

Waypoint 10 Field Data Sheet

Flora Surve	ey						
Date: 25 Jun	2025 Time	: 12:18pm	Weather conditions: Warm, humid and overcast				
Surveyor(s): L	eonard Stapp	•	conditions.	Temperatur	e around 2	7℃	
Location: MCI	70/2						
Site ID: PT_M	CI 70/2_10						
GPS Coordina	tes (WGS 84)	Zone: 48L	Easting: 57	6109.397	Northing:	8847882.1	47
Topography/S	Slope: Moderate, SW		Disturbance: Prior cleared with weedy regrowth			/th	
Soil type:	Skeletal limestone	<u>, </u>	Erosion: Nil				
Photo ID: 20250625 121807			Vegetation Condition: Completely degraded				
Vegetation Cl	ass (circle one): Weed	ly vegetation and pion	eer regrowth				
Genus	Species	Family	<1m	1 - 5m	5 - 20m	20m+	% Cover
*Cordia	curassavica	BORAGINACEAE	10	30			50
*Leucaena	leucocephala	FABACEAE	3				5
*Tecoma	stans	BIGNONIACEAE	4	17			15
*Turnera	ulmifolia	PASSIFLORACEAE	5				5
Grewia	glabra	MALVACEAE	3				4
Grewia	insularis	MALVACEAE	2				4
Sida	acuta	MALVACEAE	17				20



Appendix C. Waypoint Photographs

Photographs taken at each of the ten survey waypoints during the July 2025 flora survey are presented in this appendix. These images support field observations and provide visual context for vegetation condition, structure, and dominant species at each site.



Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 1 Photograph



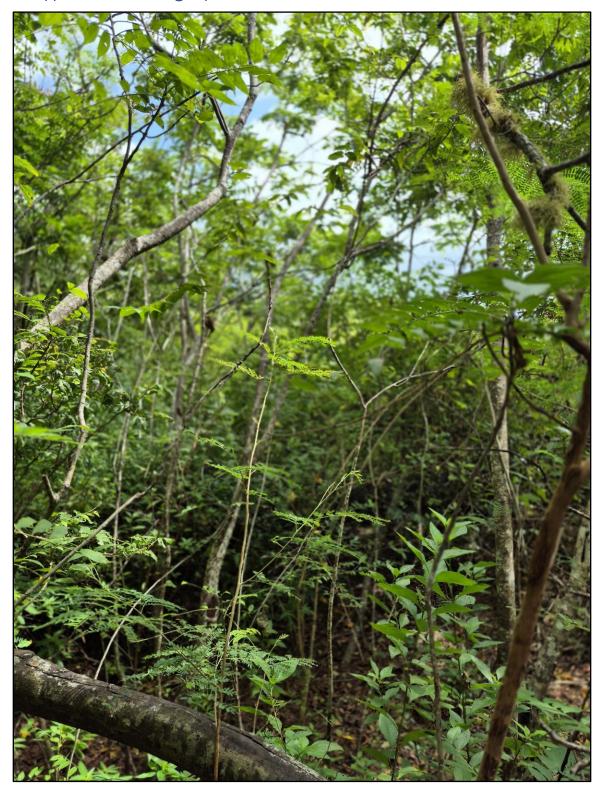


Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 2 Photograph





Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 3 Photograph





Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 4 Photograph





Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 5 Photograph



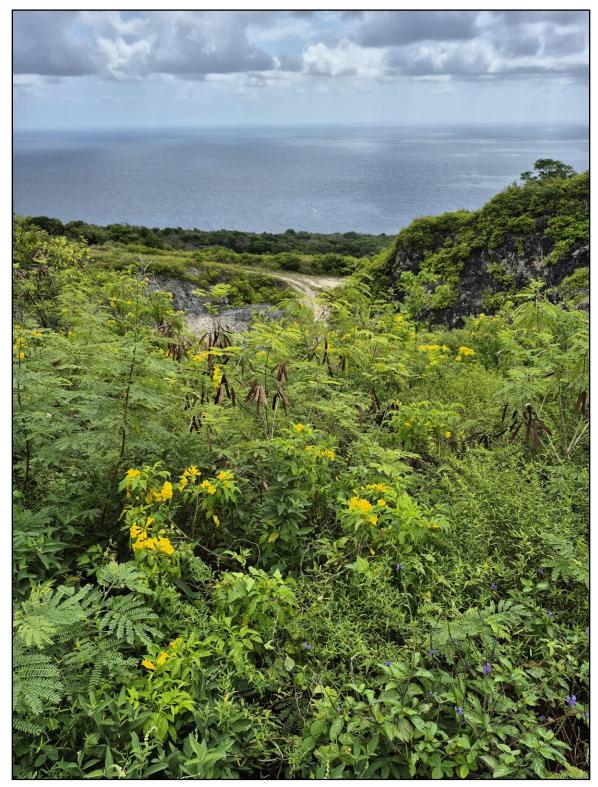


Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 6 Photograph





Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 7 Photograph



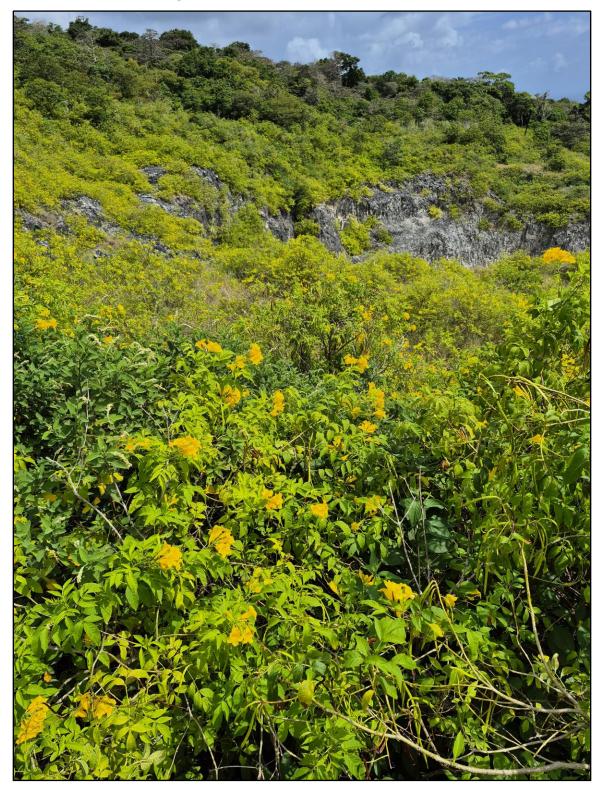


Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 8 Photograph





Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 9 Photograph





Christmas Island Environmental Services Waypoint 10 Photograph

