

Northern Australia News Roundup – August 2016

Welcome to a summary of news in August on topics relevant to the [Northern Hub's](#) goal of supporting sustainable development in northern Australia. These clips aim to facilitate cross-sector and cross-region knowledge sharing, and more informed conversations about the future of northern Australia. They're an informal 'round up' of what comes across my desk rather than a systematic collection, so please send any relevant news in and let me know what you think. Also, please let me know if you don't wish to receive this email. Cheers and best regards, Clare, Knowledge Broker, Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub

Pan northern news

- [Thoughtful panel discussion on developing the Nth inc Nywaigi TO, CEO Reg Dev Aust, ex NT Chief Min and Griffith Uni Prof](#)
- [Canavan opinion piece](#) suggests using end of mining boom to grow our nation... 'that is why the federal gov has an agenda to develop our north, inc areas that now often bear the names of Australia's most famous explorers... we are investing \$700M in Nthn roads, .. \$200m for new dams and a \$5B bank to help provide low-cost development finance'.
- [NAIF office officially opens in Cairns](#) and its [CEO will earn >\\$400kpa](#) during setup
- \$100M Geoscience Aust '[Exploring the Future](#)' program to boost oil, gas & mins exploration, assess groundwater and analyse salinity risks in future agric areas in Nth Aust (and parts of SA)
- [Luke Hartsuyker, new Agric and Water Resources Minister and Joyce's Assistant Minister, has live-ex lesson, Live-ex prices climb again to \\$3.60/kg](#)
- [New ILC CEO \(ex Rural Co\) aims to expand jobs rather than cattle numbers and reduce reliance on live-ex, new CEO for NAPCo, Stokes stocking up Mt House stn and Rinehart bids for Kidman](#)
- [Nth beef research update conf announces award winners, and Walk-over weigher nearing commercialisation](#)
- [Project Seadragon raising funds to secure environmental and indigenous approval and to take advantage of increasing interest from offshore investors. Seafarms flags \\$18.7M loss. Chinese state-owned food giant COFCO may buy or co-fund Project Sea Dragon](#)
- [Melons left in paddock due to salmonella scare more but new markets in Japan](#)
- [Perfume maker checks out Ord's sandalwood, grower glad he chose sandalwood over sugar and first sandalwood shipment soon to leave Darwin](#)
- [Pat Dodson's first speech in senate](#) starts in Yawuru, ends with congratulations inc from Hanson
- [Traditional custodians of Timber Creek awarded \\$3.3M for loss of native title rights in historic compensation case, and special Fed Crt sitting to recognise Borroloola claim group property rights](#) ie exclusive rights for commercial purposes and the right to take/use natural resources (eg water, timber, fish) in the 1130ha site [More](#)
- [1000s re-enact Wave Hill Walk-off more](#)
- [Scullion commits to Ranger funding until 2020](#) and then 'work out how much more money they need'. [KLC CEO questions Scullions understanding of ranger programs.](#)
- Call for [Indian military to train in Nth Aust](#)
- New [climate study predicts dramatic changes in heat Nth Aust](#) in only 10-20 yrs with reduced water availability and longer heatwaves (av37days longer at 1.5degrees warmer and 52 days at 2degrees)
- [Ecocheck article on Nth Aust savanna](#)
- Slow response to [oil spill in Darwin Harbour more](#) and [Oil field supply ship runs aground off Broome](#)
- [Video on unprecedented mangrove dieback in the Gulf](#) and [Drones for monitoring & managing](#) inc Nth Aust applications

State, Territory etc news

- [Kimberley pastoralists meet to discuss proposed Ord feedlot, Kimberley cattle stns cleared of BJD record price for droughtmaster bull and new abattoir opening](#)
- [Halls Crk pastoral co fined \\$40k for illegally clearing 826ha](#)

- [Centre pivot for Noonkanbah Stn](#)
- [ACF raises qs over Kimberley fracking](#), [Buru's dry season newsletter](#), and [Browse basin back on Woodside's books](#)
- [Discussion over proposed mineral sands mine near Derby](#), [this mine not supported by TOs and ok for rare earth mine nr Halls Ck](#). [WA Chamber of Mins&Energy Kimberley news](#)
- [Rangelands NRM grants inc AWC](#) (Indigenous ranger training), [Environs Kimberley](#) (Kimberley nature projects), [Madjulla Inc](#) (Environmental scoping study Nyikina Mangala Native Title Area), [Rangelands NRM](#) (community capability building), [Roebuck Bay Working Grp](#) (Ramsar values), [West Kimberley LCDC](#) (Landcare)
- [Crocodile plough trials to improve ground cover and reduce woody weeds](#) on Pindan soils have mixed results
- [Wyndham based Indigenous ranger talks about his work](#)
- [WA push to change rangelands legislation fails](#)

- [Last fluent speaker of Awu Laya language, and community leader, buried on the Cape](#)
- [Changes to tree clearing laws fail](#) as Cape York MP Billy Gordon withdraws support [more More more](#). Article in the [Conversation](#), [farmers protest](#), and an [opinion in the Aust](#)
- [Grass greener for lucky few but drought not over](#)
- [Lockhart river community builds roads and roles](#), and [Army assists Cape aboriginal community](#)
- [\\$42M large scale solar PV plan with battery storage for Lakeland](#), Cape York [More](#). [New energy lab for Cairns](#)
- [Record sales and prices at Mareeba cattle sale](#)
- Qld gov commits to [Cape York Development and Sustainability Review](#) and appoint a Steering Group consisting of Indigenous leaders, NGOs and government agencies (towards the end).
- [Bundaberg grazier launches Local Farm Produce website](#) to better connect producers and consumers
- [Mine approved on conservation land](#)
- [Qld gov offers to buyback fish net licences but some concerned](#)
- [5.7 earthquake rocks Bowen and beyond](#)

- [Labour win gov from CLP more more more](#)
- [NT gov identifies 9000ha of high class agric land at Wildman Rv adjacent to Kakadu and Mary Rv national parks more](#)
- [Woodchip MOU for Tiwi Islands](#), [Tropical flower business booming but Changes to WWOOF rules hurts NT grower](#)
- [Barramundi secrets revealed](#)
- [NTs largest calypso mango op up for sale and promising start for mango season](#)
- [Pastoralists sign open letter to voice fracking concerns](#)
- [Aboriginal-owned Arnhem Land mining co to commence small-scale bauxite operation](#)
- [Larrakia study shows Aboriginal people under pressure to lose culture to be successful](#)
- [Mins Policy Inst recommends public inquiry into whether McArthur Rv mine expands and Dpt unsure if large plume is dust or smoke from burning waste rock](#)
- [Creditors short changed by NT manganese mine](#)
- [Kakadu rangers train in rock art protection](#)
- [Developing Darwin issues outlined](#)

Water

- 2 x NT, 4 x NW WA and many Qld [projects approved under feasibility component of the Natn Water Infrastructure Dev Fund](#)
- [Great Artesian Basin contributes >\\$12B pa to Aust economy](#)
- [Water licenses and protecting water quality key issues in NT election win](#)
- [Methods reports available for CSIRO NAWRA catchments – Fitzroy, Mitchell and Darwin catchments](#)

- [New project to strengthen Indigenous management of the Fitzroy Rv and protect its National heritage values](#)
- [Large changes in bacterial compositions in tropical floodplain soils predicted with increases in salinity and pH](#)
- [Mary River sediment and nutrient runoff concerns around sugar expansion and sugar co. invests \\$3.2M in irrigation efficiency upgrades for Tablelands](#)
- [\\$8.2B water quality bill to clean up the reef by 2025 but \\$1B of targeted cost-effective measures should get >halfway to 2025 targets, and reef generates >\\$5B pa](#)
- [Opinion piece promo for Hells gate dam on the Burdekin](#)

Weeds, ferals, diseases etc

- [Grader grass risk from Katherine haystack and water hyacinth risk from Kimberley garden](#)
- [Naturally occurring canetoad tadpole eaters beat other tadpole control mechanisms](#)
- [Banana growers agree to Panama disease levy and buyback](#)
- [Biosecurity teams using balloons to find varroa mite in Townsville](#)
- [Jellyfish cameras warn swimmers about stingers](#)
- [2 videos on impact of feral cats in Kakadu](#)

Biodiversity and Protected Areas

- [Researchers develop DNA test to detect sawfish in large water bodies *More, more*](#)
- [New project to strengthen Indigenous management of the Fitzroy Rv and protect its National heritage values](#)
- [Turtles swim from Darwin to Derby and beyond though tourists destroy nests on the Cape. JCU launches Turtle Research Centre](#)
- [Article on bizarre and globally unique Nth Aust nurseryfish whose males carry eggs on a hook on their head *More*](#)
- [Climate change pledges not enough to save tropical ecosystems](#)
- [New reef fish found in NT](#)
- [Qld gov agrees to all recs of the Water Science Taskforce rpt](#)
- [Marsupial lion fossil found at Riversleigh, NW Qld](#)

Fire and carbon

- [WA carbon farming showcase incs rangelands in remotely estimating carbon content, and carbon in biomass](#)
- [Article on how traditional burning and western science meet in Kakadu](#)
- [Fire fighters use aerial to stop fire in Purnalulu area and AWC fight big blaze at Artesian Range \(23/8\)](#)

Northern Australia Hub News

- [3 yr projects to better identify environmental water needs are starting in the Fitzroy, Daly and Mitchell Rivers](#)
- [A 1 yr project examined research priorities for IPAs across Nth Aust](#)
- [2 new videos released on the impact of feral cats in Kakadu \(presentations part 1 and 2\)](#)
- [We will be advertising for a Science Communicator in the next few days](#)

Events

- [7 Sep Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals AGM, Cooktown](#)
- [8-9 Sep Water in the Bush, Darwin](#)
- [11-15 Sep Australasian Weeds Conference, Perth](#)
- [14-15 Sep Northern Territory Resources Week, Darwin](#)
- [19-23 Sept Natural Resources and Indigenous Livelihoods intensive, Darwin](#)
- [20-22 Sep KAALAC, KLC, KLRC and AANJA AGM, Warmun](#)
- [27 – 30 Oct Savannah Guides School, Cooktown](#)
- [28-29 Oct Future of Tropical Economies conference, Cairns](#)

- 7-10 Nov Qld Pest Animal Symposium, Townsville
- 22-24 Nov Territory NRM Forum, Darwin

Please note

- this is an informal compilation and any views expressed above don't represent those of the Northern Hub or affiliates
- being on this email list adds you to the Northern Hub Network which simply means you're interested in the sustainable development of Northern Australia (it doesn't mean lots of emails!)
- previous news roundups (produced by the Kimberley to Cape initiative) are available here