

Northern Australia News Roundup – October 2016

Welcome to a summary of October's news 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

- [Canavan provides first annual White Paper progress report \(more, more \)](#) and is [confident in region's future](#). [MacDonald congratulates progress in Ministerial Statement](#)
- [Canavan opinion piece on Nth Aust and interviews](#) eg w [Bolt](#), [Fran Kelly](#)
- [Nth Aust Infrastructure Facility appoints ex-banker Laurie Walker as CEO & has 1 project undertaking due diligence & 13* working towards formal proposals totalling over \\$10B \(*or 11 with over half from Qld\)](#)
- [Nth Aust Sept stats from Office of Chief Economist show pop of 1315k, top 3 employing industries = health care, public admin and mining, & unemployment varies from 3.4 to 13.3%](#)
- [Nth Qld statehood conversation continues](#), [More](#)
- [Policy brief on northern development and climate change](#)
- [New book on Indigenous People and Economic Development](#) by CDU, [Book on Work and Livelihoods for Indigenous Australians after CDEP](#) and new [kpmg report Igniting the Indigenous Economy](#) (incs Nth Aust in tax reform section suggesting a 10yr tax holiday for large scale projects meeting Indigenous employment criteria)
- [NLC CEO Joe Morrison delivers Nugget Coombs memorial lecture](#)
- [New \\$2M Nth Aust tropical disease collaborative research program](#)
- [US and Aust to share \\$2B infrastructure investment in Nth Aust & ongoing costs of marines; Singapore to invest \\$2B in infrastructure for 14k/yr troops](#)

- [Fishers call for answers on mass mangrove dieback in Gulf , and others inc now CDU \(more\)](#) investigating. [More](#)
- [Northern barra catches down but shark numbers up](#)
- [Wild NT prawns travel to Exmouth quarantine facility for \\$1.5B SeaDragon project and EIS open for comment](#) [More](#); also [big market potential for cherabin a Nth Aust native prawn](#)
- [\\$300M beefed up funding for Nth Aust beef roads \(Qld focus, more, more\)](#) after [questions asked more](#)
- [Aust and Indonesian working thro new live-ex quota requirements, with calls for permits to match available stock](#)
- [MLA Cashcow project releases step by step guide to boost productivity of Nth beef herd](#)
- [Aust syndicate withdraws](#) [Aust syndicate outbids Rinehart for Kidman properties](#) [More](#) [More](#)
- [Qld bulls in demand across the Nth and Nth Aust to produce ~7M trays of mangoes this season](#)
- [NLC CEO believes Ord expansion pie in the sky with few benefits for Indigenous people and new 'Out of the Ord' facebook page](#)
- [NT-Qld gas pipeline on track tho concerns over EIS](#)
- [PMs prize for science to cane toad research & Fenner prize to Qld ecosystem services scientist](#)
- [>50% chance of more cyclones than average this year, Why, More, BoM outlook, Qld take](#)

Nth Aust Hub News

- [New Hub newsletter incs stories on IPA values, science for water management, goannas & more](#)
- [Report on 'Developing protocols for Indigenous fire management partnerships' available](#)
- [Kakadu seasonal calendar wins award](#)
- [New project investigating links between Gulf rivers and coastal productivity](#)

State, Territory etc news

- [Organisations working in the Fitzroy catchment on NRM and conservation share plans etc](#)

- TOs concerned Cockatoo Is iron ore pit wall will collapse with Pluton Resources in liquidation & also owing \$4.2M in unpaid royalties
- Andrew Forrest applies for stake to explore 220k ha of Canning Basin for oil/gas and singer John Butler responds to opinion piece by petroleum CEO
- Kununurra frangipani farm expanding and Kakadu plums from nr Broome on Qantas menu
- Ord valley corn bound for Korea and its mangoes doing well on Perth market
- Kimberley man Warren Greatorex first Indigenous candidate for WA lower house
- Mowanjum Water for Food update but land clearing app rejected
- Coral bleaching off NW WA worse than thought tho reefs close to shore escape
- Kimberley rain relieves fire fighters and graziers

- Environment Centre NT wins courtcase against Tiwi Island port development with no EIS More
- NT leading ec growth but loosing momentum and Videos on developing the Nth from NTs Nth Aust Development Office
- Andrew Robb consulting for Landbridge, controllers of Darwin port
- NT major projects conference to discuss re-booting mining sector, tourism infrastructure, Indigenous engagement and Seafarms Sea Dragon project
- Indigenous stockman reflects on stn life on Tablelands
- Vietnamese invest in NT cattle stn & horticulture and David Warriner ex pres of NTCA elected new chair of NT live-ex assocn
- Timorese seasonal workers and backpackers start mango picking, NT properties part of expanded citrus supply chain & new passion fruit to grow industry
- Call for more training & succession planning for top end art Indigenous industry
- McArthur Rv mine bond remains confidential and Close up on Katherine area fracking
- NT could be maintenance hub for Joint Strike Fighter & US to share costs of NT military presence

- Townsville leaders describe city in 2020 and Cairns aiming to be the arts capital of nth Aust
- North Qld could face power blackouts due to distance from base-load stations
- \$18M for Aust-first solar-wind-storage project in Nth Qld , Investment in Nth Qld renewables continues with Lakeland Solar & Storage project and MSF Sugar's 'green power station' and more on Qld renewables target
- 37k ha of land handed back to Cape York TOs in deal that sees half the area in jointly managed Ngaynggarr National Park
- First prawn nursery in Aust opens nr Bowen , Copper mine opens nr Cloncurry and Digital innovation hub for Indigenous Australians and others opens in Cairns
- Project showcase on UQ scientists working with Indigenous ranger group
- Cane farmer and artist to create land-art project in Mackay and more on art & farming in GBR

Water

- Aust Gov wants to accelerate dam construction in underdeveloped North More and Cananvan on dams, highlighting Urannah Dam nr Mackay
- \$10M from Natn Stronger Regions Fund to build Charleston Dam in Qlds Etheridge Shire More
- Proposed revisions to Qld water legislation to better assess groundwater use in mining EISs raise some heckles
- NT water controller enforcing 'use it or lose it' provision and concern over metering costs More
- RM Williams Outback feature on Fitzroy groundwater
- Project investigating water quality impacts in Torres Straight from PNG mines
- GRB 2015 report card shows progress in reef water quality but more work needed
- Qld gov water staff feature at Internatn Water Assoc's World Water Congress in Bris 10-14Oct
- Qld hide processor recycles every wastewater stream

Weeds, ferals, diseases etc

- NT 2016 Gamba grass Action program launched More
- Rubber vine close to being eradicated in west Kimberley

- [Qld banana plants being destroyed to protect against Panama tropical race 4](#)
- [Freshwater croc numbers decline severely with arrival of cane toads, then may return](#)
- [NT Gov weeds branch focus on better compliance](#)
- [Search for missing sagittaria plants continues in NT](#)
- [30% of Kakadu's Magela Crk at high risk of Para grass invasion](#)

Biodiversity and Protected Areas

- [Qld gov preparing changes to legislation to allow private funders to create 'Special Wildlife Reserves' to protect private land of outstanding conservation significance](#)
- [Defence partners with AWC for conservation and land management in Kimberley's Yampi Sound](#)
- [Qld gov and AWC work to protect Diamantina night parrot](#)
- [Starlings, snakes and pigs gather in Cape York](#)
- [NT giant clam study shows population younger \(only 10-18yo\) and more diverse \(1 species inshore and up to 3 others further offshore\) than previously thought](#)
- [Endangered NT yellow chat promo'd in Italy and Mystery of Tanami egg solved](#)
- [Little support for widespread croc removal in Qld and ghostnet retrieved from Arafura sea](#)
- [Two dinosaur skeletons found in Winton Qld, one a new species](#)
- [Gulf property recognised as part of internatn Flyway Site Network for shorebirds](#)
- [Darwin bird art exhibition shines in city arcade](#)

Fire and carbon

- [Kimberley fire burns over a million hectares including Mornington sanctuary, and near missing remote communities . Also El Questo's Emma Gorge damaged by fire](#)
- [Kimberley representatives share strategic burning methods at UNESCO climate conference](#)
- [Qld cows eating *Asparagopsis* seaweed produce 99% less methane](#)
- [NAFI Oct newsletter](#)

Events

7-10 Nov [Qld Pest Animal Symposium](#), Townsville

18-19 Nov [Environment FNQ Roundtable](#), Cairns

22-23 Nov [Ag Futures – Innovation & Investment](#) conference, Brisbane

22-24 Nov [Territory NRM Forum](#), Darwin

8 Dec [Country, People, Prosperity: On the Trail of Northern Development](#), Georgetown

23-24 Feb 2017 [NT Governance Summit](#), Darwin

19-20 Jun 2017 [Developing Northern Australia](#) conference, Cairns

Please note

- this is an informal compilation and views don't necessarily reflect 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 are available [here](#) (and earlier editions produced by the [Kimberley to Cape](#) initiative are [here](#))