

## Northern Australia News Roundup – April 2017

Welcome to a summary of April's (& a few days of May'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 & Jane, Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub.

### Pan northern news

- [Aust Audit Office considers undertaking audit of NAIF more & must NAIF consider financial risks from climate change?](#)
- Canavan comment on [resilience of resources sector](#), [post cyclone donations](#) & on [Shadow Min's NAIF remark](#). Other interviews inc [NT gas & energy](#), [NAIF & Adani More More More](#). [Article](#).
- [Call for gov to respond to Nth Aust Insurance report More & Qld gov mutual fund could provide compulsory cyclone insurance cover and call for stricter landuse planning & building codes](#)
- [Using local contractors, shopping local & spending local key to cyclone recovery](#)
- [Productivity Commission report suggesting nth Aust has low potential to transition to a more sustainable economic base out for comment to 31 Jul, more](#)
- [KLC Chairman delivers UN Intervention on Indigenous rights & to Indigenous policy reform debate](#)
- [Caring for country essay highlights development issues & more in Arnhem Land](#)
- [Report finds live-ex worth >\\$2B but turned into local processing would equal only\\$100M, the figures disputed. Live-ex to Indonesia down by 23%, but Rhinehart planning big with China](#)
- [2017 cattle prices likely to av 2016 record levels before slackening in 2018&19 with recent rains reprieve to some Qld producers](#)
- [Indonesia weight limit easing helps some producers but not others](#)
- [Brahman genome sequencing to improve value of the northern herd & Live-ex from yard to port virtual reality training](#)
- [Mangoes increase 40% in value in last 3 yrs & Vietnam & India export mangoes to Aust update](#)
- [Darwin highlighted in Nth Korea newspaper claim that US preparing for war & 1250 US marines arrive for 6 mths](#)
- [Concern about second Gulf mangrove dieback event due to sediment released by first event](#)
- [Illegal sea snail haul in northern waters](#)
- [Below av rain & soil moisture for most of inland Qld, & above av for Top End & Kimberley, for Apr](#)

### Nth Aust Hub news

- [Check out this decision tree to find the land use & development planning tool for you](#)
- [Hub researchers contribute to Kakadu plan](#)
- Learn more about our projects across the Nth in these research overviews - [West Kimberley](#), [Top End](#), [North Qld](#)

### State, Territory, etc, news

- [WA Agric dept to become part of the Dept of Primary Industry & Regional Development, Dept of Aboriginal Affairs to become part of P&C functions & Dept of Parks & Wildlife part of Dept of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions](#)
- [Koolan Is iron ore mine to reopen after \\$100M for seawall rebuild & Construction starts on rare earth mine nr Halls Ck](#)
- [Mungbeans back in Ord & chickpeas looking up & Perth spud king leaves Ord due to high costs & comp, leasing banana & mango interests to NT growers](#)
- [Video stories on Ord melons, barra, papaya, lettuce](#)
- [Record gubinge/Kakadu plum harvest & Knx grower reports from Brazil](#)
- [Cattle mustering ramping up with ships also leaving Wyndham](#)
- [Kerry stokes leases AWC conversation estate & will reduce herd to sustainable levels More](#)
- [Kimberley & Pilbara cattlemen's conf summary notes & presentations](#)

- [KLC Apr newsletter](#)
- [Size & bag limits, & fishing without a license most common offenses in Kimberley](#)
- [Aquarium to showcase Broome ecosystems & Cable beach congestion](#)
- [Qld's wild weather impacts agriculture, more, more & fisheries](#)
- [Gov proposes major reforms mine bonds & rehabilitation](#)
- [Gov entices startups to relocate to Qld & New Qld farm labour hire laws questioned](#)
- [AgForce roadshow to discuss biosecurity, water planning & national parks](#)
- [Ex stockman transforming Cape York wildlife sanctuary](#)
- [Tourists might pay to hunt crocs, collect eggs in Nth Qld, more, more , update & croc business & tourist attraction & call for croc farms in the Gulf](#)
- [\\$6M roads boost for west Qld tourism spots & \\$22M for Winton's Waltzing Matilda Centre](#)
- [Rare minerals might be future of Nth Qld's Diamantina province](#)
- [Call for Cairns cultural centre & marine debris turned into educational art](#)
- [Nth Qld fisho selling gourmet Aust-caught tuna](#)
- [More than farmers responsible for reef & \\$300k to Burdekin farmers restore wetlands for GBR](#)
- [Much of Gulf in drought \(87% of Qld\) & graziers selling](#)
- [Gulf station embraces pork & bacon & Gulf station weighs up irrigated cropping & feedlotting](#)
- [Widespread pasture dieback includes Mackay hotspot, more, more](#)
- [New Grasslands certification scheme for market hungry for clean green grassfed cattle, more](#)
- [NT budget in with infrastructure focus and mixed reaction from rural sectors. \\$10M for NRM data](#)
- [NT needs to move away from mega projects and attract women to address declining population](#)
- [CEO Tracey Hayes to leave NT Cattlemens, & other NT changes inc. Greg Owens acting CEO of NT Farmers, Shar Molloy new Environment Centre NT director, Dave Ciaravolo new AFANT EO](#)
- [NT Farmers policy position series includes biosecurity, infrastructure & R&D](#)
- [New NT-focused blog on good governance & politics with article on NT future](#)
- [Glencore pays no royalties for McArthur Rv mine in 2015 , mine breaches air quality standards & gov fails to monitor & mine overburden \(inc river reroute\) EIS being assessed](#)
- [New research for African mahogany forestry in NT which has projected value of \\$150M by 2019](#)
- [Katherine produce tested for toxic chemicals & 1.3m wet for Katherine](#)
- [Batchelor abattoir processing buffalo & cattle to meet local demand](#)
- [Barkly cattle forum focuses on animal welfare](#)
- [Origin energy doubles shares in NTs Beetaloo Basin's shale gas](#)
- [Baby barra bonanza for researchers](#)
- [3<sup>rd</sup> wettest Top End wet season on record making pastoralists happy & May-July temps will likely be cooler than avg for Top End](#)

## **Water**

- [\\$10 million paid for new water licences on Gulf rivers](#)
- [Siphoning water under the Ord could unlock new developments](#)
- [Canavan on need for Qld Fitzroy dams post recent flooding](#)
- [Wet season failed to fill Tinaroo Dam](#)
- [Wetlands & reef focus for cape York NRM mag](#)

## **Energy**

- [Gas cos & NT gov launch major feasibility study into multifold expansion of LNG hub, more, more](#)
- [NT gov approves pipeline licence for NT-Qld gas pipeline & essay on NT energy future](#)
- [Genex solar farm construction continues & Qld leading way in solar with WA moving up](#)
- [Push for nth Qld coal fired power station continues, more](#)
- [150GWhr hydropower plan for Burdekin ideally with NAIF help, more, more](#)
- [Renewables might be the answer to the Daintree's power needs](#)
- [Conversation article on social impacts of gas, paper on health concerns of fracking in WA, Tim Flannery raises gas concerns for NT & gas industry perspectives](#)

- [Think tank says fracking would be net economic loss for NT](#)
- [Kimberley anti-fracking protester declares victory despite tribunal ruling](#) [More](#) & [Public art projects in Katherine highlight community issues](#)

### **Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc**

- [Farmers, govt & env. groups call for fire ant eradication funds in federal budget](#) & [man attacked by fire ants at Hidden Valley mud races](#)
- [NT statutory weed plans for Bellyache bush, Mimosa & Gamba grass under review](#)
- [Rubber vine reappears in NT](#) [More](#)
- [Researchers making cane toad poison traps from volunteer-collected toads](#)
- [Cucumber mosaic virus found in Bundaberg region likely spread by rotten seed](#)

### **Biodiversity & Protected Areas**

- [Poo-sniffing dogs to search for 'extinct' long beaked Kimberley echidna, more](#)
- [Rare Nicobar pigeon found in W Kimberley](#)
- [Improving farm practices & wetland health will benefit GBR](#)
- [New endangered palm/vine/shrub ecosystem described in Ayr](#)
- [Crowdfunding for glider monitoring in Nth Qld& Drones to study Kimberley humpback dolphins](#)
- [Bush Blitz survey discovers 50+ new spider species on Cape York, more](#)
- [Safer nesting for sea turtles on Cape York](#)
- [More reflective clouds can cool water to prevent GBR bleaching](#)
- [Bush banana story](#)
- [Fish ladders might save Fitzroy sawfish from crocs & sharks, more](#)
- [Tiny 100Myr old fossils found in NW Qld](#)

### **Fire & carbon**

- [Jawoyn rangers partner with NT park rangers to generate carbon credits thro fire management](#)
- [Emission Reduction Fund helping land holders inc savanna managers but not doing much for emissions](#)
- [Nth qld cattle eating seaweed to reduce methane emissions](#)
- [Updated Kimberley fire management brochure & poster](#)

### **Events**

9, 11, 13 May, [AgForce Qld field days](#), Cooktown, Laura, Coen  
 25 May, [Steak your Place Industry Insight Day](#), Charters Towers  
 5-7 Jun, [National Native Title Conference](#), Townsville  
 19-20 Jun, [Developing Northern Australia](#) conference, Cairns  
 2-6 July [Aust Marine Science Conf](#), Darwin  
 29-31 Aug, [State NRM & Coastal Conference](#), Perth  
 4-7 Sept, [Qld Coastal Conference](#), Airlie Beach  
 24-28 Sept, [Aust Rangeland Soc Conf](#), Port Augusta  
 25-27 Oct Kimberley & Pilbara Cattlemens conf, Kununurra  
 21-23 Nov, [Territory NRM conference](#), Darwin  
 29 Nov-3 Dec, [Ecological Society of Australia conference](#), Adelaide

### **Please note**

**We'd like to add you to the mailing list for our Hub's e-newsletter that comes out 3 or 4 times a year. The newsletter contains results, updates & other news from our projects across the North, so we think you'll be interested but please let us know if you don't want to be on the distribution list!**

- this is an informal compilation & 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!)
- if you get a phising message, please try adding us to your address book, though sometimes this is due to an uncertified link that I don't know about
- previous news roundups are available [here](#) (& earlier editions by the [Kimberley to Cape](#) initiative are [here](#))