

# Northern Australia News Roundup – May 2017

Welcome to a summary 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 our desks rather than a systematic collection, so please send any relevant news in and let us know what you think. Also, please let us know if you don't wish to receive this email. Cheers and best regards, [Clare & Jane](#), Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub.

## Pan-northern news

- [2017 federal budget confirms \\$7B investment in Nth Aust](#) [more from Min Canavan](#)
- [Perspectives on what fed budget means for NT and NT cattle & mining reps, WA, Qld, Cairns, Tville, Indigenous Australians](#) [more p23](#), [regional Australia](#) and [live-ex traders](#)
- [Trade Min Ciobo sees 'complementarities' between Nth Aust plans and One Belt One Road but they are 'separate', tho Robb sees differently](#) [more](#)
- [Qld gov comment on NAIF](#) [more](#), [NAB spotlight on NAIF](#) and [New agency to help infrastructure & project financing](#) [more](#) [tho links with NAIF etc tbc](#)
- [Canavan on Adani, Infrastructure Aust comment & claims NAIF board members have conflict of interest](#), [more](#), [more](#), [response](#)
- [NGO's Nth Aust research highlights communications, transport, renewable energy, and education and research infrastructure as common infrastructure needs](#) with [poll suggesting NAIF should fund such](#) [more](#)
- [Nth showcased with >70 ambassadors & high commissioners visiting Cairns with Julie Bishop](#)
  
- [New \\$30m Capacity Building for Indigenous Rangers strategy focuses on biosec & border protection](#) [more](#) [more](#) [more](#)
- [Uncertainty about funding for existing Indigenous Protected Areas and ranger groups](#) [more](#)
- [Nth Aust beef may benefit from Indian ban on slaughter of cattle and buffalo but Aust expert suggests ban unlikely to last](#)
- [Science breakthrough boosts genetic gains of Brahman herds across the Nth](#)
- [What changes in Bovine Johnes Disease mngt mean for Nth Aust as NT announces adoption of J-BAS 6](#)
- [Elders wrapping up sale of live-ex business](#) with [Aust-Chinese gov co. Fanda new buyer. CPC up for sale](#) [more](#)
- [New life for Qlds Longreach cattle yards and \\$4m upgrade for Berrimah cattle export yards](#)
- [Satellites used to track cattle, control yard gates, weigh cattle, direct cattle to different pens etc and Digital Homestead update](#)
- [Mega aquaculture project Seadragon on trading halt while more funds raised](#) [more](#) despite [recent federal gov enviro approval](#) [more](#)
- [Sweeter mangoes and mangos varieties from Israel](#)
- [Good start to Gulf mudcrab season despite proposal to suspend female crab catch and crabbing in NT Shoal Bay suspended for 12 mths and crab poaching in Finnis Rv](#)
  
- [\\$8m for ACCC to monitor Nth Aust home insurance prices, costs and profits may miss point](#) [more](#)
- [New cyclone research to benefit oil and gas industry](#)
- [Timor to push for revised maritime boundary halfway between Timor and Nth Aust](#)
- [Old maps of Aust show Nth with no sheep, woodlands with grass, no/few/some/>10persqml cattle, Aboriginal tribal names, 1 person per 4 sq miles, patriotism & resources in figures & European explorer routes](#)
- [Tropical lilies farmed in SW WA and update on Vic barra trial](#)

## Nth Aust Hub news

- [Our dry season newsletter focuses on projects completed in 2015-16 inc cats, rainforest & fire](#)
- [Prawn trace-element fingerprints and mudflat algae providing vital clues to Gulf river's aquatic productivity](#)
- [Study identifies research priorities of the north's Indigenous Protected Areas](#)

- Seeking PhD candidate to investigate freshwater prawns in WA's Fitzroy Rv

### **State, Territory, etc, news**

- Nth Land Council & CLC developing new Aboriginal Land and Sea Economic Development strategy and agency (ALSEDA)(p2) and NLC's new Community Planning and Development program aims to help drive development and secure local benefits(p6)
- TOs extend free access to intertidal coastal zones while consultations and negotiations over control continue with NT gov(p12). Perspectives on negotiations from different sectors
- NT gov Indigenous Ranger Grants Program Discussion Paper out for comment more
- Comments on draft NT Enviro Regulatory Reform discussion paper due 28 June more more
- NT gov developing Coastal and Marine strategy more more
- NT signs Darwin City Deal MOU with Aust gov to drive investment more and signs NT-SA partnership
- NT gov wants to keep 20% stake in port and Landbridge hoping for NAIF loan
- McArthur River mine EIS says clean-up may take 300 years and Pine Creek gold mine to halt production
- Arnhem Land community working with new model of township lease, community harvesting from hydroponic greenhouse more, community trains to develop seafood industry and Learning on Country workshop
- Big Top End Wet means late mustering but fatter cattle, and Buffalo replace cattle in campdraft
- Seasonal workers on NT farms up 33% in 2016 and Reduced NT poppy plantings and more research
- Hopes to extend inaugural Kakadu bush food festival more and Fashion business running from Legune Stn
- NT's hardy enviro scientists, reminder of tick trouble and NT plastic bag litter increases despite ban
  
- WA Min for Regional Dev Alannah MacTiernan committed to Kimberley and other Development Commissions despite concern from new Nats Leader Mia Davies (ex water min)
- KLC launch Cultural Enterprise Hub to increase job opportunities, look after country & re-invigorate culture
- Indigenous cattle syndicate to add Myroodah stn, with plans for 23k head of cattle and for 6k ha of irrigated fodder on Frazier Dwns
- Media man sells Kimberley stations (Margaret Rv, Bulka & Yougawalla) to foreign investor for \$70m
- Twiggy Forrest uses Indigenous laws to deter prospectors from his lease
- Sandalwood harvest begins in Ord, despite Quintis uncertainty more
- Ord expansion project contracts inc in WA finance review and Inquiry into Pilbara royalties
- Cruise co says ship access in Broome is an issue but locals confident they won't lose tourists and plans for \$150m boat harbour progressing
- Broome aquarium opening in June and Two natural pearls found in Kimberley oyster
  
- University hopes to make Cairns the innovation capital of Aust with \$50m Enterprise Centre, \$33m Sports Conditioning Centre and \$40m Innovation Lodge
- Gulf Shires and some CYP shires revoked from drought list but 70% of Qld declared. Olives suffer in drought but others happy and Longreach's weather stn closes
- Cyclone disaster funds not reaching farmers
- Dryland cropping trials nr Laura on CYP inc sorghum, rice, mungbeans, guar, sesame as well as wheat, chickpea and canola, with next step broadscale farming and Ryan family seeks business partner to clear and crop 31k ha
- 1M ha of Qld trees claimed cleared in 4 yrs
- Excitement and concern over possible Gulf geo-park
- Submissions to review of Wet Tropics Management Plan open til 30 Jun
- Glencore rumored to be winding up copper ops in Mt Isa
- \$800k for Fitzroy grain producers to improve GBR water quality
- Feisty Cairns debate over croc cull
- Trial coffee crop nr Bundaberg

## Water

- [Gilbert Rv irrigated agric precinct gearing up with locals looking into water use and storages](#)
- [Update on CSIROs Nth Aust Water Resources Assessment with 8 potential dam sites in Darwin region](#)
- [Article on floods show NT deaths/capita 3 x more than Qld and most fatalities in small-mod floods](#)
- [2016 water accounts for Ord, Daly and Burdekin](#)
- [Sen McDonald comment on Townsville's water crisis more](#)
- [Article on study questioning enduring worth of Ord Final Agreement \(p22\)](#)

## Energy

- [Nth Qld shines in summary of solar plants , add Normanton Solar Farm more , new deal for Emerald solar and NTs Daly Rv solar/diesel](#)
- [Also new \\$75m sugar biofuel plant to produce 23MW, Lakeland on CYP home to new solar and battery storage project and Cairns home to high tech battery research more](#)
- [NLC submission on fracking highlights large water volumes required and water quality issues \(p3-5\)](#)
- [Indigenous trainees to work on gas pipeline and Jemena re-awards pipeline construction to McConnell](#)
- [NW Aust Browse and Bonaparte basins feature in new offshore petroleum exploration release](#)
- [NW shelf oil leak kept secret](#)

## Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- [Tracking feral pigs in Cape York & Arnhem Land getting cheaper & easier](#)
- [\\$16m to protect Qld banana industry](#)
- [Rubber vine returns to Barkly Tablelands](#)
- [Biosecurity survey of Nth Aust citrus finds all safe](#)
- [Multiple defenses against magpie geese tested](#)
- [Fed budget incs \\$ for fire ant eradication](#)
- [Nth Aust enviro biosec inc in risks and pathways research](#)
- [Robotic weed sprayer to target prickly acacia, rubber vine and common weeds](#)
- [Rpt finds feral cats top problem for threatened mammals, ahead of inappropriate fire and habitat loss](#)

## Biodiversity and Protected Areas

- [News and video on how Kimberley rangers are investigating bilbies](#)
- [Coastal Nth Aust is hotspot where multiple threatened species overlap with Indigenous lands](#)
- [Red-finned blue-eyed fish in reserve nr Longreach facing extinction](#)
- [Island training test for cane-toad-smart quolls more p24](#)
- [Sea turtles use the sunrise to find their way home](#)
- [Loggerhead turtle swims 21/km day from Bundy to Torres Straight no rest and Qld Nest to Ocean program rpts 93% of monitored nests produced baby turtles](#)
- [GBR rangers to use drones for enviro monitoring](#)
- [Qld photographer captures nature to inspire](#)
- [30-60% bleaching in sthn Kimberley reefs first for system with 100yrs of rel stable growth and GBR bleach-resistant coral](#)
- [GBR plan surveys mangroves between Cairns and Cape York after Gulf dieback](#)
- [Brief update on joint management and survey in Judbarra/Gregory Natn Park nr Timber Crk \(p20\)](#)
- [Misty Mtn wildlife corridor re-establishes coast to upland wet tropics rainforest connection](#)
- [Latest edn of Nth Qld naturalist incs butterflies, flying foxes & bowerbirds](#)
- [Inedible? Nth Aust bush tomato recognised in an international top 10 new species list](#)
- [Bird islands for cattle troughs](#)

## Fire and carbon

- [Mangroves may be better than rainforests for storing carbon](#)
- [\\$34m for Inpex-ILC NT savanna fire management program](#)
- [NT bushfire season launched](#)
- [Article on using fire to promote biodiversity](#)

## Events

3 Jun, [Southern Gulf NRM Community Forum](#), Hughenden  
5-7 Jun, [National Native Title Conference](#), Townsville  
19-20 Jun, [Developing Northern Australia](#) conference, Cairns  
20 Jun [Nth Aust Fire Managers Forum](#), Kununnurra  
2-6 July [Aust Marine Science Conf](#), Darwin  
8 Jul [Mapoon](#) & 9 Aug [Chilli](#) beach cleanups, CYP  
20 Jul [Vision for Nth Qld infrastructure](#) breakfast, Townsville  
1-3 Aug, [Kimberley Ranger Forum](#), TBA  
22-23 Aug, [Dept Ag & Water Resources Natn Science Exchange with Nth Aust focus](#), Cairns  
29-31 Aug, [WA State NRM & Coastal Conference](#), Perth  
24-28 Sep, [Aust Rangeland Society Biennial Conference](#), Port Augusta  
25-27 Oct [Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Assoc field day & conf](#), Kununnurra  
21-23 Nov, [Territory NRM conference](#), Darwin

## Please note

- we covered the first week of May in [last month's Roundup](#)
- 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 we don't know about
- previous news roundups are available [here](#) (& earlier editions by the [Kimberley to Cape](#) initiative are [here](#))

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