

Happy new year and welcome to the first News Roundup for 2018 – a summary of recent news on topics relevant to the [Northern Hub's](#) goal of supporting sustainable development in northern Australia. These clips aim to facilitate cross-sector & cross-region knowledge sharing, & 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 & let us know what you think. Cheers & best regards, Clare Taylor & Jane Thomas.

Pan-northern news

- [11 NAIF projects in due diligence – Qld 5, NT 3, WA 3; 3 renewables, 4 transport, 3 resources; 1 tourism; median potential finance \\$70m with total \\$1.9b; total project size for 11 deals \\$5.6b](#)
- [NAIF senate committee inquiry has public hearings in Cairns & Darwin to report by Apr 2018](#)
- [18 active NAIF tourism project inquiries with announcements expected soon](#)
- [Labor to establish panel of community leaders, business owners, tourism operators etc in next few months to advise on a \\$1 billion Northern Australia Tourism Infrastructure Fund, \[more\]\(#\)](#)
- [Canavan convenes Indigenous Reference Group \(L Benning, P Yu, D Odegaard, J Morrison, V Malone, C Saltmere, F Jose, N Browne\) to ensure the nth development agenda is inclusive, \[more\]\(#\), \[more\]\(#\)](#)
- [Summary of Dec's 'Focus to the North' meeting of reps from Office of Northern Australia, CRC for Developing Northern Australia, NAIF & the Northern Australia Indigenous Reference Group](#)
- [CRC for Developing Nth Aust finalising projects out of 115 EOIs & \[appoints NT manager\]\(#\)](#)
- [13 projects funded under \\$6m program to address north's most pressing health issues strengthen tropical medical research capacity](#)
- [Aust-China Rels Inst overview of Aust & the Belt & Road initiative, \[more\]\(#\)](#)
- [Member for Durack \(inc NW Aust\) Melissa Price new assistant Min for the Environment, \[more\]\(#\)](#)
- [Landmark judgement protects native title parties by ensuring 'good faith' obligations at all stages of negotiation](#)
- [Insurance sector insists it has not engaged in premium price gouging in Nth Aust despite large increases in premiums](#)
- [MLAs 2018 cattle outlook suggests cattle supplies will remain tight with slower herd rebuilds, strong competition & small inc in overall beef exports](#)
- [First shipment of live cattle to China leaves Townsville](#)
- [People loving life on northern cattle stations & \[bionic bull catching arm wins award\]\(#\)](#)
- [Nth Aust wild rice could help breed a more nutritious, drought & pest resistant grain, \[more\]\(#\)](#)
- [Growing commercial market for nth Aust sugarbag honey](#)
- [Recap of 2017 Indigenous rangers & protected areas achievements & \[Indigenous land management winning in Canada\]\(#\)](#)
- [Info piece on pre-European Arnhem Land Aboriginal trade & travel](#)
- [The NT's Wardaman people's name for Southern Cross star, Ginan, recognised by International Astronomical Union](#)
- [Indigenous seasonal calendars document interconnectedness of human activities & flora & fauna cycles \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Aust continental plate is moving north at 7cm/yr with mapping coordinates realigned ~1.8m north-east & Nth Aust & Nth America once connected, \[more\]\(#\)](#)
- [Wetter than avg seasonal outlook for Kimberley, & parts of Top End & FNQ. Warmer than avg for the northeast](#)

Northern Australia Hub news

- [12 new research projects announced inc gamba grass mgt, migratory shorebird food supplies, mining rehabilitation, enviro-econ accounts, mangrove dieback & reporting approaches for Indigenous NRM enterprises, \[more\]\(#\)](#)
- [List & links to our current projects](#)
- [World Wetlands Day at Kakadu](#)

State & Territory news

- [NT Economic snapshot shows pop up 0.2%, earnings up 3.1%, inflation up 0.6%, growth rate 1.1%, unemployment down 1%, private investment down 18.1%, with public admin, mining & construction having highest shares of output, more](#)
- [\\$1.7m in projects for remote Aboriginal development fund](#)
- [McArthur mine dumps 14,000 tonnes of toxic waste at wrong site while env'l annual report finds waste mgt still troubling](#)
- [Calls for stricter controls on NT land clearing as NTEPA admits process inadequate & 45.5k ha of land approved by PLB board \(= 4 graziers & 1 scientist\) in 2016/17 driven by high beef prices, 10x more than the av of the previous 12 yrs \(4.6k ha\)](#)
- [Northern Minerals rare earth mine on track to open mid-2018 with initial samples of high quality](#)
- [Humpty Doo Barra increases production with new ponds & call for new passionfruit growers](#)
- [Top end ranked 12 in New York Times top destinations list on back of Indigenous tourism](#)
- [NT wins Singapore & AirNorth flights but loses Philippines](#)
- [NT Coastal & Marine Management Strategy out for comment until Mar 2](#)
- [Wadeye rangers video](#)
- [CDU environmental research in the NT, p54](#)
- [Katherine floods 20 years on](#)
- [No Top End monsoon activity in Dec but it was back with a vengeance in Jan with Daly River evacuated](#)

- [Future looks bright for Kimberley diamond industry](#)
- [Article on a sustainable future for the Kimberley](#)
- [First cotton planting in the Ord](#)
- [Quintis in administration but may be salvageable](#)
- [Weather & insects made for low Kakadu plum harvest in Kimberley](#)
- [Plans for world-class Kimberley Centre for Culture, Arts & Story to inspire visitors to explore](#)
- [Kimberley Indigenous Saltwater Science project presents results & proposes advisory group & service group for PBCs](#)
- [Latest Kimberley NRM funding incs fire coord, gamba grass, rubber vine, erosion prevention & John Silver acting Rangelands NRM CEO more on gamba project](#)
- [Cyclone Hilda first cyclone of the season to affect Aust. mainland, followed by Joyce](#)

- [New Cabinet for Palaszczuk, inc new Mins for State Devt & Infrastructure \(Cameron Dick\), Natural Resources, Mines & Energy \(Anthony Lynham\) & Enviro, GBR, Sci & Arts \(Leeanne Enoch\)](#)
- [First large-scale commercial non-irrigated cotton crop planted in Gulf country](#)
- [NQ station ordered to replant 130ha of unauthorised clearing but they're fighting it](#)
- [Rocklands copper mine reopens after closing for health & safety reasons while Lady Loretta mine to reopen & new operators of Century mine to keep Gulf Communities Agreement](#)
- [Growers threaten boycott over unrealistic food safety requirements](#)
- [Mount Isa's backyard mangoes a treat & bumper Qld pineapple crop leads to waste](#)
- [80% of Qlders inc 70% of One Nation voters support Indigenous land & sea mgt, more](#)
- [Has Adani been buying votes?](#)
- [Southern Gulf NRM annual report & latest newsletter](#)
- [Northern Gulf NRM & Cape York NRM newsletters](#)
- [Warm & dry December for Qld](#)

Water

- [PFAS found in fish from Daly & Katherine Rivers](#)
- [Business case for Lw Fitzroy Infrastructure project Rockwood Weir & water for Qld mapping tool](#)
- [Cloncurry trialling treated effluent for biofuel crops w sorghum showing promise](#)
- [Report on Kimberley's Mowanjum irrig trail field day](#)

- [New groundwater signs for Darwins rural areas](#)
- [Productivity commission finalise report on water reform inc recs affecting Nth Aust](#) [more Sep RU](#)

Energy

- [Draft NT fracking report released, tho scientists question risk mitigation findings amid calls for a fracking referendum](#), [ABC News' special on NT fracking](#), [NLC on fracking](#)
- [Fracking inquiry public meetings in the Kimberley](#)
- [Territory Generation calling for EOLs for world's second-biggest battery after announcing they're broke](#)
- [New technology projects to address the NT's energy & waste problems p77](#)
- [Gulf family build 5MW solar farm](#)
- [Resource boom over as Nth's mega LNG projects complete construction in 2018](#)

Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- [WA prawn whitespot import requirements eased](#)
- [Suspected 3rd case of Panama disease in Tully Valley](#)
- [Yellow crazy ants in dirty dozen invaders list](#)
- [Mosquito coils repel mozzies but smoke may be harmful & they don't prevent disease](#)
- [Summary of available biosecurity surveillance programs](#)
- [Concerns over Qld fruit fly incursions](#)
- [Trapping cane toad tadpoles using their own toxin \(video\) & cane toad calls needed for FrogID app](#)
- [Amazon frogbit declared under NT Weed Mgt Act](#)

Biodiversity & Protected Areas

- [Orcas seen in the western Gulf & first time Bryde's whale seen in NT waters](#)
- [Kimberley's Uunguu Rangers find evidence of tiny endangered rock-wallaby](#)
- [Millions for GBR health projects despite expert concerns, pilot project using fans to cool reef waters](#)
- [Crown of Thorns outbreak on sthn GBR & campaign to ban plastic straws on GBR](#)
- [Warming temps mean green sea turtles in nthn GBR are mostly female & Gulf turtle camp collects vital nesting data](#)
- [Hueglin's Gull spotted in Darwin](#)
- [Roos in Pilbara but not Kimberley](#)
- [Cane toads may be impacting endangered ghost bats](#)

Fire & carbon

- [Nthn Aust birds of prey intentionally starting fires](#)
- [Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research & partners host first national Savanna Fire & Carbon Forum](#)
- [Improved greenhouse gas emissions method uses actual fire effect](#)
- [Sci paper on how savanna veg interacts with climate & fire](#)
- [Dept of E&E savanna burning project FAQs 2018](#)
- [NAFI updates 250m fire scars & download Nth Aust fire history infographics](#)

Events

- 27 Feb [Nth Aust Savanna Fire & Carbon Forum](#), Darwin
- Mid-March, [Gamba Grass Field Day](#), Kimberley TBC
- 15 May, [How will rainfall change in northern Australia over the coming century?](#) Webinar
- 5-7 Jun, [National Native Title conference](#), Broome
- 18-19 Jun, [Developing Northern Australia conference](#), Alice Springs
- 2-4 Jul, [Northern Australia Food Futures](#), Darwin

Correction notice: We mistakenly included an out-of-date link about Kimberley land clearing in November's Round-up – sincere apologies for this oversight.

Please note

- This is an informal compilation and views don't necessarily reflect those of the Northern Hub or affiliates
- We welcome your input & feedback to help us improve the Roundup
- We focus on the semiarid & tropical parts of northern Australia (i.e. don't include Central Australia, Pilbara or Lake Eyre Basin, etc)
- We mostly avoid linking to subscriber-only news articles (e.g. Cairns Post, The NT News, The Australian) so all can access
- Previous news roundups are available [here](#)

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