

Welcome to this month's 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 & Patch Clapp.

Pan-northern news

- [NAIF's senate estimates Opening Statement summarises progress & \\$50k audit questioned](#)
- [Nthn economic activity strongest in cities & mining areas, but post mining downturn](#)
- [Dev Nth Aust CRC chair predicts nth Aust ag expansion areas & promotes maps to de-risk investment](#)
- [Canavan's Press Club speech on mining & possible nth Aust implications](#)
- [TPP-11 provides export opportunities for nthn farmers & fishers](#)
- [Nth Aust Tourism inquiry hearing in Canberra](#)
- [Senate inquiry launched into regional airfares after WA probe](#)
- [90k sq km mineral-rich area ID'd on Qld/NT border](#)
- [New Bill for Aboriginal & TI Land & Sea Future Fund & Bill to expand functions of Indigenous Land Corp & change name to IL & Sea Corp](#)
- [Closing the Gap policy comment rel to nth Aust p8-16, more \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Indigenous languages across Aust spread from the north in 1-2 waves](#)
- [Investing in land performance key to Nth Aust cattle potential, more](#)
- [Beef & hort producers urged to develop business plans while beef industry looks to a future with drones & lab-grown meat](#)
- [Timor Sea maritime boundaries agreed](#)
- [2017's Cyclone Debbie Aust's second most expensive cyclone at \\$1.7b](#)
- [TCs Marcus & Nora batter the north, with wake-up call for Darwin. \[Learn more about cyclone categories\]\(#\)](#)
- [Apr-Jun outlook shows above av rain & cooler temps for Arnhem Land & CYP, warmer temps for nth Kimberley](#)

Northern Australia Hub news

- [Previous NERP & TRaCK research helps guide international biodiversity policy](#)
- [Canberra presentation focuses on limiting marine turtle predation](#)
- [Hub research highlighted at Fulbright Gala event in Canberra](#)
- [Hub researcher David Crook bound for US as Fulbright Scholar](#)
- [Perth workshop ID'd collaborative opportunities for sustainable Fitzroy devt](#)

State & Territory news

- [NT gov urged to focus on 7 areas for population inc early career women & retirees, more & census shows 60% of NT pop is culturally or linguistically diverse, more](#)
- [NT fracking inquiry rpt released & NT gov votes down pro-fracking motion](#)
- [Changed access to beaches & water around Cox Peninsula & Vernon Islands handed back to Tiwi people](#)
- [Darwin's days over 35° rose from 5.6 to 22 pa over past century & may get to 132 pa by 2030 & call for climate change policy](#)
- [\\$1.7 million to upgrade aerodromes across NT](#)
- [NLC's February Land Rights news](#)
- [Pastoral Land Act changes subject of ongoing debate, more, more p6](#)
- [ILC pastoral strategy to diversify](#)
- [NT Cattlemen's conf wraps up & Chris Nott replaces Tom Stockwell as president, more, more](#)
- [Industry disbelief as NT gov begins donkey breeding research & considers export to China](#)
- [NT minerals sector recovering tho call for more policy certainty & discussion on enviro regulation](#)
- [Electric aircraft to recreate London to Darwin Great Air Race on 100-yr anniversary](#)
- [New \\$5.3m home for NT Fisheries in Berrimah](#)
- [Guided fishing program creating Indigenous jobs in remote NT](#)
- [Farmers ferried fruit&veg across flooded & croc-infested Adelaide R this Wet](#)
- [3.9m croc taken to show&tell in Katherine](#)
- [6.6 mag earthquake shakes Darwin](#)

- [Whole of gov approach to meet Fitzroy catchment election commitments & legislation for Fitzroy R Nat'l Park could be introduced w/in 2 yrs, more](#)
- [Native title recognised for 20k sq km of Ngurrara land near Fitzroy Xing, more](#)
- [WA pastoralists petition for tenure that allows more than cattle, more](#)
- [Food Futures Roadshow talks cotton in KNX & discussions begin for tropical ag research centre in Broome](#)
- [Former Quintis boss looking to harvest Ord sandalwood](#)
- [Kimberley industries left vulnerable by marine park downgrades](#)
- [Aquaculture providing jobs for Indigenous communities](#)
- [One Mile community NW of Broome closes](#)
- [Indonesian Sriwijaya Air considers Broome-Bali flights](#)
- [TOs develop transition strategy for Argyle mine closure in 3 yrs](#)
- [Interest sought for restarting Ellendale diamond mine but still years away](#)
- [Indigenous Land Use Agreement for Kimberley's Pardoo Station](#)
- [Quinton Clasen acting Rangelands NRM CEO](#)
- [Clarifying some Kimberley geography](#)

- [Nth Qld jobs grow, more & Qld domestic tourism strong](#)
- [Qld Veg Mgt Bill introduced to parliament & public hearings underway, more](#)
- [Canavan comments on Qld tree clearing & other views](#)
- [Olkola People win objection to mining permits but need to reach some agreement with miners](#)
- [Qld gov releases 1000k sq km in NW minerals province](#)
- [Stakeholder approach to design Qld waste mgt strategy \[related Hub research\]](#)
- [TSV cows test 'Fitbit' tracker](#)
- [Wild dogs may be collaborating to help pups survive](#)
- [New study into Cape York Indigenous food history & stories](#)
- [Projected cruise ship traffic increases & navigational blunder cause concern](#)
- [New Century awards training contract to local Indigenous joint venture](#)
- [Julia Ck Innovation Day, more](#)
- [Katter introduces questioned croc cull Bill](#)
- [Latest news from Southern Gulf & Terrain NRM. CAFNEC Feb newsletter](#)
- [Large Wet wreaks havoc with accessibility & integrity of Qld roads & help for affected areas](#)

Water

- [Water Allocation Plan for WA's Fitzroy R to help inform ag devts, more & scientists sign scientific guidance statement to support gov election commitment \[related Hub research\]](#)
- [W Kimberley stations learn about irrigated ag, & KNX irrigation project gets tick of approval as part of Ord R cotton rebuild](#)
- [Farmers bid on unallocated Wet Tropics water](#)
- [NT's Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve explanation p17](#)
- [2017 FNQ sugar crop suffers from water inundation](#)
- [Major flood for the Flinders R](#)
- [Qld's Fitzroy lights up in Rocky](#)
- [Subsidies for better managing Grt Artesian Basin water extend to Nth Gulf & CYP, more](#)
- [Free PFAS testing for Katherine residents](#)

Energy

- [3 electric car charging stations online in Kimberley between Kununurra & Derby](#)
- [More than 8500 submissions received for WA's fracking inquiry & rpt says fracking Kimberley shale gas would exceed Aust's carbon budget x2](#)
- [Vanadium could keep Kimberley competitive in global battery market supplies](#)
- [WA forges own path on energy policy & production](#)
- [Inpex LNG project delayed by another 2 mths](#)
- [Redrawn Aus/Timor Leste maritime border creates uncertainty on Sunrise LNG project devt](#)
- [Solar trial for communities in Cairns, Rocky & remote Lockhart R](#)

Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- [Qld releases 5y biosecurity strategy](#)
- [NT Biological Control Act updated to protect \\$736m ag industry](#)
- [New ABC series dedicated to catching feral buffalo](#)
- [Red flying foxes gathering in large numbers in Katherine](#)
- [NT on track to be declared free of banana freckle](#)
- [Progress in yellow crazy ant eradication in Wet Tropics](#)

Biodiversity & protected areas

- [WA govt begins consultation to create Fitzroy National Park](#)
- [New parts of Litchfield opened up to public](#)
- [Top End coral reefs bleach & likely to happen again](#)
- [Study looking back 200yrs suggests Kimberley's Mitchell floodplain shifted from dense veg to grasses](#)
- [Bilingual app helping track bilbies in NT & new app developed to help ID spiders](#)
- [Dogs playing vital part in protecting northern quoll in FNQ](#)
- [Migratory birds not seen for 10 years in NT blown off course after TC Marcus](#)
- [Wet wildlife around Broome](#)
- [NT govt to develop 10-yr plan for Territory Wildlife Park](#)
- [Kakadu wins a gold in 2017 Australian Tourism Awards](#)
- [Sharks rebound on NW WA reef after illegal fishing crackdown](#)
- WAMSI news: [Shorebird declines may be partially due to Kimberley habitat pressure](#), [new conservation tool for Kimb marine species](#) & [Kimb giant tides feed reefs](#)

Fire & carbon

- [Heatwave off NW WA led to equivalent release of 9m tonnes CO₂ from seagrass](#)
- [Kimberley fire groups meet in Broome & 10-yr anniversary of Kimberley's Eco Fire program](#) [[related Hub research](#)]
- [2000-2017 & 'last 10yrs' fire histories now viewable & downloadable on NAFI & rpts updates](#)
- [Carbon farming difficulties discussed](#)
- [Search to build new Katherine fire station extended](#)

Events

- 4 May, [Gamba Grass Day](#), El Questro Stn
- 10 May, [Sustainable beef production in Nth Aust seminar](#), Rockhampton
- 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
- 12 Jul, [Food Futures Regional Roadshow](#), Katherine
- 18-20 Jul, [Australian Population Association conference](#), Darwin
- 26-27 Jul, [Aust Water Assocn Nth Qld Regional conference](#), Cairns
- 8-9 Sep, [BirdLife Aust Congress](#), Broome
- 10-11 Oct, [Kimberley Economic Forum](#), Broome

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 semi-arid & tropical parts of northern Australia (i.e. don't include Central Australia, Pilbara or Lake Eyre Basin, etc)
- Increasingly, online media outlets are subscriber-only (e.g. Cairns Post, The NT News, Townsville Bulletin, The Australian) so this limits the outlets we are able to link to
- Previous news roundups are available [here](#)

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Northern Australia News Roundup March 2018



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