

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

- [Min Forum+ on Nth Aust Dev meet in KNX, more](#), releasing [communiqué](#) & 2page+ '[Shared Development Statement](#)' ID'ing priorities inc Indigenous business & innovation, defence, supply chains, quality services, Nth as investment destination, quality infrastructure, using innovative tech to balance preservation of ecol assets & biosec, tourism & hitech medical.
- [NAIF scraps 50% cap on project investment to enhance progress & approval, more, more](#)
- [Rockhampton-based Nth Aust Advisory Council member info](#)
- [CRC for Dev Nth Aust provides \\$300k of \\$830k-project on horticulture supply chains, \\$100k to \\$2.5m Kimberley cherabin aquaculture industry project & seeks beef industry analysis](#)
- [Comment on One Belt One Road debt & more](#)
- [Aust Govt commits \\$250m to support 118 Indigenous Ranger groups to 2021, more \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Ewamian \(Nth Qld\), Nguddaboolgan \(Nth Qld\) & Ashburton \(Pilbara\) Aboriginal Corporations to develop land & water initiatives w CSIRO business & science support](#)
- [Cattle prices on simmer & Qld post-wet restock one of 4 key watch factors](#)
- [Elders sells Indonesian feedlot & abattoir but committed to live-ex trade, live-ex supports independent inspector](#)
- [Autonomous ground drones for Nth Aust cattle station work](#)
- [160 community hearings inc in Nth Aust stress high cost of regional airfares, Canavan on deregulating nthn air routes to lower prices & \\$5.4m to upgrade remote Nth Aust airstrips via 21 projects](#)
- [\\$8m Nth Aust Climate Program to employ across Nth to help producers better manage climate risk, more](#)
- [Aust's first inhabitants island-hopped thru Indonesian islands](#)
- [East & NE winds pushed WA's cyclones north this year, sparing Pilbara](#)
- [Wetter & hotter outlook for the north for May-Jul, April BOM wrap-ups for \[WA\]\(#\), \[Qld\]\(#\), \[NT\]\(#\)](#)

Northern Australia Hub news

- [Indigenous land & sea management programs deliver economic co-benefits to regions](#)
- [Ever wondered what it's like to be an environmental scientist working in northern Australia?](#)
- [What do predator diets tell us about mammal declines in the north?](#)

State & Territory news

- [NT Govt lifts moratorium on fracking, more & David Ritchie to oversee implementation of inquiry's 135 recommendations](#)
- [NT Govt officials visit Japan & Korea to strengthen trade & investment opps](#)
- [NT Govt & land councils work towards an MOU to guide treaty process](#)
- [New NT Farmers' positions to help boost ag in the Katherine region, \[NT Farmers newsletter\]\(#\)](#)
- [Darwin abattoir reviews options in response to loss](#)
- [NT eyes tourism opportunities w direct flights Darwin to Shenzhen, China & Maningrida residents take airfare prices into their own hands](#)
- [\\$6m for regional arts trail program](#)
- [NT Seafood Council Apr newsletter inc new strat plan, sea country plans, marine parks, licences for Aboriginal owned tidal waters, yr concerns](#)
- [Darwin's Lyons & Palmerston Sth had largest & fastest NT pop growth for 2016-7 but \[NT\]\(#\) added only 73 people to pop'n in 2017](#)
- [TNRM workshop on valuing NT's ecosystem services, presentations](#)
- [Other Territory NRM March news](#)

- [Fed court rejects bid to takeover Quintis sandalwood plantations in KNX](#)
- [May consultation workshops for the review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972](#)
- [Kimberley cattle export season looking to build on 96k exports in 2016/17](#)
- [PGA Kimberley pastoral conference & Kimberley Aboriginal pastoral conference](#)

- [Ord's MG Corp to receive two land parcels for Aboriginal agriculture](#)
- [Locally owned & op'd Djarindjin airport breaks even on initial \\$6m loan](#)
- [Locals hope Ngurrara native title determination will preserve culture & create employment](#)
- [KLC April news inc Tyrone Garstone acting CEO until end 2018](#)
- [East Kimberley rare earth mine on track for completion late June](#)
- [WA new laws inc fines up to \\$200k for 'interfering' & teasing crocs](#)

- [Committee recommends Qld tree clearing laws be passed with 14k submissions but graziers angry, Climate Council rpt says Qld clearing accounts for 50-65% of Aust's forest losses over last 40yrs. Veg mgt amendment bill](#)
- [Govt responds to biodiversity review recognising traditional knowledge](#)
- [12 new Indigenous ranger positions for FNQ](#)
- [Nywaigi People's native title rights recognised over ~40k ha of land & waters north of TSV](#)
- [Gunn cattle empire growing across Nth Aust w \\$100m](#)
- [Sugar industry encouraged to look beyond biofuels to bioproducts](#)
- [TSV unemployment drop leads Qld & its cargo movements break records. Cairns jobs grow](#)
- [FNQ businesses well-prepared for single-use bag ban & Cairns set to ban single-use straws in Qld first, more](#)
- [Mt Isa landcare group connects over more than weeds](#)
- [Radar tech finds unmarked Aboriginal graves](#)
- [Autumn news from Cape York NRM inc Bob Frazer farewell, Youth Ranger Forum, speartooth sharks, gamba, gully monitoring & My Cape York Life podcasts series 2](#)
- [Southern Gulf NRM's Apr news inc grazing case study, dunnart, fire & rubber vine](#)
- [Terrain NRM newsletter inc mahogany gliders & benefits of flood flows](#)
- [Qld stn weather records add to BOM data & help make management calls](#)

Water

- [Burdekin Basin water plan amendment consultation open](#)
- [\\$5.9m to groundtruth land & water for Pilbara irrigated ag](#)
- [Lead found in drinking water in NT's Borroloola community](#)
- [Tech helps Nth Qld Indigenous community water supply & presentation on Indigenous water reserves](#)
- [Clermont Water Security feasibility completed under Ntn Water Infrastructure Dev Fund](#)
- [Water availability key in WA Resource Sector outlook](#)
- [Where does the rain go in Aust's drainage divisions?](#)

Energy

- [More on lifting of NT fracking moratorium, more, more, Joe Morrison NLC](#)
- [Pressure on WA to lift fracking ban](#)
- [Beetaloo Basin chosen for Geoscience/CSIRO geo & bioregional assessment program, more, more & local perspectives](#)
- [Santos to double Nth Aust gas production thru Barossa field 300km nth of Darwin, Mt Gibson Iron rebuild Koolan Island seawall & improve economic outlook](#)
- [Chevron proceeding w 2nd stage Gorgon gas expansion](#)
- [Alligator Energy acquires uranium tenements in West Arnhem land](#)
- [\\$500m solar farm for nr Gladstone](#)

Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- [Blog on challenges of tracking feral buffalo & pigs in Nth Aust with the movements of Nic the pig now under surveillance \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Unknown disease killing grasses across Qld cattle country](#)
- [Worst locust plague in 30 yrs for nthn WA costs millions in lost pasture & control efforts, more](#)
- [Citrus canker found in Darwin for first time in 30 yrs & export ban risking livelihoods](#)
- [Fruit fly larvae in Qld mangoes leads to SA import restrictions](#)
- [11 Gulf Shires meet re biosecurity & noxious weeds as Gulf Catchment Pest Task Force](#)
- [Qld Country Hr incs discussion on weeds & pests on crown land \(13:09\), more](#)
- [Cairns Council to cull deer in region's south](#)

- [1700 accessed NT 2018 Gamba Action Program support \[related Hub research\]](#)

Biodiversity & protected areas

- [EPBC listing assessments for Carpentarian antechinus \(Gulf\) & Golden-backed tree rat \(NW Kimberley ex NT\) open for comment \[related Hub research\]](#)
- [New colour field guide to freshwater Kimberley fishes incs 14 newly described species](#)
- [NQ research shows liquid fertiliser stays in soil longer than granular fertiliser](#)
- [Cairns Council asks Qld Govt to change crocodile threat level from vulnerable to least concern](#)
- [TERN maps Nth Aust\(+Aust\)'s ecosystems for global consistency](#)
- [Loggerhead turtle tracks moving east from Pilbara to NT to Gulf](#)
- [\\$500m for GBR water quality, pests & reef restoration & adaptation, more](#)
- [Frog hotel goes viral](#)
- [Tracking false killer whales around Groote](#)

Fire & carbon

- [WA pastoralists clear to pilot carbon farming on crown land under C'wealth ERF, more](#)
- [KLC is first NGO to have fire ops endorsed by Office of Bushfire Risk Management p16-17](#)
- [\\$4.5m for new regional Bushfires NT headquarters & \\$80m for WA specialist rural firefighting division](#)

Events

- 4 May, [Gamba Grass Day](#), El Questro Stn
- 10 May, [Sustainable beef production in Nth Aust seminar](#), Rockhampton
- 10 May, [Developing the Indo-Pacific Region & Dev'ing the Nth: Opps & Partnerships Forum](#), Darwin
- 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, [Aust Population Assoc'n conference](#), Darwin
- 26-27 Jul, [Aust Water Assoc'n 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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