

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 may provide loan to Genex Kidston water 'battery' project in nth Qld, more & docs signed on \\$16.8 loan for WA's Onslow Marine Base](#)
- [Joint parliamentary committee rpt on stimulating nth Aust tourism has 33 recommendations focusing on upgrading transport & telecoms infrastructure, streamlining regulatory processes, marketing coordination & enhancing the planning & coordination of tourism destinations & attractions, more, while Ag minister David Littleproud encourages outback adventures](#)
- [Nth Aust residents pay up to double that of sthn Austs in home & contents insurance & NW WA a high insurance hotspot, more](#)
- [Developing Nth Aust Conference talks inc'd proposal for Traditional Owners become 'landlords' of pastoral leases, talks from FNQ & nthn Argentina & importance of Mt Isa, & Karratha for 2019 venue](#)
- [Aboriginal Australians meet in Broome for National Native Title Conference](#)
- [Opinion on nth Aust as pilot for China's One Belt One Road policy in Aust](#)
- [Article on living in the tropics & importance of place-based urban planning](#)
- [Beef industry forums return to nth Aust](#)
- [Airborne electromagnetic survey reveals mineral potential on NT/Qld border](#)
- [Reports on Mobilising Indigenous Knowledge for Collaborative Management & Guidelines for Collaborative Management now available from the Kimberley Indigenous Saltwater Science Project](#)
- [New bridge over Keep Rv for possible Legune prawn farm, WA freight corridor improved w \\$220m Great Northern Hwy upgrade, NT-Qld access also improved w \\$170m Plenty Hwy upgrade](#)
- [New rpt on changing rainfall in nth Aust over next century](#)
- [BOM declares 50% chance of El Niño this spring, mixed Mar-May rain across the nth w west mostly dry, east wet](#)

Northern Australia Hub news

- [Hub researchers & Traditional Owners in Canberra to share research on the benefits of land & sea mgt programs](#)
- [LiDAR data & ultra-high definition aerial imagery of the entire Gulf coastline now available](#)
- [Hub hosts 'Tools for Two-Way Decisions' session at National Native Title Conference](#)
- [Hub researcher Sue Jackson writes about the new Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council in The Conversation](#)

State & Territory news

- [Broome port set for \\$100m redevt of marine & tourism infrastructure including floating wharf](#)
- [W Kimberley diamond exploration hot but Argyle mine rehab commencing](#)
- [Kimberley nickel production to resume near Halls Creek bringing 250 jobs to region](#)
- [Ord Valley hay could help farmers suffering drought in SE Aust](#)
- [EPA approves Shamrock irrigated ag project, more](#)
- [Singapore co. offers \\$185m for nth WA barra farm](#)
- [Karajarri Traditional Owners create ranger jobs & look to share their gateway to the Kimberley](#)
- [WA Govt starts remote flight route from KNX to Halls Crk to Balgo & cheaper flights to Broome](#)
- [Airbus to operate pseudo-satellites from Wyndham for insurers, military or farmers](#)
- [WA Govt set to improve cyclone alerts & warnings after lessons from 2017/18 season after feedback sessions about record events](#)
- [NT Govt pledges to work towards treaty w Indigenous peoples 30 yrs after Barunga statement](#)
- [NT Govt reshuffle, w Ken Vowles taking Aboriginal Affairs & Eva Lawler taking Enviro & Natural Resources](#)
- [What has the NT achieved in 40yrs of self-governance?](#)
- [CPC increases capacity on NT station by 4000 over 12 mths, set to trial cropping on NT properties](#)

- [Illegally shot cattle costing pastoralists up to \\$100k/yr](#)
- [Maningrida fish processing factory opens & creates job opps for community](#)
- [ERA releases details of Ranger Uranium Mine closure by 2021](#) [[related Hub research](#)], more info coming soon]
- [Pre-feasibility study suggests numbers support lithium mine on Darwin outskirts](#)
- [\\$495m upgrade for Defence facilities in Darwin & \\$110m to Tindal Air Base to upgrade capacity for drones](#)
- [Katherine counsellor calls for single-use plastic ban by 2019](#)
- [Tiwi Is snapshot](#)

- [\\$487m budget for Qld ag w focus on biosec & drought relief, also w more fisheries compliance & monitoring, \\$61m for NRM, \\$4m for study on veg thickening but some think \\$57m increase inadequate, more](#)
- [\\$180m to boost Qld tourism inc \\$1m to scope 76km FNQ bike & walk trail](#)
- [Qld considering potential for commercial coconut industry](#)
- [Collaboration to make FNQ bauxite mining better](#)
- [Auditor general finds low uptake of BMPs to improve GBR water quality](#)
- [Julia Creek Airport upgrade means all-year access](#)
- [Cane-cutting history celebrated but global glut means sugar price slump](#)
- [Only Qlders & Californians can download free highest res satellite imagery](#)
- [\\$20m to clean up old boats in FNQ waterways](#)
- [Conservation groups supported for awareness campaigns & policy contributions etc](#)
- [10-year-old Qlder continues campaign to stop single-use straws](#)
- [Northern Gulf NRM news inc grazing, tourism, rangers, community & events](#)
- [Southern Gulf NRM news \[here\]\(#\) & \[here\]\(#\)](#)
- [Terrain NRM's May newsletter inc fire mgt, reveg mapping tool, cane farming trials](#)
- [Regional Dev Aust FNQ newsletter](#)

Water

- [Draft Cape York water plan released for public comment til 31 Aug. The plan recognises the close cultural connection that Aboriginal peoples & Torres Strait Islanders have w land & water](#)
- [Traditional Owners call for ban on WA Fitzroy water allocation until water plan developed, more & establish Martuwarra Fitzroy Rv Council, more](#) [[related Hub research](#)]
- [WA Fitzroy Rv mgt discussed](#)
- [Fitzroy pastoralists say no on-river dams & form steering gp, more. Env'l alliance emphasises Kimberley's natural value](#)
- [Taxpayer dollars go to co. bottling NT water w/o water extraction license](#)
- [Satellite tech to measure freshwater reserves from space](#)
- [Qs over who is responsible for ensuring running water supply for Fitzroy town](#)
- [Prelim business Nullingda dam nr Cairns business case available & detailed case in progress](#)

Energy

- [NW gas co. looks to renewables](#)
- [Fracking ref group collects diversity of community & business views](#)
- [Radionuclides in Canning Basin fracking flowback water cause concern](#)
- [Strategic Resource & Environmental Baseline Assessment for Beetaloo basin sth of Katherine](#)

Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- [Mystery Qld pasture dieback expanding w calls to plant legumes in affected areas](#)
- [\\$1.5m for drones & other tech to manage weeds on NT cattle station](#)
- [High magpie geese numbers suggest progress in Mimosa pigra battle](#)
- [Citrus canker now in Katherine, further border measures introduced, Qld citrus growers call for destruction of NT citrus plants found w canker & WA introduces further measures to manage citrus canker](#)
- [Qld Govt raises awareness of Panama disease in banana regions](#)

- [Melon industry releases plan to win consumers back after Listeria outbreak](#)
- [Damaging Asian honeybee detected in Darwin sparks calls for public reporting](#)
- [Infestation of electric ants in FNQ](#)
- [Cane toad sausages dropped from helicopter to deter native animals' toad consumption](#)
- [Satellite tech could help prevent wild dog attacks](#)
- [DNA testing for marine pests another tool in protecting Aus biodiversity](#) [\[related Hub research\]](#)
- [ANU to conduct historical study into PFAS health risks](#)
- [Lead levels in Mt Isa reaching abnormally high levels](#)
- [10 tonnes of feral pig hunt carcasses to Qld croc farm](#)

Biodiversity & protected areas

- [Climate changes cause range changes for crocs, stingers & more, croc sightings at popular FNQ upstream waterholes, Katherine Rv sightings make locals think twice about swimming & viral Daly Rv croc video](#)
- [Marine debris limited at Ningaloo Reef & but reaching unprecedented levels on Nhulunbuy coast](#)
- [Microplastics found off remote Kimberley coast](#)
- [Sthn Kimberley bilby research wins award](#)
- [Cats responsible for 2 million reptile deaths every day](#) [\[related Hub research\]](#)
- [Roebuck Bay Snubfin ID book out](#)
- [FNQ frogs found w petrol & caustic chemical burns](#)
- [Govt refuses phosphate exploration on Christmas Is](#)
- [No fines for thousands of sharks inc protected spp caught in Timor waters](#)
- [New turtle centre for Bundaberg](#)

Fire & carbon

- [Aboriginal Carbon Fund training pilot to verify the core benefits of carbon farming & now nationally accredited](#)
- [Nth Aust fire mgt, feed supplements, feed lotting, veg mgt, legumes & dung beetles can help red meat industry be carbon neutral by 2030](#)
- [Workshops help spread fire mgt practice & maintain traditional knowledge](#) [\[related Hub research here & here\]](#)
- [Clean Energy Regulator approves 13 carbon farming projects for WA pastoralists & 6.2m tonnes of carbon abatement purchased at \\$13.52/t at 7th ERF auction](#)

Events

- 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
- 30 Jul, [Beef Up Forum](#), Broome
- 20-26 Aug, [Ecosystems, climate & land-use change across Asia & Australasia](#), Darwin
- 8-9 Sep, [BirdLife Aust Congress](#), Broome
- 10-11 Oct, [Kimberley Economic Forum](#), Broome
- 24-26 Oct, [Kimberley & Pilbara Cattlemen's Conference](#), Port Hedland
- 13-15 Nov, [Territory NRM conference](#), Darwin

Please note

- This is an informal compilation & 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](#)

Northern Australia News Roundup June 2018



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