

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

- [Canavan retains Nth Aust \(& Resources\) portfolio in Scott Morrison's Ministry, other keepers Michael McCormack = Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Development, Nigel Scullion = Indigenous Affairs, David Littleproud = Ag & Water; new are Angus Taylor = Energy, Melissa Price = Environment, Simon Birmingham = Trade, more](#)
- [\\$15m Nth Aust Water Resources Assessment \(NAWRA\) examines ag potential, more, in the Mitchell, WA Fitzroy & Darwin region. Key findings Mitchell – large instream dams =? 140kha of year-round irrigation or water harvesting =? 200kha w 1 dry-season crop/yr; Fitzroy – pumping river water into ringtanks =? 160kha w 1 dry-season crop/yr in 85% of years, groundwater =? up to 30kha of hay prodn in all years; Darwin catchments – combo of major dams, farm-scale offstream storage & groundwater =? up to 90kha of dry-season horticulture & mango trees; also ecological impacts & diverse views on development warrant attention](#)
- Also new [NAWRA-Explorer data tool](#) & [NAWRA-River app](#) to explore dam water reliability & river flow impacts
- [NAWRA commentary by Canavan, McCormack, Scullion, Labor perspective/Clare, ABC, more](#)
- [CRC for Nth Aust announces \\$2.7m Kakadu Plum value chains project, also \\$1m project to evaluate options & issues for development of Indigenous lands & inform gov policy. Other CRC projects announced inc building Traditional Owner-led bush products, building hort knowledge & capacity within Indigenous enterprise, & evaluation of the potential to expand hort industries in nth Aust](#)
- [New CRC for Nth Aust funding round open with EOIs due 7 Sep](#)
- [Office of Nth Aust news now found here](#)
- [31 of 37 nth Aust roads program projects now approved](#)
- [NT Minister suggests live export observers would cripple industry](#)
- [Regionally based 'climate mates' to help graziers across the nth & 10-yr \\$36m CSIRO project to develop decadal weather forecasting](#)
- [BOM Sep–Nov outlook shows 80% chance of exceeding median max temps across nth](#)

## Northern Australia Hub news

- [New project on using eDNA to detect rare animals in remote areas](#)
- [Researchers help inform Ranger Uranium Mine closure e.g. How might contaminated water affect riverbank vegetation & local fish? & Mine site rehabilitation needs animals & reveg for ecosystem restoration](#)
- [NESP Indigenous Science Conversations in National Science Week event](#)
- [New scientific paper on how feral cat exclosures boost reptile populations](#)

## State & Territory news

- [WA gov invites tenders for Perth–Derby air service](#)
- [Kimberley explorer in line to operate mothballed Ellendale diamond mine, more](#)
- [Cockatoo Is Traditional Owners call for protection of marine areas from sediment from mine wall](#)
- [NAIF investment upgrades road to Pilbara lithium mine](#)
- [Minerals co. wins in Native Title dispute](#)
- [Int'l article investigates Kimberley Indigenous tourism values](#)
- [New mango varieties developed for Ord region after 20 yrs & first Ord cotton harvest since 1970](#)
- [Project Sea Dragon expands Exmouth breeding facility & still working on final investment decision](#)
- [Interview with Environs Kimberley director on Kimberley futures](#)
- [Kimberley community to re-vegetate sites on Fitzroy floodplain \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Rangers move remains at risk from Fitzroy Rv erosion](#)
- [WA Mud Crab Mgt Plan likely to allow 6 Kimberley licences](#)
- [97 crocs surveyed in WA's Drysdale provide baseline for monitoring](#)
- [WA teen develops water filter for Kimberley communities](#)
- [Broome's unusual Aug rain](#)

- [Rangelands NRM Aug news](#)
- [NT pop'n growth strategy released](#) inc econ devt, infrastructure & tourism plans. [New Territory branding aims to attract domestic & international migrants & former Territorians explain why they leave](#). [Gas industry says onshore gas could add 500 NT jobs = 1240 people](#)
- [NT Chief Min seeking to deepen links w China](#)
- [NT News' business editor takes NT Cattlemen's Assoc'n CEO role](#)
- [NT parliament debating proposed subleasing amendments to Pastoral Land Legislation](#)
- [NT cattle country battling big dry alongside sthn farmers](#)
- [NLC concerned about ILC considering de-stocking some stations](#)
- [NTG revokes major project status for Quintis sandalwood](#)
- [EPA recommends McArthur Rv mine expansion & NLC condemns overburden mgt approval for McArthur, more](#)
- [Environment Centre NT response to Ranger Uranium Mine closure plan, more](#) [\[related Hub research, more, more\]](#)
- [Jawoyn Aboriginal Corp to manage Mangarrayi rangers in Katherine region](#)
- [INPEX offset conservation project 'years behind schedule'](#)
- [NT rec fishing survey on industry's size & value to inform \\$50m investment](#)
- [Report on NT's marine science needs](#)
- [\\$80k boost for Katherine tourist attractions](#)
- [NLC Land Rights News Aug inc Barunga 2018, recognition, Blue Mud Bay anniversary, McArthur Rv Mine & reconnecting women w Country](#)
- [Qld food & fibre jobs increased by 10,500 from Jun 2017](#)
- [African mahogany forestry in FNQ & full Landline ep](#)
- [Sugar industry highlights advances from 10 yrs of research](#)
- [KAP suggest sugar oversupply could be turned into molasses-based food alternative](#)
- [Mackay 2015 package to look beyond mining inc'd tourism by 7-10%, inc'd jobs & dec'd vacancy rates](#)
- [Shorten commits \\$500m in road funds inc Barkly Capricorn Mitchell & Kennedy hwys, more](#)
- [\\$1.1m for Kowanyama road & construction unit](#)
- [Assistance agreement signed for TSV battery storage project](#)
- [Karumba dredging enables 6000 cattle exports this yr but future uncertain](#)
- [\\$5m for councils to be ready for waste disposal levy](#) [\[related Hub research\]](#)
- [Adani documents on post-cyclone pollution](#)
- [Wet Tropics Aug Newsletter inc new soil health hub](#)
- [Southern Gulf NRM June/July newsletter](#)

## Water

- [Mitchell & Gulf water plans extended until 2027](#) [\[related Hub research here & here\]](#)
- [Flinders Rv grape & citrus project nr Hughenden gets Coordinated Status to assist progress](#)
- [10mx10m fabric print engaging west Qld communities in flood risk & planning](#)
- [Old copper mine poisons waterways sw of Cairns with zinc, cadmium & more, more](#)
- [Nth Aust research features in Aust Gov wetlands publication & Kakadu wetlands research](#) [\[related Hub research\]](#)

## Energy

- [\\$59m solar project w 25 remote NT communities heads towards completion](#)
- [Drought-hit town welcomes Kennedy renewable energy park w/ solar & wind & Mt Emerald project substation powered up to supply 75k homes](#)
- [\\$5m study confirms east-west \(Pilbara\) gas pipeline remains pipedream but Nthn Gas Pipeline b/w Tennant Ck & Mt Isa set to flow](#)

## Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- [WA DPIRD acts to further prevent damage to state's citrus from canker](#)
- [Int'l NGO calls for action on gamba grass highlighting massive fire risks](#) [\[related Hub research\]](#)
- [FNQ cane fields burned to prevent spread of electric ants](#)

- [NZ suspends import of Aus melons, pumpkins, squash & cucumber after plant virus discovery](#)
- [TSV wipes out possible dengue-carrying mosquitos with modified mosquitos](#)

## Biodiversity & protected areas

- [Submissions to date inc from NT & WA govts to Senate Committee inquiry into Aust's Faunal Extinction Crisis highlight species losses across nth Aust](#) [\[related Hub research\]](#)
- [Mossy discovery on Cape York will reshape plant evolution understanding in nth Aust](#)
- [Dingoes to be listed as 'non-fauna' in changes to WA legislation](#)
- [Scientists debate how boabs came to Aust](#)
- [Rare scaly-tailed possum sighted in E Kimberley & 10-pearl oyster found in W Kimberley](#)
- [Snorkelling to count turtles nr Kalumburu, Kimberley](#)
- [Drones help monitor pigs & crocs to help Cape York sea turtles](#) [\[related Hub research\]](#)
- [Debris from Vietnamese fishing vessel covers FNQ beaches](#)
- [Labor plan to bring back extensive marine park network](#)
- [ABC investigates sediment runoff into GBR](#)
- [Threatened Spp Recovery Hub Aug news inc eastern curlew, myrtle rust & feral cats & NQ Nats latest issues inc karst, finches, fire](#)

## Fire & carbon

- [Map of fires on 18 Aug shows Top End hot spot & 1000 fires after 20 days into Qld bushfire season & bushfire threat is now year-round in Aust](#)
- [Indigenous rangers in Qld Gulf run fire training program](#)
- [2018 nth Aust savanna burning projects summarised by sector in graphic](#)

## Events

- 5 Sep, [Cape York Weeds & Ferals AGM](#), Cooktown
- 5–6 Sep, [Mining the Territory](#), Darwin
- 8–9 Sep, [BirdLife Aust Congress](#), Broome
- 17–21 Sep, [KLC 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration](#), central Kimberley
- 17–21 Sep, [Natural Resources & Indigenous Livelihoods course](#), Darwin
- 18–21 Sep, [Grazing Naturally workshops](#), Tablelands & Ingham
- 10–11 Oct, [Kimberley Economic Forum](#), Broome
- 24–26 Oct, [KPCA Annual Innovation Conference, Field Day & AGM](#), Port Hedland
- 26 Oct, [Cape York NRM AGM](#), Cooktown
- 31 Oct, [Beef Up](#), Julia Creek
- 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](#)

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