

# Northern Australia News Round-up September 2018

*World-class research to support sustainable development*

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 opinion piece on nthn devt & Nth Aust Water Resources Assessment, more, economist's take on Canavan's NAWRA pitch & comment from QFF, farmonline, Sen. McDonald & WA Fitzroy opinions here & here](#)
- [NAIF Sept newsletter inc's \\$95m Kimberley mineral sands, \\$150m NT airport upgrade loans, presentations & new chair Khory McCormick, more, more](#)
- [Northern Alliance of Councils, local govts north of Tropic of Capricorn, meet to advance nthn devt, more more, more & Mt Isa mayor on nth Aust resources devt](#)
- [One Belt One Road review finds challenges](#)
- [Nat'l Indigenous Ranger Forum held in Burketown, more](#)
- [Timber Creek Native Title compensation claim brings High Court to NT for first time](#)
- [Nth Qld 'nexit' deemed impractical](#)
- [Indonesia removes tariffs from Aust ag exports, more, more, more](#)
- [Aust & Brazil complain to WTO over India's subsidised sugar dump](#)
- [Live ex appears regularly in 2018 media but what would Aust look like without it?](#)
- [Infrared technology helping mango farmers across nth identify best harvest time](#)
- [Hancock Ag portfolio undergoing technological upgrade w/ drones, radio tech & solar panels](#)
- [Yalangbara, 210km<sup>2</sup> in NE Arnhem Land being assessed for National Heritage listing this year](#)
- [\\$15m for Landcare in WA Rangelands, \\$6.6m for Nth Qld NRM Alliance & \\$8.7m for Territory NRM](#)
- [Nthn Prawn Fishery re-assessment of export approval open for comment until 15 Oct \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [BOM suggests Oct–Dec rainfall across nth will be below avg](#)
- [Winter was warmer & drier than avg across most of Aust](#)
- [El Niño is neutral & forecasts only indicate short-lived & weak event likely, but a +ve Indian Ocean Dipole is developing](#)

## Northern Australia Hub news

- [New project to improve transfer of flow–ecology relationships to support water planning across the north](#)
- [Call for case studies on Indigenous land mgt ideas & experiences](#)
- [New paper shows that Indigenous land & sea mgt spending has positive spill-overs for local business](#)
- [26 stakeholder orgs come together for participatory scenario planning for Fitzroy devt scenarios](#)

## State & Territory news

- [Kimberley mineral sands mine set with \\$95M NAIF loan & Aust Govt enviro approval](#)
- [Nickel mine nr Halls Ck & platinum prospect funded by \\$15m Goldfields sale](#)
- [New Zn Pb Ag exploration in W. Kimberley w pre-mine resource of ~18m tonnes](#)
- [Irrigated ag project nr KNX given approval w 3055ha of land clearance](#)
- [Best Ord chickpea harvest in years](#)
- [Wyndham live ex declining in contrast to BRM & DRW](#)
- [Plans for 55,000-spat commercial rock oyster trial off Derby](#)
- [KLC celebrates 40 years, more & ann rpt](#)
- [WA Marine Science Inst contributes >130 data sets inc many from NW to open data portal](#)
- [Kimberley diamonds decorate Aust's most valuable coin](#)
  
- [NT govt releases plan to ensure future growth creates vibrant communities & protects what Territorians love most – our lifestyle & unique character, community engagement report & Darwin's population facts](#)
- [Reflections on Inpex impacts](#)
- [150 Territorians in Canberra for 'Facing Nth' business event](#)
- [\\$300m expansion of NT airports includes \\$150m NAIF loan & investment could create 1,500 jobs, Labor welcomes the report & loan](#)
- [Tiwi Is infrastructure boost thru \\$9m airstrip upgrade](#)

- [\\$15.5m upgrade at Nitmiluk nr Katherine continues w/ design tender awarded](#)
- [NT govt offers \\$4.1m for essential equipment & \\$2m/yr to Aboriginal Rangers](#) [[related Hub research](#)]
- [NT govt consults with Inpex before talking about any Inpex-funded study](#)
- [NT govt trialling self-herding techniques to utilise all possible grazing land](#)
- [CRCNA supports 3-yr, \\$1.3m collab research into intensive mango mgt](#)
- [4–4.5m trays of mangos in 18/19 season forecast for NT & new DRW–HKG flight lift for mango exports](#)
- [Indigenous leaders, fishermen & tourism operators express concerns about NT iron ore mines restarting](#)
- [Mining opportunities in Arnhem Land at first Aboriginal-owned & operated bauxite mine](#)
- [NT space industry update](#)
- [Darwin's extreme high temps, more](#)
- [Gouldian Finch takes centre stage at Katherine's first Bird Festival](#) [[related Hub research](#)]
- [Territory NRM Network Notes July/Aug & NT Farmers July/Aug newsletter](#)
  
- [Century re-mine aims to become fourth-largest zinc mine, more](#)
- [\\$193m TSV Port channel expansion](#)
- [Qld mining & gas rehab fund kept secret after Qld govt blocks Right to Info requests](#)
- [Qantas reduces number of flights between Mt Isa & BNE](#)
- [Labor commits \\$500m for better Qld rural & regional roads](#)
- [New Qld land access ombudsman](#)
- [Program underway to make Qld homes more cyclone resilient](#)
- [Nth Qld graziers experiencing molasses \(feed substitute\) shortage](#)
- [Qld graziers visit AIMS to learn about land use & reef monitoring](#)
- [Woodchip bioreactors remove nitrogen from paddock groundwater](#)
- [Minister Scullion denies ILC is de-stocking FNQ cattle properties after sale of 1000 breeding heifers](#)
- [Sweet potato excess harvest turned into flour](#)
- [Hi-tech Gladstone 2400head/day abattoir](#)
- [NRM regions Qld, Terrain, Cape York, Southern Gulf NRM newsletters](#)

## Water

- [NT introduces bill to licence water use by mining & petroleum industry, more, more](#)
- [Draft GAB strategic mgt plan out for comment until 5 Oct](#)
- [Summary of consultation on postponing expiry of Mitchell & Gulf water plans](#) [[related Hub research here & here](#)]
- [Discussion on using or losing water licences in Douglas–Daly](#) [[related Hub research](#)]
- [Canavan on Darwin's water & nth Aust devt](#)
- [Future Katherine flood mgt will sacrifice hospital over homes](#)
- [Adani plans to take 12.5b litres from local river, approx. as much as all local farmers combined](#)

## Energy

- [Scientists call for WA fracking ban, more as independent panel hands its report to govt](#)
- [Gas industry to measure env'l impacts of NT fracking](#)
- [Medical experts examine NT fracking public health risks](#)
- [NT Chief Minister announces 5-point gas strategy to boost jobs & make NT a global gas hub](#)
- [Santos & Jemena sign deal to ship gas from NT to Mt Isa](#)
- [MP expresses concern over Chinese consortium bid for Aust gas pipelines & Aust Pipelines & Gas Ass'n in Darwin for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#)
- [\\$59m NT solar project helps build solar in W Arnhem community](#)
- [FNQ's Kidston pumped hydro wins coordinated project status & Qld solar farm guidelines](#)

## Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- [NT releases updated Gamba Grass Mgt Plan](#) [[related Hub research](#)]
- [NT govt allow NT stations to graze cattle on invasive gamba grass](#)
- [Canker search expands across NT & WA & all citrus to be destroyed in NT canker region around Darwin & surrounds & largest NT citrus farm allowed to trade interstate after all clear](#)
- [PFAS contamination means downstream from Katherine only safe for catch+release but Daly Rv ok & rpt estimates 3-4 tonnes of PFAS in groundwater](#)

# Northern Australia News Round-up September 2018

*World-class research to support sustainable development*

- [Far nth WA cattle herd protects Aust as biosecurity detector](#)
- [Gamba Grass Roots FB page & outback weeds video](#)
- [1m NT bees found dead from poisoning incident](#)
- [Island w/ no permanent water source home to coexisting cane toads & native wildlife](#)
- [Cane toad genome sequencing could lead to new, more effective mgt](#)

## Biodiversity & protected areas

- [Senate Inquiry into extinction crisis highlights major cuts in funding to environment & threatened spp](#) [[related Hub research](#)]
- [Leaked rpt says 955 spp in Qld face extinction](#)
- [Innovative research shows mango peel could help clean up oil contamination](#)
- [Science is helping threatened spp \(cassowaries & flying foxes\) recovery in the tropics](#)
- [Underwater drone that can help with reef surveillance could be vital to maintaining reef health](#)
- [Declining shark populations are caught commercially on & around the GBR](#)
- [Crown of thorns mgt funding funnelled through tourism companies](#)
- [GBRF spends \\$7m on administration](#)
- [New nature refuge nr Gilbert Rv in Qld's Gulf](#)
- [Nat Geo article on Arnhem Land beach rubbish](#) [[related Hub research](#)]
- [NT govt prosecutes over harbour oil spill](#)
- [Sparrows in mining towns adapting to minimise lead uptake](#)
- [Citizen science helps discover 37 new spider spp in Qld](#)

## Fire & carbon

- [Bleak bushfire outlook for the 18/19 season](#)
- [Curious Darwin explains why there's so much Top End fire](#)
- [Qld showcases Indigenous savanna burning in US](#) [[related Hub research](#)]
- [Qld warned about subterranean fires burning through root systems & re-emerging](#)

## Events

- 10-11 Oct, [Kimberley Economic Forum](#), Broome
- 17-18 Oct, [NT Major Projects Conference](#), Darwin
- 18-19 Oct, [Water in the Bush](#), Darwin
- 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
- 20-22 Nov, [National Indigenous Economic Devt Forum](#), 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](#)

**Clare Taylor, Jane Thomas & Patch Clapp** | Knowledge Brokering & Communications team

NESP | [Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub](#)

08 8946 7476 | 0405 730 999 | [nesp.northern@cdu.edu.au](mailto:nesp.northern@cdu.edu.au)

3.15 Red 1, Charles Darwin University, Darwin NT

Follow us on [Twitter](#) | Like us on [Facebook](#)

*World-class science to support sustainable devt in northern Australia*