



Happy 2019 & 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

- [Indigenous affairs minister & NT Senator Nigel Scullion to retire](#)
- [Submissions to new Joint Parliamentary Committee inquiry into the Opportunities & Challenges of the Engagement of Traditional Owners in the Economic Devt of Northern Australia close 28 Feb](#)
- [NAIF approvals top \\$1b with two investments totalling \\$200m: \\$27.5m for Uluru Airport, \\$160m loan indicated for Ammaroo Phosphate project & loan signed for Humpty Doo barra project](#)
- [CRCNA announces \\$420k aquaculture industry study across nthn Aus & \\$950k to improving nthn Aus mango exports to China & CRCNA to analyse broadacre cropping in nthn Aus](#)
- [One Belt One Road Darwin–China deal a blueprint for future economic expansion](#)
- [ACCC recommends overhaul of nthn Aus insurance](#)
- [Parts of nthn Aus included in map highlighting world's remaining undisturbed lands](#)
- [Nthn Aus showcased in IMAX film screening in USA](#)
- [Overwhelming criticism for suggestion to merge SA & NT](#)
- [\\$450m Land Care partnerships incl. \\$10m in nth WA & \\$13m in NT](#)
- [Booming live exports for first half of 2018/19 financial year & end 2018 with prices on a high](#)
- [Patent on cattle genome research could impacts in Aus](#)
- [2011 live-ex ban begins court proceedings & hard Brexit could affect Aus meat exports](#)
- [Alleged payment for live-ex footage & live exporters impose 3-month ban to Middle East from June 1](#)
- [US market for beef booming for northern pastoralists](#)
- [Min. Scullion called to intervene in NLC leadership difficulties, more, more](#)
- [Lessons from Indigenous success in the USA relevant to nthn Aus](#)
- [TO engagement in marine science, Indigenous language app & diversity, & call for place names](#)
- [Info on Kakadu plum monitoring, mkt eval of nthn Aus wild rice, harvesting agile wallaby, improving capacity of primary industries to withstand cyclonic winds](#)
- [Indonesian diplomat on reducing waste washing up on nthn shores \[related Hub research\]](#)
- [Artificial intelligence helps underwater fish analysis in nthn waters](#)
- [BOM declares 2018 third-hottest year on record, lesser-known climate driver Indian Ocean Dipole explained, monsoon brings inland rain & no strong temp or rainfall differences forecast for nthn Aus Feb–Apr, risk of El Niño now passed & monsoon explained inc late 18/19 onset](#)
- [Info on improving tropical rainfall models & on cyclones forming further away from equator](#)
- [Heatwave breaks records across north among tumbling records all across Aus](#)

Hub news

- [New Hub project investigates mgt options for gamba grass in natural areas](#)
- [Future carbon credit calculations will incorporate Hub research & could benefit nthn land managers](#)
- [Hub forum in Canberra to highlight research findings & achievements to date](#)
- [Look back on a summary of our most popular news stories from 2018](#)

State & Territory news

- ['Boundless Possible' NT govt website to boost NT & latest pop'n update is down 236](#)
- [NT financial struggle & budget turmoil takes 3 NT ministers, budget repair relying on fracking & NT public service in budget limbo](#)
- [\\$60m regional deal for Barkly](#)
- [NT EPA releases guidance on adaptive mgt](#)
- [Decade-high numbers for Kakadu tourism & \\$200m future funding doesn't mask NT's other tourism struggles, Darwin–China flights running under capacity & increase in domestic tourism for NT](#)
- [Ranger Uranium Mine rehab cost blows out to \\$296m \[related Hub mine rehab research\]](#)
- [Workers report lead–zinc concentrate spilling into Gulf for years](#)
- [Lease for new lithium mine & new manganese exploration licence](#)

- [Land-clearing permit challenge hears evidence over lack of climate change consideration](#)
 - [Trio of NT & WA cattle stations sold to Vietnamese investors in \\$135m deal & foreign entities bought or leased an additional million hectares of NT in 2018](#)
 - [NT farmers struggling with staff retention hope for skilled visa changes](#)
 - [NT cotton debate arises again as trials get underway](#)
 - [NT water bottling company enters administration](#)
 - [Dragonfruit farmer wants local labelling after imports render business almost unviable, durian fruit grower near Darwin is receiving attention from across Asia, red bush apples growing in popularity & domestic NT pineapple success](#)
 - [Canadian co. to grow medicinal marijuana in NT & illegal tobacco crop grows back](#)
 - [Public access to Aboriginal-owned NT coastline extended until mid-2019](#)
 - [NLC Land Rights News inc. Tibmer Ck case, Blue Mud Bay, essay on Indigenous poverty](#)
 - [Arnhem Land Ranger story \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
 - [Croc harvesting labelled as a 'world-leading' model for supporting communities thru conservation](#)
 - [\\$25m for Lingiari road upgrades inc. Katherine roads set for \\$1m upgrade](#)
 - [Recreational crabbers targeted in crackdown around Top End boat ramps](#)
 - [Territory NRM newsletter inc. TNRM awards, longneck turtle study, soil consortium & ann rpt](#)
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- [Tsville experiencing worst flooding in recorded history: up to 1100 rescued from flooded homes, 1100mm in 7 days & dam peaking at 244%, \[more\]\(#\)](#)
 - [Shared 2050 vision for Cairns centres on quality of life & liveability outcomes](#)
 - [Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council passes Economic Devt Strategy](#)
 - [\\$25m for bio-refinery to support Mossman sugar mill](#)
 - [First shipment from Cape York bauxite project](#)
 - [Qld Country Hour discusses fisheries regulation overhaul](#)
 - [Qld fishers reporting safety risks amidst efforts to comply with vessel tracking & Gulf prawn fleet boss calls on industry to improve safety](#)
 - [Citrus shortage & increased demand send lemon prices soaring](#)
 - [Auditor-General to audit FNQ Regional Jobs Program](#)
 - [Cloncurry-Dajarra Rd in Qld improved thru Nth Aus Beef Roads Program](#)
 - [Cairns' sthn connections improved thru Bruce Hwy widening](#)
 - [Qld'ers can now apply to harvest crocodile eggs from wild](#)
 - [Abundant jellyfish linked to increased solar activity, Irukandji warning system in doubt as expert departs CSIRO but eDNA may be able to help identify Irukandji presence \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
 - [Cattle rescued after Daintree floods to 12.6m](#)
 - [Newsletters from \[Cape York\]\(#\), \[Southern Gulf\]\(#\) & \[Terrain NRM\]\(#\) & \[RDA FNQ\]\(#\), \[RDA Tsville\]\(#\) & \[NW\]\(#\)](#)
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- [Broome port dredging to start mid-2019 & Broome sewerage threatening Roebuck Bay tourism & wildlife](#)
 - [WA economy strengthening thru resources & other sectors](#)
 - [Nth WA sets sights on native oysters](#)
 - [No-consultation barra ban in King Sound angers commercial fishers](#)
 - [Station acquisition on Fitzroy R. doubles acreage & herd of Kimberley Ag & Pastoral Co](#)
 - [Kimberley station investigated after 100s of cattle found dead, Pilbara cattle deaths, \[more\]\(#\)](#)
 - [Challenges of restarting submerged Koolan Is iron ore mine](#)
 - [Origins of rare earth metal dysprosium nr Halls Ck may boost supply for electric vehicles, etc](#)
 - [BHP accused of underpaying up to \\$300m in iron ore royalties](#)
 - [Jaru Native Title recognised on Kimberley country](#)
 - [KLC newsletter inc. AGM highlights, Native Title claims update, Sheffield Resources agreement, Desert Eyes & Ears Google Impact Prize & night parrot pic](#)
 - [Rangelands NRM newsletter inc. info on new 1yr projects inc. West Kimberley Ramsar sites, risks to bilby habitat in nth Rangelands & climate change, \[more inc. Rangelands Threatened Spp Forum\]\(#\)](#)
 - [\\$95m for NW WA roads](#)
 - [Heatwave & late wet make tough start for nthn WA station workers](#)

Water

- [Comment on NT water law reform](#)
- [Fracking could fund Top End water infrastructure](#)
- [An explainer on logistical & financial barriers to piping water from nth to sth](#)
- [Real-time rain gauge could change game for nthn farmers](#)
- [Katherine's emergency water treatments plant shuts down](#)
- [EOIs open for \\$500m capital component of national water devt infrastructure fund & NT govt encouraged to apply](#)
- [Article on significance of water for Aboriginal people in remote inland Aus](#)

Energy

- [First commercial gas transport for Nthn Gas Pipeline with constructor eyeing expansion & Min. spruiks northern gas flow but still no realistic link between west-east gas fields](#)
- [Gas pipeline from Broome east currently unlikely, more, extra emissions for Gorgon start-up & co. can't pay fracking site rehab bill](#)
- [Building of Katherine solar farm delayed & Tsville explores community-scale solar battery](#)
- [Labor's 50% renewables target may not be applied uniformly across states](#)
- [Revelations about safety concerns during Ichthys LNG construction won't be pursued](#)
- [Qld LNP wants royalties from Galilee basin put in investment fund & Qld coal exports hit record high exporting 223m tonnes to 30 countries](#)
- [Fracking policies vastly different across nthn Aus jurisdictions](#)

Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- [Plant pathologists to release a Parkinsonia herbicide that may change woody weed mgt](#)
- [NT declared free of banana freckle disease after 5 yrs & \\$26m & citrus canker discovered in another Darwin suburb](#)
- [NT launches gamba action program \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Exporting feral animals could help manage biosecurity threat \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Arnhem waterhole springs back to life after fence keeps buffalo out](#)
- [Cane toads capable of switching from nocturnal to diurnal patterns & toads hitchhiking south in NT sparks warning to motorists](#)
- [Feral camels reach plague proportions, forcing pastoralists to shoot 2500](#)
- [CSIRO investigating biocontrol measures for nthn Aust pests & weeds](#)
- [Who's worked on what weed with Cape York NRM lately](#)
- [Vietnamese farmers' perceptions of biosecurity risks](#)

Biodiversity & protected areas

- [Daintree Rainforest World Heritage listing 30 yrs on](#)
- [IUCN concerned about status of sawfish in Aus but rangers monitoring Victoria R. report high pop'n \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Coral bleaching forecast for waters off nthn Aus](#)
- [Heatwave wipes out 23,000 \(one-third\) of nth Qld spectacled flying fox pop'n](#)
- [Thousands of budgies flock to outback NW Qld after rain](#)
- [Public asked to look out for sick turtles as sea temps rise](#)
- [Call for nominations of threatened species, ecological communities or key threatening processes \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)

Fire & carbon

- [Rpt on Nat'l Indigenous Fire Workshop 2018](#)
- [Min. Canavan rejects large mining company CEOs calling for carbon price](#)
- [NAFI resumes NT curing updates & Google Earth updates last year's fire scars](#)
- [NTCA calls for police to prosecute fire starters](#)
- [Clean Energy Regulator announces results of 8th ERF auction – 3.3m tonnes avg of \\$13.87/tonne inc. 16 NT, 52 WA & 151 Qld projects underway & summary results & graphics](#)

Events

- [13-14 Feb, Nth Aus Savanna Fire & Carbon Forum, Darwin](#)
- [20 -21 Feb, Reimagining Public Administration: First Peoples, governance & new paradigms, Melbourne](#)
- [3 Apr, Nth Aus Fire Managers \(NAFM\) forum, Darwin](#)
- [12-13 June, Australian Biosecurity Symposium, Gold Coast](#)
- [11-12 July, Developing Northern Australia Conference, Karratha](#)
- [July, Northern Australia Arts Fest, Townsville](#)

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 Round-up
- We focus on the semiarid & 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 round-ups are available [here](#)

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