

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 keeps Nth Aust & Resources portfolio in cabinet reshuffle, more, more+gas](#)
- [Canavan interview on gas, Adani & cabinet reshuffle](#)
- [Nth Qld MP George Christensen loses leadership challenge to McCormack](#)
- [NAIF on track to meet corporate plan goals with 15 projects in due diligence phase, inc at least 4 in WA, more. Rail freight co. withdraws NAIF Galilee rail bid, more](#)
- [Aust Govt agrees with 12 of 42 recs made by Joint Select Committee on Nth Aust, agrees in part with 10, in principle with 8, doesn't agree with 3.5 & notes 8.5 recs \(Pivot Nth doc\)](#)
- [Closing the Gap refresh recognises Indigenous culture as central to 4 pillars of prosperity – individual, community, econ & environ, with last inc. connection to country & natural assets. Comments due 31 Mar \[related Hub research \[here\]\(#\) & \[here\]\(#\)\]](#)
- [CRC for Developing Nth Aust Board meets in KNX to discuss opportunities in the Ord & CRC-P grants in Nth Aust see \\$3m for barra breeding genetics & \\$1.8m for wilt resistant bananas](#)
- [New Min for Ag & Water Littleproud celebrates beef industry at CPC award dinner in Darwin](#)
- [Update on live-ex ban class action](#)
- [Update on Aust Govt Nth Aust Worker Pilot Program](#)
- [Senate inquiry into regional airfares incs many Nth Aust submissions](#)
- [Tropical fruit harvest accelerated in lead up to Chinese New Year](#)
- [Indonesian mangos, dragon fruit compete w nth Aust harvest](#)
- [Gubinge or Kakadu plum gaining awareness in health food industry](#)
- [Increasing heatwaves keep tourists out of cities, damage coral, increase deadly irukandji range & reduce income](#)
- [Indonesian vessel off NW Aust with illegal 1110kg of yellowfin tuna](#)
- [Kimberley has 5 cyclones & several lows this season breaking rainfall records, more](#)
- [Nth west Qld welcomes rain, more](#)
- [Inland oceans created by record Kimberley rain may have strengthened Cyclone Kelvin, which cut off Broome's only supply road](#)
- [Feb temp & rainfall maps, & Mar-May outlook maps, show large range both within & across nthn regions](#)

### Northern Australia Hub news

- [Who collaborates with who & why in NRM in the Daly catchment, more](#)
- [World Wetlands Day at Kakadu](#)
- [Brisbane workshops to help research uptake](#)
- [Now hiring Qld Regional Research Coordinator & welcome to new Comms Officer](#)

### State & Territory news

- [Interviews with Kimberley local members on fracking & Aboriginal heritage assessment](#)
- [New Fitzroy Valley Futures website, more](#)
- [Ord farmers follow maize to Sth Korea & could double corn exports to Sth Korea](#)
- [Ord co. plants first commercial wet season new gen cotton crop since collapse 40 yrs ago with help from \\$11m project](#)
- [4 Kimberley ranger groups successful in Round 1 of \\$8.5m WA Aboriginal Ranger Program](#)
- [Trials of new dryland forage legume to extend growing season](#)

- [Farmers & investors look to take over Kimberley sandalwood plantations; Central Aus gas pipeline's plans out for public comment; Katherine Mining Services Assoc says iron ore mine reopening is good opportunity](#)
- [East Kimberley mine could meet global battery boom's graphite demand & gold prospects at Nicolson's project area nr Halls Ck](#)
- [Fitzroy Rv cemetery erosion exposes bones](#)
- [Pilot retraces survival story of aviators in Nth Kimberley](#)
- [Kununurra growers meet Valentine's Day demands & Perth Mint coins decorated with Pink Argyle diamonds](#)
- [Zotero ref database established to share Kimberley environmental reports](#)
- [Rangelands NRM newsletter](#)
  
- [NLC CEO Joe Morrison on opportunities & resetting relationships](#)
- [Roper Rv iron ore mine restart maintains env'l commitments](#)
- [New geoscience info to attract investment in minerals & energy exploration](#)
- [Satellite imagery determines fruit density to help mango & other growers with biosecurity & disaster recovery](#)
- [Poor wet in NT's Barkly Tablelands may mean de-stocking & early muster](#)
- [New \\$s for Katherine tourism to help overcome potential PFAS fears](#)
- [Croc Dundee reboot ad campaign & \\$103m govt tourism package](#)
- [Rain leaves Humpty Doo Barra scrambling to airlift 30t of product out & 400k juveniles in](#)
- [NT Fisheries ban barra nets that span more than half of any waterway & add levy to monitor fishing vessels](#)
- [TOs call for EOIs for Top End grazing licence renewals](#)
- [Video updates from Bulgul, Malak Malak, Croker Is junior, Wagiman, Numbulwar Numburindi & Wudicupildiyerr Outstation rangers, & from Waanyi Garawa people on their IPA](#)
- [Territory NRM small grants open til 19 Mar, TNRM newsletter](#)
- [NT Farmers' newsletter](#)
  
- [50% increase in net migration to Qld](#)
- [Consultation underway for Cairns Global Tourism Hub, Townsville to host major ecotourism conf & Qld wins tourism awards](#)
- [Two new self-guided driving tours thru nth west Qld hope to draw tourists inland](#)
- [Boeing invests in Townsville & other Qld towns](#)
- [\\$120m Port of Cairns upgrade to accommodate 100 ships by 2031 incs 290 conditions for maintaining water quality](#)
- [Karumba concerned about effects of mosquito spraying on aquaculture & marine environment](#)
- [Drones for disaster recovery & authorities limit drone use at Qld's Barron Falls](#)
- [Terrain NRM, Nth Gulf NRM & Cape York NRM combine corp & admin services](#)
- [Archaeologists confirm 6,000 year old Aboriginal remains on western Cape York](#)
- [New solicitor for EDO NQ](#)
- [Qld revamps Long Paddock tool for climate info for graziers](#)
- [54 illegal fishing offences on GBR over Xmas holidays](#)
- [Local knowledge mobilised for Tully & Johnstone catchments](#)
- [\\$130k for country based planning, leadership & knowledge sharing for rainforest Aboriginal groups](#)
- [Terrain NRM news inc help for threatened species & habitats \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Southern Gulf NRM newsletter](#)

### Water

- [Qld Govt asks Aust Govt to split costs for Fitzroy's Rookwood Weir, \[more\]\(#\), \[more\]\(#\), \[more\]\(#\)](#)
- [Progress rpt on 36km \\$215m Townsville water pipeline](#)
- [Arnhem Land bottled water venture to reduce welfare reliance](#)

- [NSW first to sign onto \\$8m Great Artesian Basin Infrastructure Investment Program](#)
- [Mins release Nat'l Env Mgt Plan for PFAS](#)
- [NT's inaugural Women in Water Symposium](#)

### Energy

- [Sugar cane waste for diesel & jetfuel with trials in Mackay & Gladstone & Qld sugar co. trialling agave for biorefinery to produce power](#)
- [Update on Nth Qld solar farms](#)
- [WA's independent inquiry into fracking visits Broome & Fitzroy Xing](#)
- [Katherine & Roper Gulf councils vote to ban fracking & open letter calls on NT to ban fracking, suggesting new shale gas fields could increase emissions by 5%](#)
- [Lock the Gate disputes submissions to fracking inquiry but later apologises](#)
- [NT gas producer drills four new wells to help fill Nth Gas Pipeline](#)
- [Paper on risk assessment & governance for Gladstone's LNG plant](#)

### Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- [Nth Aust Biosecurity Surveillance Significant Disease Investigation Network launched to help safeguard livestock industries](#)
- [Study shows feral pigs stay put if conditions ok, more \[related Hub research\]](#)
- [Vaccine for virus-infected farmed crocs may help dengue & zika vaccines](#)
- [Rangers capture non-native Indian Palm Squirrel on Groote](#)
- [Dead cane toads on sea turtle nests deter goannas, toads no longer declared pest in nth WA since unstoppable, toads spotted at Kalumbaru \(map\) & dead toads en masse in Darwin](#)
- [100 feral pigeons blown from Indonesia found in Broome & Kununurra](#)
- [Mosquito carrying MVE virus detected in Katherine](#)

### Biodiversity & Protected Areas

- [Airlie Is skink removed from threatened species list after genetics confirms more locations in NW, Christmas Is Shrew moves from Endangered to Critically Endangered, & Cape York's crimson finch now Endangered](#)
- [Dingo fence may have disrupted ecosystems & small mammals may benefit from presence of dingoes](#)
- [Nth Qld Naturalist vol. 48 incs crimson finches, Camooweal caves, raptor nesting & Rose Gum post fire](#)
- [Send your sightings of endangered northern quolls etc to NT WildWatch](#)
- [Insecticides, urbanisation & climate change possible factors for lower insect numbers this summer](#)
- [Rare brown-lined sea snake footage from Broome & crazy frog hopping on Roebuck Plains](#)
- [Kimberley flooding forces snakes, lizards & frogs to share refuges](#)
- [Nth Qld enthusiast prototypes bird safe float device for livestock drinking troughs](#)

### Fire & carbon

- [Forum for insights into nth Aust's \\$40m/yr carbon industry, more](#)
- [Aust cattle farmers ID 20 possible pathways to carbon neutrality by 2030](#)
- [NAFI Google Earth fire scar links updated](#)
- [Dampier Peninsula fire project recognised in resilience awards](#)

### Events

- 1-31 Mar, [Closing the Gap refresh consultation](#), various locations inc Brisbane & Darwin
- 8 Mar, [Women in Water Symposium](#), Darwin
- 14 Mar, [What are NT ecosystems worth?](#) Darwin
- 15 Mar, [Aboriginal Languages Awareness Workshop](#), Fitzroy Crossing
- 22 Mar, [Fitzroy Valley Futures Forum](#) [more](#), Fitzroy Crossing

- 22-23 Mar [NT Cattlemen's Assoc industry conference](#), Alice Springs
- 26-27 Mar [Nth Gulf NRM Grazing Forum](#), Undara
- 27 Mar, [Developing Nth Aust - A Financial Risks Challenge](#) (insurance/climate change), Actuaries Inst Sydney
- 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
- 18-20 Jul, [Australian Population Association conference](#), Darwin

#### 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 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 roundups are available [here](#)

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