



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

- [Latest nth Aust economic snapshot](#)
- [High Court awards Timber Creek native title holders \\$2.5m for loss of rights & case to guide future compensation](#)
- [Inquiry into opportunities & challenges of the engagement of Traditional Owners in the economic development of Nth Aust submissions available \(26\)](#)
- [Federal Aboriginal Land Commissioner dismisses objections to land claims but Min. Scullion won't grant river land until access terms are clear, more](#)
- [Suggestion that Indigenous Protected Areas should be moved back to Env portfolio](#)
- [CRC for Dev Nth Aust project to investigate forestry & forest products industry potential](#)
- [NAIF newsletter celebrates 10th investment decision & summarises progress](#)
- [\\$50m NAIF loan to upgrade Tsv airport, more & airstrip upgrades in nth Aust, more & Qantas grilled on high fares for regional flights](#)
- [Gulf cattlemen call for nth Aust devt action](#)
- [New regulations for live-ex post-review](#)
- [New \\$30m ag biodiversity \(inc carbon\) stewardship scheme & \\$4m certification scheme](#)
- [Nth Aust electromagnetic survey reveals mineral potential in NT & Qld](#)
- [Farmers unhappy with adjustments to skilled-worker visas & worker exploitation may be 'new norm'](#)
- [Substantial funds for nth Qld road upgrades to ensure links to NT & sthn states, more & WA/NT shortcut focus](#)
- [Study into social & cultural benefits of Indigenous tourism](#)
- [Monster ghost net hauled from Gulf possibly signalling start to debris season \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Twin cyclones deliver heavy rain to cattle stations in W Qld, NT's Barkly & Simpson & NW WA](#)
- [Missing NT & WA wet season has winners & losers \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Apr-Jun outlook shows slightly wetter than avg in Gulf coastal areas otherwise avg & warmer temps](#)

Hub news

- [New project accounting for ecosystem benefits in the Mitchell catchment](#)
- [Adding value to research in WA's Fitzroy River catchment](#)
- [Qld researchers assist with water planning needs & presentations at Qld Land & Sea Ranger Conf](#)

State & Territory news

- [NT govt pledge to underwrite loans for major projects & call for royal commission on NT govt finances](#)
- [\\$3.5m to assess ag devt potential of Roper Rv catchment](#)
- [New NLC CEO is former NT MLA Marion Scyngour](#)
- [Excerpts from recent NT Cattlemen's Conf, leaders share thoughts on 2019 challenges, members vote to improve advocacy capacity, more](#)
- [Reopening Batchelor meatworks welcomed & new Code of Practice for NT buffalo industry](#)
- [NT Kalala Station sells for \\$58m expanding Langenhoven cattle empire](#)
- [Curious Darwin investigates lease of port to Chinese co.](#)
- [\\$40.5m bid for billion-tonne NT phosphate project](#)
- [Trial planting for native wild rice crops](#)
- [Barkly Stock Route set for \\$12.5m upgrade & \\$39.9m to upgrade Keep Rv Rd](#)
- [Territory NRM network notes inc updates on Groote Hopping mouse, Arnhem Land/Kakadu weeds/ferals/fire & central Aust bilby projects](#)
- [Vanished wet season has 'eerie' similarities with 1952 wet season](#)
- [Giant evacuation ahead of TC Trevor & wind gusts equal with TC Tracy](#)

- Tsv Port sees great opportunities for FNQ with Aust–Indonesia Free Trade Agreement
- General increase in rural Qld land values
- CPC sells Qld cattle station to NT pastoralist for reported \$20m
- First cattle sale in 5 years brings hope to Longreach
- Feedlot definition causing headaches for drought-affected NW Qld farmers
- \$33m assistance for Qld flood recovery & future flood mitigation, new recovery agency created to assist flood recovery in nth Qld & AACo optimistic about recovery but tips long road ahead
- Tourism Qld chair faces perceived conflict of interest in Nat'l Park devt in FNQ
- Crumbling facilities at Palmer's Yabulu nickel refinery & widespread safety concerns
- New \$2.6b bauxite mine nr Weipa will keep Aust a major aluminium producer
- Barra soap & changing tourism in Karumba
- Gulf seafood co. wins funding to boost exports
- Memorial held for 'gentle giant' croc in Cardwell, sth of Cairns
- NW Qld blackspot gets 4 new radars in \$28m boost to weather monitoring
- TC Trevor damage to Cape York rainforest could last decades
- Planning for WA's Fitzroy forum to progress river mgt plan, water allocation & proposed Nat'l Park but cotton production unlikely to fit [\[related Hub research\]](#)
- E Kimberley Traditional Owners sign MOU with new pastoral service co. for irrigation, cattle, training & jobs
- Mustering starts early after disappointing wet
- Support for dry season feral animal control in pastoral regions inc Kimberley
- Building better regions fund helps 3 Kimberley projects with \$400k in allocations
- WA marine biosecurity & surveillance system earns Aust Biosecurity Award
- Oyster shells worth more than pearls in traditional Aboriginal culture in NW
- Madden–Julian oscillation keeping cyclones away from NW WA

Water

- Water in the nth summary (2nd half of ONA newsletter)
- Aust Govt establishes Nth Qld Water Infrastructure Authority, an executive agency for strategic planning, business cases, ensuring information sharing & keeping govt informed
- Plans for a Fitzroy ag hub could be closer to reality with 600GL potentially available for ag usage
- \$180m Hughenden irrigation scheme works could start within weeks, more
- Tsv council to take over mgt of Ross River dam & Tsv most flood-prone location in Aust
- Water service upgrade for remote Kimberley communities
- PFAS compensation settled with Federal Govt for landowner in Australian first

Energy

- Tsv's \$2b battery plant set to lodge devt application
- Min. Canavan calls for new NQ coal in split from PM's direction, Indigenous-owned energy co. wants to build NQ coal-fired power stn & substation upgrade secures energy for NQ
- FNQ & other remote areas could benefit from \$50m investment in microgrids
- WA EPA releases new guidance on greenhouse gas emissions
- 'Constant roar' from Darwin's INPEX gas processing plant is within acceptable noise levels

Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- Standing Cmte on the Env & Energy releases cane toad rpt & could a waterless barrier help slow cane toad spread?
- Managing feral pigs for biodiversity in Cape York ranger handbooks [\[related Hub research\]](#)
- Infectious bacteria cause veins on mangoes & mango industry working diligently on temp mgt across supply chain
- Tech continues to help in fight against rubber vine
- Cairns Council commits to removing bats & advisory committee says council is ignoring expert advice
- \$9m for Yellow Crazy Ant control in Wet Tropics
- Fire ants rely on cannibalism to help invade new territory across nth Aust
- Ladybird discovered in nth Qld after cyclone could help manage tomato & potato pests

Biodiversity & protected areas

- Nth Aust researchers call for end to extinctions
- WA plan for 5m hectares of new nat'l & marine parks & reserves, more
- Draft joint mgt plan released for conservation reserve nr Broome Park & other W Kimberley reserves
- Qld creates Special Wildlife Reserves to enable voluntary caretaking of high conservation areas
- New GBRMPA CEO announced, Qld minister unhappy w/ appointment & \$19m in clean water grants to protect GBR
- Reef runoff regulations discussed at single public hearing in Bne
- Concern for Palm Cockatoos following TC Trevor
- Tern blown off course by TC Trevor & found a long way from the coast [\[related Hub research\]](#)

- [Flatback turtle arrives unusually early to nest on Darwin beach](#)
- [Striped dolphins stranded at Cable Beach](#)
- [New Kakadu fish project](#)
- [Concerns about sea-level rise in Kakadu, more](#)

Fire & carbon industry

- [Article on Indigenous fire mgt across the globe \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Nitmiluk burn-off starts almost 2 months early after limited rainfall](#)
- [Buffel grass fuelling NT fires \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Central Kimberley rangers combine Western tech with traditional knowledge for right way burning](#)

Events

- 3 Apr, [Northern Australia Fire Managers \(NAFM\) forum](#), Darwin
- 9–10 Apr, [NT Ag Pathways to Potential Field Days](#), Katherine & Douglas Daly
- 10 Apr, [Lakeland Irrigation Report release](#), Lakeland
- 14–17 May, [Aust Mangoes Conference](#), Darwin
- 15–16 May, [Indigenous Economic Devt Summit](#), Darwin
- 16 May, [Southern Gulf NRM Fire Management Workshop](#), Mount Isa
- 1 Jul -31 Aug, [Nth Aust Festival of Arts](#), Townsville
- 3 Jul, [ABARES Regional Outlook](#), Darwin
- 3–5 Jul, [Australasian Ornithological Conference](#), Darwin
- 8–12 Jul, [Australasian Scientific Conf on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity](#), Cairns
- 11–12 Jul, [Developing Northern Australia Conference](#), Karratha
- 10–18 Aug, [National Science Week](#), national
- 14–15 Aug, [Australian Water Association NQ regional conference](#), Townsville
- 21–23 Aug, [Qld Coastal Conference](#), Gold Coast
- 2–5 Sep, [Australian Rangeland Society Conference](#), Canberra
- 4–8 Sep, [NT Resources Week](#), Darwin
- 12–13 Sep, [Australasia Pacific Extension Network Conference](#), Darwin
- 20–24 Oct, [Riversymposium](#), Brisbane
- 11–13 Nov, [International Conference of Tropical Agriculture](#), Brisbane
- 12–14 Nov, [TNRM 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 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](#)

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

3.15 Red 1, Charles Darwin University, Darwin NT

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

World-class science to support sustainable development in northern Australia