



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.

Unfortunately this will be the last Round-up for the near future due to staffing changes, but you'll still receive the Hub's e-Newsletter & other updates – apologies for any inconvenience.

Cheers & best regards, Clare Taylor, Jane Thomas & Patch Clapp.

Pan-northern news

- [Min. Canavan commits \\$5.7b to nth Aust in 19–20 budget inc. for roads, water infrastructure, industry led research, flood recovery & weather radar](#)
- [ANAO finds NAIF decision support processes not sufficiently transparent or consistent, NAIF accepts all ANAO recommendations, board members used private email for official NAIF business & two new NAIF board appointments](#)
- [Labor plans to replace NAIF with Nthn Aust Devt Fund for e.g. gas pipelines, tourism, Indigenous-led business & Coalition promises a fund to develop & encourage Indigenous tourism enterprises](#)
- [Aust Logistics Council meet to get nth Aust supply chains right, more & new nth Qld ag supply chains alliance](#)
- [Export opportunities investigated for nth Aust beef, soybeans, aquaculture, avos & macadamias](#)
- [CRC for Dev Nth Aus analyses industry sectors in the north to design R&D program](#)
- [Beef cattle numbers dropping ~8% due to Qld floods & drought, but strong demand from China & US & cattle exports from nth Aust down](#)
- [Reflection on how pioneering nth Aust cattle business model accounted for variable climate](#)
- [Native Title case considers access & rights to feral animals on pastoral lease land](#)
- [Bumper start to banana prawn season for Gulf trawlers](#)
- [Nov–Apr rainfall summary shows below avg rain for NW & Top End, & above avg in parts of nth Qld](#)
- [May–Jul climate outlook indicates higher temps, slightly wetter than avg for NW & Top End, & slightly drier than avg for western Cape & Nth Aust Climate Program outlook & review](#)

Hub news

- [Project leader Michele Burford discusses Gulf prawn catches @19:47, more, more](#)
- [Project leaders Justin Perry presents on feral animal mgt & Norm Duke presents on mangrove dieback at the Qld Indigenous Ranger Forum](#)
- [Check out this short video for highlights of our Canberra Research Forum, & see this collation of follow-up resources including presentations, films & factsheets](#)

State & Territory news

- [Federal election efforts see parties shift their focus to NT seats](#)
- [NT govt to axe public service jobs & cut spending to fix budget, more, more](#)
- [Territory winners & losers from federal Budget & Min. Scullion confirms Kakadu funding will be spent over next four years](#)
- [Strong interest in GM cotton trials in Katherine despite long-term concerns, more](#)
- [Humpty Doo Barramundi harvests record 100 tonnes of fish](#)
- [NT govt tourism boost to use social media](#)
- [NT pastoralist buys 2nd Qld CPC station for ~\\$50m, Scott Ck stn also on the market](#)
- [Native Title recognised over NT's Pine Creek](#)
- [NLC's Land Rights News Northern Edition April 2019 incs news on Community Devt Program \(p22\), permits \(p4 & 16\), fracking \(p12\), Sea Country planning \(p14\), Snr Ranger meeting \(p24\)](#)
- [Labor commits to \\$173m NT Roads package](#)
- [TC Trevor warnings reveal problems with broadcasting warnings & guidance only in English](#)

- [Cattle toll & clean-up bill from Qld's Feb floods continues to build & local govt reflects on disaster mgt lessons](#)
- [Nth Qld \\$100m tiger prawn project granted prescribed project status](#)

- [Qld grazier fined \\$450k for illegal land clearing on Gulf Country property & discussion on Qld clearing laws](#)
- [Labor commits \\$100m to improving Mt Isa to TSV rail line](#)
- [Qld introduces fast fines for infringements from unauthorised farm entry](#)
- [NQ aquaculture project could generate up to 2700 tonnes of black tiger prawns](#)
- [Federal Court allows shark control to continue in GBRMP while appeal is underway](#)
- [Cape & nth & west Gulf escape 65% of Qld drought declared, map](#)
- [WA Govt Public Accounts Cmte question \\$534m investment in Ord expansion, more](#)
- [Ord corn finds a niche in S. Korea](#)
- [Rinehart associate wants “red tape” slashed to accelerate Kimberley freehold tenure](#)
- [Implications of \\$14.2b merger for NW WA Tanami gold mine](#)
- [NW LNG plant continues to fail to comply with environmental approval conditions](#)
- [Kimberley Land Council April Newsletter incs Jaru Native Title, Timber Creek comment, WA Aboriginal Heritage Act & Land & Sea Unit update](#)
- [Science overview of East Kimberley’s Joseph Bonaparte Gulf marine park](#)

Water

- [Explainer on water planning in WA’s Fitzroy R. catchment, WA’s Fitzroy draft plan scheduled for release mid year needs to learn from Murray Darling & Traditional Owners call for river buffer zone \[\\[related Hub research here & here\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Draft Ti-Tree Water Allocation Plan open for comment until 20 May](#)
- [Darwin rural area water levels at critical levels @1:56 & plan in place for Katherine’s bores after limited wet season \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Business case for nth Qld Hells Gates dam project & \\$10m for Lakeland irrigation](#)
- [\\$100m from Qld govt to keep Haughton pipeline moving for TSV water supply](#)
- [Fact check on proposals to revisit Qld Bradfield Scheme](#)
- [Aboriginal people’s water needs in the Qld MDB: a guide to water plans of interest for nth Aust](#)
- [Nth Aust water resources webinar 4 Jun](#)

Energy

- [Santos first to ask for gas drilling approval in NT, more & fracking fast track \\$8.4m funding in 2019 federal budget](#)
- [Labor wants to unlock nthn gas with new pipelines, but emissions concerns over more gas extraction & gas exploration company says could be 5–10 years before gas flows from NT](#)
- [Adani mine a focal election issue, Min. Price accepts groundwater mgt plan tho \[meeting notes show discrepancies, Qld govt statement & comment\]\(#\)](#)
- [Mega lithium ion battery plant may start construction in TSV next year](#)
- [High-voltage electricity transmission line will connect NW Qld energy users to national grid](#)
- [NQ’s Kidston pumped storage hydro project receives Qld govt env’l approval but power purchase agreement needs securing](#)
- [East Timor now majority owner in Sunrise gas field](#)

Weeds, ferals, diseases, etc

- [Nthn Aust Quarantine Strategy Follow-on Audit finds Dept is progressing but has not fully addressed 2012 recommendations \(from Jan\)](#)
- [NT govt weed plans for chinee apple, mesquite, prickly acacia & neem open for comment until 17 May](#)
- [Volunteer firefighters say gamba grass spread & subsequent fires are lethal threat \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Feral dog numbers on rise in nth WA costing producers millions](#)
- [Is there a better way than aerial culling to manage Kimberley brumbies?](#)
- [RRRC funding \\$3.5m Palm Is project to manage COTS & feral animals](#)
- [Fighting cane toads across nth Aus & Indigenous knowledge saving goannas from cane toads](#)

Biodiversity & protected areas

- [Plans for Kimberley’s proposed Niiwalarra Islands Nat’l Park & Lesueur Is Nature Reserve out for comment](#)
- [Draft Bilby Recovery Plan open for comment until 12 July, Indigenous rangers lead two-way bilby science & Nat Geo bilby story \[\\[related Hub research\\]\]\(#\)](#)
- [Future uncertain for seagrass monitoring in Broome’s Roebuck Bay](#)
- [Rare carnivorous plant found in Kimberley billabong](#)
- [Google street view of Kakadu available](#)
- [GPS tracking shows how extreme weather events can affect migratory bird paths](#)
- [Gas pipeline prep finds previously undiscovered grey nurse sharks near Tiwi Islands](#)
- [NT’s Bullo stn signs 10-yr agreement with Aust Wildlife Conservancy to co-manage land](#)
- [Daintree NP mgt plan that builds on cultural knowledge released](#)
- [Mountaintop rescue mission mounted for FNQ wet tropic plant species](#)
- [Nat Geo highlights nth Aust & Florida as last sawfish strongholds](#)

Fire & carbon industry

- [New NAFI website design & easier-to-use fire scar attributes](#)
- [Qld carbon projects among those granted funds from Qld Land Restoration Fund](#) [[related Hub research](#)]
- [No Top End permits to burn after 28 April](#)

Events

- 15–16 May, [Indigenous Economic Devt Summit](#), Darwin
- 16 May, [Southern Gulf NRM Fire Mgt Workshop](#), Mount Isa
- 4 Jun, [Assessing the Water & Ag Resources of Nth Aust](#), webinar
- 3 Jul, [ABARES Regional Outlook](#), Darwin
- 3–5 Jul, [Australasian Ornithological Conference](#), Darwin
- 11–12 Jul, [Developing Northern Australia Conference](#), Karratha
- 1 Jul–31 Aug, [Nth Aust Festival of Arts](#), Townsville
- 8–12 Jul, [Australasian Scientific Conf on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity](#), Cairns
- 16–18 Jul, [Indigenous Mapping Workshop](#), Perth
- 10–18 Aug, [National Science Week](#), national
- 14–15 Aug, [Australian Water Association NQ regional conference](#), Townsville
- 19–22 Aug, [Nth Beef Research Update Conference](#), Brisbane
- 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
- 6–8 Nov, [Kimberley & Pilbara Cattlemen's Ass'n Conference & AGM](#), Broome
- 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 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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