

## Northern Australia News Roundup – November 2016

Welcome to a summary of November's news on topics relevant to the [Northern Hub's](#) goal of supporting sustainable development in northern Australia. These clips aim to facilitate cross-sector and cross-region knowledge sharing, and more informed conversations about the future of northern Australia. They're an informal 'round up' of what comes across my desk rather than a systematic collection, so please send any relevant news in and let me know what you think. Also, please let me know if you don't wish to receive this email. Cheers and best regards, Clare, Knowledge Broker, Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub.

### Pan northern news

- [Canavan calls for bigger regional cities, more states and more balanced enviro regulations. More saying Nth development is important because these are difficult... and Nth dev '..should be seen as an economic reform on the same platform as tariff reduction, financial deregulation and the floating of the dollar'](#). [Follow-up interview re growing Darwin](#)
- [New NAIF website and southern border expands for Blackall-Tambo; Adani coal rail proposal likely first to go to detailed scrutiny](#) [More more and more](#)
- [\\$6M Nth Aust roads highlighted in gov response to Infrastructure Aust plan](#)
- [Nth Aust Tropical Disease Collaborative Research Program announced to complement DFATs \\$2M Tropical Disease Research Regional Collab Initiative](#) announced last month
- [Darwin port CEO comments on Nth Aust links with Asia and latest Opportunity Asia report shows strong demand for high quality products & services](#)
  
- [Survey finds Darwin agriculture worth more than double Ord](#)
- [Inpex's 890km pipeline from Nth Kimberley to Darwin soon gas-ready](#)
- [Nth Aust last place for wild pearls, meaning high end mrkts](#)
- [Indonesia looks to import cattle from Brazil, Mexico etc](#)
- [Billionaire Sawiris chks out Nth Aust and esp Kimberley tourism venture](#)
- [Satellite tech monitors remote cattle watering points](#)
- [Andrew Robb appointed as advisor to Seafarms project Seadragon, adding to his Landbridge interest in the Nth](#) [More. Concerns over wastewater from project Seadragon's breeding facility in Darwin's Bynoe harbour and KNX processing plant location found](#)
- [Gulf tiger prawn catch down by 30% but squid by-catch up; Qld scallop stocks crash to 6%](#)
  
- [Indigenous Land Corp agribusiness generates \\$28M with much from Nth Aust cattle](#)
- [Breakthrough agreement gives Aboriginal people control of township leases](#)
- [Call for more evidence to demonstrate outcomes of Indigenous run programs](#)
- [Thought provoking Conversation article on Indigenous affairs policy](#)
- [Justice forum hears value of reconnecting kids to country](#)
  
- [Study shows >1/5 of Aust's economic output is at high or extreme risk of disruption from cyclones](#)
- [Nth Aust at risk from next big tsunami](#)
- [Nth Australians cope better with heat stress and employers can help](#) [More](#)

### Nth Aust Hub News

- New project on [Defining metrics of success for managing feral animals in Nth Aust \(and great associated timelapse video of two waterholes near Coen on Cape York, one with pigs, one without, More\)](#)
- Environmental water project leaders meet to enhance research outcomes on the [Fitzroy, Mitchell, Daly and sthn Gulf catchments](#)
- Project on [multiple objective planning showcased](#) at Ecol Soc Aust conference
- News on investigating [Indigenous water needs for the WA Fitzroy](#)

### State, Territory etc news

- [James Cook Uni a 'city-maker' with \\$1.2B of projects and Charters Towers case study on future job highlights need for digital literacy](#)

- [Hopes for Indigenous-led digital innovation hub in Cairns](#) and [more Cairns startups](#)
- [Townsville hosts first Nth Qld entrepreneurs conference](#)
- [Whitsunday region cattle and cane farmers look to diversity to horticulture](#) and a 'cattle carbon and the untapped north' forum in Hughenden explores opps for the beef industry
- [Qld biofuels industry to grow with 3% ethanol-blended fuel \(E10\) target](#), [Kidston solar farm credit approved](#), and progress on [Mt Emerald wind farm](#)
- [Hoop pine plantations for \\$s and protecting GBR](#) and [Qld mango season starts all at once](#)
- and [Indigenous Land Use Agreement for 22ksq km of coral coast](#)
- [Cane farmer turned re-cycler Matthew Keith 'Farmer of the Yr'](#) and [Nth Qld farmer Dennis Howe 'Farming Legend' of the yr](#)
- [Townsville prison farm's bush foods plantation may produce commercial crops](#)
  
- [NT ranked in global top 10 for investment \(article incs NAIF update\)](#) and [Economic summits to be held across NT to develop an economic framework to benefit all Territorians](#) [NLC participation p8](#)
- [Strong Asian demand for NT mangos, record durian crop](#) and [poor wet season halves NT only commercial rice crop](#)
- [NT gov announces fracking inquiry panel](#) and [agrees to 26 of 31 key issues re its TOR](#). [NLC fracking advice p4-5](#)
- [Clearing app for 23,795 ha for improved pastures \(buffell, sabi, couch, stylos\) nr Larrimah](#) and [3820 ha for aquaculture at Legune Stn](#)
- [NLC articles on 40<sup>th</sup> bday of landrights act, sacred sites review, ord, new community planning & development program](#) and more
- [Climate change means more big storms in Top End](#) and [temp increase of 0.9C across Nth by 2030](#)
- [Qantas virtual reality highlights NT](#) and [Arnhem land counting book crowdfunded](#)
- [2016 indep McArthur RV mine monitor report identifies 'complex issues'](#) [More more](#) and [questions over waste dump smoke](#)
- [NT farmers association policy statements on biosecurity & R&D](#) & eg informative [infographic](#)
  
- [Fitzroy Rv Declaration builds on native title rights and the role of TOs in guiding development in the catchment](#)
- [First sorghum from Nita Downs irrigation project](#), [Native fruit tree orchard for west Kimberley community](#) , [Ord corn shipped from Wyndham to Sth Korea](#) and [family waits to farm](#)
- [Oil and gas tenements declared over Kimberley national parks](#), [Twiggy Forest applies for Kimberley exploration permits](#), [protests re-ignite over James Price Pt](#) and [antifracking concert w/e attracts ~10k people](#)
- [Austs oldest piece of jewellery found in Kimberley](#)
- [WAs first Indigenous cattleman's workshop](#) and [Aboriginal Lands Trust seeks partner for jobs, training & other social and ec opps on LakeGregory lease](#)
- [Four SAWA stations sold to investment grp for \\$100M](#), [Wagyu calf born in Kimberley from brahman heifer and abattoir gearing for export](#)
- [Grassfed rangelands beef assurance scheme investigated](#)
- [Questions over Roebuck Bay sewerage leak](#)
- [KNX distillery adds boab to rum](#)

## **Water**

- [Proposed changes to Ord water allocations go to State Administrative Tribunal](#)
- [Low water level in Townsvilles Ross Rv dam spark calls for more dams](#)
- [Fitzroy \(WA\) River Traditional Owners call for a catchment management body, management plan, an Indigenous Protected Area, and mining/oil/gas/irrigation-free buffer zone in response to development pressures](#) [More](#)
- [Fishways and automated flow gates for Burdekin](#)
- [Changes to Qlds Underground Water Management Bill mean companies still require a water licence but no public objection process](#). [More](#)
- [Mt Isa could be Qlds first solar powered water supply](#)

- [Qld gov releasing unallocated water, in Fitroy Basin thro current tender, in Gulf preparing offers to next in line, and in Whitsunday progressing fixed price sale to eligible applicants](#)

### **Weeds, ferals, diseases etc**

- [Qlds weed inquiry to investigate control, funding and research, with focus inc giants rat's tail, prickly acacia - submission due 16 Jan 2017](#)
- [\\$11M to help eradicate yellow crazy ants in Wet Tropics , Wasp to tackle yellow crazy ants on Christmas Is \(Animation\), possible outbreak of Singapore ants in Cooktown & forum on Qld fire ants](#)
- [Update on potential weed risk of improved pastures for the WA rangelands](#)
- [Beanfly hits Nth Qld mungbeans](#)
- [Cane toads change shape to conquer and call for cane toad sausages to protect Kimberley native animals](#)
- [Beetles battle mimosa at Rum Jungle and cabomba management in Darwin river](#)

### **Biodiversity and Protected Areas**

- [Lalan-garram/Horizontal Falls & North Lalang-garram Marine Parks declared covering 500k ha of Kimberley coastal waters and co-managed with Dambimangari TOs](#)
- [Scientists confirm largest die-off of corals ever recorded on GBR and annual coral spawning suffers](#)
- [Neural network tech helps find dugongs and tracking shows dugongs stick close to coast](#)
- [New NT barra research facebook page](#)
- [SBS article on ghostnets in NE](#)

### **Fire and carbon**

- [Call for investment in Indigenous carbon farming on Aboriginal lands](#)
- [Savanna burning projects funded in Nov ERF auction](#)

### **Events**

7-8 Dec [Cape York Regional Fire Forum](#), Cairns

7-8 Dec [Regenerative agriculture forum](#), Charters Towers

9 Dec [Flammable grassy weeds forum](#), Townsville

9 Dec [Cattle, Carbon and the Untapped North](#) Hughenden

13 Dec [Croc safety and management roundtable](#), Cairns

14 Dec [What is NAIF breakfast](#), Cairns

23-24 Feb 2017 [NT Governance Summit](#), Darwin

19-20 Jun 2017 [Developing Northern Australia](#) conference, Cairns

### **Please note**

- this is an informal compilation and views don't necessarily reflect those of the Northern Hub or affiliates
- being on this email list adds you to the Northern Hub Network which simply means you're interested in the sustainable development of Northern Australia (it doesn't mean lots of emails!)
- previous news roundups are available [here](#) (and earlier editions by the [Kimberley to Cape](#) initiative are [here](#))