

Welcome to a summary of news in September relevant to Northern Australia (NN#6). These clips aim to facilitate cross-sector knowledge sharing across Northern Australia and touch on local to national topics relevant to Kimberley to Cape's goals including sustainable development, land and water management and conservation. They're a "round up" rather than hot off the press, and what comes across my desk rather than a systematic collection, so sincere apologies for any major omissions - *pls do send these in, and any other relevant items!* Please let me know what you think and what you'd like more/less of; Im aiming for one every 4 to 8 weeks depending on the amount of relevant news etc. Please also let me know if you dont wish to receive this email. Cheers and thanks, Clare, Coordinator, [Kimberley to Cape](#)



Northern Australian News Roundup - September 2015

Pan Northern

- Josh Frydenberg cautiously welcomed as [new Minister for Northern Australia](#) also [here](#) (comment from Truss, Bowen, Snowden [here](#), [Giles/NT gov](#), [McDonald](#), [Christensen](#)). Frydenberg sees opps in a number of sectors inc minerals and energy, agriculture, tourism, international education.
- Frydenberg comments on possible [Nth Aust Infrastructure Facility investments and antidevelopment activism](#) More [here](#). NAIF admin may move from Treasury to [Dept of Industry, Innovation and Science](#)
- Developing the North White Paper website now incs [videos on tourism, infrastructure and trade](#)
- Australia to lead efforts to establish [International Day of the Tropics](#)
- Call for [taxpayers to subsidise Nth Aust cyclone insurance cover](#)
- [WA towns call to be recognised as part of Northern Australia](#)
- [NW producers comment on Turnbull](#)

- [Indonesian looking to longer term import system for cattle](#), more [here](#), and [200,000 permits this quarter](#)
- Importance of [clean green credentials to agric reinforced](#), again [here](#), and [northern beef promoted in Asia](#)
- Gulf research suggests most large floodplains in Nth Aust are highly prone to soil erosion and therefore [erosion assessments are a priority for planning new agricultural developments](#)
- [Dept of Env approves herd management techniques to earn ERF credits](#) eg increase weight gain of young cattle, feed and water cattle more efficiently, cull unproductive animals sooner
- Tender awarded for [Mt Isa to Tennant Creek railway](#), [benefits of sealing Outback Way](#) highlighted and [Funding Northern Australia's Infrastructure Development](#) conference in Brisbane
- Concerns over [Aurukun mine plans](#) (Lateline video [here](#)) and [McArthur River liability](#) after share fall but [increased bond agreed for McArthur River mine](#)
- [Qld gov release TOR for gas pipeline EIS](#), [Armour's Nth Aust gas reserves increase 66% to 57T cft](#); independent expert panel on fracking presents to TOs in Derby and Yakanarra (see 10 sept news [here](#)), [fracking recommences in Fitzroy valley](#) tho [contractor truck rolls spilling oil](#); also [Qld spill not followed up](#)
- [NESP Nthn Hub Year 1 project list available](#); N Aust projects from other hubs inc [Tropical WQ hub](#) (eg testing the effectiveness of managing gully erosion, Indigenous capacity building and increased participation in management of Qld sea country), and [Threatened Species hub](#) (eg projects lead by JWoinarski, SLegge, SGarnett)
- [Mango harvest slows](#) tho [global demand rising](#) and good season for [papaws](#), [melons](#), [lemons](#), [sugar](#)
- [Gulf prawn season helped by low dollar](#) but [poor season for mudcrabs](#)

State/Territory/Regional General News

- [First chia harvest by KAI in Ord](#) and co-op builds \$1M of [new grain silos](#)
- [Prawn farm project wins WA major project status](#)

- [Kimberley Cattlemens Association appoints Catherine Marriott as CEO](#), and ports and transport corridors identified as [priorities for northern beef industry](#)
- [Broome man speaks for remote communities](#)
- [Kimberley-based instagrammer participates in first Hello World relay](#) and Broome first location for [Today's 'We Love Australia' week](#)
- [Tour operators and 100 scientists call for Kimberley marine parks to match GBR](#)
- 25% of [NT pastoral lease land](#) is wholly or partly owned by foreign entities and of the 223 NT leases, 63% are family owned businesses
- [NT gov aims to boost Wadeye cattle industry](#)
- [NT clams now being exported monthly to US aquariums](#)
- [Canada-Australia Roundtable on Indigenous Economic Development Sep 1 post here](#)
- NT [tourism spend up 7%](#) from 13/14 to \$1.9B. Also masterplan for [mountain bike mecca](#), [fishing fever](#) and plan to boost [offseason](#) market
- NT Gov plans to create a [self-sustaining capital pool for infrastructure](#) eg roads, schools and agric
- [Kakadu plum used as preservative](#) and [Katherine asparagus](#) reaches stores
- [NQld economic summit](#) to showcase investment opportunities in tropical science, agriculture, infrastructure and tourism
- [Cape York Partnerships Indigenous Summit highlights video](#) and [report](#) available
- [Cape York Landcare projects](#) and [Reef projects](#) inc pigs, weeds, biodiversity
- [N Qld could be major cotton region](#) with 15000ha planned in Flinders, tho [some prefer rice](#)
- Tropical Ecosystems Hub [Final Highlights](#) covers management, conservation and sustainable use of the GBR, Wet Tropics rainforests and the Torres Strait 2011- 2014
- Expert panel recommends [no 100% FIFO mines](#) for qld
- [Qld gov send infrastructure wish list to Turnbull](#)
- [Mackay tourism up](#) and [sports tourism](#) highlighted in Qld conference
- Call to [listen to fisheries science to meet targets](#) and [net free zones debate continues](#)
- [Councils prioritise beef roads](#) and holistic [grazing educator stresses importance of healthy grasslands](#)

Water

- [Joyce gaining water policy assists dam building ambition](#)
- [Water for Food presentation shows 108,000ha of agriculture for west Kimberley](#)
- [Release of additional water allocations in Gilbert delayed](#) by IFED EIS and Delta Downs station looks to [Indigenous water reserve](#)
- [Partnership uniting disparate interest groups across outback wins International River prize](#)
- [Debate over mining access to water continues in Qld](#)
- [Grazier looks to GAB to drought proof property](#)

Ferals, weeds & pests

- [High social and economic costs of crazy ants](#) and [call not to give up](#) and for [coordinated action](#)
- Banana industry thanks NT for its [banana freckle response](#) tho [Panama race 4 still in Tully Qld](#)
- [Barramundi being used against tilapia](#) and but [poor wets see Salvinia spreading](#)
- [Qld Weeds Symposium](#) in Longreach highlights latest, info on Qld [weed spotters network](#) and [Gilbert rv weeds group forms](#) to tackle rubber vine and more
- [Drone to scare bats and birds from lychee crop](#)
- New [biosec Outbreak website](#) highlights NT and Qld eradication programs
- More research on [melon virus](#), [infected seed scare](#), and [melon growers may agree on levy](#)
- [Jobs program builds 7km fence to keep horses out of Warmun](#) and [fencing to keep roos out of 3 western Qld towns](#)

Biodiversity and Protected Areas

- NT Herbarium completes NT flora online [FloraNT](#)
- [Mining leases on Mitchell Plateau formally terminated](#), though Cape Bougainville leases remain despite being possible feral-free refuge and [call for CB protection](#)
- [Joint management for Mary River National Park NT](#)
- [Kimberley death adder found to be unique](#)
- Mapping shows [crocs 3-3.5m move the most, up to 400km](#) and [track your own croc](#)
- [Paper](#) shows that feral cats occur at low density and have large home ranges in the central Kimberley; it suggests that land management practices that reduce the impacts of cats on prey may be more effective for biodiversity than direct control of already sparse cat populations
- Survey shows [South Endeavour Nature Refuge has regional significance](#)
- How to help [small bush birds have a drink](#) and [ants okay with savanna grazing regimes](#)
- Threatened species Commissioner meets his first cassowary (1 Oct post [here](#)) and Threatened species day [memorial service for giant clams](#)
- [Toad-smart quoll populations increase](#)
- [More dinosaur bones found in NW Qld](#)
- [Gudgeon, blue eyes, rainbowfish and pennyfish most vulnerable Kakadu fish to sea level rise](#) due to low tolerance to salinity increases and/or floodplain habitats
- Study collects [76 fish species in Kakadu estuaries](#), including 26 not previously recorded in the Park
- Paper on [collaborative marine turtle monitoring in the Kimberley](#)

Fire and carbon

- [Kimberley pastoralist wants Indigenous rangers to take on bigger fire fighting role](#) more [here](#)
- [\\$900K over 3 years to enhance bushfire mitigation in the NT](#) as part of Natn Bushfire program
- [Call for more fire prevention](#) in the Kimberley
- [Late dry fire on minesite threatens Kakadu cultural sites](#)

KtC news

- Kimberley to Cape is seeking your feedback on what success might look like for [agriculture in Northern Australia](#)

Events

6-7 Oct [NT Major Projects Conference](#), Darwin
10-11 Oct [North-west Gulf Graziers Forum](#), Georgetown
15 Oct [Northern Australia in 2050](#), Darwin
18-20 Oct [Indigenous Economic Development Forum](#), Alice Springs
19-22 Oct Australian Regional Tourism Network Convention, South Australia
20-22 Oct [Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia SEGRA](#), Bathurst
23 Oct [AWA's Water in the Bush](#), Darwin
30-31 Oct [WA Threatened Species Forum](#), Geraldton
4-6 Nov [Northern Queensland Economic Summit](#), Cairns
8-10 Nov Andrew Robb's Northern Investment Forum, Darwin
10-12 Nov [TNRM Annual Conference](#), Darwin
12 Nov Annual [Tourism Indigenous Employment Forum](#), Brisbane
15 Nov [Getting the most out of NAFI](#) (Northern Australian Fire Information), Darwin
16-18 Nov [Tropical Agriculture Conference](#), Brisbane
26-27 Nov [Livestock Export Conference](#), Darwin
11-13 April 2016 [Northern Australian Food Futures Conference](#), Darwin

Please note

1. the views expressed above dont necessarily represent those of the Kimberley to Cape initiative

2. previous news roundups are available [here](#)
3. thank you to the BK Dahl Trust, Earth Welfare Foundn & Aust Communities Foundn for sponsorship
4. any support for Kimberley to Cape is truly appreciated 😊