

Welcome to a summary of news in April (NN#12 – it's the Round-up's first anniversary!) on topics relevant to Kimberley to Cape's goal of keeping the world's greatest tropical savanna¹ great via sustainable development, land and water management and conservation. These clips aim to facilitate cross-sector and cross-region knowledge sharing, and more informed conversations about the future of Northern Australia. They're a 'round up' rather than hot off the press, and what comes across my desk rather than a systematic collection, so 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. Also, please let me know if you don't wish to receive this email. Cheers and thanks, Clare, Coordinator, [Kimberley to Cape](#). *PS Please consider donating to Kimberley to Cape in your end of financial year budgeting!*



Northern Australian News Roundup for April 2016

Pan Northern

- Budget deemed disappointing for north and NT, tho not all lost for Qld and \$2B in loans for water infrastructure and \$100M for geo mapping
- Frydenberg highlights Nth Aust at Global Food Forum ([more](#))
- Nth Aust Food Futures conf hears from Canavan ([more](#)), Mitsui on policy certainty and soybeans, rice in the Nth, Raby on investment and clean green (incs comment from NLC) and foreign investment. Key messages inc the need for policy certainty in e.g. water allocation, the importance of partnering with Indigenous communities and, how critical the North's clean green safe reputation is for marketing produce
- NAIF identifies 40 potential "shovel-ready" projects worth over \$20B
- Update NAIF Bill may go through senate in budget week, or the week after since it stalled in senate [more](#) (if not passed soon unlikely to start in Jul). House of Reps passed Bill and Joint Select Committee on Nth Aust report supported it with Greens minority report recommending independent cost-benefit analysis including environmental, climate, cultural and social costs, and no fossil fuel-related investment
- ABC summary of CSIROs nth land and water work [more](#) note new report referred to is compilation of existing work, [new page on unlocking the north](#)
- Townsville to host new CRC for Developing Northern Australia [More](#)
- New paper on trends in NRM in Australia's Monsoonal North: the conservation economy
- Coral bleaching affects up to 80% of some Kimberley reefs [more more](#), as well as GBR event described in pics [More](#)

- Campaign launched to double funding for ranger and IPA programs in the federal budget ([Guardian SMH](#) [ABC 30sec clip](#)). [Greens call on gov to secure program](#)
- Indigenous rangers farming spinifex set to revolutionise plastics
- Rangers graduate from Learning on Country program
- Article on working 'developmentally' v applicable to Nth Aust eg considering place-based factors like cultural fit, connection to country, gendered leadership, stability, technical expertise, longevity of relationships, and stability of core funding

- Nth Aust nervous re Chinese investment
- AsiaFruit (int marketing mag) article on nth agribusiness
- More promo for Kakadu Plum as superfood and Mango industry expanding with better than expected season
- Chinese bidder withdraws, Kidman sale knocked back, Response from Joyce, More More (older-locals hope to earn Kidman estate and [NTCA comment](#))
- Beef roads submissions of \$4B for \$100M fund eg Hann Hwy and Frydenberg supports Tanami Rd upgrade to boost N-S trade
- Story on successful cattle breeding in the Nth and LiveEx assocn CEO steps down
- Mega aquaculture project seadragon looking for ways to accelerate and is doubling Phase 1 prawn pond area to 2160ha
- Article on mining clean-ups after mining downturn with nthn examples Nth-east Gas Interconector pipe to be 12" diameter since not enough gas to justify 14" ([more](#)) though NT gov wants bigger and Inpex update points to more onshore and offshore fields

- Seven new [Aust Small Business Advisory Services](#) funded as part of the [Nth Aust Tourism Initiative](#)
- [30th anniversary reflection re tourism impacts of Crocodile Dundee](#)
- [US military on track to boost numbers to 2500/6mths](#)
- [20min film about cattle station people](#) and [Gulf cattlemen feature in outback men's health clip](#)
- [Interesting article on Kriol, spoken across much of Nthn Aust](#)
- [This wet seasons Nth Aust sea surface temps highest on record](#) [More](#)
- [North Aust wet season temps hottest on record, rainfall lower than av and no tropical cyclones for only the second time since 2001/02. Also hottest wet season on record for the NT, av rainfall overall, but very dry in the Top End.](#)
- [Forecast for hot dry season right across the Nth](#)

State/Territory/Regional General News

- [Dodson welcomed to senate for WA labour](#)
- [Pastoral Lands Board chair resigns over rangeland reforms where as others suggest scaremongering at play](#)
- [Record prices for Kimberley cattle](#)
- [Kimberley pastoralist shares messages from conf on links between soil, plants, cattle and people](#)
- [Restoration works produce environmental and economic returns for station](#)
- [Indigenous East Kimberley Cattle co moving towards vision](#)
- WAs [Northern Beef Infrastructure Review](#) identifies holding yards and washdown facilities at Port Hedland, Broome and Halls Creek, upgrades at Wyndham and Port Hedland ports, and road improvements to increase beef industry value
- [4 Kimberley cattle properties bought for ~\\$100M by investment group seeded by Agrify](#)
- Broome [mosaic agriculture workshop](#) in explores increasing cattle production via irrigated pastures
- More on [suspect wastewater leak causing algal blooms in Roebuck Bay](#)
- [2016 'Science on the Broome Coast' program available](#)
- [Ord distillery wins prize and highlights benefits of diverse income streams](#)
- [Nth Qld Indigenous investment forum](#) focuses on large scale business, internet access and tourism enterprises in remote communities [More](#)
- [Indigenous group choose tourism over mining and team up with international operator](#)
- Study finds [value of Cape York Peninsula's ecosystem services is ~\\$130B pa](#), with coral reefs fetching \$602,000 ha⁻¹ y⁻¹, and calls for policy to ensure best land uses and mgnt incentives [More](#)
- [Cape York pastoralist highlights live ex, education and internet access to unlock potential](#)
- Update on [Olivevale sorghum, with rice, mungbeans and more on the horizon](#)
- [Normanton could run on solar by end 2016 with \\$8.4M investment and irrigators concerned over rising cost of energy](#)
- [Qld rice trials showing promise](#)
- Study to investigate [financial and environmental benefits of banana industry embracing best mgmt practice](#), and many growers already on track to reducing run-off to GBR.
- [Farmers meet to discuss clearing laws, SBS article on tree clearing, National approach to tree clearing won't work and Tree clearing committee to review 100s of submissions.](#)
- [Qld Gov aquaculture rpt](#) recs include new terrestrial aquaculture development areas, assessment codes with regulatory conditions for each area, certainty on future price and availability of environmental offsets, and investigating marine aquaculture development areas. [more](#)
- Qld [farmed Cobia \(aka Black Kingfish\) deemed 'wagyu of the sea' by chefs](#)
- Construction begins on [\\$50M publically funded Cairns aquarium](#) and [Cruise ships for Cairns' Trinity Inlet](#)
- [N Qlders said to generate 35% more a person than average across the state.](#)
- Backlash over Nth Qld loosing patrol boat contracts [here](#) and [here](#) but [Min vows support](#)

- Qld mining support business adapting to downturn by eg moving into agriculture & defence, marketing expertise overseas, becoming more efficient inc via o/s IP and diversifying within the sector
- Company director fined for illegal clearing in NT Gulf
- Red carpet investors forum hears from Rhinehart who suggests switching from the mining boom to invest in the territory's abundant local resources eg 200Tcft of gas. Also panel inc Inpex, AACO, TFS and Project Seadragon and NAIF update (Aust and news Ghana!). However Deloitte Economics report pints to major NT downturns 'Cinderella has marched back to the ball and handed in her slipper'
- NT Infrastructure Fund aims to attract \$1B of private investment with \$200M from TIO sale NT barra farm does research to double annual production to 3000t/pa
- Survey results confirm Territorians love NT seafood and want country of origin labelling
- NT wildcatch fisheries factsheets now complete and Gov proposed changes to Fisheries Act
- Expert's report on NTs draft Petroleum (Environment) Regulations says new regs are much better than old, detailed guidelines are needed around the process for and content of Enviro Mngt Plans, and more resources needed for regulator as activities increase.
- Independent MLA calls for fracking referendum and pastoralist concerned about fracking
- Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining hearing in Darwin hears mixed views with calls for improved regulation and reg capacity More
- NTs international education exports could triple to \$150M/y within a decade
- Mining legacy to clean up in Tenant Creek and NTCA position on mining & petroleum access etc
- NT mining investments in lithium and phosphate
- Borrooloola elder and artist Jack Green to stand in NT election
- CPC sells Humbert Rv stn to Heytesbury
- 52000ha Kenbi land claim announced after 37 years, but not all happy
- Planting starts at Indigenous run community farm

Water

- New \$2B loans scheme for water infrastructure tho national audit report rebukes previous schemes
- Frydenburg keen for new dams, with new irrigation schemes flagged for the Mitchell, Archer, Wenlock and Normanby in Qld, Fitzroy in WA, and Victoria and Roper in NT. More
- Canavan keen on dams inc Qld Fitzroy and Burdekin
- Mareeba-Dimbulah dam nr Cairns only 60% full meaning likely water cuts for irrigators
- Change of direction for Ord Stage 3 with 'request for proposal' process to id proponent to lead native title negotiations, build infrastructure and obtain approvals for whole 14500ha area. NLC baffled with negotiations for 1800ha 3A advanced. EOIs by 31 May for July announcement. more
- \$50m to assist graziers, cane and dairy farmers & horticultural industry improve reef water quality More
- \$2.8M awarded to Burdekin sugarcane framers with most effective ideas to reduce GBReef nitrogen and study shows nitrogen cap and trade scheme could boost innovation and land-user engagement to significantly reduce loads inc conversion of poor-quality paddocks to wetlands invest. More
- GBR study investigating the ratio of water quality improvements to the costs of achieving the change shows highly variable, but cost-effectiveness thresholds based on av. of achieved and predicted costs for end-of-catchment loads are: Sediment \$259/t, Nitrogen (DIN) \$150/kg, Pesticide (PSII) \$8,351/kg.
- Calls for expansion of Cape York irrigation with application for NAIF support
- Ord growers import fertiliser from Asia for first time in several decades

Ferals, weeds & pests

- [2min video on crazy ant impacts – a must](#)
- [Rural Industries RDC gets \\$6.2M/4yrs to investigate biocontrol of 10 agric weeds inc 6 in nth aust \(Prickly acacia, Cabomba, Sagittaria, fleabane, mother-of-millions, giant rats tail grass\)](#)
- [Kimberley bioherbicide trial knocks out Parkinsonia](#)
- [Qld fight against giant rats tail grass](#)
- [Article on method for predicting and mapping weed occurrence in Nth Aust with gamba case study](#)
- [Win for Winton in well-designed battle against prickly acacia and NW qld war on weeds Forum incs aerial rubber vine burning](#)
- [Volunteers find rubber vine from their lounge rooms](#)
- [New report incs 32 recs to ensure Qld prepared for biosecurity incursions across 4 themes 1 addressing immediate capability gaps, 2 developing a best practice shared responsibility System 3 investing based on risk, rate of return and distribution of public and private benefits, 4 building a leading biosecurity agency.](#)
- [Kakadu pighunters fined with warnings from TOs and feral pig management in central Kimberley](#)
- [Article on termites and Darwin cane toad numbers rise](#)
- [New research on mango-eating magpie geese](#)
- [Truth about camera trapping selfies](#)
- [Extra funding for zika research and dengue outbreak in Torres Strait](#)

Biodiversity and Protected Areas

- [Study shows no-take zones help reefs recover from range of threats and mean more fish](#)
- [Groote Eylandt TOs zebrafish project investigating MJD disease](#)
- [Who will report illegal fishing in proposed marine parks](#)
- [Gulfs Pungalina-Seven Emu sanctuary may be internationally important shorebird site \[More\]\(#\)](#)
- [Toadsmart quolls released in Kakadu \[more\]\(#\) and story captures world attention eg \[Japan\]\(#\) \[china\]\(#\)](#)
- [North Qld naturalists online journal website up](#)
- [Vine thicket poem and Video on Kimberley coast and under](#)
- [Article on termites](#)
- [Rare mangrove found near Cairns and mangrove experts in Darwin](#)
- [Dry wet for Kakadu](#)

Fire and carbon

- [5 and 15 min videos on award winning WALFA fire project in Arnhem Land](#)
- [Indigenous innovation could save a billion tonnes of greenhouse gases and article on international application of Aust Indigenous fire](#)
- [Aerial burning starts across Top End and new NT bushfires bill introduced](#)
- [Update on Rangelands NRM Kimberley fire project](#)
- [Early results of project on how cattle respond to early burns reinforce need to spell burnt areas for at least 8 weeks and that water points can be used to restrict cattle movement on burnt areas](#)

Events

3-6 May [Australian Mangrove and Saltmarsh Network conference](#), Darwin

4 May [NT Water Forum](#), Katherine

4 May [Backpacker & Adventure Tourism Industry Forum](#), Cairns

9 May Ceda's [NT Economic and Political Overview](#), Darwin

24-25 May [Katherine regional mining & ex forum](#), Katherine

1-2 Jun [Gulf Graziers/MLA BeefUp Forum](#), Mt Surprise

1-3 Jun [National Native Title Conference](#), Darwin

6-8 Jun [National NRM Knowledge Conference - "People, Planet and Profits"](#), Coffs Harbour

8-9 [Strengthening Indigenous Economic Development](#), Cairns

21-22 Jun [Develop the North Conference](#), Darwin

15-18 Aug [Northern Beef Research Update conference](#), Rockhampton

30 Aug Conservation through the Sustainable Use of Wildlife Conference, Brisbane
11-15 Sep Australasian Weeds Conference, Perth
14-15 Sep Northern Territory Resources Week, Darwin
7-10 Nov Qld Pest Animal Symposium, Townsville
22-24 November 2016 Territory NRM Forum, Darwin

Please note

- being on this email list adds you to the Kimberley to Cape network which simply means you engage, or are willing to engage, with others to discuss how to achieve a sustainable and prosperous future for Northern Australia, and that you're generally supportive of Kimberley to Cape's guiding principles and goals (it doesn't commit you to anything more or mean loads of extra emails!). We'll assume this is okay unless you say otherwise.
- previous news roundups are available here
- the views expressed above dont necessarily represent those of the Kimberley to Cape initiative
- thank you to the BK Dahl Trust, Earth Welfare Foundn, Aust Communities Foundn, CDU and ECNT
- any support for Kimberley to Cape is appreciated (current funding ceases Jun 16), you can donate here

¹ Northern Australia hosts the world's largest intact tropical savanna (Woinarski et al 2007)