

Welcome to a summary of news in November (NN#8) on topics relevant to Kimberley to Cape's goals including sustainable development, land and water management and conservation. **These clips aim to facilitate cross-sector knowledge sharing across Northern Australia and more informed conversations about the future of the North.** 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. Please also let me know if you don't wish to receive this email. Cheers and thanks, Clare, Coordinator, [Kimberley to Cape](#)



## Northern Australian News Roundup for November 2015

### Pan Northern

- [Prawns, hotels and medicine projects popular at A Robb's Nth Aust Investment Forum](#) as outlined [here](#), with more from [AFR](#), [AFR2](#), [Frydenburg](#), [Griggs](#), [Guardian](#) (mentions Giles comment on need for social licences). Also [China](#), [Singapore](#), [IBT](#) reports. Trade promo video [here](#)
- Meanwhile [Nth Qld economic summit](#) highlighted aquaculture, digital pastoral, port, airport, tourism, mining and waste upcycling projects supported by informative [emagazine](#). More [here](#)
- [Nth Aust Infrastructure Facility consultation paper](#) outlines 6 mandatory and 3 nonmandatory criteria for up to \$5B in concessional loans tho [missed opportunities/concerns](#), more [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), around small/med enterprises, Indigenous aspirations, community benefits. More from [Frydenburg](#), [CairnsPost](#)
- Also [Qld market led proposals](#) to facilitate vital infrastructure and social programs. [More](#)
- [Futurist Keith Suter on Nth Dev](#) highlights Indigenous tourism, service sector and diversification
- [Turnbull](#) and [Shorten](#) visit Darwin, and background piece on [Frydenburg](#)
  
- John Wharton AM (Richmond Shire Mayor) appointed [interim Chair of CRC for Nthn Development](#) with first task to consult with stakeholders to set direction/agenda for early 2016 start
- [Review of Indigenous ranger programs](#) highlights multiple benefits and calls for [jobs to double](#) and [more secure funding](#)
- TO perspectives on Ord 3A and project Seadragon prawn farm p1, 3-5 [here](#) and possible environmental impacts discussed p6 [here](#)
- [Opinion piece on land tenure reform in the Nth](#)
- [Nth Aust commerce alliance expands](#)
- Debate over foreign ownership of [Darwin port](#), more [here](#) and [here](#), and of [Kidman cattle empire](#) more [here](#), [here](#) inc water register, and [video](#) discussion. Kidman update [here](#)
  
- [Cattle price records, dramatic drop and recovery in cattle prices](#) indicator, [to sell or wait for steers](#), [AACos herd value inc'd \\$85M in 6mths](#), Broome [live ex up 15%](#)
- [LiveExport Conference](#) incd [Grandin](#), [Vallat](#) (intl animal welfare experts), [Marriot](#) (CEO Kimberley Cattlemens) and speakers on [Indonesia](#), [Brazil](#) and [Industry response to article on live export](#)
- Second N Aust [Beef Roads Roundtable](#) discusses best leveraging of \$100M funding. [More](#)
  
- New NT [process for mining and gas industries to access pastoral lands](#) [more](#), [update](#), and [WA senator comments on proposed WA access agreement](#).
- [Jemena awarded gas pipeline link from NT to Qld](#) tho [c of i](#) and [other](#) concerns. More [here](#) and [here](#)
- [Report on economic impacts of Qlds unconventional gas and implications for NT policy](#) contrasts with NT gov [Oil and Gas Development Strategy](#) out for comment til Dec 31
- WA parliamentary committee [report on fracking](#) recommends full disclose of chemicals used, independent arbiter for land access, more transparent decision making and higher penalties
- NT [criteria on where oil/gas activities can occur](#) excludes high agric, ecol, cultural value areas

- [Report aims to boost Indigenous mining jobs](#)
- [Uranium project expanding in NT, plans to double Qld bauxite potential, and rare graphite deposit in Nthn Gulf region](#)
- Marchers in Broome, [Darwin](#), Tville, Cairns and other Nth Aust towns [join 10,000s across Aus](#) to highlight climate change, and [KLC represents community concerns](#) in Paris with Chair the Aust delegate to the Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change
- [Info on climate change for aboriginal people living in the North](#)
- Late nov heatwaves across northern Aust eg [NT](#), [Qld](#), [Kim](#), [more](#) and forecasts [here](#)
- [Good season for Gulf prawns but storms downgrade mango harvests](#)
- [River monsters tv star moves into saltwater](#), evaluation (due Mar 16) to set up [investment framework for future co-management of NE sea country](#), Indigenous [salt water governance workshop](#) and cool [video of gardening in/for saltwater country](#)

### **State/Territory/Regional General News**

- New [facebook page](#) for Kimberley Cattlemens Association, [WA Beef Commentary](#) details market insights and status, and Landline on [mining to dining in Kimberley and Pilbara](#)
- Remote Drysdale Rv resident calls for 'no take' marine park and [renewed calls to ban gill nets](#)
- [Dating of Kimberley aboriginal rock art may show its world's oldest](#)
- [First commercial crop of Kakadu plum](#) harvested nr Broome and Huffpost article [here](#)
- WA's EPA approves Common User [LNG Precinct at James Price Point](#)
- [Ellendale mine closes owing workers](#) and others, and leaving \$40M taxpayer bill
- New [biodiversity laws intro'd to WA parliament](#)
- [Ecological](#) and [blue green algae](#) mapping informs Broomes growth and new [Yawuru land claim](#)
- [NT 2014-15 Gross State Product \(~GDP\) 10.5%](#), topping Australia and all other OECD nations
- Traditional Owners call for [improved engagement in the Develop the North agenda](#), highlighting need for settlement of outstanding land claims, support for Indigenous economic development, protection of sacred sites and Indigenous water reserves
- NLC cautions dilution of NT Sacred Sites Act and supports [positive Land Rights Act amendments](#)
- West Arnhem Land TO cease township lease talks, whilst NE Arnhem Land TOs progress MOU [p7](#)
- [Native title rights awarded over 15000sqkm of Gulf](#). [More](#)
- Philipino co. [buys 2 NT cattle stations \(more\)](#), [re-dev of Bullo Rv Downs](#) and year [reflections](#)
- More on [Tiwi Islands port development](#) and [Tiwi woodchips bound for Japan](#)
- [NT News for Obama](#)
- NT gov response to Hawke review paves way to new [environmental legislation](#). [More here](#)
- New [board for Environment Centre NT](#) and TNRMs annual report [here](#)
- [Northern Qld RDA Alliance working to scope strategic investment](#) in water, roads, agric and energy (inc renewable) infrastructure, as are [central Qld ROCs](#)
- [Windfarm to supply 75000 Nth Qld homes approved](#)
- [Strathmore land clearing under investigation](#) and [Olive Vale clearing process questioned](#), and broader Productivity Commission investigation [here](#). [ERF pays Qld land holders not to clear trees](#)
- Cool [video of whats to like about Northern Gulf](#) and new NRM plan
- [Intn tourist numbers up 7% and o/n spend up 14% for yr ending Sep](#)
- [Recycling helps unemployed in nw Qld](#)
- Overview of [Cape York Regional Package](#) (mainly roads) in Cairns Regional Major Projects Forum
- [Meat processing plant nr Emerald progresses](#) and [sugar marketing choice bill passes](#)
- [New chair and two new directors for Cape York NRM](#)

### **Water**

- Mining, oil & gas to come under Water Act in NT
- 250,000ML of water available from Flinders, Gregory, Leichhardt, Norman and Nicholson river catchments under the Gulf Water Resource Plan but some unhappy with 120,000ML linked to 15000ha Flinders Rv cotton proposal
- Sandalwood co. keen to expand in Ord, call for community input to WA Fitzroy water management (19/11 Broome Adv p4) and WA Fitzroy Water Resources report due 9 Dec
- TropWater commentary on Nthn water resource development from RipRap mag #38, articles on effects of climate change and irrigation on waterholes (inc fish etc) in the Gulf, and on saltwater intrusion in Torres Straight
- 115km pipeline to transfer of 30,000ML of water pa from lower Fitzroy to Gladstone.
- Submissions to Review of EPBC Act Water Trigger due 29 Jan 2016

### **Ferals, weeds & pests**

- New NT gov weed prevention strategy
- New service for nth Qld weeds and ferals
- Myrtle rust now in and around Darwin
- New Curiosity feral cat bait submitted for registration and Cat catcher wins Indigenous NRM champion award and insides examined
- Cairns mossies to get the snip and mozzie vs mozzie in research to eradicate Ross River etc
- John Altman comments on buffalo p18-19 here

### **Biodiversity and Protected Areas**

- Palm cockatoo now EPBC listed as Vulnerable, purple-crowned fairy-wren (western) moves to Endangered, and several migratory shorebirds nominations open for comment by 4/12
- Rosewood keeled snail on WA/NT boarder, Gulbaru Gecko (b/w Cairns and Tville) added to EPBC Critically endangered
- NW Aust reefs at greatest risk from coral bleaching
- Discussion on potential Indigenous losses and gains re proposed Kimberley marine parks
- New EPBC Sawfish and River Sharks Multispecies Recovery Plan
- Crowd funding for sugar gliders and pygmy crocs
- Ecological Communities of National Environmental Significance data now available
- Windjana Gorge pre-toad croc survey
- Indian butterfly now in Nthn Aust and rare olive ridley turtles found in Kimberley

### **Fire and carbon**

- ERF Nov Auction results include 9 projects in the NT, 12 in WA and 91 in Qld, with many savanna burning projects (21 = \$36M in Cape York). Across Aust vegetation topped volume of abatement by method (25.6Mtonnes ) with savanna burning second (6.6Mt eg NTs Fish River Stn), followed by agriculture (4Mt).
- Nth Aust Fire Info (NAFI) project wins TNRM award for best collaboration (see Nov 11 post)

### **KtC news**

- We have initiated an **evaluation** to assess achievements to date and inform our future direction, and would really appreciate your input – please see the questions via the 20 Nov post here
- Your feedback on what success might look like for agriculture in Northern Australia in 2030 is important... please join the conversation!

### **Events**

- 4 Dec 2015 Cape York Weeds and Ferals and Southern Cape York Catchments general meetings, Cooktown
- 5 Dec 2015 Gulf Savanna Regional Forum, Katherine

9-10 Dec 2015 Soil Science on the Farm workshops, Lakeland & Mareeba  
11-12 Feb 2016 Indigenous peoples and Salt water / freshwater governance , Hobart  
11-13 Apr 2016 Northern Australian Food Futures Conference, Darwin  
30 Aug 2016 Conservation through the Sustainable Use of Wildlife Conference, Brisbane

Please note

- a. the next news round-up will be for December and January (Seasons Greetings!)
- b. previous news roundups are available [here](#)
- c. the views expressed above dont necessarily represent those of the Kimberley to Cape initiative
- d. thank you to the [BK Dahl Trust](#), [Earth Welfare Foundn](#), [Aust Communities Foundn](#), [CDU](#) and [ECNT](#)
- e. any [support](#) for Kimberley to Cape is appreciated (current funding ceases Jun 16)