

Welcome to a summary of news in October relevant to Northern Australia (NN#7). These clips aim to facilitate cross-sector knowledge sharing across Northern Australia and more informed conversations about the future of the North. They 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. 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 – October 2015

### Pan Northern

- Nov 8 invitation-only [Northern Australia Investment Forum](#) to showcase investment opportunities (promo doc [here](#)) and initiatives to support investment and remove barriers. It will also 'open' the \$5B [NAIF](#) and 'business friendly' guide to Nth Aus land tenure and title systems
- Minister Frydenberg's [Darwin visit](#) highlighted a 'co-operative approach' on supporting infrastructure projects through the \$5B NAIF, with gas infrastructure, investment and tourism topping the agenda. More [here](#) and [here](#), and speech [here](#). His visit to Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns highlighted [big audacious projects](#) and [patrol boat tender](#)
- [Advice of Nth Aust Advisory Group](#) (mostly community) to the PMs Nth Aust Strategic Partnership now available identifying 'ideas on how to best harness the opportunities for economic growth in the North without compromising an enviable lifestyle and fragile environment...'
- [Northern cattle prices skyrocket with steers fetching \\$3.40/kg and supply hard to find](#)
- [Chinese investors assess Qld beef industry and Thais assess WA beef industry](#)
- Billionaire [retail king Brett Blundy looking to buy two NT cattle stations](#)
- New tool to [manage cattle from space](#)
- [Trans-pacific partnership benefits beef and sugar producers, but no change for mangos](#)
- \$23.4M [solar plant to power Weipa's bauxite mine](#), processing facilities, township and port in Australia's first commercial diesel displacement solar plant. More [here](#) and [here](#)
- \$300M Nth Qld Kidston 150MW solar project may be Australia's biggest. More [here](#) and info on other FNQ projects [here](#) and [here](#)
- [1.25MW solar installation at Darwin shopping centre](#), Australia's largest on a commercial building
- Online [directory to connect Indigenous corporations to independent company directors](#) to support better governance
- [Bush trips used in Indigenous mental health program](#)
- [Major project status for gas pipeline with Giles suggests scare campaign](#) whereas others [caution risky spending](#). Pipeline winner announced soon with many wanting in eg [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)
- WA mining industry welcomes [WA gov endorsement of FIFO mental health recommendations](#)
- [Qld gas impacts report](#) divides farmers and miners, with idea [here](#), and new WA agreement [here](#)
- \$680M WA and NT gov [proposal to seal Tanami](#)
- [Cherabin have big potential for aquaculture in the North](#)
- [Japan looking to further invest in the North](#)
- Team from [growNorth CRC proposal working with Dept of Industry on new CRC for Northern Development](#) with Interim Chair soon to be announced
- Northern Research Futures Collaborative Research Network launches [website](#)

- Forecasters predict fewer cyclones this season due to strong El Nino but also storms, floods and heatwaves. More [here](#) and [here](#)
- [Call for gov to help upgrade roofs to avoid cyclone insurance claims](#)
- [Building designs need to be more sensitive to tropical surrounds](#)
- Kakadu and Mitchell Falls come 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in [Austs top 20 dating spots](#)
- Safe Work Australia releases [croc safety video](#)
- [El Nino may lengthen and inc severity of stinger season](#)

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

- NW farmers and graziers prioritise [better transport links, improved port facilities and faster telecommunications](#) on infrastructure wish list
- EPA delegates recommend [approval for LNG precinct near James Price Pt](#) but [analyst sceptical](#)
- [Kimberley Economic Forum](#) discusses future plans, with WA premiere suggesting [crocs and environmentalists key threats](#) to Broomes prosperity. More [here](#) and [commentary on dev by WA liberal senator](#)
- 650ha of [Broome land released for agric development](#) and [Shortage of NW mangos](#)
- [Northern Beef Futures centre opens in Broome](#)
- [Paspaley short film celebrates the company's Kimberley origins](#)
- New [Kimberley Aboriginal Art Trail Map](#)
- Strong support for [better protection of Kimberley marine life](#)
- [Olkola's chair Michael Ross](#) wins Qld Local Hero award in Aust of the Year Awards. [More](#)
- [Grazing best practice program exceeds expectations](#) and [low stress for nth qld cattle](#)
- 900ha of [Qld cattle station to go to sugar](#)
- [\\$35B draft Qld infrastructure plan](#) highlights market solutions rather than specific projects and [Advance Qld workshop promotes innovation](#)
- Qld approves [net-free zones to help boost fishing and tourism](#)
- Aboriginal [community nr Cairns pushes for cruise ship terminal](#) and Olkola's [new tourism venture](#)
- Controversy over [Cape York Land claim](#)
- [Greens forum discusses future of Northern Aust](#) inc governance, [land tenure](#) and agriculture
- [Qld ecotourism plan open](#) for public comment
- 5 of 16 Sunwater [fishways](#) across Qld out of action
- [Record season for papaw and papaya](#)
- Controversy over [Darwin port leased to Chinese company](#). More [here](#) , [here](#), [here](#) ([Katter](#)) and [here](#) and NT gov scoping [Katherine-Kununurra rail link](#)
- NT sacred [sites protection agency needs more resources to keep pace](#) with development
- [NT EPA called for public comment on ToR for EIS for Seadragon aquaculture project](#) indicating risks of impacts including large freshwater extractions, water quality, clearing and weeds
- [NT Indigenous Economic Development](#) forum focuses on Develop the North
- [Commentary on NT in 2050](#) inc making the North more attractive to older Australians
- [\\$650M Mt Peake Ti-Va refinery likely to be built on Darwin harbour](#)
- [NT beef producers reach record high prices at \\$3.50/kg](#) with risk of not filling quota
- [NT station buying 10,000 weaners](#) to stock newly watered country
- Successful harvests of 100ha of trial [rice](#), 100ha trial [poppies](#) and [kale](#)
- [Bounty of NT corals and aquarium fish for export](#) , [trepan industry returns to NT](#) and [mixed season for NT commercial barra fishers](#)
- Darwin Trauma Response centre and WHO hosting [world first disaster response training program](#)
- [Indigenous Marine Training Program expanded](#) to increase rangers' capacity

- 'Do the NT ad' comes 6<sup>th</sup> in most watched youtube Australia ads in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

### Water

- GAB future up for discussion via 25 public meetings with plan for 18,200GL to be released from GAB inc Gulf, Laura, Flinders to boost rural growth
- Qld irrigation schemes transferred to local management. More here and here
- Cape York WQ improvement plan, wetland values and threats in Cape York NRMnews
- Water for Food project at Kimberley community feature in the Australian
- Frydenburg welcomes Rockwood and Eden Bann weir proposals
- Aust Water Assoc survey of 1200 water sector workers shows ~ 50% of respondents agree there is potential to develop the aquifers in the north of Australia, and only 36% said there should be more big dams in N Australia (27% want more big dams in the Murray Darling and SE Coast). See p12-13 here.
- Second survey of ~4000 water consumers shows 57% of rural respondents support more dams in the north and 45% support more in the south, though only 44% of urban respondents support more dams in the north and only 30% support more in the south. Commentary here

### Ferals, weeds & pests

- Proceedings of the national feral cat workshop available
- Kakadu managers consider allowing shooters to help feral cat control
- Qld councils vote for state & fed govts to manage flying fox problems
- WA Rangelands Biosecurity Group head calls for levy to better manage pests and weeds
- CSIRO researches psychological impacts of biosecurity threats in the far north
- How Australia is stopping dengue-infected mosquitoes spreading
- Knx fruit fly free
- Dogs to fight Browsing ants and collars to track Kakadu buffalo

### Biodiversity and Protected Areas

- Call for better safeguards for 2 Kimberley marine parks
- Horizontal Falls park marine plan open for comment until 22 Jan. More here
- Management Plan for Litchfield NP open for comment til 27 Nov
- 12 Qld state forests upgraded to national parks
- NT's Daly River may be the most fish-diverse in Northern Australia
- Newsletter from NERP NA hub incs summary of research findings, videos and link to BBC interview with hub leader Michael Douglas on northern development
- Chillagoe-karst region proposed for national heritage listing (comments close 2 Nov)
- Darwin Harbour cleanup wins national seafood industry award
- Crocs can simultaneously sleep and keep an eye on things
- Fake fruit helps cassowary research migratory shore birds have personalities and Yellow chats hang on in Kakadu despite buffalos and pigs
- Ghost net infographic
- Why are rat kangaroos disappearing and virtual reality for tree kangaroos
- Study of threatened Largetooth Sawfish (*Pristis pristis*) shows populations in most rivers of Nthrn Australia are genetically distinct. Similar study on thtrd Speartooth Shark (*Glyphis glyphis*)

### Fire and carbon

- New fire management needed for Kakadu
- Call to cease Aug – Oct fire lighting across the North
- Northern Aust fire management workshops, one on Indigenous fire knowledge (10/11) and another on getting the most out of NAFI (12/11)
- Tourists impacted by Kakadu fire

- Research to start on method to support development of culturally appropriate fire management plan that's economically sustainable
- Disturbing seagrass reduces their capacity to store carbon

#### **KtC news**

- Kimberley to Cape would appreciate your feedback on what success might look like for agriculture in Northern Australia in 2030

#### **Events**

3 Nov Water Stewardship Workshop, Broome  
 4-6 Nov Northern Queensland Economic Summit, Cairns  
 8-10 Nov Northern Investment Forum, Darwin  
 10-12 Nov TNRM Annual Conference, Darwin  
 12 Nov Annual Tourism Indigenous Employment Forum, Brisbane  
 12 Nov Nitrogen Management of Tropical Pasture Grasses Field Day, Katherine  
 15 Nov Getting the most out of NAFI (Northern Australian Fire Information), Darwin  
 16 Nov Ecotourism Development in Australia (+global eco conf) inc dev in protected areas, Perth  
 16-18 Nov Tropical Agriculture Conference , Brisbane  
 17 Nov seminar Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the NT, Darwin  
 17-18 Nov Northern Beef Futures industry forum , Broome, and field day and Indigenous workshop  
 26-27 Nov Livestock Export Conference , Darwin  
 11-13 April 2016 Northern Australian Food Futures Conference, Darwin

#### **Please note**

1. the views expressed above don't 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, ECNT and CDU
4. any support for Kimberley to Cape is truly appreciated