

Welcome to a summary of news in August relevant to Northern Australia (NN#5). 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 - August 2015

Pan Northern

- Aust Gov Treasury to soon release criteria for concessional loans from the [\\$5B Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility \(NAIF\)](#). Website incs invitation to [receive updates and how to be involved in the consultation process](#). Some info on criteria [here](#)
- China to send reps to [Northern Aust Investment Forum](#) in Nov and establish working groups to explore new opportunities in Nthn Australia, inc roles for the \$5B NAIF and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Also plans to [link its silk road development with N Aust](#)
- Joe Morrison's (CEO NLC) [keynote at Garma and Develop the North Conf](#) incs ref to progress for proposal to develop Indigenous 'prospectus' where Aboriginal landowners identify developments that embrace their cultural and environmental values as well as their economic aspirations
- [ABARES outlook conf now online](#) with presentations relevant to Northern Aust inc Luke Bowen, Michael Guerin (GroNorthCRC), Dallas Donovan (Nth prawn farming), Andrew Forrest
- Bloomberg [business article on developing the north](#) concurs with Davidson 1965 'any agricultural product which can be produced north of the tropic can be produced far more cheaply south of it' SMH version [here](#) whilst NT gov [says north's potential underrated](#)

- Farm cash incomes of [beef cattle producing farms in the North jump 98% in 2014-15](#) as a result of increased prices and highest turn-off in 36 years however profits remain below av. More [here](#)
- ILC rolls its cattle ops into [National Indigenous Pastoral Enterprise and plans to double its herd](#)
- Austs largest [beef co. warns that gov foreign investment tape is scaring away investors](#) in N Aust but [property sales booming](#), Indonesian Gov issues [extra 50,000 permits](#) to reduce prices and insight into Chinese investment into N Aust cattle [here](#).
- Research on willingness of Northern Aust farmers to participate in conservation contracts [here](#)
- [WA can learn from NT ito pastoral diversification and reform](#)
- Expert suggests southerners first to benefit from china deal but "[most economical trade" from northern Australia](#); confirmed in infographic on [northern vs southern cattle exports to china](#)
- Kimberley [cattle trial shows up to 4000 tonne reduction in greenhouse gas emissions](#) worth ~\$60,000 pa in carbon credits in the ERF. And info on [reducing nitrogen emissions on NT farms](#)
- Psyllid-resistant leucaena fodder soon available but [friend or foe](#)
- Over 400 [cattle contaminated by NT mine](#) (more) and same co. wins [rights to Cape York bauxite](#)

- [WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council signs \\$4.6M agreement with Tourism WA](#) to boost the Aboriginal tourism sector, NT establishes [Indigenous Tourism Advisory Council](#) and QTIC launches Australia's first [support network for Indigenous tourism employees](#) (also great stories from Indigenous tourism champions [here](#))
- [Waardeken win national NAIDOC Caring for Country Award](#) and collection of naidoc stories on [connections to country](#) inc Kimberley
- [Indigenous rangers could be key to reconciliation](#) (more [here](#) as in Julys roundup)
- State Memorial Service on 4 Sept for [Community leader and ex NLC Chairman](#)

- Article on some impacts of mining on Indigenous lands and Jon Altman essay on The Right to Development on Indigenous Lands p14 here
- Jeff McMullen's Vincent Lingiari Memorial lecture on Custodianship in the 21st Century
- EPBC Act guidelines for Indigenous engagement for environmental assessments open to 12 Oct
- Workshop on effectiveness of Indigenous land management being held this week at Mary River and new factsheet on supporting biodiversity monitoring by Indigenous rangers
- Industry suggests subsidies and disaster resilience in response to N Aust Insurance Premiums Taskforce interim report . More here
- Increased temps linked to growing educational and workplace burden in north Aust
- Qld mining industry shares lessons with the NT (stable policy jurisdictions are best for the industry) and related commentary here
- NT – Qld rail link scoping study. More here
- Nthn Aust Environmental Resources hub launched (see also July focus)
- Fishery offering cash incentives to reduce prawn fishery bycatch by one third and ghost nets Aust to work with Indonesian fishermen
- Transcripts etc from Expanding the Aquaculture Industry in Nth Aust Inquiry's tour available
- Lonely planet ranks Great Barrier Reef second in top 10 sights in the world
- New Northern Australian emagazine

State/Territory/Regional General News

- Tourism contributes \$4.7B pa to Far Nth Qld economy creating 14600 direct and 9000 indirect jobs, and FNQ visitor spend up 18% (new cafe enterprises in top Cape York and Dimbulah!)
- Dispute over net free zones in Qld and TS moves closer to lobster quotas
- Qld farmers outside formal drought affected areas can apply for assistance
- Investigation of landholder perceptions of weeds, erosion, fire, ferals in Gilbert catchment
- Southern Qld beef to go to China by air
- 'Wanem you see the future for Torres Strait' video covers population increase, climate change, imported food and fuel, changing infrastructure and how these might affect communities, health, culture and development.
- Growcom launches first best management practice program for multi-commodity horticulture
- Kimberley abattoir may open by Christmas and Mowanjum plants Rhodes grass as part of plan for feedlot and 30,000 cattle
- Kerry Stokes buys Kimberley cattle station joining surge of new investors
- Wellard signs JV with Chinese company to establish feedlots and abattoir, and supply and market Australian beef and cattle in China
- Future looks brighter for Kimberley pearling industry
- Reports on the AARNJA Kimberley Futures forum and the Kimberley rangers forum
- Mining starts near Halls Creek and mining stops near Wyndham affecting locals
- NT Government releases an Economic Development Strategy focusing on 7 priorities (gas, mining, tourism, agribus, int educn, defence, supply&service) and 6 enablers (land&water, infrastructure, domestic energy, human capital, investment, supportive gov). Also assocd Social/Cultural Strat
- Plan to double value of NT crocodile farming industry to ~\$50M (plan itself) +more on handbags
- First mangos \$100 a tray, bumper tomato season, Darwin water chestnuts selling for \$48/kg
- Arnhem Land's Yirralka Rangers video highlights importance of the program to the community and of caring for country and Djelk rangers launch ambitious buffalo cull. Also new base for Indigenous sea rangers in the NT Gulf via federal biosecurity funding
- Commercial tourism development opportunities in NT parks and reserves and Ghan cutbacks

- [NTCA in Canberra](#) (see Aug 17/18 posts) to progress issues inc mining/gas industry access, trade, markets, NBN, drought policy and White Paper and [NT Farmers Assoc has new CEO](#)
- [New gas projects, gas pipelines](#), [mixed opinions re NT gas future](#) and [new guiding principles on how oil and gas industry should operate in NT](#) and [assoc abc article](#). Also Nrthn [brownfield gas](#) cheaper than green
- NT EPA lodges [complaint against illegal discharge](#) by Redbank copper mine in Gulf (more [here](#))
- [Landcare NT](#) created

Water

- 240,000ML of [additional irrigation water to be released for Flinders and 476000ML for Gilbert](#) after IFED EIS (audio [here](#))
- [Ord Irrigation Coop expect reduction in water allocation to match use](#) , Ord growers [call for faster development](#) and audio [only 8 farmers using the Ords water, the other 24 have gone](#)
- [Low flows mean no crabbers in NT Gulf](#) and Qld Gulf [low flows worry fishers and graziers](#)
- Andrew Forrests drought proofing presentation at Mar 3 at ABARES outlook conf [here](#)
- [Drought assistance building water infrastructure](#) on Qld cattle properties
- [Balls lower reservoir evaporation](#)
- NLC comment on NTs Our Water Our Future highlights lack of community consultation and absence of Strategic Indigenous water reserve see p19 [here](#)
- Consultations begin on Ord Stage 3a (inc questions as to why this selected first, timeframes, lack of salinity info etc) p8 and TO interview re Ord impacts p9 [here](#)
- [Sandalwood profits high and prospect of distillery](#)
- Latest [stories and science on northern aust rivers and estuaries](#) in easy to read format +pics
- [Irrigated grass and legume forages expanding in Kimberley](#)

Ferals, weeds & pests

- [Damaging browsing ants escape quarantine](#) at Darwin port
- [Mimosa survey](#) of Finnis Reynolds shows wins in treatment areas but other weeds present
- More enforcement of cattle spelling to [slow Prickly acacia spread](#)
- Response to [detection on Tiwis of devastating plant disease myrtle rust disappointing](#). More [here](#) and [here](#). Impacts described [here](#)
- [Local gov foots bill for Kununurra fruit fly](#) , research to [prepare for cecid fly](#) and search for [asian honey bees in NT](#)
- Aust [biosecurity awards open](#) until 30 sept to individuals, teams, organisations, industry & government
- Invasive Species Council [submission to Qld Biosecurity Capability Review](#) calls for improved preventive action, more community involvement and a greater focus on the environment (eg concerted effort on yellow crazy ants would have multiple benefits) . Its [submission to Aust Gov paper on 'Modernising Austs approach to managing established pests and diseases](#) of National Significance' endorses underpinning concepts of coordination and collaboration but questions the criteria for selecting nationally significant invasive species, and is concerned the reduced government role and lack of attention on threats to environmental assets.
- NT [biosecurity strategy 2015-2025](#) released for public comment until 7 sept

Biodiversity and Protected Areas

- Qld conservation areas >1000m asl have no hope in face of [climate change](#)
- Australia's [Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 open for 5yr review comments](#) til 11 Sep
- New [Healthy Country planning partnership for land nr Fitzroy Crossing](#)
- [Fauna survey continues on AWC property in the Gulf](#)
- [New species of gliding possum](#) found and abc article on [golden-backed tree rats](#)

- *Mesembriomys gouldii gouldii* (Black-footed Tree-rat (Kimberley and mainland Northern Territory)) is now classed as Endangered, and *Mesembriomys gouldii melvillensis* (Black-footed Tree-rat (Melville Island)) is now Vulnerable under EPBC Act listings
- Threatened spp's summit summary and presentations now available online & inc Indigenous feral cat control and fire management
- Final rpt on how adult quolls can be trained to avoid cane toads and pass this on
- Guide for use of remote cameras for wildlife surveys
- Submissions to Senate inquiry into marine plastic pollution close 10 Sept and close 5 Sep on EPBC approved harvest of scalloped hammerhead and great hammerhead sharks from NT Fishery
- Call for citizen science help study Kimberley sea snakes and Kimberley croc numbers triple
- Nthern Aust box jellyfish milked to make lifesaving anti-venom
- New NERP NAust hub factsheet on improving efficiency of biodiversity investment

Fire and carbon

- Guiding Principles for fire management in WA Rangelands, inc sections on N Kimberley and W Kimberley, formally released (see also Mar/Apr Roundup)
- \$3M UN rpt says Indigenous fire methods & robust reporting could be used around the world to cut emissions
- CDU savanna fire researcher wins Tall Poppy award for NT

Events

11 Sept Legacy Mines in the NT seminar Darwin
 15-17 Sept AARNJA, KALACC, KLRC & KLC AGMs Pandanus Park WA
 21-23 Sept WA State NRM Conference, Mandurah WA
 29-30 Sept Funding Northern Australia Infrastructure Development conference, Brisbane
 6-7 Oct NT Major Projects Conference, Darwin
 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
 8-10 Nov Andrew Robb's Northern Investment Forum, Darwin (by invitation)
 10-12 Nov TNRM Annual Conference, 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 ☺