

# NT News

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## LIFE AT TANAMI MINE

PAGES 16-17

## Farmers' fury over cotton exposé

Cotton Australia chief executive Adam Kay has slammed a report into the NT industry by the ABC. Picture: Pema Tamang Pakhrin

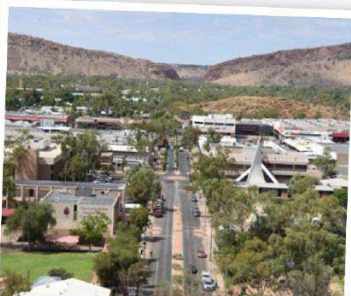
BUSINESS



## PARKING METER PAIN

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COUNCIL



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POLITICS

# WHAT A CROP OUT

Northern Territory farmers have hit back at a report characterising attempts to build a cotton industry as "developers circling", while environmentalists are going as far as calling for a Royal Commission.

FULL STORY PAGE 7



VOTE 1 GREENS

IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP POLITICS

KAT MCNAMARA  
FOR NIGHTCLIFF

ASTA HILL  
FOR BRAITLING

SUKI DORRAS-WALKER  
FOR FANNIE BAY



greens.org.au/nt

Authorised by M. Mussared, Grevillea Cct Nightcliff. Funded by NT Greens.

# Former top cop joins NT Police

Fia Walsh

Former Queensland Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll has joined the NT Police Force to co-chair an industrial relations working group.

Ms Carroll will join Vince Kelly in leading upcoming enterprise bargaining agreement negotiations, and implementing the industrial relations components of Kelly's review into police funding, culture and systems.

Ms Carroll, who resigned from her position with the QPS in February over mounting pressure around the state's youth crime crisis, led the service through the coronavirus pandemic and the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence.

Labor accepted 15 of 18 recommendations from the independent Kelly review into police, which was made public in April.

Providing an update on Monday, Police Minister Brent Potter said 13 per cent of the accepted recommendations had been completed.

"I'm working every day to deliver on Eva Lawler's commonsense plan to reduce crime and improve community safety – and I'll continue to do that every day for the next four years," he said.

"We're making record-breaking investments into the Northern Territory Police Force to make sure they have the resources and support they need to do the job."

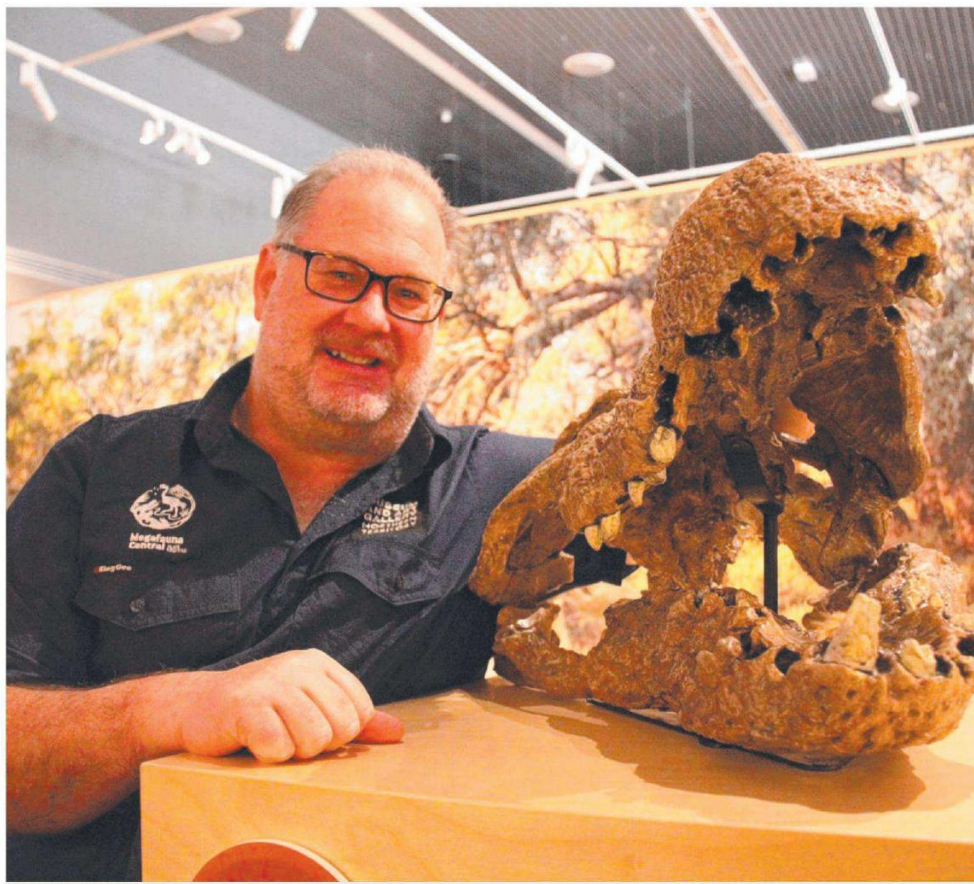
NT Police Commissioner Michael Murphy has publicly committed to improving the culture of the force – notably delivering an apology to Indigenous Territorians for harms caused over 154 years of policing.

Long-running tensions between Mr Murphy and the CLP-allied NT Police Association boiled over after the apology, with the Commissioner quitting his union membership.

Asked if Mr Murphy's job was safe under a CLP government, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said that she had "a lot of respect for the Police Commissioner".

"He has important work to do before and after the election," she said.

"Our focus is on making sure our police are supported," Ms Finocchiaro said.



Megafauna Central senior curator of earth sciences Adam Yates next to a croc fossil at Alice Springs Megafauna Central. Picture: Gera Kazakov

# Doors opened to croc fossils at historic site

Gera Kazakov

Red Centre residents will be treated to a glimpse of some rare crocodile remnants as part of a special guided tour happening for one day only.

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory is opening the doors to Alcoota Scientific Reserve this September.

Megafauna Central senior curator of Earth sciences Dr Adam Yates said the tour would show the importance of the historic site, as well as croc fossils.

"It's one of Australia's oldest megafauna sites, and

it's really significant because there just aren't any other sites of that age, or mega fauna sites anywhere in Australia," he said.

"And in fact, fossils from that age are just extraordinarily rare."

Those rare fossils will be available for viewing as part of the Alcoota discovery day tour, on September 22.

Dr Yates and experts will conduct the tour, which runs from 8am to 4.30pm.

Tickets start from \$132.96, with a bus ride to and from Alice Springs included.

Dr Yates said after

recently completing a dig at the site, there would be plenty of fossils to view.

"We left a whole bunch in the ground so you can come up and see," he said.

"There's a crocodile jaw ... there's limb bones of the giant birds, (and) the slightly less giant bird."

Dr Yates said it was important to respect the site when visiting.

"We don't necessarily want people walking over exposed bones, it will crush them and destroy them," he said. "So, you know, be careful where you put your feet, listen to (the guides)."

# Industry slams ABC for report

## Cotton chief raises issues

Camden Smith

The Territory's agricultural sector has hit back at "another attack" by the ABC on economic development in the Northern Territory.

Months after hitting Darwin's streets to criticise private security operators trying to keep Territorians safe from violence and anti-social behaviour, the national broadcaster's flagship Four Corners program has moved to the Territory's regions to condemn the emerging cotton industry.

The report, aired on August 19, raised a number of allegations about declining water levels, the issuing of permits and construction of dams, all of which were dismissed by industry, while characterising Territory attempts to grow a cotton industry as "developers circling".

Cotton Australia chief executive Adam Kay said the ABC had a history of presenting one-sided accounts, and Territory Cattleman's Association's Will Evans hit out at ABC "elites" and questioned Four Corners' reputation as Australia's investigative reporting flagship.

Mr Evans said nearly all cattle producers contacted by Four Corners refused to be interviewed because "the high standards demanded from politicians and industry by some of the elites at the ABC are not reflected in their own conduct".

"There are many brilliant journalists at the ABC. It's a real shame their voices are shouted over by shows like Four Corners, and the relationships they have with real, honest, hardworking people tarnished by this kind of behaviour," he said.

Mr Kay said Cotton Australia was "extremely disappointed at the conduct of ABC's Four Corners program" and pointed to a 2019 Australian Communications and Media Authority decision that found the ABC breached its own code of practice during a report on cotton.

Mr Kay said the ABC had a history of presenting "one-sided" accounts.

He said the catastrophising scenario outlined by the ABC about potential impacts of cotton were false – saying only 0.2 per cent of the NT was being used for agriculture – and that of 12,982ha of cotton planted, just 575ha (about 4.5 per cent) is irrigated. Out of 407 water licences in the NT, only nine of those involve cotton.

"Due to this, and other experiences with Four Corners, Cotton Australia took the deliberate decision not to engage with them on this program given their past bias," Mr Kay said.

"Again, last night, Four Corners portrayed a one-sided view of the industry, disregarded legitimate scientific research, made conclusions based on repeated claims by activists, promoted the electoral ambitions of a key opponent of the industry, and irresponsibly raised alarmist claims about possible catastrophic outcomes and a devastated tourism industry."

Mr Kay hit out at a number of claims made on Four Corners that he said had no scientific basis, including that the Roper River system would run dry if it was irrigated and irrigation was causing a decline in water levels at Mataranka.

It dismissed the ABC's assertion cotton would not benefit the economy, said claims it would impact tourism were "scaremongering", and denied cotton was being grown illegally on pastoral leases.

"The regulator and the relevant minister disagree, stating the practice is legal," Mr Kay said.

He also dismissed Four Corners' claims farmers were misleadingly applying to grow hay, but were growing cotton instead outside permit approvals.

An ABC media spokesman said Cotton Australia were "approached and declined an interview". Environmentalist are calling for a Royal Commission into NT water management.

## Online Feng Shui Seminar

Tuesday 27 August 2024, 7:00pm-8:30pm

CDU Confucius Institute is delighted to present the 2024 Feng Shui Online Seminar! Join Professor Tao Jianmin from East China Normal University for an online Feng shui presentation on Tuesday 27th August!

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the mystery of Feng shui culture from China!

Scan the QR code to register [cdu.edu.au](http://cdu.edu.au)

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# Opinion OURS & YOURS

## NT News

EDITORIAL

### Cotton on

Latest Four Corners episode sparks ire of industry professionals

It would be tempting to ignore the ABC's latest NT hatchet job on the basis it was not news, was peppered with unproved assertions and it failed to acknowledge broader structural issues in the NT, such as its underdeveloped, laggard, mendicant economy.

There's also the laughable assertion that only southern Australians can "save" the Territory's water assets from depletion and degradation from the barbarians in the north.

But to ignore the doomsday narrative outlined in Monday's Four Corners report on the NT's burgeoning cotton industry would be to abandon the hundreds of scientists, farmers and bureaucrats who have been involved in this entirely justifiable attempt to grow the NT economy.

Four Corners has form when it comes to talking down the cattle industry. Its 2011 report on cruelty in Indonesian abattoirs prompted a live export ban on Territory cattle that devastated the economy and left the commonwealth with a massive, unpaid damages bill after successful legal action.

The ABC was miffed when cattlemen refused en masse to

talk with them and are blaming this for the evident bias in the story.

Broken down, the ABC's anti-cotton thesis was this. The NTG wants to develop a cotton industry to broaden the Territory's economic base, but in doing so they're putting at risk valuable water assets, turning a blind eye to permit rorts, secretly plotting to build a dam and ignoring the interests of Aboriginal communities.

But despite the use of menacing background music and dramatic mots, including "developers are circling", Four Corners failed to provide a scintilla of context about the tiny size of the NT's agriculture industry – 0.2 per cent of land mass – or that only nine of 407 water licences were for cotton.

It also failed to explain why every other jurisdiction can irrigate crops, but not the NT.

Nor did it clarify the differences between the Murray Darling Basin, which spans three jurisdictions and 200-plus years of development, and the beloved Territory waterways, which are revered by all of us.

Every development comes with an environmental cost, but for reasons unclear, it appears Four Corners believes the NT should be preserved in aspic.

WRITE TO US: Make sure to include your name, address and phone number if verification is required. Only your name and suburb will be printed. Please note we reserve the right to edit letters for reasons such as clarity and length. PRIVACY POLICY: Our privacy policy at <https://preferences.news.com.au/privacy> includes important information about our collection, use and disclosure of your personal information (including to provide you with targeted advertising based on your online activities). It explains that if you do not provide us with information we have requested from you, we may not be able to provide you with the goods and services you require. It also explains how you can access or seek correction of your personal information, how you can complain about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles and how we will deal with a complaint of that nature.



**Super Snaps** Decorated elephants walk past the historic Buddhist Temple of the Tooth as part of celebrations to mark the Buddhist festival of Esala Perahera, in the ancient hill capital of Kandy. Picture: Ishara S. Kodikara/AFP.

## Your Say

### BOOTS AND ALL

Are you getting this bizarre new TV ad in the Territory that has been broadcast in NSW?

It features Adam Giles, somewhere near Tamworth, throwing hay into the back of a ute, feeding some calves, having a meeting of country blokes, then going with his wife to a country B&S ball – all while wearing Rossi boots.

The ad is for Rossi boots – which is of course owned by Gina Rinehart.

It was a bizarre experience watching it. The man will now clearly do anything at all for Gina.

**Kim McKenzie, NSW**

### DANCING GREENS

I noticed the Greens out on the street, waving their placards and trying to do their own impersonation of the now famous "Raygun" breakdance.

The performance of this lot over recent months has been despicable at all levels of government.

It would be great if the NT were to begin the process of giving them the kick in the arse they so richly deserve.

Don Chipp tried to keep the bastards honest. Now all Australians need to put these bastards last.

**Trevor Hindle, Wodonga**

### UPDATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED

The NT has the highest rate of pedestrian deaths in Australia. The reason is no mystery – poor road design for pedestrians. For example, at the busy corner of Progress Drive and Bagot Rd in Nightcliff there is zero scope for pedestrians to cross safely despite this being a major pedestrian thoroughfare on the way to the shops. Cars whip past at 60km/

h making it a supremely dangerous place to cross. Start designing infrastructure for pedestrians to make everyone safer, drivers and pedestrians alike.

**Warwick Sprawson, Nightcliff**

### BLACK CAVIAR'S LEGACY

Absolute tragedy, the death of one of Australia's true sporting icons and her foal. She went about her business with minimum fuss and absolute professionalism. Unlike some of our current pampered and precious sport stars. A true champion, 25 from 25, we will never see the like of her again, RIP "Nellie".

**Peter Sill, Berrigan**

### RIDDLE ME THIS

How do you park in Darwin city when you don't have a smart phone?

**Sans, Palmerston**

## Social Seen

The best comments made by NT News readers posted across our social media platforms

### WHY DARWIN PARKING METERS AREN'T TAKING CASH OR CARD RIGHT NOW

They should simply make parking free where the meters are yet to be changed. It might drive the contractor to deliver early.

**Stewart**

What if you don't have a phone? Not everyone carries them.

Or if you are a tourist and have to travel from town to towns by the end of the trips you will have hundreds of different apps on your phone – what a joke.

Think about our country men and women. People come from small

communities they do not carry or have phone. I think our council would be a lot more smarter than this. This are the people and the board that we elected to run this city.

**Bondi**

Not every one uses a smartphone. This cashless BS had to stop.

**Kerri**

Had to do a quick stop. Something that only costs 60c the app took out 2 x \$5 because your balance can't be under \$5.

**Poppy**

Dictatorship at a council level! Who are you to decide if the people use cash or card! Control freaks.

**Tracey**

If it doesn't take cash, it doesn't get paid.

**Samuel**

### FORMER QLD POLICE COMMISSIONER JOINS NORTHERN TERRITORY FORCE

And so continues our journey towards becoming a nanny state with all the rules and none of the fun.

**Woody**

Just when the dumb prove they actually can get dumber ...

Let's hire someone forced to resign due to out-of-control youth crime, police force dissatisfaction and incompetence.

She was facing a revolt of her own

officers threatening to walk off the job if she didn't stand up and help them. She chose to resign rather than help.

Yep good move NT, kicking goals as usual. Maybe bring back the last commissioner to head up a section based on competence and ethics, makes about as much sense.

More resignations to follow.

**Joy**

I guess something needs to be done. The NT Police have gone from being one of the best in the country, to the laughing stock of Australia in the last five years or so.

**Mark**

You could not get a more dedicated

woman.

**Rae**

I knew that all along, she said something about joining the police up north – but I wasn't to sure about that – but that's good news.

**Reuben**

### THE FINAL FACE-OFF

I definitely voted for someone else; enough is enough – bye to Labor.

Do we get a public holiday to celebrate when they are voted out?

**Zynanna**

Labor has failed everyone in the NT, time for new blood.

**Angel**