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Kimberley and Pilbara local news briefing: Wednesday, October 28, 2026

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Regional Communities

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Here's what's making news in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions today.

Dog owner fined over Kununurra attack

A Kimberley dog owner has been fined after a court convicted them over a dog attack in Kununurra.

The Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley said the owner was found guilty of two offences: the attack and keeping an unregistered dog.

The court also ordered the owner to pay costs.

Think tank urges Pilbara emissions push

A climate think tank says WA's emissions reduction plans must go further to decarbonise the Pilbara, the state's largest greenhouse gas emitter.

The state government yesterday committed to a 75 per cent renewable energy target for WA's main electricity grid, the South West Interconnected System, by 2031.

Climate Energy Finance director Tim Buckley said the government should put more pressure on major Pilbara miners to develop green "common use" infrastructure.

He said it was critical the government did not forget the Pilbara, where imported, expensive, high-emissions diesel supplied more than 60 per cent of energy needs.

Kimberley advocates welcome EPA letter

Kimberley advocates welcome the release of a letter drafted by WA's environmental watchdog recommending rejection of Woodside's Browse Basin project.

Independent news outlet Boiling Cold revealed the Environment Protection Authority's 2023 letter yesterday, which warned of potential damage to "exceptional" corals at Scott Reef.

The gas fields are Australia's largest untapped gas resource.

Environs Kimberley community organiser Wendy Mitchell said an oil spill from the project could threaten the region's coastline.

"It would be catastrophic," she said.

She said it could affect the reef system around Scott Reef and the tourism industry using the inshore Kimberley coast.

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Regional Australians are feeling lonely, but these Old Bastards are helping



Corruption

Company director charged over alleged kickbacks in Pilbara corruption scandal



Greenhouse Gases

After days of delay, state regulators confirm probe into methane plume at Chevron



Feel Good

Rescuers praised after hauling young dugong to safety

Road toll getting worse as trend reverses

Australia is on track to record another year of increased road deaths, in what experts say is an alarming reversal of a decades-long trend.

The road toll peaked in the 1970s and declined gradually for 40 years.

Deaths started growing in 2020, despite a national target to halve the road toll by 2030.

Michael Bradley, from the Australian Automobile Association, said more research and public data were needed to understand the change.

"It's pretty confounding that more people are dying each year on the road," he said, pointing to infrastructure spending, safer cars and increasingly rigorous licensing.

Kimberley children most at risk of virus

Health experts say Aboriginal children in remote Kimberley communities are the people most vulnerable to developing Japanese encephalitis in the state.

New research completed in part by WA Department of Health entomologist Abbey Potter examined how wet seasons in the state's far north create perfect conditions for mosquitoes, which carry the viral brain infection.

Dr Potter said children were more vulnerable than adults to getting very sick.

"In the Kimberley region in the wet season, which we know is peak mosquito season, community access can get cut off after really heavy rainfall and flooding," she said.

Traditional owners share falls history

Traditional owners say they bring a new perspective as they lead tourist groups at Horizontal Falls over the 2026 season.

Journey Beyond previously ran speedboat tours through the narrow gap, but a new program was piloted this year with the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation.

Dambimangari tour guide Sasha Ngerdu said tourists could absorb the region's ancient history.

Tourists were "mostly grateful for coming out and listening" to stories about how the old people travelled and lived along the coastline, Ms Ngerdu said.

Volunteer gap forces museum closure

The operator of Carnarvon's One Mile Jetty Museum says it will have to close the museum from next week.

The museum relies on live-in volunteers and currently has no-one to care for the facility over summer.

President Dudley Maslen said he was worried about losing word-of-mouth reviews, which keep tourists stopping by and spending more time in Carnarvon.

He described a visitor who had travelled through Carnarvon for about 30 years before hearing about the museum and stopping in.

The visitor had not allowed enough time and planned to return, Mr Maslen said.

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