

Land surface temperatures & heat vulnerability in Darwin

Jacqui Meyers, Art Langston, Drew Devereux | 12 December 2019

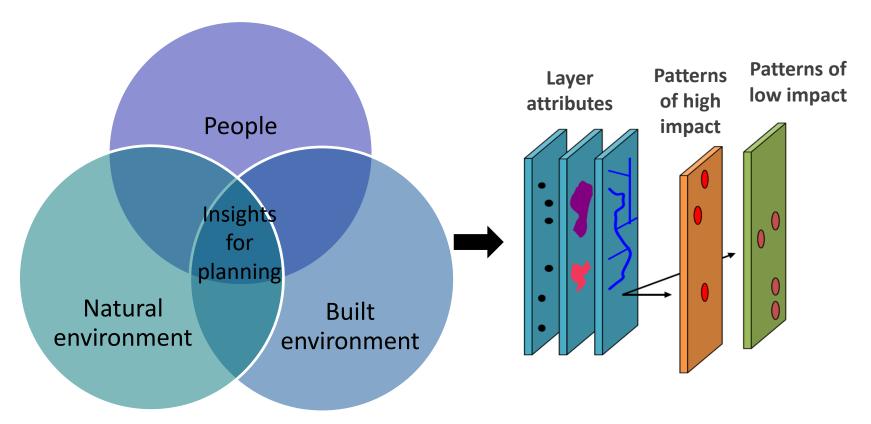


Scope

- Map land surface temperatures
- Identify hot & cool spots and related factors
- Identify neighbourhoods with potentially higher heat-health vulnerability risk



Integrated social and environmental data





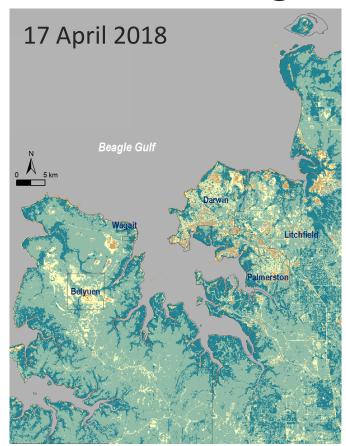
Landsat 8 satellite thermal sensor

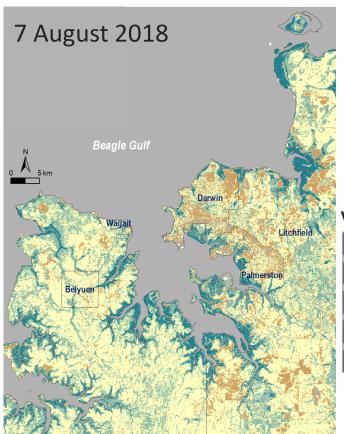
- Every 16 days at ~10.50am
- Surface not air temperature
- A snapshot in time
- 100m resolution downscaled to 30m
- Birds-eye view
- Cloud free images; dry season only





Seasonal change in vegetation 'vigour'





Vegetation Index

Water
No vegetation

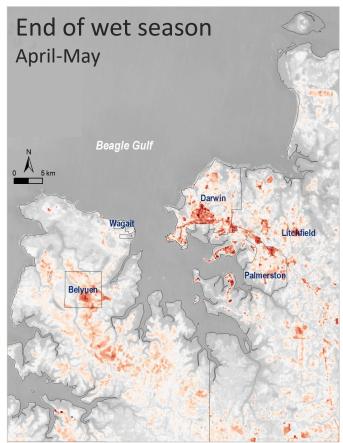
Sparse green vegetation

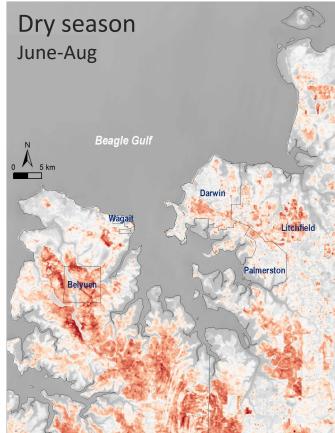
Medium green vegetation

Dense green vegetation



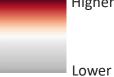
Seasonal Land Surface Temperatures





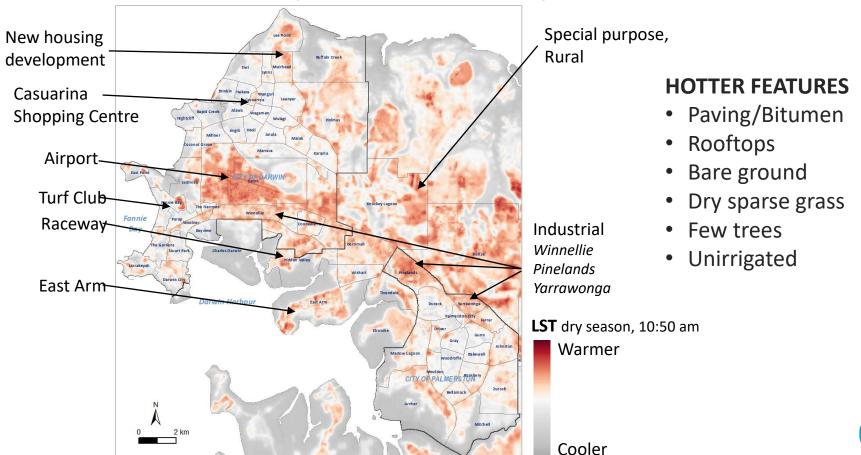
Land Surface Temperature

10:50 am, 2018-19 Higher

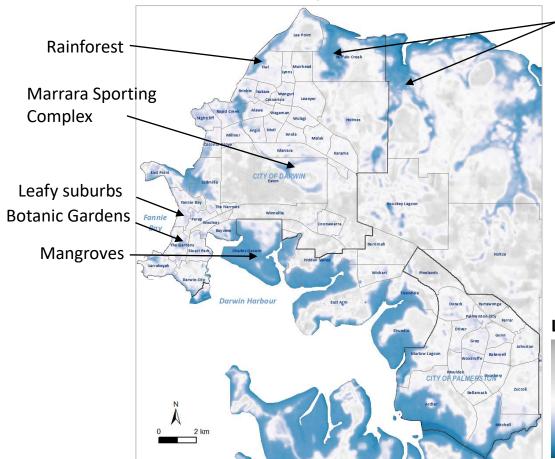




Land surface temperature hot spots



Land surface temperature cool spots



Rivers, estuaries & lakes

COOLER FEATURES

- Water
- Trees
- Irrigation (grass)
- Built shade structures
- Proximity to coast

LST dry season, 10:50 am

Warmer



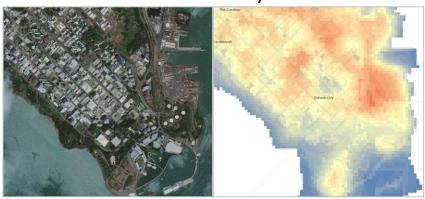
Cooler

Key areas in Darwin

Royal Darwin Hospital



Darwin City



Darwin International Airport



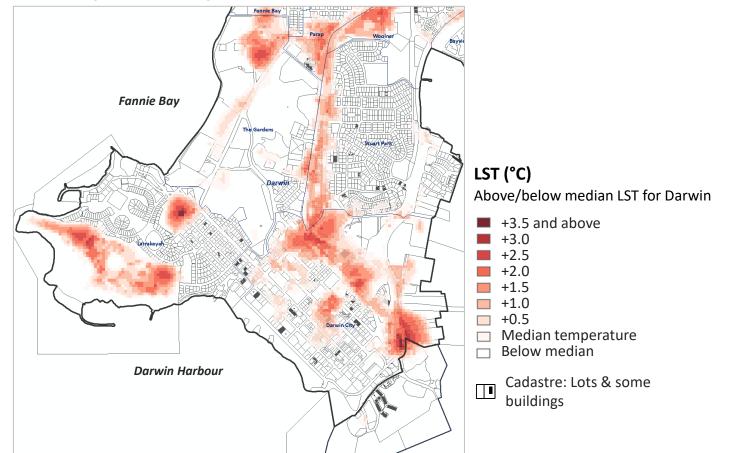
Land surface temperature

Dry season 2018-19 10:50 a.m.



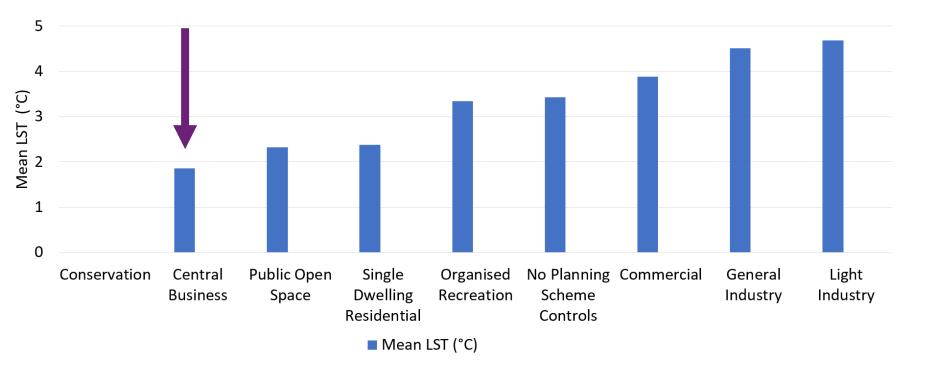


Darwin City hot spots (dry season 2018-19)



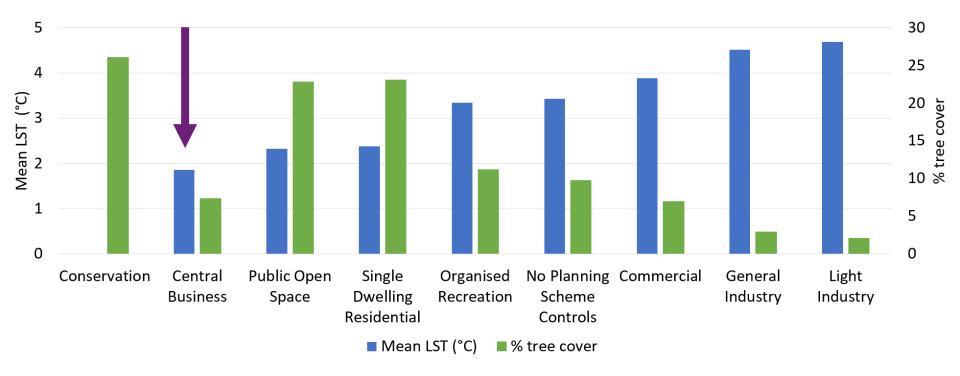


How much hotter or cooler?



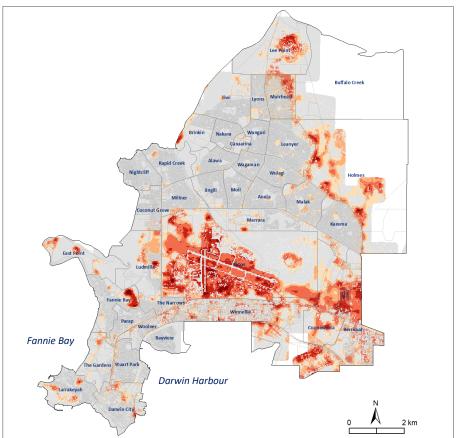


How much hotter or cooler?





'Potential' tree planting areas



Trees could be planted in some (but not all) areas with bare ground or grass to reduce surface temperatures

LST (°C)

Above/below median LST for Darwin

- > 4 °C above median LST
- 3 4
- 2 3
- 1-2
- → 0 1 °C above median LST
- Below median LST
- No data





Heat-health risk

Higher risk of adverse heat-related health outcomes from prolonged exposure to high temperatures:

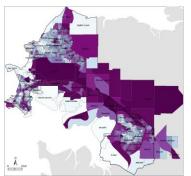
- Lower ability to shed heat (elderly, very young, unable to self-care)
- Comorbidities (e.g. renal, cardiovascular)
- Lower capacity to cool environment (lower socioeconomic)



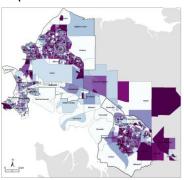
Neighbourhood Heat Vulnerability Index (NHVI)

Dry season 2018-19, ABS 2016 Census Mesh Blocks, Darwin Urban Centre Locality

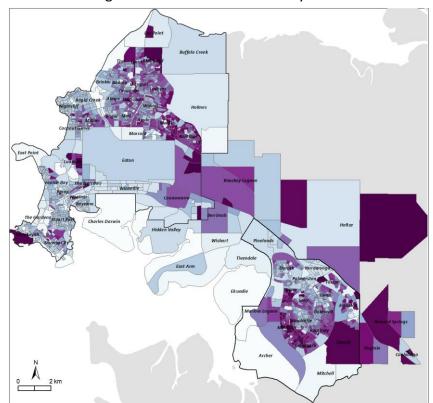
Exposure (median LST)



Population Heat-Health Risk



Neighbourhood Heat Vulnerability Index



NHVI estimate

Highest vulnerability (100)

Lowest vulnerability (0)





Conclusion

Spatial layers and report will be provided to the government to assist them with heat mitigation planning



Thank you

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