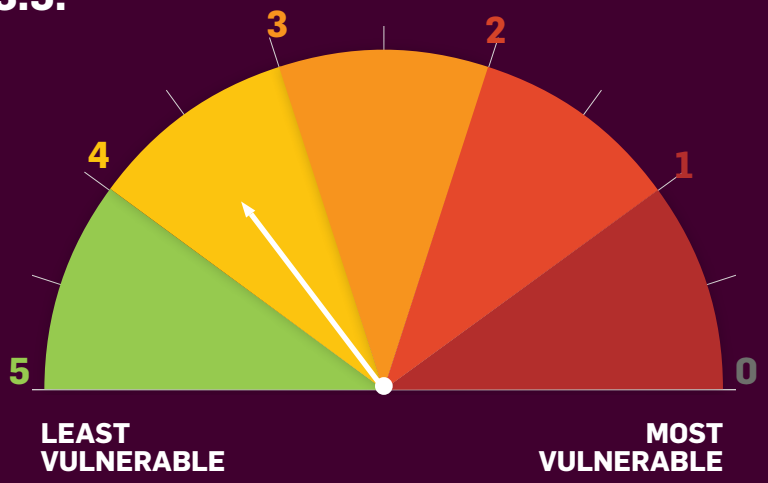
THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Canberra Nara Peace Park

ACT WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Given that the ACT does not have delineated local government areas, the vulnerability indexation has occurred as an overall measure of the territory and

IS RATED AT THE LEAST VULNERABLE END OF THE SCALE AT 3.5.



The ACT has very high canopy coverage overall, however like in other places with high levels of canopy cover it is declining at a very high rate. In the ACT there has

BEEN A 10.7% CANOPY LOSS SINCE 2008.

ACT SNAPSHOT

THE GREEN KEY

In technical terms, a tree is a plant over six metres, while a shrub is under six metres. However, for an accurate comparison to our previous mapping report, 'Where are all the trees?', we have used the following definitions:

Trees
Anything that looks like a tree from above, distinguished from shrubs by the shadows cast.

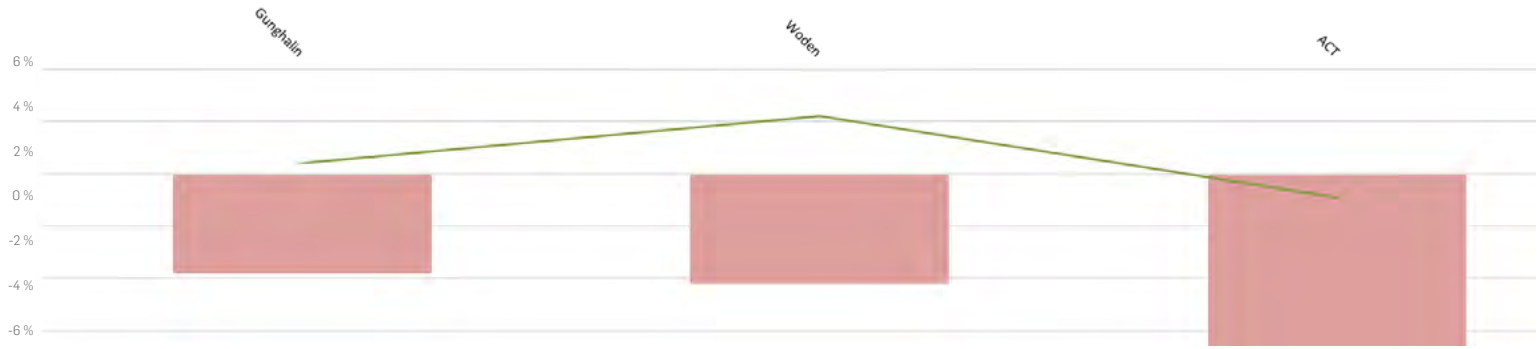
Shrub
Landscaped vegetation as well as bushland shrubs, crops and grapevines.

Grass
Cleared road sides, lawns, pastures, sites cleared for development and sporting grounds.

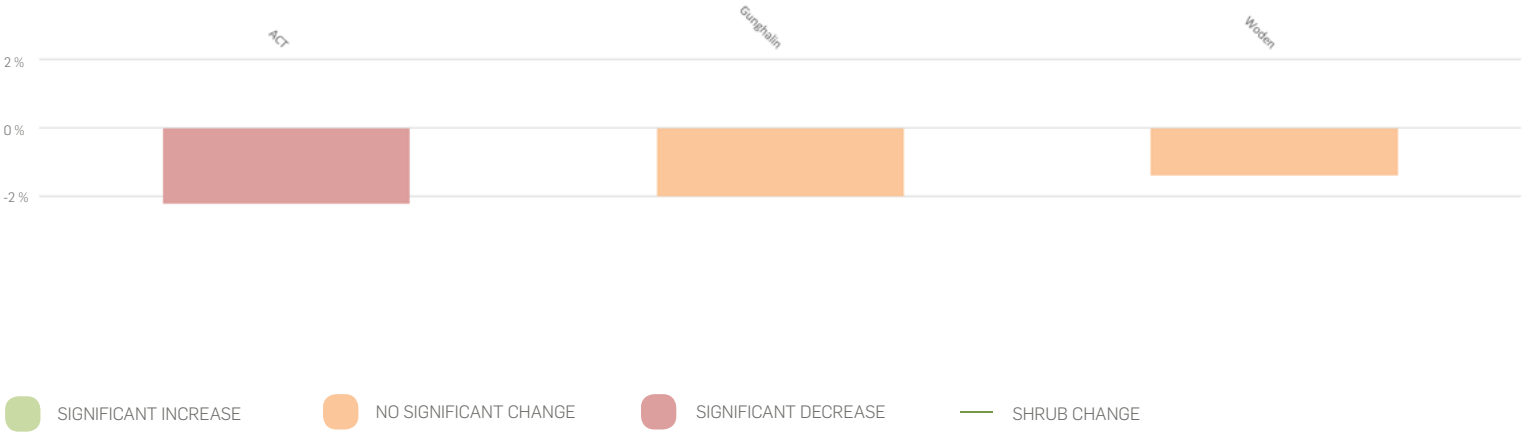
Hard surfaces
Asphalt, buildings, car parks, footpaths, sandy beaches, train lines, rocky coastlines and water.

KEY STATISTICS	2008*	2016	
Tree Canopy Cover	56.3%	45.6%	10.7% Loss
Shrub Cover	5.4%	4.5%	0.9% Loss
Grass Cover	33.1%	42.5%	9.4% Gain
Hard Surface	5.2%	7.4%	2.2% Increase

SHRUB & TREE CANOPY COVER CHANGES IN ACT LGAs 2008-2016



GREEN COVER GAIN & LOSS IN ACT LGAs 2008-2016

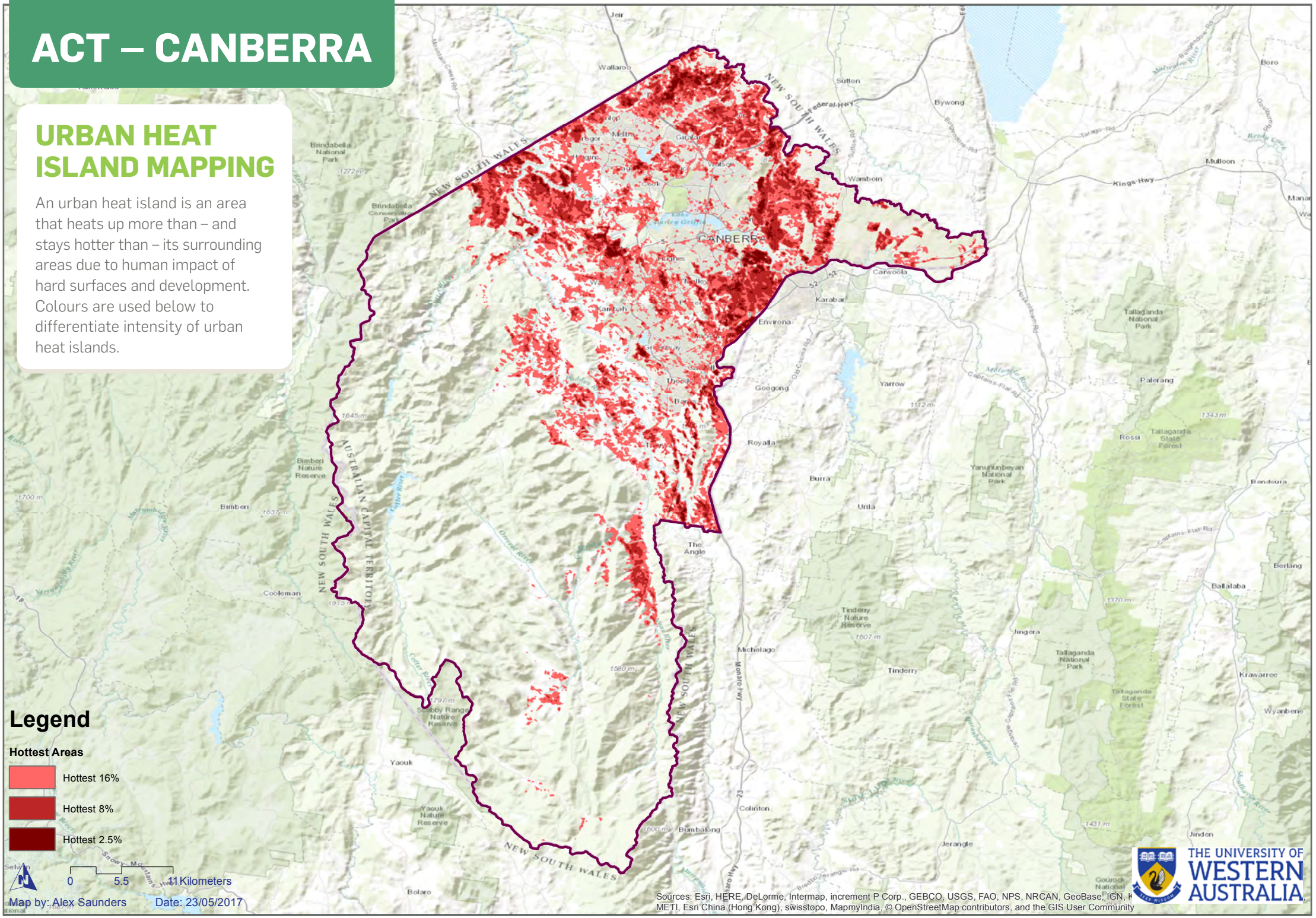


** From 'Benchmarking Australia's Urban Tree Canopy: An i-Tree Assessment', Final Report (2014)*

ACT – CANBERRA

URBAN HEAT ISLAND MAPPING

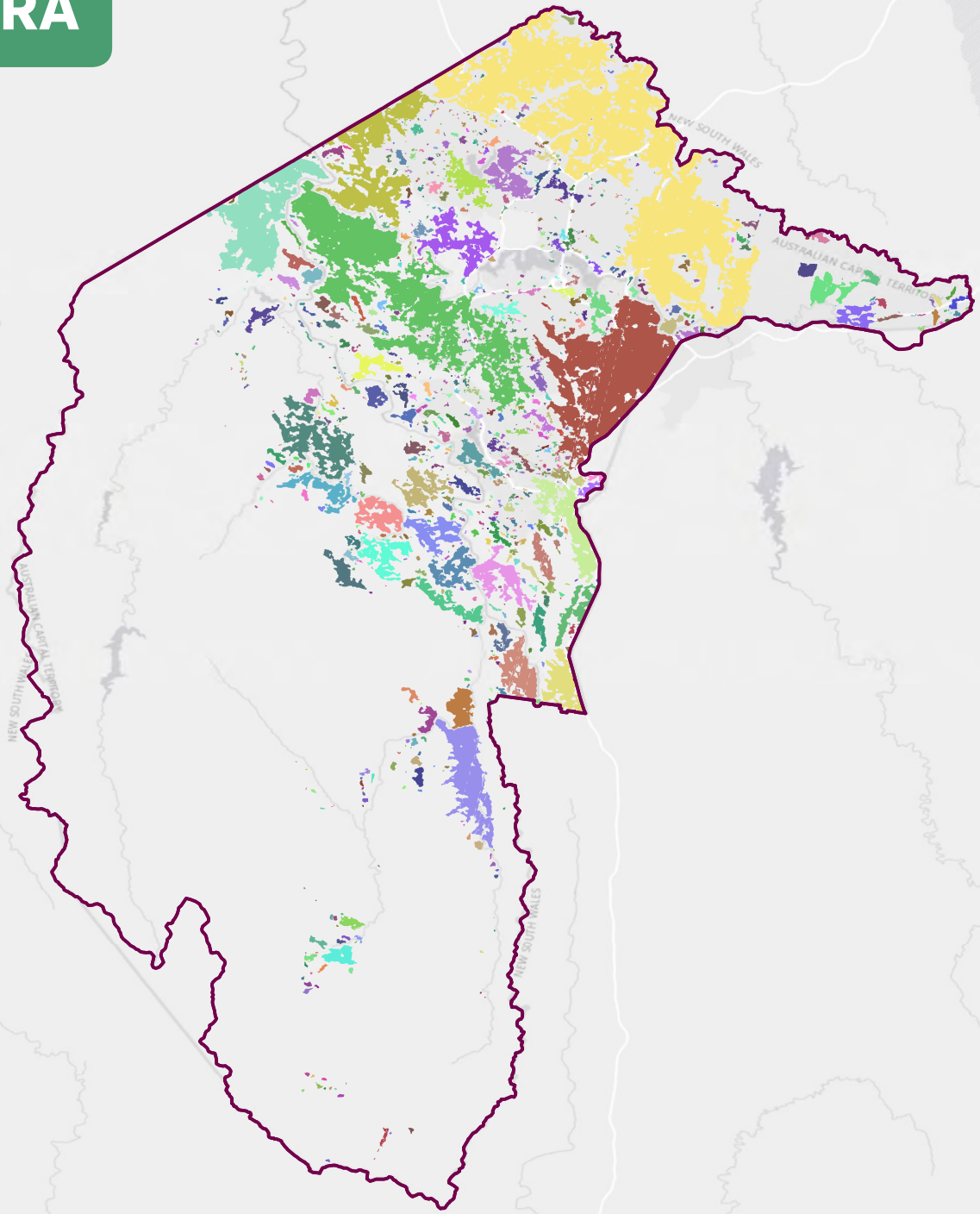
An urban heat island is an area that heats up more than – and stays hotter than – its surrounding areas due to human impact of hard surfaces and development. Colours are used below to differentiate intensity of urban heat islands.



ACT – CANBERRA

URBAN HEAT CONTINENTS

Contiguous areas of urban heat spots or islands show a phenomenon more akin to an urban heat continent than a spot or island. The colours differentiate the various heat continents.



0 5.5 11 Kilometers

Map by: Alex Saunders Date: 23/05/2017

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

ACT THE GOOD NEWS

Hard surfaces have only increased by 2.2% overall, whereas grassed areas have increased by 9.4%. It is unclear as to whether the increase of grassed surfaces has come at the cost of canopy. However it would appear so given the close correlation of numbers –
9.4% increase in grass and 10.7% loss in canopy.

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20% MORE GREEN SPACES
IN URBAN AREAS BY 2020