

ACT GOVERNMENT

LIFE AND DEATH IN A CITY OF TREES

Re-imagining how urban timber recovery supports sustainable forests

SHANE RATTENBURY MLA

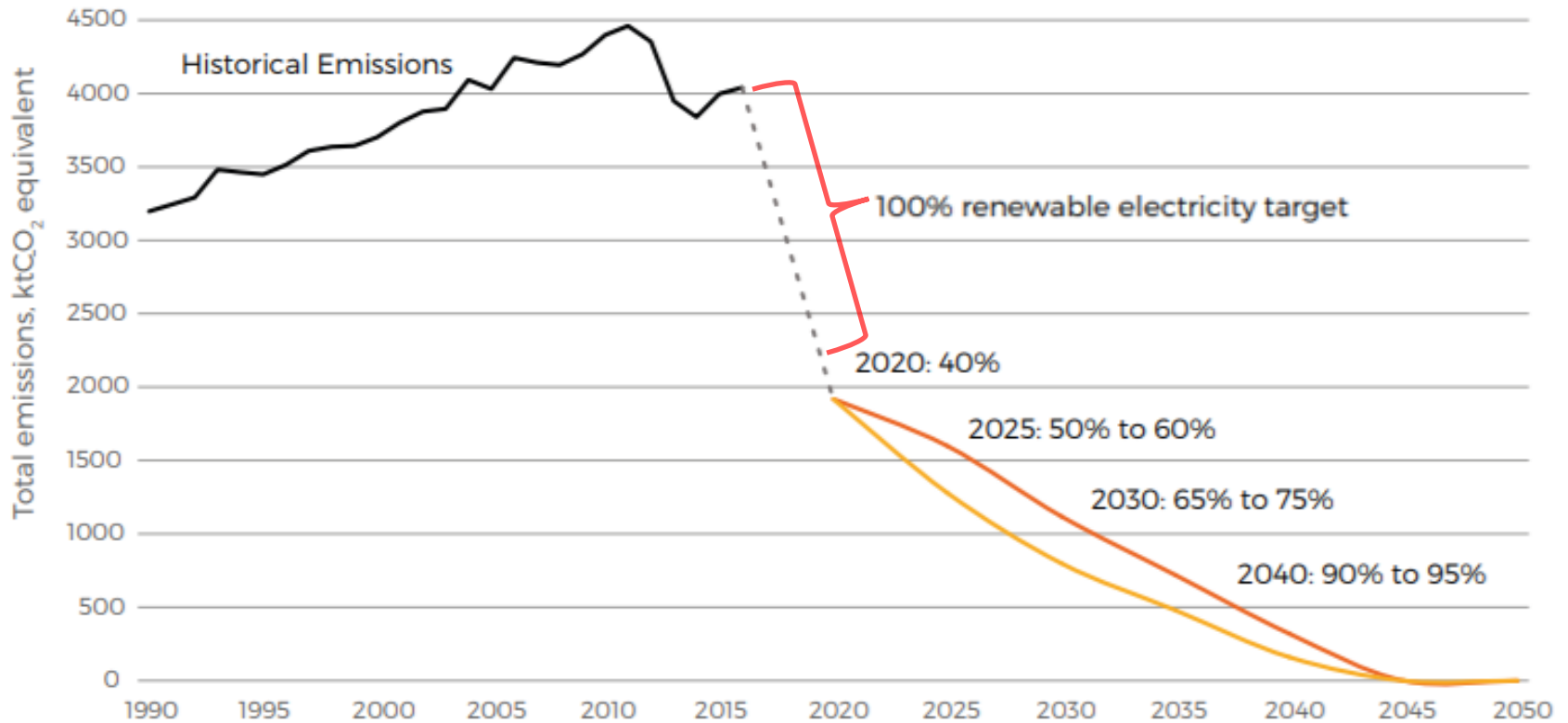
MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY



ACT
Government

ACT legislated emissions reduction targets

Figure 1: . Recommended ACT emissions target range



Local climate change impacts



Storms

will become more intense, causing flash flooding.



Bushfire

weather will become more dangerous.



Heatwaves

will become hotter, more frequent and last longer.



Droughts

will increase in severity and frequency.

2019 JANUARY



Was the **HOTTEST**

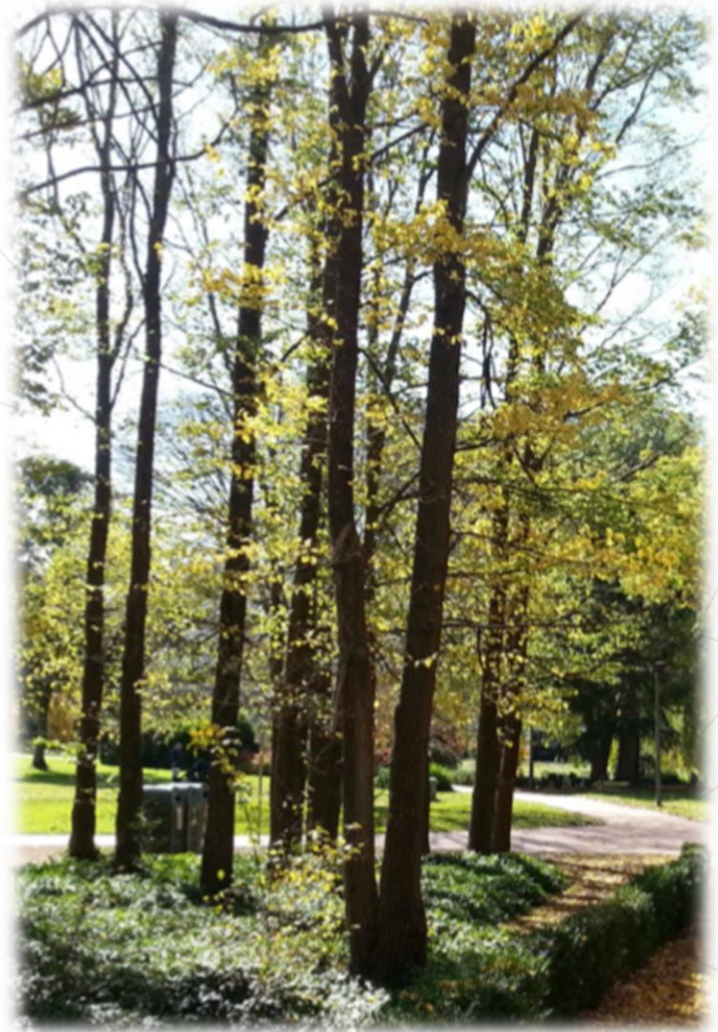
The mean **MAXIMUM** was **34.5°C** and **6.3°C** **ABOVE AVERAGE**

Had **4 CONSECUTIVE** days **above 40°C**

All new **RECORDS** for the **ACT**.

Canberra's public urban forest

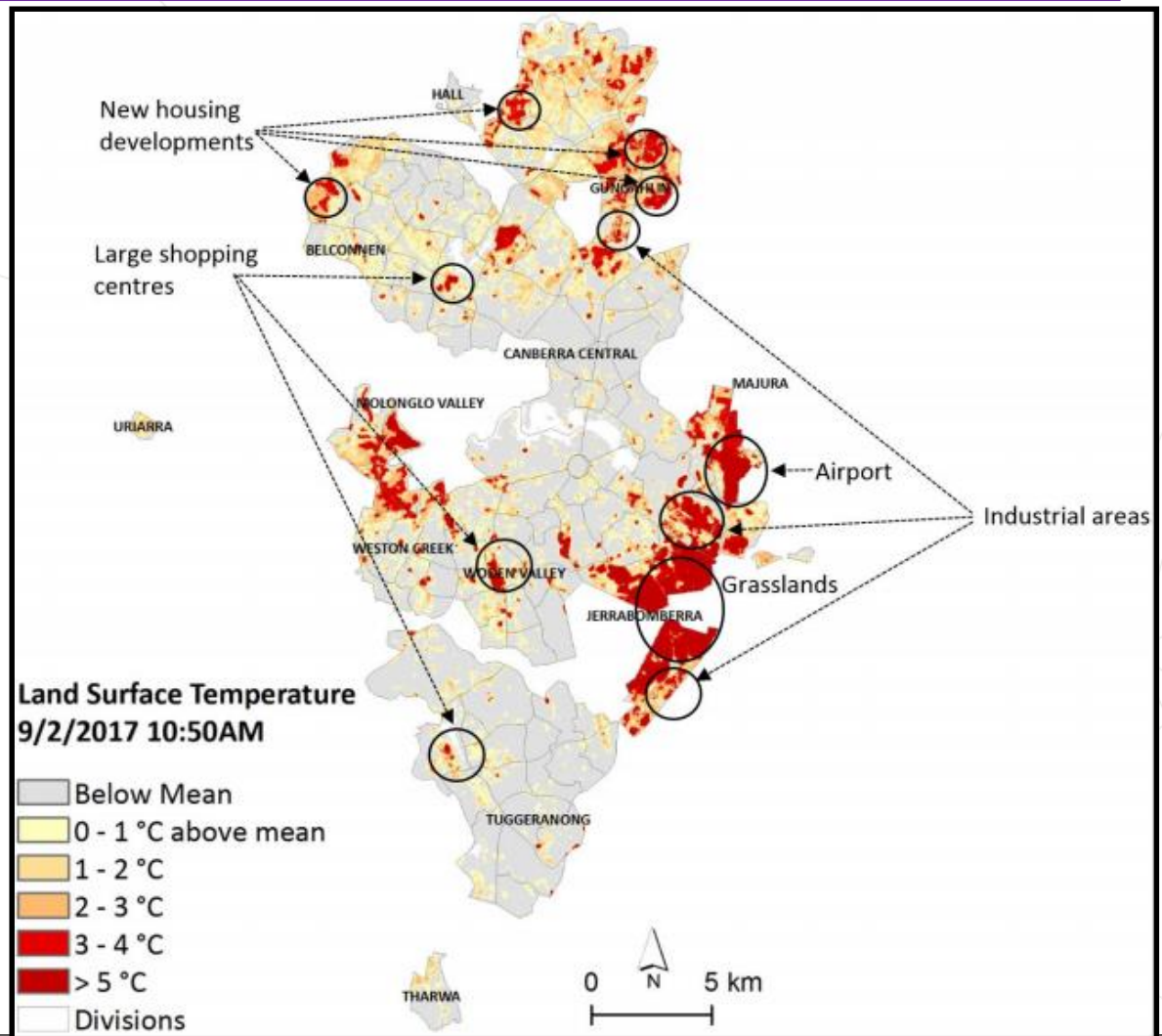
- Approx. 760,000 trees in the public realm
- Approx. 21% tree canopy cover
- Covers around 3,535ha
- Approx. 42% native species
- Dominant tree species:
 - *Eucalyptus mannifera*
 - *Casuarina cunninghamiana*
 - *Eucalyptus melliodora*
 - *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*



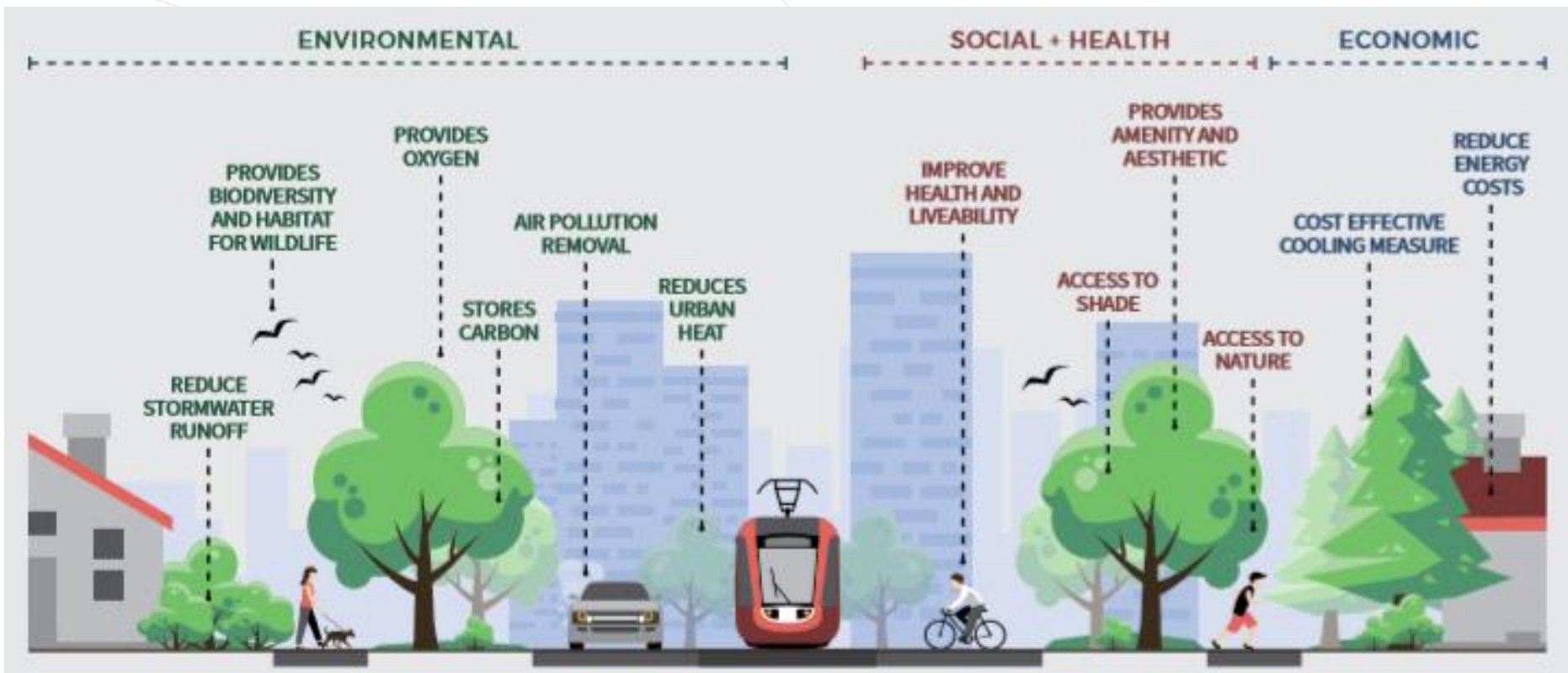
Urban heat mapping in Canberra

- Built-up areas are around 8°C warmer in summer than surrounding rural areas
- Temperatures vary as much as 10°C in suburban areas
- Areas with above average surface temperature characterised by:
 - Impervious surfaces
 - Few trees

[Meyers J, Devereux D, Van Niel T and Barnett G \(2017\) Mapping surface urban heat in Canberra. CSIRO, Australia.](#)



Benefits of the urban forest



A sneak peak to building a resilient, net zero emissions city

