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New heat map reveals our sweltering suburbs

RENATO CASTELLO URBAN DEVELOPMENT EDITOR

THE impact of hot weather on Adelaide's streets and suburbs has been captured on an interactive map allowing people to see how their homes and neighbourhoods are coping with urban heat.

The publicly accessible mapping tool, compiled by the Environment and Water Department and officially launched this week, details aerial thermal imaging of the city's 16 council districts, except for Playford Council.

Users are able to switch between daytime and night-time surface-temperature readings and drill down to individual addresses to see how their homes compare with their neighbours' or other parts of the city.

The maps reveal that industrial estates in Adelaide's west and north and vast tracks of inner-urban housing are among our hottest locations.

Properties along the coast and those in established suburbs with lots of street trees, such as in Adelaide's east, are cooler.

Authorities will use the resource to target more tree planting and help design infrastructure, such as roads, shelters and playgrounds, to minimise so-called urban heat islands and counter rising temperatures caused by climate change.

It will also allow authorities to identify residents who may be at higher risk of heat-re-

lated deaths.

It comes as Adelaide, Prospect, Walkerville, Unley, Campbelltown, Tea Tree Gully, Burnside, Norwood Payneham and St Peters and Salisbury are the latest councils to release results of heat mapping taken across their districts on March 10 last year, when the average maximum temperature was above 33C.

A report into the findings, released to *The Advertiser*, shows that Salisbury was the hottest council area with an average daytime surface temperature of 38.9C – 1.3C warmer than the regional average.

Salisbury Mayor Gillian Aldridge said the mapping had highlighted areas of concern and would further inform plans to plant more trees.

The council also recorded the top 10 suburbs for daytime heat.

Parafield, which includes an airport, was the hottest at 40.5C, followed by Edinburgh at 39.9C and Dry Creek at 39.7C.

Burnside Council had the coolest daytime temperatures but the warmest night-time temperatures owing "a large part to the pronounced warming from the hills face zone", report authors Seed Consulting said.

The report's recommendations include:

DESPITE pressure from urban infill, green space and tree cover should be preferably increased to provide cooling benefits;

DRY grass and/or bare ground should be watered, where feasible, to reduce their daytime warming effect;

TREES, grass and rain gardens should be used to shade bitumen surfaces, such as roads, bikeways and footpaths.

ROAD surfaces should be painted with lighter colours or relaid with lighter materials, and where feasible narrowed;

ENCOURAGING light-coloured roofs or, where feasible, incorporating rooftop gardens in the design of multistorey structures, and;

GUIDELINES should be developed for the amount of vegetation and landscaping required in medium and high-density developments.

Adelaide City Council sustainability associate director Michelle English said the heat mapping "clearly indicates" that hot weather affects the community disproportionately, and that trees and vegetation were needed to help reduce urban heat and climate change.

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NEW LEAF: Salisbury Council staff, including parks and open space co-ordinator Michael Oborn, will increase tree planting across the district, which has some of the warmest suburbs in Adelaide according to heat mapping. Picture: TOM HUNTLEY