



CRC for
Water Sensitive Cities



4th water sensitive cities conference



Australian Government
Department of Industry and Science

Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Programme

Connections with water and health in Indigenous communities

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Cities Research Institute

Overview of talk

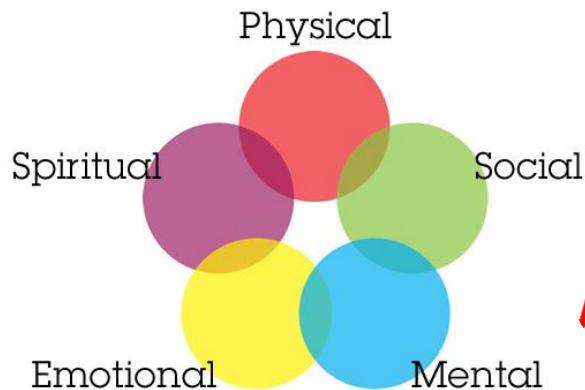
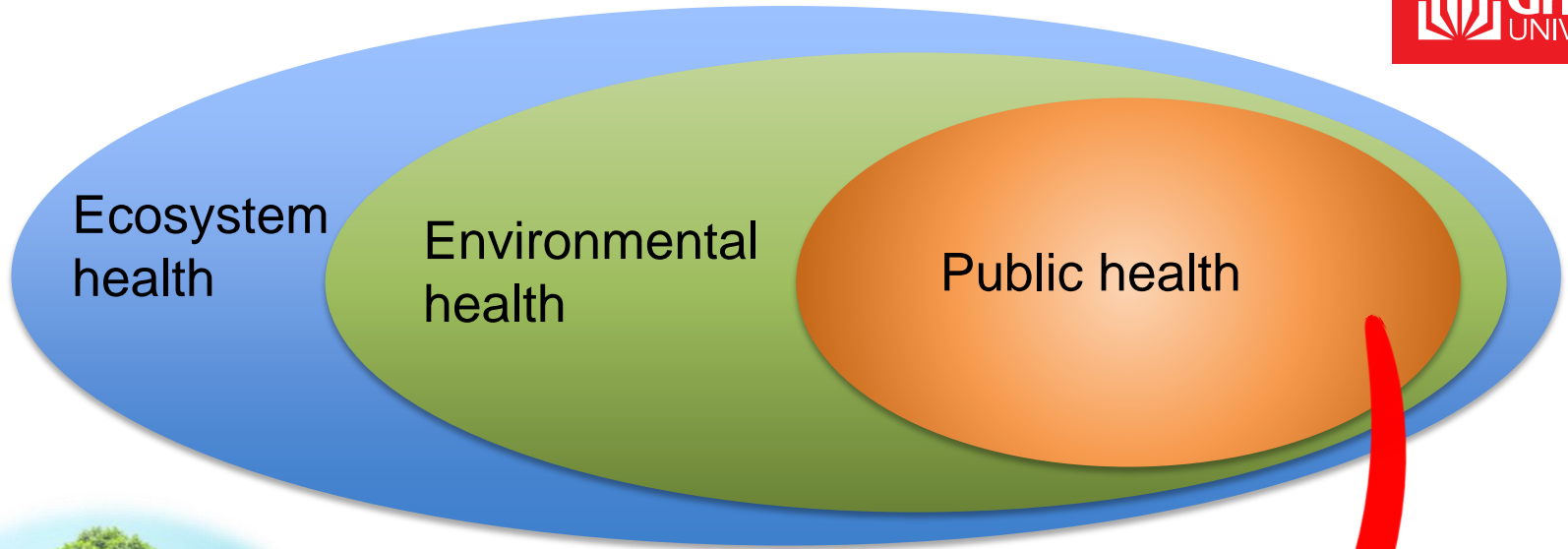
Background

Research snapshot

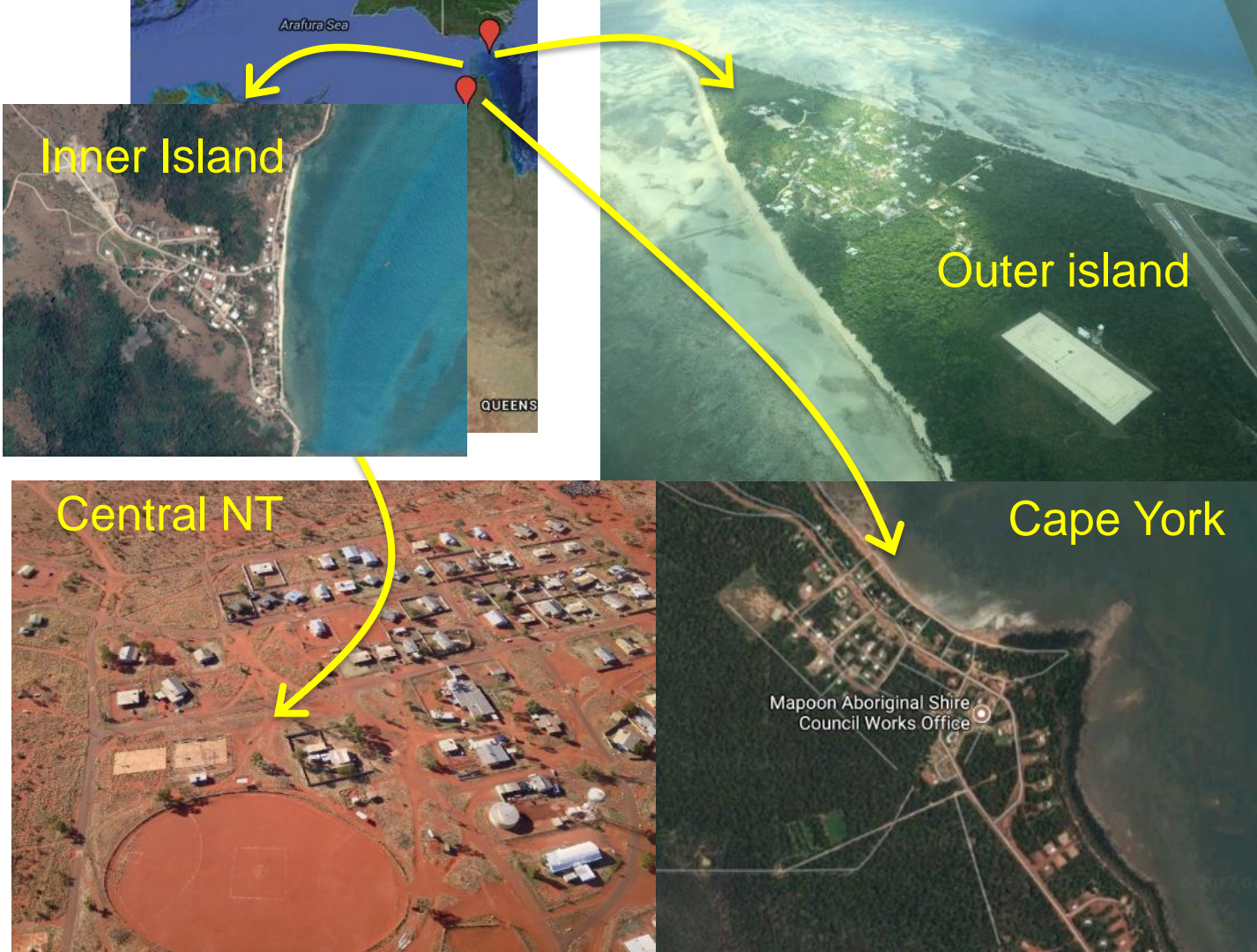
Reflections from the research

- Connections to water, land and health
- “Leave no-one behind”...including the small “cities”!





- Seasonally scarce water supplies (not 24/7 water)
- Very high water-energy demand (diesel-fed bores, desal plants etc.)
- Although only small communities – punch well above their weight with costs to supply safely managed water and power



Approach – mixed methods



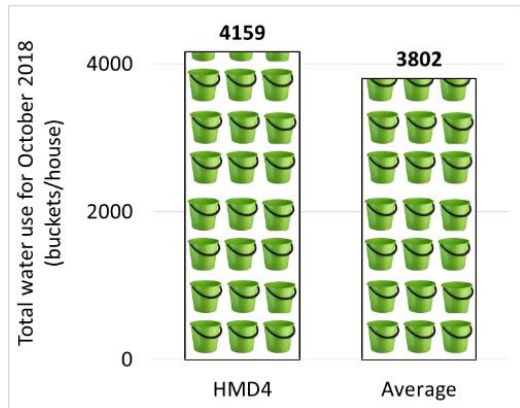
**Community
and
stakeholder
workshops**



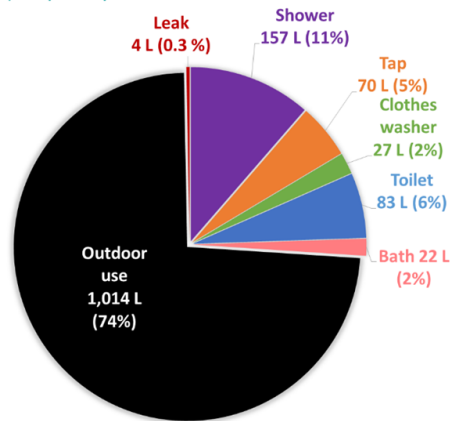


**Gathered
qualitative and
quantitative
data**





AV. DAILY TOTAL - OCTOBER 2018
1,376 L/HOUSE/DAY



Involved and engaged community in water saving behaviours

Remote and Isolated Communities Essential Services Project

You've been doing a great job with using less water outside and reporting leaks!

THANK YOU & PLEASE KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK BY:

- ✓ Checking taps are turned off properly
- ✓ Reporting leaks "It's a big leak, lots of water coming out!!"
- ✓ Watering only in late afternoon for 2 hours (set your timer if you have one)
- ✓ Using your tap timers, trigger nozzles and/or soaker hoses

This project is funded by the Federal Government, Queensland Government and Griffith University. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.



“the value of it goes back to the land”

“climate change is reducing rain, shows in
flora and fauna”

“can provide for families through the land”

“without we would all perish”

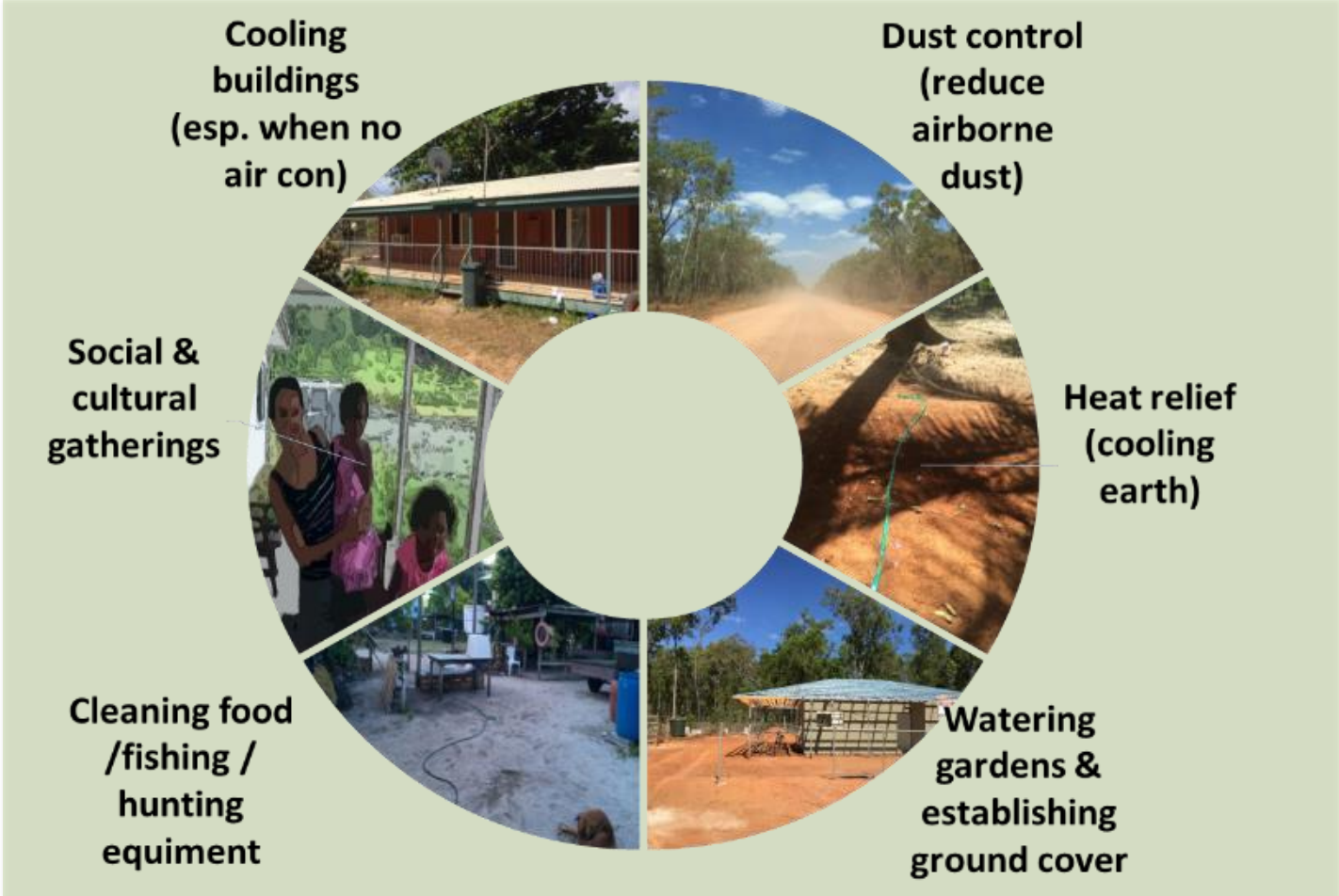
“if Mother Nature collapses on us, it dries up”

“future generations, animals and plants”

“everything about water goes back to culture
and wellbeing”

“is cleansing, spiritual in cultural aspect”

Health and well being uses of water



What has this eel got to do with anything?!



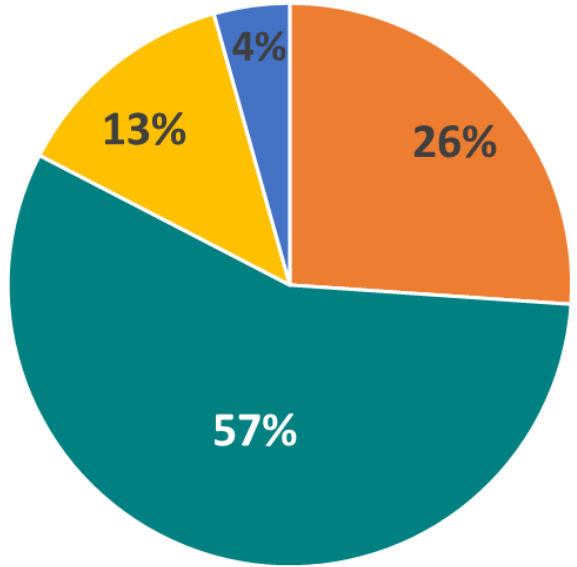
“Rank these in order of importance to community well-being”

Health care

Rain (untreated) water

Town (treated) water

What is your main drinking water source?



- Treated town water
- Rainwater
- Bottled water
- Rainwater and bottled water



Reponses from 48 households from 2 Islands

Back to the eel...









Summary

- “Leaving no-one behind”...we have a responsibility to think bigger than cities – think communities
- Opportunities to draw on the skills and knowledge in the urban space to improve those connections to water and health in Indigenous communities
- Role of environmental health in moving toward truly water transformational cities is critical

“Water out here is precious, eh.. Yep, more precious than silver and gold”

(25 y.o local man from western Cape York)

Project partners



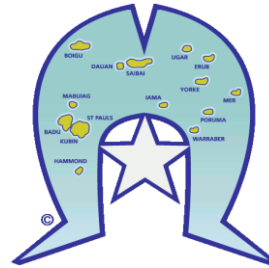
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From little coconuts, big coconuts grow!