

KEY THEMES FROM AUSTRALIA

LESSONS FROM THE MILLENNIUM DROUGHT

OCTOBER 21-27, 2014

CALIFORNIA DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA

🔥 Urgency and Opportunity

- 🔥 **Can't count on the past to predict the future** - we don't know when the drought will end
- 🔥 **Deferring hard decisions** - leads to more difficult and costly options
- 🔥 **Public & political will** - now aligned to support a significant shift in policy & action

🔥 Plan for Livability While Planning for Water Scarcity

- 🔥 **Water for Livability** – water cycle supports health, well-being & enjoyment of everyone
- 🔥 **Water for the Environment** – water is managed for biodiversity, open public spaces and clean waterways

🔥 Address Current & Future Climate Impacts

- 🔥 **A resilient and safe city** - adapted to current and extreme future weather events.

🔥 Trees, Canopy & Soil for Public Safety & Health

- 🔥 **A city in the forest** - rather than a forest in the city
- 🔥 **Critical to irrigate public spaces** – public psyche and health suffered when land and recreational areas turned brown and dry
- 🔥 **Lives saved & heat-island effect reduced** – by watering public spaces & keeping soil moisture high

🔥 Right Water for the Right Job

- 🔥 **Campaign and concept** - "fit for purpose" - to use different water sources for designated purposes.
- 🔥 **Create alternative sources of water** - for new developments (e.g., Lochiel Park)

🔥 Whole-of-Water Cycle Government

- 🔥 **Response to urgency to fix infrastructure** - agencies recognized efficiencies gained through increased collaboration
- 🔥 **Multi-benefit projects** – resulted from networked governance
- 🔥 **Quantification of benefits** – a method is still needed to spur co-investments

🔥 Created Tools to Change Public Behavior

- 🔥 **Communications** - united and consistent messaging to the public from all water agencies
- 🔥 **Incentives** - multiple incentives for distributed water capture & conservation
- 🔥 **Policies & Regulations** - Beyond water restrictions to proactive policies
- 🔥 **Water Consumption Targets** - Target 155L - became a badge of honor to beat it
- 🔥 **Community Engagement** – Campaigns, competitions, promotions, stores, media

🔥 Innovations to Adapt

- 🔥 Distributed residential cisterns
- 🔥 Water-capturing street tree wells
- 🔥 Managed Aquifer Recharge
- 🔥 Sewer mining
- 🔥 Increased R&D - for science and technology communities

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

LESSONS FROM THE MILLENNIUM DROUGHT

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💧 Livability & Water Scarcity

- 💧 Create guidance to protect livability & health when in drought situations (e.g., keep watering key public open space areas and trees, some recreation fields, keep soil moisture for evaporative cooling)
- 💧 Identify local water sources for drought situations to protect livability and not just scarcity

💧 Address future climate impacts

- 💧 Set target of cooling LA/region by X degrees
- 💧 Increase permeability and soil moisture
- 💧 Increase green space (*strategically located*) while adapting landscapes to be more climate appropriate and water efficient
- 💧 Increase development of stormwater harvesting, recycled water and other local water supplies
- 💧 Set tree canopy goals (e.g., 40% in Melbourne)

💧 Right Water

- 💧 For new developments, create alternative sources of water (e.g., Lochiel park).
- 💧 Incentivize retrofits for rainwater and graywater
- 💧 Increase development and use of recycled water, especially where potable water not needed, (e.g. landscape)

💧 Whole-of-Water Government

- 💧 Create a cost-benefit/co-investment tool (to quantify water supply, water quality and other benefits to increase collaboration across fields)
- 💧 Scale up collaborative agency efforts (create mechanism for coordinated planning, funding and design around a water-resilient city)

💧 Tools to Change Public Behavior

- 💧 Create an integrated, clear and consistent messaging campaign (all water agencies fund together; emotional links to drought; aspiring to what's possible)
- 💧 Create additional conservation and water capture incentives
- 💧 Set numeric water consumption target (e.g., "Target 155L")
- 💧 Create feedback mechanism (e.g., smart water bill) for residents and businesses

💧 Policies and Regulations:

- 💧 Create indoor non-potable regulations to use rainwater/greywater (for toilet flushing, hot water, washing machines)
- 💧 Set target for cistern implementation in region
- 💧 Create hybrid regulations & incentives (i.e., if you go above minimum conservation or capture standard you get an incentive)

💧 Adopt Innovations