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New Research Transfers Drought Solutions from Australia to LA **Celebrating #WorldWaterDay**

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – Today TreePeople, a 43-year-old non-profit organization, announces the release of a new report: [**Transferring Lessons from Australia's Millennium Drought to California: Accelerating Adaptation to Drought, Flood & Heat.**](#)

From 1997 to 2010, Australia endured a devastating “Millennium Drought.” The solutions the Australians employed to survive this drought and the record-breaking heat that accompanied it enabled them to come through **stronger, more climate-resilient, and more water-secure than ever, even after the drought ended.**

TreePeople and The Energy Coalition co-organized a delegation that brought local, state and federal level policymakers to Australia **to study and bring back Australian innovations to apply in drought-stricken Los Angeles.**

Their findings, described in the *Transferring Lessons* report, include:

1. Drought provides **a unique opportunity to reshape water management strategies** and requires swift, smart actions.

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2. It is crucial to use a **whole-of-water-cycle** approach, increasing collaboration among all agencies and sectors, and using **the right water for the right job**. (For instance, why use drinking quality water just to flush it down the toilet?)
3. **Decentralized water sources**, such as rainwater harvesting on residential properties, can increase water system resilience.
4. **Livability and quality of life issues** – such as thriving tree canopy and green spaces -- should not be forgotten in times of drought.
5. A mixture of **public behavior change programs**, including rebates, conservation targets, and water restrictions are very effective tools.

These lessons are already having an impact on policymakers who joined the delegation. After being inspired by his participation in the delegation trip, **LA City Councilmember Felipe Fuentes** sent a motion to City Council set an urban cooling target to protect LA residents against the scorching effects of drought plus extreme heat.

“What I witnessed in Australia truly shifted my thinking. Once I returned home, I found myself waking up in the middle of the night, thinking about how to transform LA to capture and conserve water,” Fuentes said.

To view the new report, go to [**Transferring Lessons from Australia’s Millennium Drought to California: Accelerating Adaptation to Drought, Flood & Heat**](#)

[**To learn more about the delegation’s experience, watch this video.**](#)

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