



Transferring Lessons from Australia's Millennium Drought to Los Angeles

Accelerating Adaptation to Drought, Flood and Heat

**Presented to: Los Angeles City Council
Energy and Environment Committee**

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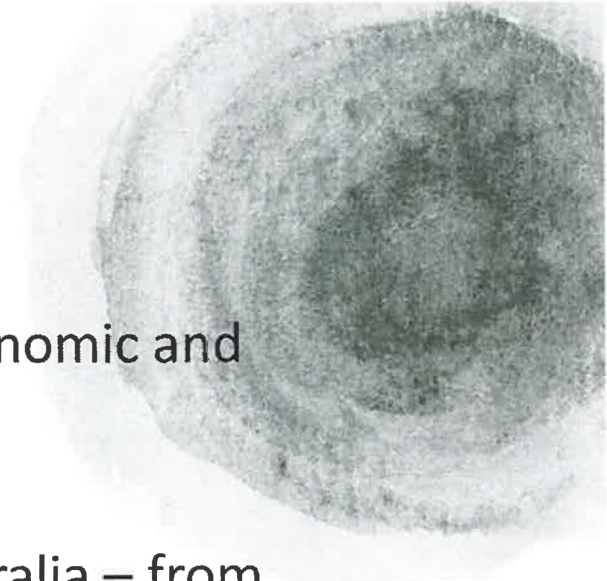
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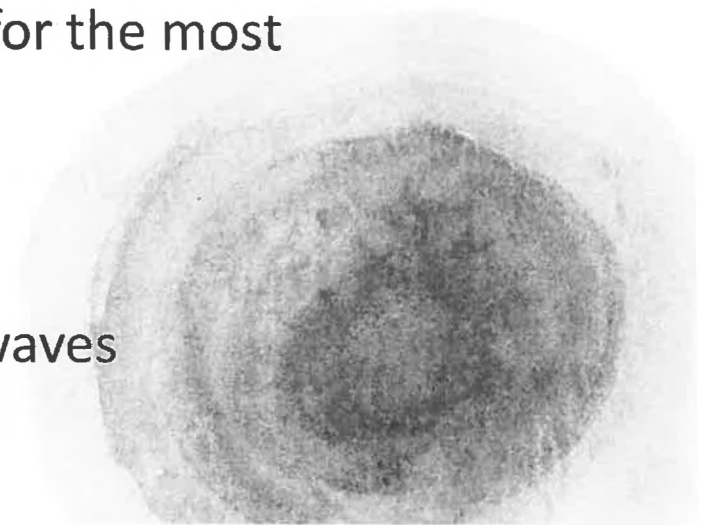
Why Australia?

- The US and Australia share many climatic, socioeconomic and demographic characteristics
- CA and LA can benefit from lessons learned in Australia – from drought and severe heat
- Some of Australia's solutions worked—and some did not.
- CA and LA can adopt and adapt most fitting solutions to our needs



Key Lessons – Risks from Extreme Heat

- Extreme heat hit Australia
- Urban temperatures rising above 115 degrees
- Hotter days and nights result in increased risks for the most vulnerable populations
 - Young
 - Elderly
- Urban heat island effect exacerbated the heat waves

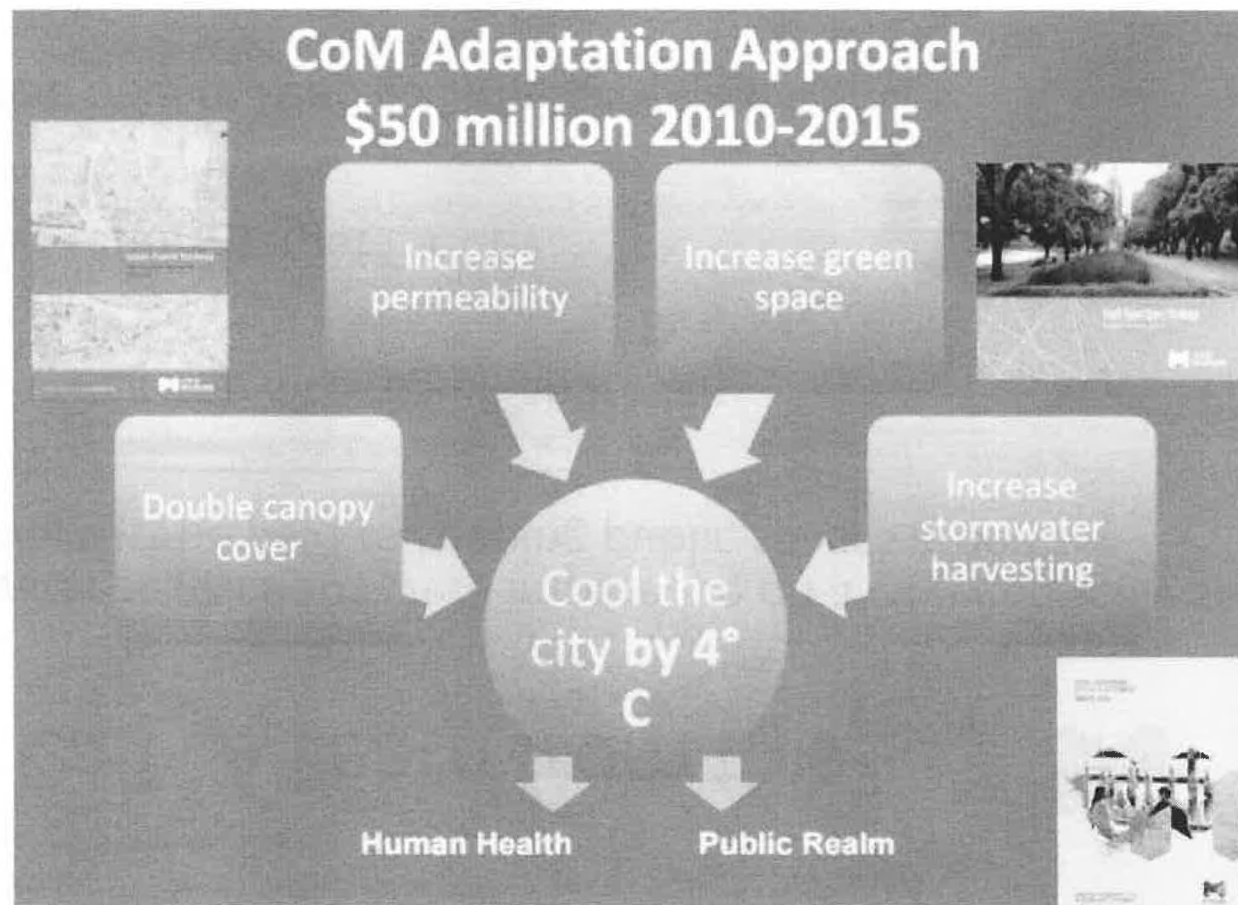


Key Lesson – Water Scarcity Tied to Public Health in Extreme Heat

- Water restrictions put in place to help combat drought
- Banned irrigation of public spaces
- Unintended consequences
 - Recreational areas unusable
 - Impacted public psyche
 - Decrease in vegetation and shade
 - Trees died in large numbers
- **Urban cooling benefits negated when shade and evaporative cooling are reduced**

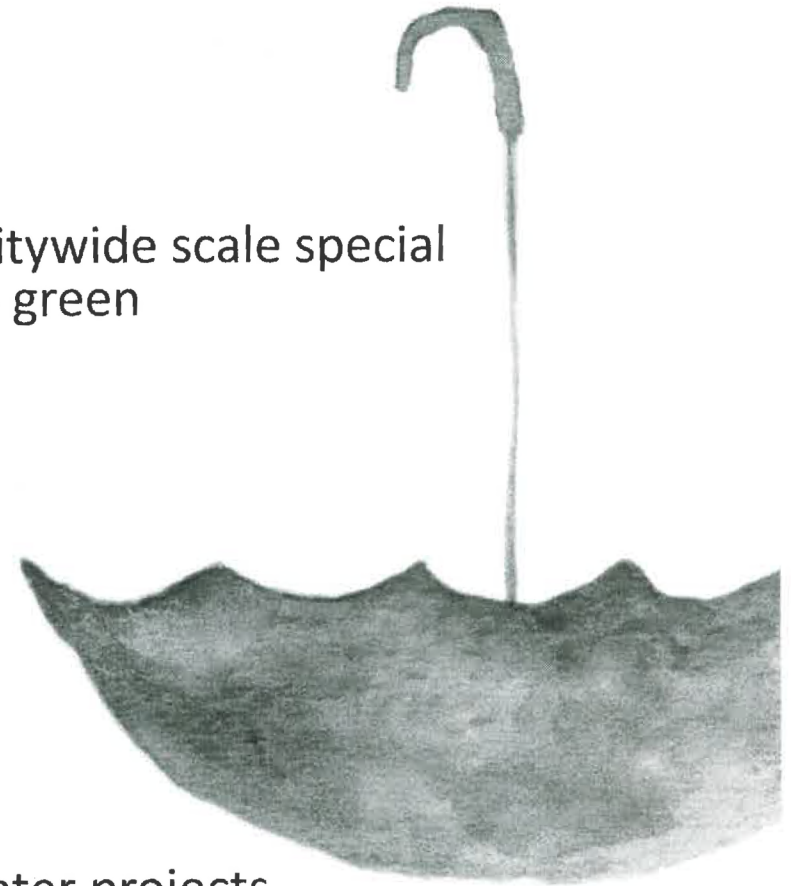


Melbourne's Adaptation Approach



What Can LA Learn from this?

- While water restrictions were imperative on a citywide scale special attention must be paid to keeping public spaces green
- Cannot have a one-size-fits-all approach
- Set urban canopy target for City
- Determine how to keep soil moisture high
- Implement stormwater capture and recycled water projects



For More Information...

Transferring Lessons from Australia's Millennium Drought to California

<https://www.treepeople.org/resources/publications>



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