



## Media Release

Friday 16 October 2009

### Gold Coast Surf Star endorses Climate Action Countdown

Young surfing star Stephanie Gilmore is urging all Gold Coasters to send a message to Australia's leaders that effective action on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is essential by coming to the Gold Coast Climate Action event at 11am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October at Currumbin Estuary beach.

Ella Horton, Gecko – Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council's Youth Earth Network (YEN) spokesperson, said that young people are heartened by the support of Stephanie Gilmore for the event.

"Stephanie has taken the time out from her busy career to endorse this action," said Ms Horton. "Young people are extremely concerned about the impact of climate change on their future and are keen to be part of the International Action Day on 24<sup>th</sup> October."

'350 Day' on October 24<sup>th</sup> is an International Day of Action for Climate Change, relating to the need for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the atmosphere to be reduced to 350 parts per million (ppm) from the current 385ppm in order to prevent the most drastic predictions for climate change. Over 2,000 events in 150 countries are being held on this day to bring the message home that all countries must reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The Gold Coast's '350' Climate Action Countdown to Copenhagen event is centred on a group photo of all participants in the figure 350, which will be uploaded onto the 350.org website as well as the Gecko website. People and politicians around the world will be watching. The event also features live music, 350 free plants for 350 good suggestions to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, environmental beach games and letters to send to the Prime Minister.

Lois Levy, Secretary of Gecko said, "We need effective action coming from the Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December. 350 Day will send a message to our young people that we care about their future and expect them to experience a world to live in like that which we have enjoyed. The science is clear and now it is up to us all to take action to reduce the worst impacts of climate change."

Ms Horton said, "All young people are urged to come along on 24<sup>th</sup> October and spend time raising awareness about climate change. Everyone who comes is encouraged to wear blue (representing the atmosphere) for the photo, and to bring a hat, sunscreen and water."

For further information, visit [www.gecko.org.au/350](http://www.gecko.org.au/350) and [www.350.org](http://www.350.org)

#### ENDS

For further information about this important issue, please ring directly:

Lois Levy, Gecko Secretary	0412 724 222
Ella Horton, Gecko YEN Coordinator	0431 243 012