



Media Release
Friday 16 April 2010

For immediate release

Putting a value on nature

Nature's ecosystem services are the goods and services provided by the natural world that benefit, sustain and support the well-being of people. Without these services, our communities and economy could not survive.

Gecko invites all Gold Coasters to learn about the value of Ecosystem Services and how to sustain them at their free monthly guest speaker night, held at 6:30-8:00pm on the 28th April, 2010 at Gecko House in Currumbin. All are welcome to attend.

Project Officer, Ms Simone Maynard, will provide information on the SEQ Ecosystem Services Project, including the recent inclusion of the framework into the current SEQ Regional Plan.

"The provision of Ecosystem Services is fundamental to the well-being of the community and the maintenance of a healthy economy. Such services include the production of food and medicines, the regulation of climate and disease, the provision of clean air and water, inspiration and recreational opportunities. When Ecosystem Services are lost, they can be extremely – even prohibitively – costly to reproduce – if they can be reproduced at all", said Ms Maynard.

The SEQ Ecosystem Services Project aims to develop an agreed framework and tools for the community-wide practical application of Ecosystems Services into natural resource planning and management practices across the region.

Over 140 individuals from government and non-government organisations have participated in the Project to date. The project has received financial support from the Federal Government, Queensland Government agencies and Brisbane City Council.

The SEQ Ecosystem Services Project recently won the Planning Institute of Australia Award for Excellence in Environmental Planning, Rural or Conservation (Queensland Division) and was nominated for the Planning Institute of Australia National Award for Excellence.

Simone Maynard has completed a Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Australian Environmental Studies and is currently continuing her studies with a PhD at the Australian National University.

Gecko presents a free guest speaker night on the 4th Wednesday of each month on topical environmental issues. A gold coin donation is requested per glass of wine and nibbles. For catering purposes and to prevent waste, RSVP by 3pm on the day before the event to speakers@gecko.org.au or call 5534 1412.

For further information:

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To arrange interviews and photo opportunities, contact:		
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