



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORGET GPD, LET'S TALK ABOUT A STEADY STATE!

As the social and environmental costs of sustained economic growth continue to rise faster than the economic benefits, it is time to question our economic policies and push for a change which benefits our lifestyles and the environment.

We have been conditioned to think our economy needs to grow for us to be better off.

This obviously can not be the case with various crises impacting our world everyday from climate change to peak oil and water and food shortages

The Gold Coast's peak environmental body, Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council invites everyone interested in examining these issues to the second *12th Hour* Climate Change Workshop on Thursday 5th August at Griffith University, Building G39, lecture theatre 1.17, from 6:30pm – 8.30pm.

The free workshop will feature guest speakers Dr. Neil Sipe and Mr Andrew Wilford, both highly recognised in their field. Following the speakers, workshops will discuss changing Australia's economic policies towards creating a sustainable, more enjoyable way of life.

Dr. Neil Sipe will speak on the model of the Steady State already being used in Europe, particularly in Sweden, and Mr Andrew Wilford will focus on the possibility of civil action towards creating a Steady State in Australia

The questions raised will include:

- What is the steady state?
- Why is this important in achieving a sustainable and by implication, peaceful and just world?
- What, as active citizens, can we do to help bring about a steady state?

We are living in a time when Australians have had sustained economic growth for more than a decade. But we don't feel better off due to longer working hours, less family time, financial pressures and social stress.

Rather than committing to an endless and destructive mantra of economic growth, the steady state seeks to limit variations in production and consumption, and population numbers, to levels that promote sustainable ways of living.

Dr. Neil Sipe completed his PhD at Florida State University. His doctoral research examined the use of mediation for the resolution of environmental enforcement disputes. He has taught at Griffith University's School of Environment since 1998 and has been head of their planning program for eight years. Dr. Sipe has also worked as a financial analyst.

Andrew Wilford completed his Engineering degree from Curtin University in 1986 as part of a traineeship with the RAAF. Over the last 25 years Mr Wilford has gained a wealth of experience in Project Management and Leadership through various positions at QANTAS, Air New Zealand and

Boeing Australia. He joined the team at Bond University in 2007 and is currently involved in positioning project management as a key enabler for dealing with climate instability, economic reform, ecological system degradation and species extinction.

Dr. Richard Hil, Gecko's convenor of the workshops, said the outcomes from the first forum were extremely positive. "Many attending were optimistic that we can, collectively, make a difference to alleviating the worst effects of climate change through civil action" said Dr. Hil.

Dr Hil noted suggestions about what the Federal Government could do to address climate change varied, and included modifying the pricing mechanism for carbon emissions, making Australia a model for the world in initiatives to reduce carbon emissions; encouraging happiness not consumerism; shifting the focus from climate change to a holistic ecologically sustainability model; and stabilising the population.

ENDS

For further information:

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