



**Media Release**  
Wednesday 15 September 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Challenge of Climate Change**

Climate change is inarguable and its effects are very, very real. We have already observed changes to our climate that are more rapid than anything the earth has experienced for at least the last 1,800 years, and it is now more important than ever that humans respond to the challenge. Two essential responses include mitigation, acting to reduce our contribution to climate change, and adaptation, reducing the consequences of climate change. Both help to reduce the risks of climate change, however even the toughest mitigation efforts and adaptation strategies cannot avoid further impacts of climate change in the next few decades.

Professor Jean Palutikof is the Director of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) at Griffith University, Gold Coast. Her research interests focus on climate change impacts, and the application of climatic data to economic and planning issues. She was a Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and has authored more than 200 publications on the topic of climate change and climate variability.

Professor Palutikof will discuss why actions to adapt to climate change have become even more essential when actions around mitigation have largely stalled. She will also look at options for adaptation, globally and in Australia, and the role of NCCARF in creating the knowledge needed to underpin action, at Gecko's free monthly guest speaker night at Gecko House, 139 Duringan St, Currumbin at 6:30pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. All are welcome to attend.

The NCCARF, an initiative of the Australian Government, was established in November 2007 at Griffith University's Gold Coast Campus to complement activities and projects currently underway in other institutions across Australia. NCCARF is distinct from these programs in that it focuses entirely on generating the knowledge required for Australia to adapt to the physical impacts of climate change.

"However much we play with the idea of geo-engineering solutions, there are really only two weapons available to deal with the threat of climate change: mitigation and adaptation", said Professor Palutikof.

As it nears 2012, the year in which the Kyoto Protocol will expire, the need for a fair and binding agreement to curb climate change is essential and indeed extremely overdue. Copenhagen was to be the conference at which the governments would put in place the foundations of a bigger, better and shinier agreement, to take us forward to a world of stabilised emissions, and in terms of these expectations, it was a failure.

*Gecko presents a free guest speaker night on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month on topical environmental issues. For catering purposes and to prevent waste, RSVP by 3pm on the day before the event to [speakers@gecko.org.au](mailto:speakers@gecko.org.au) or call 5534 1412. For more information, visit [www.gecko.org.au/guest-speaker](http://www.gecko.org.au/guest-speaker)*

*A gold coin donation is requested per glass of wine and nibbles. Alternatively, Gecko encourages the contribution of vegetarian/organic/environmentally-thoughtful food options at all of its events.*

### **ENDS**

Information for media:

Guest Speaker	Prof. Jean Palutikof	5597 9000
Gecko Secretary	Lois Levy	0412 724 222