



**Media Release**  
Wednesday 18 February 2009

## **Quality of Life Under Threat by Unchecked Growth on the Gold Coast**

Simon Baltais, co-author of the State Government's landmark, *State of the Region Report*, will be special guest speaker at an upcoming talk being hosted by Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council. His talk will focus on how South East Queensland's rapid growth is drawing down on the region's natural and social resources, and what needs to be done to preserve quality of life and the environment.

The special talk will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 25 February at Gecko House, 139 Duringan Street, Currumbin.

As President of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Mr Baltais, made major contributions to the State of the Region Report, which provides the first assessment of the region's progress towards sustainability. The Report is an integral part of the SEQ Regional Plan, providing valuable data to inform the review of economic, social and environmental policy.

During his special talk at Gecko, Mr Baltais will discuss the new tools available to the community to help secure a better future.

"If growth continues at the current rate, our quality of life will suffer. It's as simple as that," Mr Baltais said, "We have a choice between maintaining our current quality lifestyle, or continuing with rapid development. We can't have both."

"It's estimated that by 2026 we will have lost another 70,000 ha to development. The environment simply can't cope with that," Mr Baltais said, "Our consumption is too high and cannot be supported for much longer. We must look at ways to stabilise growth through the development of small ecologically sustainable communities."

Along with his role as State President of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Mr Baltais also holds the position of Executive Officer with the Queensland Conservation Council and Vice President for Sustainable Population Australia, SEQ Branch. He represents the environmental sector on many State planning committees.

Gecko presents a guest speaker night on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month on topical environmental issues. Entry is free but a gold coin donation is requested per glass of wine and nibbles. For catering purposes, please RSVP by the day before the event to [speakers@gecko.org.au](mailto:speakers@gecko.org.au)

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For further information about this important issue, please ring the following at Gecko on 5534 1412 or directly:

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