



## Youth sow Seeds of Climate Unrest at Power Shift 2009

The Australian Youth Climate Coalition is preparing for **Australia's first national youth climate summit, Power Shift 2009**, to be held in the marginal seat of Parramatta at the University of Western Sydney over July 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>.

The summit will bring together **thousands of youth** from every State & Territory in Australia, as well as youth climate activists from the USA, India and the Pacific islands.

“Power Shift 2009 will re-focus Australia’s attention on the most compelling reason we have for strong greenhouse cuts to solve climate change: our young people. Youth are being affected by climate now, and will be affected more throughout our lives if our Governments don’t aim higher now,” stated Amanda McKenzie, Co-Director of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition.

“If there is any time when our generation must come together and make our voices heard on climate change, it is now. Australia needs to strengthen its position on climate change before the crucial UN negotiations in Copenhagen this December,” added Anna Rose, also Co-Director of the youth coalition.

“Governments will only aim as high as their people demand; so this year young people are organising Power Shift summits in the US, UK, China and Australia.”

Power Shift 2009 features speakers including scientist **Tim Flannery**, Head of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change **Rajendra Pachauri**, actors including Brooke Satchwell, youth from the Pacific islands, and young climate leaders from around the world.

“We care about climate change because we believe in a bright future for Australia. This means we need to have a Power Shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Youth can drive that change and are a constituency who will act – and vote – on climate change.”

Power Shift will consist of trainings, workshops, panels, local community engagement including door-knocking in Parramatta, and a creative action in Sydney CBD on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>. Many of the trainings have been modelled on ‘Camp Obama’ which trained youth organisers before the US election.

**About the Australian Youth Climate Coalition** AYCC is a coalition of 25 youth organisations and thousands of volunteers building a generation-wide movement to solve climate change before it's too late. [www.aycc.org.au](http://www.aycc.org.au)

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