

## **Gillard Fails to Kick Green Goal**

**August 4, 2010**

Despite being handed an opportunity to get real and talk about climate change yesterday (Tuesday August 3) on the Central Coast, Julia Gillard stuck to the soccer script.

While announcing \$10 million funding for the Central Coast Mariners to build a new sporting complex, a silent protest was staged by independent candidate for Robertson, Michelle Meares and Mira Wroblewski from Climate Action Central Coast who held up signs reading '100% renewables' and 'Fund Solutions, Not Pollution.'

But Julia Gillard was not feeling the green in the room.

Prime Minister Gillard said at the media conference: "I don't agree with my friends over there" referring to the 100% renewables protest sign displayed.

Julia then started talking about clean coal.

"There is no such thing as 'clean coal'. The description is a marketing tactic for the coal industry, like 'safe cigarettes' for the tobacco industry." Ms Wroblewski said.

The Prime Minister's reaction did not surprise candidate Michelle Meares.

"Julia Gillard's attitude highlights the complete failure of both political parties to take serious action on this issue." Ms Meares said.

"People want to keep the boat people out? Don't create them." Ms Meares said.

At the time of the Tampa crisis in 2001, when 460 Afghan asylum seekers arrived in Australian waters by boat from Indonesia, former US president Bill Clinton commented on the Australian government's reaction: 'If you're worried about 400 people, you just let the world keep warming up like this for the next 50 years and your grandchildren will be worried about 400,000 people.'

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Photo - Climate Action group member Mira Wroblewski (left) and Independent candidate for Robertson Michelle Meares stage a silent protest as Prime Minister Julia Gillard a visit to Wyong NSW, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2010.

Photo: AAP Image/Alan Porritt

Download high resolution photo here: <http://bit.ly/aOcTNB>

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