

Power struggle

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PETER Kinley fears the health of his family, cattle and the Logan River will be put at risk if Energex goes ahead with its proposal to extend power lines along a section of the Logan River.

A community meeting was held at Mr Kinley's house at Waterford last week to discuss the issue with State Opposition Leader John-Paul Langbroek, State Member for Beaudesert Aidan McLindon and Logan City Councillor Sean Black.

Mr Kinley said along with implications to health, residents wanted Energex to move the power lines off the Logan River flood plain because of concerns about visual pollution, environmental damage and a drop in property values.

"We believe an underground route would be a better alternative," he said.

Mr Langbroek said Gold Coast residents faced a similar scenario recently and were successful in lobbying for an underground route.

"Residents need to continue to put pressure on local members and bearcats should be made to explain why they believe this to be the best route," he said.

"We need to do all we can to save

the environment, especially when the Logan River already has a poor report card."

Minister for Energy, Stephen Robertson, said Mr Langbroek was trying to get political mileage out of a local issue and Mr McLindon had never accepted Energex invitations to be properly briefed on the proposal.

"The LNP haven't taken the trouble to properly understand the issues here, all the while the Leader of the Opposition is calling for more consultation and community engagement," he said.

"It's pure hypocrisy."

State Member for Logan John Mickel said choosing the best route was a balancing act between real concerns about the environment and real concerns about the cost of going underground.

"Going underground will be four to eight times more expensive so people would end up paying more electricity," he said.

An Energex spokesman said the power company had the go ahead from environmental specialists to build along the river.



NOT HAPPY: Peter Kinley, John-Paul Langbroek, Maree Slingsby and Aidan McLindon at Mr Kinley's property where the proposed 110,000 volt power line will run through.