

The Daily Examiner

NEWS

Questions reveal jobs creation key for voters



David Moose | 19th Mar 2015 5:00 AM



QUESTION TIME: Candidates for the seat of Clarence Trent Gilbert, Debrah Novak, Carol Ordish and Janet Cavanaugh at the Meet the Candidates forum.

JOB'S are the big issue on voters' minds based on questions to four of the candidates standing for Clarence in the State Election.

About 50 voters quizzed Trent Gilbert (Country Labor), Debrah Novak (independent), Carol Ordish (Christian Democratic Party) and Janet Cavanaugh (Greens) during the latest Meet the Candidates forum at South Grafton Ex-Servicemen's Club.

Independent Bryan Robins and sitting Nationals MP Chris Gulaptis sent apologies, with Mr Gulaptis's absence allowing the other candidates a number of free kicks at his expense.

While audience questions ranged from topics as diverse as youth and pre-school services to the future of the timber and coal seam gas industries, much of the discussion focused on the creation of more jobs in the electorate.

Timber industry figures Tony Wade and Spiro Notaras asked about the effects of Labor's plan to create a koala park in prime timber country.

Perhaps the biggest surprises of the night were that no questions related to crime, and it was late in the evening before a CSG-related question was posed.

All candidates said they were committed to keeping CSG mining out of NSW.

Meeting organisers, the Northern Rivers Social Development Council, said they had been unable to contact independent Christine Robinson and No Land Tax Party's Joe Lopreiato.

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