

Albert & Logan
Wed 11 May 09

Residents angry over line plans

By JUDITH MAIZEY

ENERGEX will not consider changing the route of a proposed high-voltage powerline to Jimboomba but will save a weed in its path.

During a tour last month of the 24km preferred route from Loganlea, Energex staff told media they did not want residents thinking three routes considered earlier were still options.

Network corridor project manager Anita Sietas said the consultation phase was more about "information than consultation".

But she said property owners affected by the 110,000-volt powerline could have an influence on "the smaller things".

Project town planner Michael Jones explained how one resident wanted a tree saved on his property and how Energex was looking to change the route so the tree could stay.

The tree is a camphor laurel, which is a declared Class 3 plant in Queensland.

On Biosecurity Queensland's website, Class 3 indicates the plant cannot be sold and should be removed because it is capable of replacing native trees, pushing over fences and disrupting power facilities.

Maree Slingsby, who is the spokeswoman for VETO, a resident group opposed to the preferred route, said she was not surprised to hear Energex's view on "community consultation".

Ms Slingsby said Energex had indicated it wanted to hear residents' opinions.

"But they just intend to ignore them," she said.

VETO opposes the route because it will traverse the Logan River floodplain and cross the river five times, and the group claims it is unsightly and will affect property values.

It also claims another route is cheaper and would affect fewer residents, a claim Energex denies.

■ A rally organised by VETO is at 2pm on Saturday at the Logan Village green.