

Water the crux

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"We're not an anti-mining group, we understand a lot of things come from mining," Mr Rose said.

"We're opposed to the area it's proposed at – it's inappropriate. Common sense should tell us to select areas with the least impact... we question the effect on our major food bowl and our river system.

"It's a short-term, high-risk mine."

A panel, involving the three candidates, as well as local MFG-activists, Mr Rose and Joanne Eastman, and Gunaikurnai man, Allan Solomon, took questions from the floor, with most revolving around water, mine dust, and environmental concerns relating to vegetable production on the river and lakes system.

The water concerns included how much water Kalbar would use from the river, whether their work would affect aquifers and consequently the stock and domestic bores of farmers.

The most predominant issue was water, the lack of it, how it should be shared and how much Kalbar needed for its project.

Mr Rose listed concerns like the consumer's perception of pollution of the vegetables from the Lindenow Flats; a negative effect on the tourism and fishing industry if the Mitchell River was contaminated, or even the Perry River and its Chain of Ponds.

"We can't afford the risks," he said.

Kalbar Resources will hold a community information session at Lindenow this Wednesday, May 15, at 7pm.