

# From carbon tax to NBN, rivals lay cards on table



The candidates at the *Advertiser's* candidate forum. They are (from left): Dr Alex Shahra (Christian Democrat Party), Gary Loke (Palmer United Party), Labor candidate Julie Owens MP, Phil Bradley (the Greens) and Liberal Martin Zaiter. Picture: TIM HULL

## VOTERS PUT THE TOUGH QUESTIONS TO ELECTION HOPEFULS

Di Bartok

WHAT would a town hall political meeting be without a bit of heckling?

And the crowd at the *Parramatta Advertiser's* federal election candidates forum did not disappoint, with a bit of cat-calling and chuckling at some of the candidates' answers.

Parramatta federal Labor MP Julie Owens, Liberal candidate Martin Zaiter,

Greens candidate Phil Bradley, Christian Democrat Alex Shahra and Gary Loke from the Palmer United Party faced about 80 voters at Parramatta Town Hall last Thursday night. Both Labor and Liberal supporters dominated the audience with Labor throwing most of their heckles towards Mr Zaiter every time he mentioned scrapping the carbon tax.

The price on carbon dominated the debate and Mr

Loke stated his party would scrap the tax and refund it.

Other issues covered were climate change, protection of heritage, poor infrastructure, generation of jobs, better roads and public transport.

Dr Shahra lamented the lack of morality in society, with "the move away from a Judeo-Christian tradition", adding to high social costs.

Ms Owens pointed out the great gains of the Labor gov-

ernment, notably Disability Care Australia, the NBN, raising the tax threshold and the price on carbon.

But Mr Zaiter said the election was a chance for people to make a clear choice between "another three years of broken promises or a stable, united government".

What matters to you in the election? Tell us at [parramattaadvertiser.com.au](http://parramattaadvertiser.com.au)