

**Attention:** Director Mining and Industry Projects  
**Re:** Watermark Coal Mine  
**App No.:** SSD – 4975, Watermark Coal Project

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I am a Liverpool Plains landholder. I object to the proposed Shenhua Watermark Coal Mine at Breeza NSW.

This project will have significant impact on our community and region. Some of these impacts include:

1. Koala - The Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) disputes the number of koalas located in the local government area and feel there are a lot less than stated. AKF are opposed to the translocation of the koalas from the Shenhua area.

2. Water - there is a risk of contaminated water being released from the sediment dam during rainfall events where it exceeds the capacity. With the unpredictable rainfall events this situation is considered most probable and the releasing of contaminated water across the black soil plains and into our ground water systems is unacceptable.

It is stated in the proposal that:

- there is a potential for the reduction of catchment flows to surrounding waterways including the Mooki River, Watermark Gully, Native Dog Gully and Lake Goran with 25% loss at Watermark
- groundwater levels are predicted to largely recover rapidly
- a reduced rate of upward flow from the Permian to the alluvium is predicted

These predictions and forecasts by the Proponent are of great concern to our community.

3. Ecology - A total of 4,084 ha of vegetation will be removed progressively over the life of the project. This is a very large loss of vegetation and most certainly not allowed under any circumstances.

4. Future Expansion – It is stated in the EIS that a final void will remain in the Western Mining Area and will cover an area of approx. 100 hectares. It will have a maximum depth of 80 metres below the natural ground surface. This is the outcome that is recommended by the mining company as it is the most cost effective method plus it allows opportunity for access to coal resources. This raises concerns for our community as we are not talking about a one off mine but an opportunity for future expansion with further risk to water resources, agricultural land and people’s health.

5. Noise – the proposed mine is located near the village of Breeza in Northern NSW which is a quiet rural area. Infrasound/low frequency noise (ILFN) produced by machinery is known to be a problem in these types of areas due to the lack of background noise. ILFN is known to cause cardiovascular disorders, psychological problems and stress. It is of great concern to the community that Shenhua is not completing any assessment on low frequency noise as stated in the EIS “Acoustics Impact Assessment 4.6 Low Frequency Noise - no separate assessment of low frequency noise levels is required”.

6. Heritage - The project will destroy significant Aboriginal heritage sites. The relocation of any significant object from its natural environment is not recommended due to the potential damage that can occur.

7. Increased Train Movement - All towns and properties along the rail line will be impacted by additional noise and dust from increased coal train movements.

8. Loss of Personal Income & Lifestyle – The fallout effects of contaminated water means that our ability to live off the land ceases. Our farm will become unproductive due to lack of water for our livestock in turn we lose our annual income.

9. Future farmers - What does the future hold for our three young boys who are currently aged 8, 11 & 12. Our eldest son attends Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School and is receiving an education in Agriculture with hopes to continue farming on the Liverpool Plains. Mining operations such as the removal of native grass and overuse of water entitlements contradict his education of sustainable farming practises. How can he sustain a life on the land if there is no land to farm?

If the Government approves this project, they are knowingly approving the detrimental impacts of this mine at the cost of the landholders and the community. Once the mine starts, you cannot stop or mitigate the impacts to the water resources, the system enters a new state and is changed.