

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 my farm, our community and region. Some of these impacts include:

1. Bore Water Demise.

As you would be aware already from your test drilling on the ridges next to my farm there are only very small amounts of underground bore water, therefore these small pockets of water are very precious and extremely fragile. I have 2 bores on my farm and I rely totally on this water for my stock and domestic use in dry times. I believe that given that your disturbance boundary of your open cut mine would only be 3.2kms away from my bore it would only be a matter of when they will dry up and not if.

2. Devaluation of my farm.

I have had a very nervous time in regards to the value of my land since the announcement of the mine next door to my farm. My fears were proven when I recently tried to get a value of my farm from my bank and I was told they couldn't commit to a value because of the location of my farm to the mine.

3. Impact of Kangaroos.

I have a very big concern about the environmental biodiversity areas of the mine running along half the boundary of my farm. The main problem being Kangaroos! I am already noticing a big increase of their numbers ever since the previous land owners were bought out by Shenhua and have moved on two or so years ago. I am already seeing the kangaroos migrating across my farm to get to the hilled timbered areas where they get shelter in the winter as well as access to water from the Mooki River in the summer. As a person who has spent all my life on the land I know that the hundreds of kangaroos displaced from the open cut mine areas will be adding to the number of existing kangaroos already on my farm. Larger amounts will be very destructive to my pastures and crops. I will add that I am a lover of all animals and particularly our native animals but I believe that I will be the one that has to pay the cost for the change and disruption to these animal's lives.

4. House Site.

It was my family's intention to build a dream house high on the back of my farm because the views up there are breath taking to say the least. Due to the mines location we would be looking straight down an open cut mine and would be a fool to go ahead with this now so it's a dream lost for me and my family. We would be impacted by dust, noise, smell and contaminated rain water in our tanks. We would also be at an extra risk of fire from the environmental biodiversity area.

5. Biodiversity area.

I am concerned about the management of noxious weeds in particular Box Thorns that will thrive in any highly timbered areas such as the biodiversity area bordering our farm. I am

concerned that extra trees planted in this area will become very difficult to manage the control of Box Thorns.

6. Leasing of Mining Land.

What measures will be undertaken to ensure that offset land being leased by other land holders will be managed productively as far as maintaining fences, controlling noxious weeds and maintaining sustainable livestock numbers. Who will oversee these operations and what accountability measures will they face if they breach guidelines. I have already had my fences severely degraded by large numbers of young weaner cattle trying to get next door into my older grown cattle which is a very natural thing for young cattle to do. My fences are left with very little or very poor repairs as a consequence. I have already spoken to Shenhua about this problem but I have had no follow up from them and believe unless this problem is monitored that I will have to bear the full cost when it should be shared.

7. Increased traffic.

I am very concerned about the probable increase of traffic including trucks and service vehicles on the Kamilaroi Highway particularly at the intersection of Breeza Station Road, Breeza. The highway is currently a 100km speed zone and turning right onto the highway can be very dangerous due to a crest approximately 200m to the left which does not allow you to see traffic travelling at 100kms until you have actually turned out on to the highway. We immediately turn onto the Mooki River Bridge where you have to speed up very quickly to ensure you are ahead of the vehicle coming from behind you. Our children catch a school bus each day from the entrance of Breeza Station Road which requires making the right hand turn. The increase of traffic will make the highway much more dangerous for our children to travel on particularly on a winter's morning when visibility is very minimal.

8. Gap Road, Werris Creek.

I would also like to add the school bus travels with my children along the Gap Road to Werris Creek and I am concerned about the possible increase of traffic which may occur on this road. The road is currently dangerous in lots of areas due to pot holes and is not wide enough for a vehicle to pass a truck without one of the vehicles moving off to the side of the road onto a gravel strip causing dust and rocks to fly into the air and creating a severe visibility issue, damage to windscreens and tyres not to mention the risk to our lives.

Will the Shenhua mine impact this road and how will it act to solve these problems and address our concerns? We have heard that if the MAC complex goes ahead in Werris Creek, workers will be commuting to Breeza via the Gap Road generating such more traffic on an already damaged travel route.

9. Koala Population

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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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".

14. 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.

15. Increased Train Movement.

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

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.