

NSW Government Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Director of Mining and Planning
Re: Watermark Coal Mine
App No: SSD-4975 Watermark Coal Project

Disclose reportable donations: I have not made any reportable donations.

Privacy Statement: I have read the department's privacy statement and agree to the department using my submission in the ways it describes. I understand this includes full publication on the department's website of my submission, any attachments, and any of my personal information in those documents, and the possible supply to third parties such as state agencies, local government and the proponent. I agree to the above statement.

I object to the proposed Shenhua Watermark Coal Mine at Breeza NSW.

As ex- Mayor of Gunnedah Shire Council (1987-95) and chair of the Stakeholder Advisory Group of the Namoi Catchment Water Study I am appalled at the advancement of exploration and mining licences throughout NSW, at such a rapid rate without due diligence.

Prior to the state government election in 2011, we were promised that Prime Agricultural Land would be protected. The draft Strategic Regional Land Use Plan was put forward. The Foreword of the draft recognised the Liverpool Plains as one of the states' richest agricultural areas, but the plan did not meet the pre-election promises.

Minister Brad Hazzard visited Gunnedah and promised to address vital missing points put forward by the meeting.

What happened? The SRLUP was gutted. Buffer zones were eliminated and the protection of water resources and prime agricultural land ignored.

Shenhua Watermark mine is no ordinary mine, it is a mega mine. Local and neighbouring farmers in the area will not be able to continue their farming operations without this planned mine affecting and contaminating water resources, crops and stock, plus dust, noise, and the effects on their general health. They will ultimately be forced to leave. The social environment of the area will be decimated.

Shenhua Watermark, however, will be allowed to charge the total environment. They will be redirecting water (Watermark Gully), clearing large tracts of land, remove Aboriginal sacred sites, remove the koala, change the climate system and generally contaminate the area.

What appears could be a short term financial fix for the State Government, will ultimately be a long term loss if water resources and agriculture are destroyed.

Remembering the now disgraced Minister Ian MacDorald issued this exploration licence, I have always questioned \$300ml being paid instead of the \$20 ml in the Expression of Interest document.

And, the moment the exploration licence was granted Shenhua Watermark began purchasing large tracts of land in great haste!

I understand at this point Shenhua Watermark is still waiting for a port facility. By all reports this facility may be some time away. Until this facility is available this mine should not go ahead.

The Namoi Catchment Water Study which was completed July 2012 put forward many areas of extreme high risk. Do we now just ignore the findings of the world rated company, Schlumberger.

Finally the Minerals Council which has the key to all doors is on an endless crusade supporting greed and running rough shod over predicted evidence of damage.

I ask that those making the decision on this possible licence to do their homework before a compensation bill lands in the lap of the NSW Government. Please remember Shenhua Watermark is a sovereign state owned company with no allegiance to this nation.

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.

John Lyle
Ranken Park
Curlewis 2381
jslyle@activ8.net.au
20-04-2013