

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

Name: Lisa Norman
grantnorman@bigpond.com
Address: 'Rowena' Spring Ridge NSW 2343

I have not made any reportable political 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 possible supply to third parties such as state agencies, local government and the proponent. I agree to the above statement.

Submission:

I am a member of SOS Liverpool Plains and live on the southern side of the proposed Shenhua Watermark Coal project at Breeza NSW. We are also located in the BHP Caroon Coal project exploration area and the Santos coal seam gas exploration area PEL 1. I believe that the Shenhua Watermark Coal cannot properly be assessed alone. The cumulative effects of all proposed projects in this area should be considered together to show the true effects.

It is known that this project will have many impacts on our community, all of which are a huge concern. These impacts include agricultural productivity, health, surface and groundwater, noise, aboriginal heritage, fauna and ecology of the area. I have decided to address just two in my submission today, as time allows.

Health - there will be an increase in noise due to the project as well as extra train movements. Low frequency noise, as is produced by machinery is known to be detrimental to health and be a factor in cardiovascular disease, psychological problems and stress. Due to the known damaging effects of these low frequency noises it is unacceptable that Shenhua are not including an assessment of these in its EIS.

Local residents will also be subject to coal dust, which contains heavy metals which also have adverse effects on health. Adults living in coal communities are known to have higher mortality from lung cancer, chronic heart, respiratory and kidney diseases. A Health Impact Assessment is underway for the Gunnedah Basin. Until the results of this assessment are known it would be negligent of the State Government to consider approving this project.

Water: If water contaminated with heavy metals found in coal, were to find its way into our water sources, it would have disastrous effects on surrounding communities. It is considered most probable that contaminated water from the sediment dam will be released when, due to rainfall events, the dam exceeds capacity. This release of contaminated water onto our black soils and into our precious ground water systems is

unacceptable. The Mooki River, which is at the head of the Murray Darling Basin, could also be affected from such an occurrence which would be far reaching and once again, totally unacceptable.

Unless there can be ABSOLUTE guarantees that contamination to our water WILL NOT occur, which Shenhua cannot give us, then this project should not go ahead. The surrounding farmland, water courses and underground aquifers are too precious to be put at risk. 'Should be' and 'expected' are not good enough to be included in an environmental impact statement on a project in such a fragile and important system.

Conclusion:

The Shenhua Watermark Coal Project should not be assessed alone but along with the cumulative effects of other proposed projects for the area - namely the Caroon Coal Project by BHP and the coal seam gas project by Santos.

The Shenhua Watermark Coal Project should not be assessed until the results of the Health Impact Assessment for the Gunnedah Basin are known.

The Shenhua Watermark Coal Project should not be assessed until there are absolute guarantees that ground and surface water will not be contaminated as a result.