

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 – One of Australia's Great Iconic animals . The population of these benign creatures in the Liverpool Plain area is to be put under stress from mining their habitat , as well as dust, noise , bright lights and seismic shock waves from blasting. Nobody knows whether the local population will survive prolonged mining operations in the Shenua area, until it is too late. History shows that when Koala's become stressed in their habitat they become susceptible to diseases and they die out. Is this to be the end story for anything that gets in the road of a coal mine?

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 for any farmer to clear under any circumstances. The mine Proponent will no doubt shape the mountains of spoil and plant grasses and maybe some trees to make the vista more acceptable to a casual glance. But once the statutory period for maintenance of the area expires , the grass thins out and the trees wither. The evidence of this is before everyones eyes to see if you travel around the Hunter Valley coal mining areas. Ask yourself, how many sheep and cattle do you see grazing these "restored " mines. The answer is none! The soil is unfertile , the grass is too low in energy to sustain grazing animals.

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 – Both aboriginal and European. 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. Since white settlement the Liverpool Plains have changed remarkably little . The change in agriculture from grazing to cultivation which mainly occurred post World War 2 has today left New South Wales with world class cropping land that

can be managed to produce food for future generations for as long as humans remain on the planet. It seems to me to be insanity to risk long term food production for the short term cash grab from mining.

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.

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. The Government will be shown to have a clear double standard . One set of rules for ordinary citizens with tough environmental rules and fines and gaol time for offenders , and one set of rules for large mining operations where you get what you want , priority over everyone else's interests. Once the mine starts, you cannot stop or mitigate the impacts to the water resources the surrounding land and ecosystem. The system enters a new state and is changed forever.

Be it known that I fully support the Caroona Coal Action Group's submission to review the Shenua EIS.