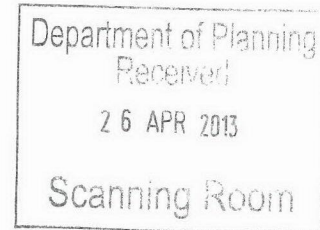


NSW Government Planning & Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39,
SYDNEY NSW 2001.



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

Name: Peta Craig, Umagarlee Investments
E-Mail: umagarlee@gmail.com
Address: Umagarlee
Bulunbulun Road,
Breeza NSW 2381



We have very little to disclose in the way of political donations. Over the past twenty years we have contributed approximately \$300 to Tony Windsor 's Campaign & recently approximately \$100 to Tim Duddy.

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

We strongly object to the proposed Shenhua Watermark Coal Mine at Breeza. We are freehold landholders with country to the South & South-East of the Eastern Mining Project area. Our land is held under the names –Umagarlee Investments, WTA Craig, WTA & P Craig, ST,JW & NL Craig. These holdings are numbered No 94, 149 & 95 on the Environmental Impact Study. Our land has extensive frontage to the Mooki River & our operation is dependent upon the high quality aquifers which flow beneath our farms. We have five residences which are located just outside the 5 kilometre impact zone of the study. In these residences we have ten residents including five children. . Our farming operation is centred upon high yielding crops & livestock production.

We don't believe that the Environmental Impact Study addresses the wider & long term impact of a proposal of this size. It concentrates on dealing with the issues within the Shenhua held country & does little address the major impact the proposal will have the pristine & iconic farming country surrounding the proposed mine and the people who live here.

Flaws in the EIS are

- 7.1- The study does not adequately address the major impact the proposal will have on the ecology of this area. A total of 4084 hectares of vegetation will be removed progressively over the life of the project. We have learnt over many generations of farming this country that even moderate clearing has a major impact on the soil & water. The area of the proposed mine has a diverse range of local flora & fauna. We believe that the study has a very superficial

approach to the impact this proposal will have on this flora & fauna. There is a very healthy koala population around Breeza. We dispute that this population has been properly assessed & also that relocation is a viable option.

- 7.2- We are very concerned about the impact that the proposal will have on our groundwater. We use the underground aquifers for irrigation, livestock & domestic purposes & it is vital to our farming & grazing operation & to our quality of life. We are very concerned that that the proposed buffer zone is totally inadequate. Local anecdotal evidence has always supported the premise that the area of the proposed mine is an important aquifer recharge area. We don't believe that enough scientific research has been done to argue that the mining will have a minimal impact & that the aquifers will rapidly recover. We ask the question. What if the wishful thinking that forms the basis of this report is wrong? The aquifers are a national treasure & if they are impaired or destroyed life as we know it in inland Australia will not be possible.
- 7.3- The threatened impact on surface water is of major concern to us. The proposed pump station adjoins our property. By its own admission this project will require massive amounts of water to mine the coal.-up to 600 Megalitres to supplement the mine water supplies- The Mooki River system simply does not have the capacity to meet this additional need. By its own estimation there is a potential for the reduction of catchment flows to surrounding waterways including the Mooki River, Watermark Gully, Native Dog Gully & Lake Goran by up to 25%. This is the catchment of the Murray Darling Basin. This water is needed to ensure that this great inland waterway is kept alive. Another major concern is the risk of contaminated water being released from the sediment dam during rainfall events where it exceeds its capacity. With our unpredictable rainfall events this is a real possibility & the resultant contamination of our soils & water systems is totally unacceptable.
- 7.4- The size of the proposal is massive. We believe that a mine of this size will have a major impact on the air quality of the Breeza area & we don't believe that the problems this will cause have been adequately addressed in the EIS. It is not only the health of the local residents which will be put at risk. The health of our livestock & our crops are also a major concern to us. Air quality is vital to food production. Even a small annual loss of crop yields or livestock production because of air quality would result in a major threat to the viability of our business.
- 7.5- The noise from the operation of the mine & the blasting associated with the mining will also have a major impact on our health & the health of our crops & animals.
- 7.6- We feel that the issue of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage has been dealt with very cynically in the EIS.
- 7.7- There is a strong history of non indigenous cultural heritage which we do not believe has been acknowledged in the EIS. Our family members have lived &

worked for generations on the land which will disappear if the mining proposal goes ahead.

- 7.8- The increased traffic will have a major impact on our farming operation & there is nothing in the EIS to address this problem.
- 7.9- The visual & lighting impact is of concern to us as we live in direct line of the Eastern Mining Area .
- 7.10- We have already suffered a major impact from the proposal. Over the past five years most of the Breeza farming families have been bought out by Shenhua resulting in a great loss to the social fabric of Breeza. The money sprinkled about by Shenhua in the way of Community grants has done little to ease the massive disruption to our community.
- 7.11- While we acknowledge that the proposal will result in a short term boost in economic prosperity for the area we can see no long term benefit. Most of the profits will go offshore with a small share for the taxpayers of NSW. The people of the Breeza plains will have to absorb all the adverse impacts with no compensation for the long term environmental damage.
- 7.12- The proposed development lies to the west of a major fault line. We don't believe that the impact a development of this size might have on seismic activity has been properly assessed.
- 7.13- The potential impact on soil & land capability is a great concern. We don't believe that adequate research has been done on the impact a development of this size will have on neighbouring properties & the ability of these properties to produce food & fibre.
- 7.14- The plan to leave a massive hole at the end of mining operations-just in case they might wish to continue further development- is totally unacceptable.

We believe that the EIS does not begin to address the long term impacts which the proposed development would have on the environment of this unique & valuable catchment area.

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