NSW Government Planning & Infrastructure,
G.P.O. Box 39,
Sydney. NSW 2001

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

R.E. & B.M. Baker
Email: kath.lin@bigpond.com
Address: "Kathlin", Breeza. NSW 2381

7th May, 2013.

We have made no political donations.

We are Liverpool Plains Farmers, Landholders and members of the Caroona Coal Action Group. We object to the proposed Shenhua Watermark Coal Mine at Breeza. NSW. We have reviewed the submission prepared by Earth Systems for the Caroona Coal Action Group (CCAG) and are writing in support of the CCAG Submission. We live in Breeza. NSW. We are extremely concerned about the proposed Shenhua Watermark Coal Mine which is expected to run for 30 years. If we are to reduce greenhouse gases new mines should not be opened.
We are Irrigation Farmers on the Breeza Plain – biophysical strategic agricultural land (bsal). This mine would jeopardise one of the richest food producing areas in Australia. Farming for future generations would be at risk. Simon Roxborough a Grain Trader at Agracom Grain Marketing, Quirindi has stated "Over a 30 year period we have bought vast amounts of grain from the Breeza Plain and surrounds. This grain is used for human consumption and stockfeed." (See Appendix (ii) for full Agracom letter.) Also see Auscott Cotton letter (Appendix (iii).
Our concerns are:
Wind
The EIS Report states that Breeza does not get winds from the west, this is extremely misleading information. As long time residents of Breeza we know the winds predominately come from the north west and west especially from June to January. We have enclosed wind roses from the Bureau of Meteorology, Gunnedah, for the period 1877 – 2010 clearly showing prominent westerly winds - see Appendix (i). Our home is on the hill above the village of Breeza, 900 metres from the EL7223 boundary. We would be subjected to dust and pollution i.e. nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide as would the village and community from these winds. We rely heavily on tank water for drinking and daily requirements. The quality of our water would be jeopardized. Our farm is on the eastern side of the mine and is partially inside EL7223 therefore our crops and employees would be subjected to these pollutants directly. This would put our contracts at risk as we sign declarations stating our produce is pollution free.
Water
It is extremely alarming to us that a large mine could be placed next to a highly productive agricultural area that could cause irreparable damage to our aquifers. There is a high risk that the aquifers would become contaminated from the mining activities eg. seepage of saline water into the irrigation aquifers caused by blasting(2920 hours).

Science doesn't know what mining could cause, maybe centuries of damage. There is also 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 groundwater systems is unacceptable.
The EIS Report states that bores could be lowered by 2 metres due to depressurisation by mining activities. This is a significant drop contrary to their opinion. We have spent years in consultation with irrigators and government to stabilise our water table which was over allocated initially. As a consequence we have in recent years invested extensively in the latest technology i.e. lateral spray irrigators, which are closely linked to the pumping capacity of our bores. If further lowered by mining they could become impossible to operate.

Noise & Visual Effects

The noise that this mine would generate is of enormous concern to us. Being on the hill above the village noise would impact on us significantly.
The lighting of the Project would affect us as we would be looking directly over the mine site.

Health

Dust from the mine and coal trains would cause medical conditions in the community. Predominant westerly winds will blow the pollutants from the blasting and hazardous material directly onto us and the community.

Land Value

Potential Project related impacts associated with land value are not addressed in Section 7.20 and the AIS (Appendix Z) as required by the NSW guideline for Agricultural Impact Statements. Land value in relation to housing affordability, particularly in the regional centres is discussed in Section 7.26 of the EIS. However potential impacts for land values for agricultural land in the locality of a coal mine during operations and post-closure are not discussed. We find this extremely disconcerting and need this answered.

Conclusion

We are most concerned that a project of this enormity has so many inconsistencies and deficiencies in its EIS as detailed in the CCAG Submission.
30 years of mining could jeopardise prime agricultural land for centuries.
EPBC Act Amendment Bill 2013 – "Water Trigger" Amendment
On 13th March, 2013 this Bill was introduced into the House of Representatives to amend the EPBC Act 1999 to include "water resources" as a new matter of national environmental significance (NES) for large coal mining and coal seam gas projects. Accordingly, it would be an offence for any large coal mining development to take an action that (i) results or will result in a significant impact on a water resource or (ii) is likely to have a significant impact on a water resource.
It is not right that a big corporate is allowed to come in and impact on the community by endangering their health and livelihood.
We would expect our Government to protect one of the richest food producing areas in Australia for future generations and not allow a short term polluting industry that science cannot guarantee they will not make mistakes.
Perhaps we can learn from past lessons involving asbestos and thalidomide. Damage may be done that cannot be repaired.

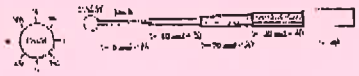
APPENDICES

Contents

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Feb 1877 to 30 Sep 2010)

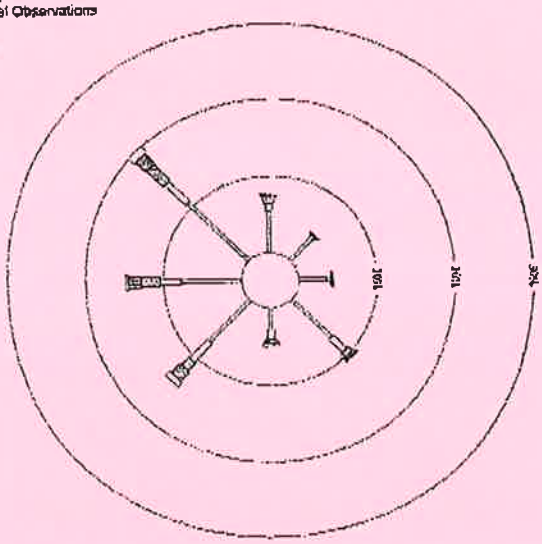
GUNNEDAH POOL

An asterisk (*) indicates that calm is less than 0.5%.
Other important info about the analysis is available in the accompanying notes.



3 pm Sep
1418 Total Observations

Calm 18%



TC2SEPNTH Page 1

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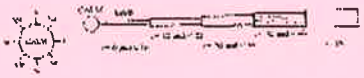
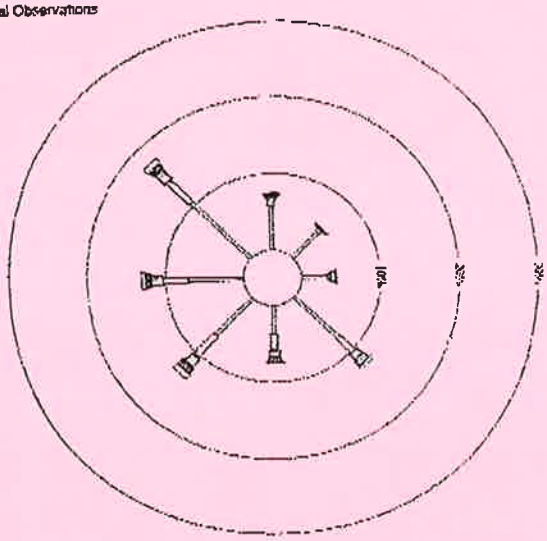


3 pm Oct
1517 Total Observations

Calm 17%



TC2OCTNTH Page 1

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Feb 1877 to 30 Sep 2010)

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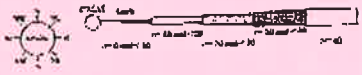
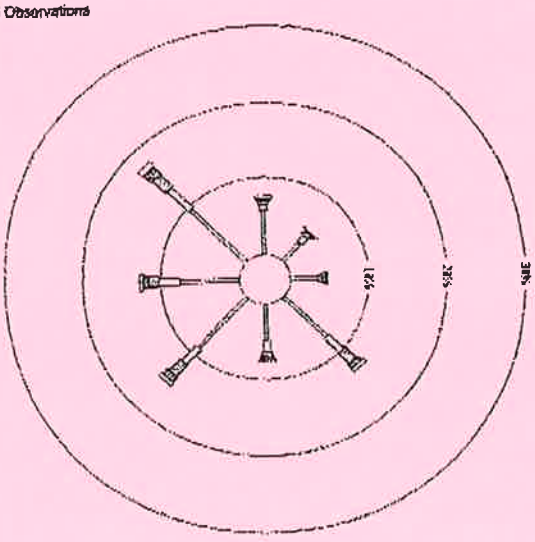


3 pm Nov
1509 Total Observations

Calm 16%



TC2NOVNTH Page 1

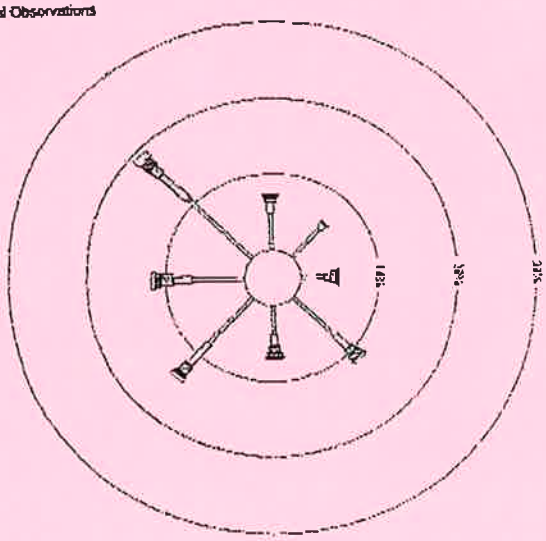
Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Feb 1877 to 30 Sep 2010)

GUNNEDAH POOL

An asterisk (*) indicates that calm is less than 0.5%.
Other important info about this analysis is available in the accompanying notes.

3 pm Dec
1523 Total Observations

Calm 18%



TC2DECNTH Page 1

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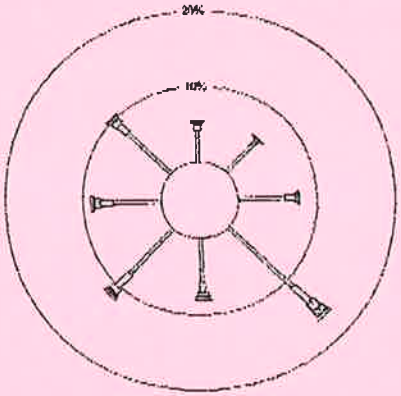
UNNEDAH POOL

n asterisk (*) indicates that calm is less than 0.5%.
ther important info about this analysis is available in the accompanying notes.

3 pm May
1408 Total Observations

Calm 25%



TC2MONTH Page 1

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Feb 1877 to 30 Sep 2010)

GUNNEDAH POOL

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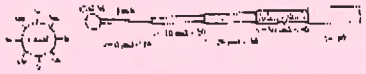
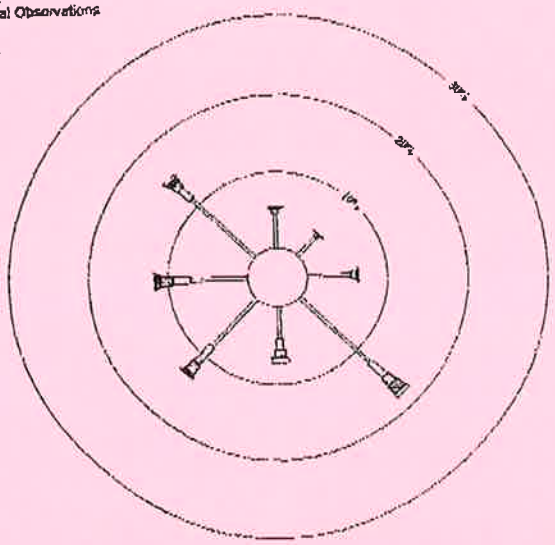


3 pm Jun
1335 Total Observations

Calm 19%



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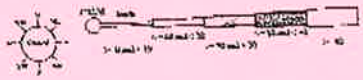
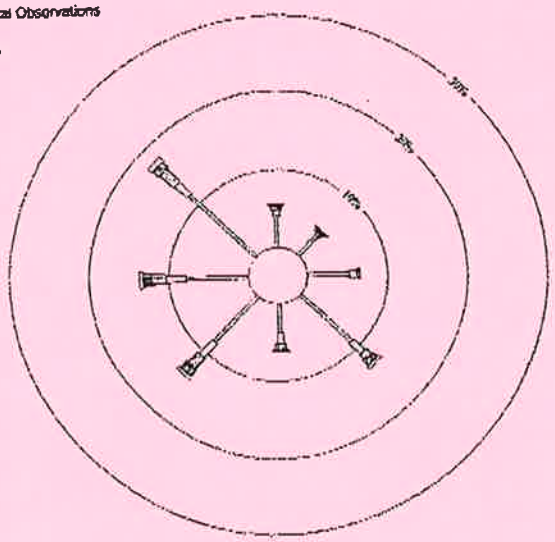


3 pm Jul
1421 Total Observations

Calm 19%



TC2MONTH Page 1

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Feb 1877 to 30 Sep 2010)

GUNNEDAH POOL

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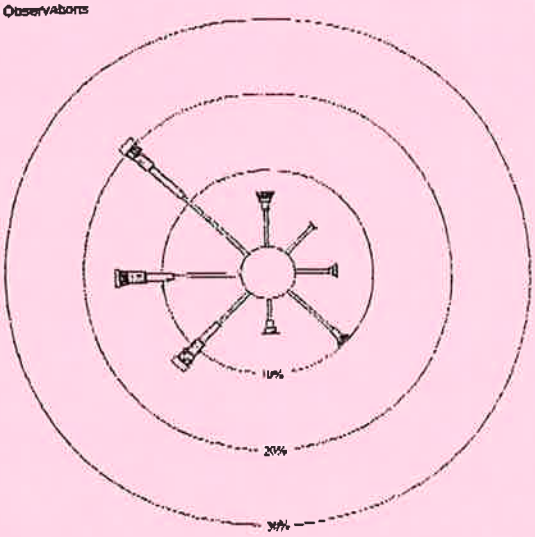
3 pm Aug
1465 Total Observations

Calm 17%



TC2MONTH Page 1

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GUNNEDAH POOL

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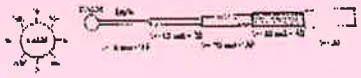
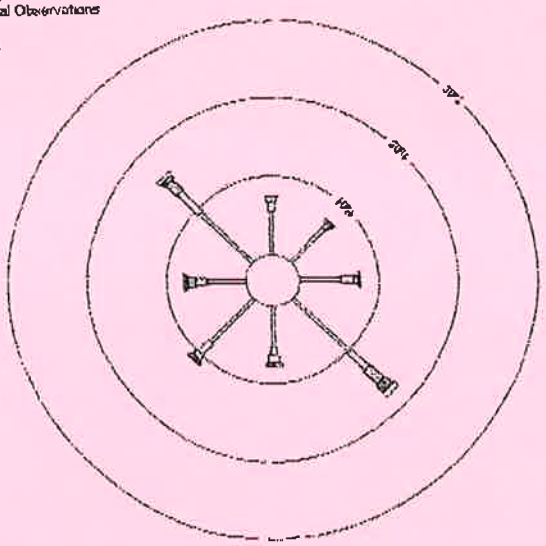


3 pm Jan
1457 Total Observations

Calm 17%



TC2M0N1H Page 1

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Feb 1877 to 30 Sep 2010)

GUNNEDAH POOL

An asterisk (*) indicates that calm is less than 0.5%.
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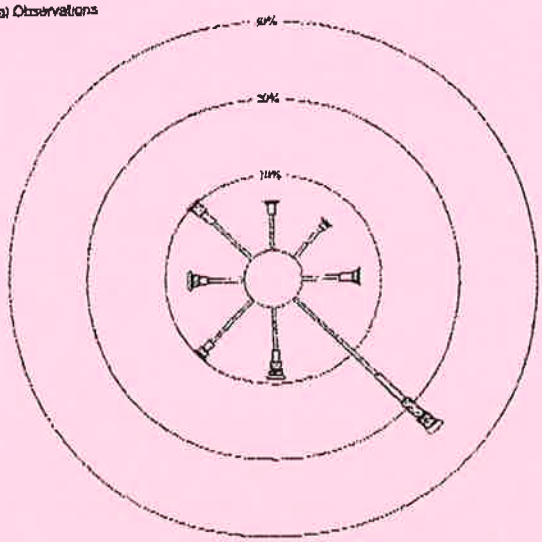
3 pm Mar
1497 Total Observations

Calm 13%



TC2M0M1H Page 1

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Feb 1877 to 30 Sep 2010)

GUNNEDAH POOL

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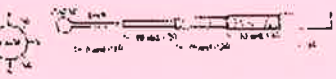
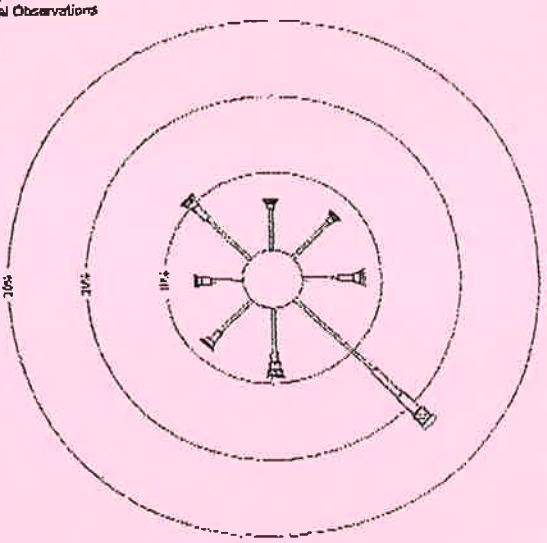


3 pm Feb
1386 Total Observations

Calm 19%



TC2M0F1H Page 1

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Feb 1877 to 30 Sep 2010)

GUNNEDAH POOL

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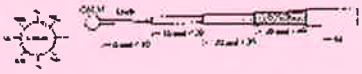
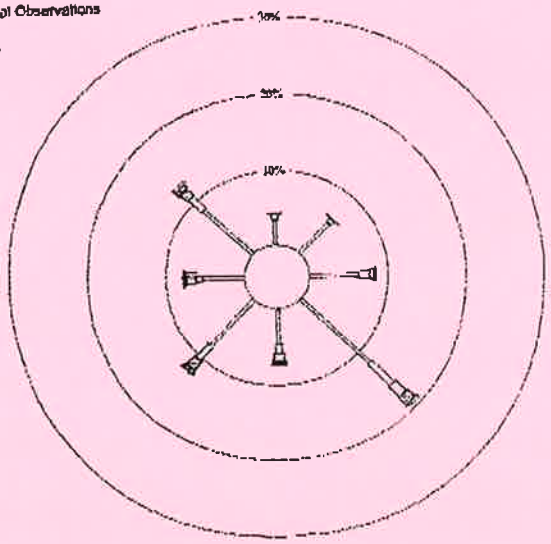


3 pm Apr
1363 Total Observations

Calm 21%



TC2M0A1H Page 1

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Feb 1877 to 30 Sep 2010)

Custom times selected, refer to attached note for details

GUNNEDAH POOL

Site No: 055023 • Opened Jan 1876 • Still Open • Latitude: -30.9811° • Longitude: 150.254° • Elevation 285m

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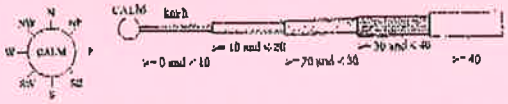
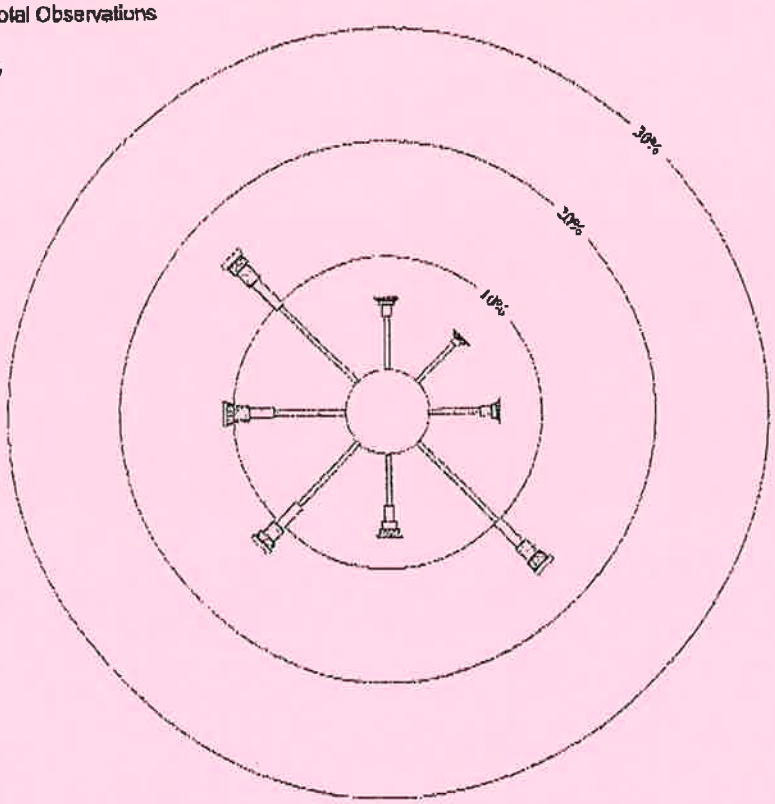


3 pm
17299 Total Observations

Calm 19%



AGRACOM®
grain marketing specialists

PO Box 369 (87 Loder Street)
Quirindi NSW 2343 AUSTRALIA
Telephone: +61 2 6746 4444
Facsimile: +61 2 6746 4400

To whom it may concern,

Agracom is a grain marketing company based in Quirindi on the Liverpool Plains.

Over a 30 year period, we have bought vast amounts of grain from the Breeza plains and surrounds. This grain is used for both human consumption and stockfeed.

With the introduction of the proposed coal mining in the close vicinity, it would seem a large risk to grain production, both dryland and irrigation with ground water concerns.

Furthermore, dust and pollution are also of concern. It would be huge disappointment to place this secure,rich farming land in jeopardy for all concerned

Simon Roxborough
Grain Trader
Agracom Grain Marketing

AUSCOTT MARKETING PTY LIMITED

ACN 002 970 667

7/5/13

To Whom it May Concern,

Auscott Limited is in its 50th year of operation, and proud to be a part of the Namoi Valley in New South Wales.

During this time it has not only produced high quality cotton, it has also forged relationships with cotton growers on the Liverpool Plains which also form an integral part of our business, through the ginning and purchasing of their raw product.

We believe that the introduction of Coal Mining in this vicinity will place adverse effects on the quality of the cotton that our clients produce and, that on what we receive. Therefore it would be a large loss to see such fertile farming land, used in a manner that would jeopardies any form of its capability.

Peter-John Gileppa
Grower Services Manager
Auscott Limited – Namoi Valley