

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:** Janet Simson  
**E-mail:** Not applicable  
**Address:** PO Box 392 Quirindi NSW 2343

**Disclose reportable donations:** I have made no 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? Yes

I am a Caroona Coal Action Group member and a Liverpool Plains Landholder. I object to the proposed Shenhua Watermark Coal Mine at Breeza NSW and I totally agree with every point outlined in the Caroona Coal Action Group submission prepared by Earth Systems.

I am most concerned that a project of this enormity has so many inconsistencies and deficiencies in its EIS as detailed in the CCAG submission. This project will have significant impact on the Breeza community and the Liverpool Plains. I am not against mining but believe it should not be allowed on prime agriculture land or in proximity to the black soil flood plains.

We must protect our precious water resources all over Australia as we are the driest continent on our planet. My main concern is that there has not been due recognition about the dangers of CSG and coal extraction. There has been no recognition of the unique water and soils or the studies that have resulted in sustainable farming techniques. It is quite obvious that the waste water from mining will be able to pollute the aquifers and the precious Murray Darling system of rivers.

Australia is geologically the oldest continent in the world and the black soil flood plains of the Liverpool Plains have taken millions of years to evolve. We must protect prime agricultural land and ensure this land continues to be sustainable. Farmers of the Liverpool Plains adopted farming processes that ensure the soil structure and water supply is protected. I cannot see that it is possible to restore the land to this condition following mining (Earth Systems Independent Review 8.4.1.Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Strategy).

Health and social issues as a result of mining are well documented and are of great concern to our whole community. Other issues of concern are the environmental issues such as the protection of the flora and fauna. I do not agree with the translocation of the koalas from the Watermark area. The removal of 4,084 ha of vegetation progressively over the life of the project most certainly should not be allowed under any circumstances. This project will destroy significant Aboriginal heritage sites. The relocation of any significant object from its natural environment should not be recommended due to the potential damage that will occur.

If 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.