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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Shenhua Watermark Community Fund

Shenhua Watermark is set to announce the recipients of the \$1 million funding from the 2013 Community Fund next week.

The fund was established in 2009 as part of the Exploration Licence granted by the NSW Government and committed \$5 million supporting the development of the of local educational programs, medical programs, indigenous programs and environmental programs. This Funding will assist to enhance the region's economy, enhance and maintain the local environment, improve important local facilities and provide opportunities for local training and employment.

Shenhua Australia Chairman Mr Liu Xiang, said Shenhua was proud to have been able to support many significant projects across the region.

"In 2009 we started the Watermark Community Fund with a \$1 million donation towards the Gunnedah Rural Health Centre, helping to transform the community's health services. Through this donation the Centre, which aims to ensure the town has sufficient doctors and other leading health professionals, started debt free," Mr Liu Xiang said.

"Since then we have been able to support a over 30 projects for local clubs, associations, schools and many other facilities which have all had a significant positive impact on the local community.

"The projects funded by the Watermark Community Fund cover a wide range of community interests including sport, arts, health, indigenous, tourism, the aged, child care, recreation and the environment," Mr Liu Xiang said.

Mr Liu Xiang said while the upcoming announcement would mark the end of the Watermark Community Fund as the Project has now finished its exploration stage, if approved by the NSW Government, Shenhua Watermark would continue to be an active supporter of the local community.

"The Project is expected to spend more than \$1 billion in development and employ up to 600 people during construction. During peak production we will provide up to 600 jobs and our workers will be encouraged to live locally providing wider economic benefits for the local region for the next three decades," Mr Liu Xiang said.

"In addition to this significant contribution Shenhua Watermark is committed to establishing positive outcomes for the local community through additional contributions such as Voluntary Planning Agreements with Councils and through a range of employment opportunities for residents across the North-West region including the development of apprenticeships, traineeships and graduate placement programs.

"We're looking forward to continuing to support the region over the life of the Project in line with our vision to see our communities grow in the next 30 years," Mr Liu Xiang said.

*A full list of projects supported by the Watermark Community Fund is available over the page*

**ENDS**

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#### Community Fund – Year 1

- Gunnedah Rural Health Centre

#### Community Fund – Year 2

- Gunnedah Active Minds Outreach Centre – Support of organisation to increase assistance to people with mental illness
- PRAMS - Maternity Ward Upgrade
- Gunnedah Homes for the Aged – Yallambee – Renovation of 13 units
- Hope House Support Centre for Families in Crisis – Conversion of premises
- Breeza Progress Association - Toilet and barbecue facilities in park
- Gunnedah Skate Park – Upgrade
- Rotary Gunnedah - Riverine Improvement Scheme
- Lions – Premer - Lining of community building
- Curlewis Progress Association - Multi-purpose shed on the Sport and Recreation grounds
- Gunnedah South Public School - Building of kitchen, six preparation areas and dining facility to aid education in health and meal preparation and expand vegetable garden
- GS Kidd Public School – Enclose Hydro Pool
- Jacaranda Day Care – Garden, paving, fence and shed

#### Community Fund – Year 3

- Alkira Aged Care Ltd - Replacement of heating system in resident's rooms
- PRAMS - Maternity and General Ward bathroom upgrade
- Curlewis Progress Association – Construction of Skate Park, shelter and seating
- Lions Club Gunnedah – Construction of off-highway parking area and facilities for travellers
- Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation - Indigenous up-skilling centre
- Gunnedah Show Society – Removal of old stables and the construction of new stables
- Gunnedah Early Childhood Intervention - Transportation for children living with disabilities
- Mary Ranken Occasional Childcare Centre – Enclose existing shelter to create a new room to accommodate school readiness preschool program

#### Community Fund – Year 4

- Gunnedah Homes for the Aged – Yallambee - Renovate communal bathroom to men's hostel units
- PRAMS - Upgrade Baby Nursery, Maternity ward bathroom, beds, theatre equipment
- Hope House – Community Garden
- Australian Railway Monument Management Inc. – Upgrade Museum Displays
- Gunnedah Basketball Association - New Backboards and Electrical Work
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council – Bells Park Playground
- Werris Creek Community Shed
- Gunnedah Conservatorium – Acoustic improvements at Gunnedah Town Hall - sound, lighting & stage equipment
- Gunnedah Early Childhood Intervention
- School Based Traineeships around the Region

#### Community Fund – Year 5

- To be announced shortly