



**SHENHUA WATERMARK COAL PTY LIMITED**  
神华沃特马克煤矿有限公司

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Drillers Mud is Just Rubbish**

Shenhua Watermark Pty Limited is no longer on the lookout for somewhere to store its driller's mud, thanks to an innovative solution that will convert the Liquid Waste to General Solid Waste - or "Rubbish".

According to Shenhua Watermark's Project Director, Joe Clayton this solution provides a win-win for both the community and the project.

"As part of the exploration drilling process there are drill cutting materials, including liquids, which are traditionally transported to an off-site licensed liquid waste facility," said Mr Clayton. "This is standard procedure for any exploration project.

"Unfortunately we don't have access to such a facility in the local area and therefore had to look further afield to towns that did have this type of facility," continues Mr Clayton. "This posed another challenge as some landholders in those areas did not want to receive waste from outside their area."

It was this reaction from the surrounding communities that made the Shenhua Watermark Project Team look outside the square into other alternatives.

"Gunnedah Shire Council accepts General Solid Waste, so we needed to come up with a practical solution that would convert the drilling mud to General Waste," said Mr Clayton.

"Drilling waste typically comprises a mixture of ground rock and soils from the process of drilling the exploration holes together with a variety of non-toxic and biodegradable drilling additives," said Mr Clayton. "The solution was staring us in the face."

Shenhua Watermark is proposing to dewater the drill cuttings using a 'shaker screen' to generate separate streams of water and solid material. The separated water would be re-used on-site as part of the drilling process.

This solid waste would be analysed to ensure it meets the legislative guidelines for General Solid Waste as set out by the NSW DECC Waste Classification Guidelines, 2008, and then transported to a Council landfill. If an excess of separated liquid accumulates this would be disposed to a licensed liquids waste facility.

"Laboratory testing on the existing drilling waste supports this approach, so now it is just a matter of refining the process in the Drilling Waste Management Plan."

When finalised, a copy of the Drilling Waste Management Plan will be placed on the project website. Hard copies will be available upon request.

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