

3 May 2012

For Immediate Release

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

### **Watermark Community Fund Open for 2012 with BIG PICTURE in mind**

Now into its fourth year, the Shenhua Watermark Community Fund is calling for applications for its 2012 round of funding.

Having already distributed \$3 million on 21 community projects, Watermark Communications Manager Melanie Layton is calling for organisations and community groups this year to 'think outside the square' when preparing their application.

"What does your community really need? This is the question we want the public to think about when preparing an application," Ms Layton said. "We need to make this remaining \$2 million count."

According to Ms Layton, Projects that exceed the \$1 million will also be considered.

"Part of the 2013 community fund can be used to pay 2012 projects if they exceed \$1 million.

"Groups need to start talking to each other," Ms Layton continued. "Rather than working in isolation, think about what it is you want to achieve and who you could partner with to make the most of this exciting opportunity."

The Watermark Community Fund Advisory Committee is running a number of information sessions to help applicants better prepare their submissions for a share in the remaining \$2 million.

**The community information sessions will be held at the Shenhua Office, Gunnedah on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May from 5pm – 6pm and Werris Creek Bowling Club, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May from 5pm – 6pm.**

"We received 104 applications last year and a number of these did not address the criteria of the Fund," Ms Layton said. "Completing the application form can be very daunting and take a lot of time. We want to try and eliminate that time by providing advice on whether a proposal meets the criteria prior to putting the work into the application."

Application forms must be submitted by COB Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and can be downloaded from the project website ([www.shenhuawatermark.com](http://www.shenhuawatermark.com)) or contacting Shenhua reception on: 6741 8800.

**ENDS**

**Media Enquiries: Melanie Layton Communications Manager: (02) 6741 8800 / 0402 112 437**