



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

330 Conadilly St, Gunnedah NSW 2380
Tel: +61 2 6741 8800 Fax +61 2 9290 14 98

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MEDIA RELEASE

No Surprises in Shenhua Submission to MDB

Shenhua Watermark last week provided a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts' Inquiry into the impacts of mining in the Murray Darling Basin (MDB).

According to Watermark Project Director, Mr Joe Clayton, the six page submission sent to the Committee on 9 October 2009 was never going to satisfy the Terms of Reference (TOR) by providing an answer on the possible impacts of mining in the MDB.

"The Shenhua Watermark Project (Project) has been in the Exploration Phase for just four months now," Mr Clayton said. "The level of information the Committee requires to answer questions on possible impacts in the MDB comes from years of research and investigations that we are in the process of collecting.

"The detailed hydrological investigations, environmental assessment and proposed mine plan that is required to address the TORs will be produced from the geological data currently being compiled," continued Mr Clayton. "Shenhua will have sufficient information to address the TORs in the next 18 months."

The submission did however provide an overview of the current position of the Shenhua Watermark Project and indicate the approach that Shenhua is taking to the development of the Project.

"When a mine plan is developed, the potential impacts of mining on the environment will be comprehensively assessed by the existing environmental planning and assessment process regulated by the NSW Government," Mr Clayton said. This framework will not only require detailed, rigorous, science-based environmental assessment, but the consideration of social and economic impacts and benefits of a project.

"Shenhua are working above and beyond the legislative requirements to demonstrate that mining and agriculture can coexist and set a benchmark around the world for best mining practices in areas of environmental significance," continued Mr Clayton. "Shenhua's current approach to exploration clearly demonstrates that Shenhua is committed to listening and responding to community concern and protecting the environment, including the MDB."

A copy of the submission can be downloaded from the Project website: www.bangthetable.com/watermark.

Media Enquiries: Melanie Layton, Communications Manager: (02) 6741 8106 / 0402 112 437