



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

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Watermark EIS Underway

Shenhua Watermark has formally commenced the Development Application process for the proposed construction and operation of an open cut coal mine near Breeza, approximately 35 km south of Gunnedah.

The NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DP&I) has confirmed that the proposed mine application will be assessed as State Significant Development under the new Division 4.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The application will need to be supported by a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Shenhua Watermark has engaged Hansen Bailey Environmental Consultants to prepare the EIS. The EIS will include a detailed Agricultural Impact Statement, a Social Impact Assessment, Water assessment and other specialist studies.

Project Director for the Watermark Project, Mr Joe Clayton explained that Shenhua Watermark has submitted a request for Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements, along with an accompanying Background Document to DP&I. From this, the Director-General of DP&I will issue the requirements for assessment in the EIS.

Shenhua Watermark will continue to work closely with the community over the Project and the preparation of the EIS.

"We are committed to listening to the concerns and issues of the community and other stakeholders to ensure the Project is carried out in a manner that is acceptable for both the local and wider community," Clayton said.

"Community consultation is a key factor in the preparation of the EIS with a communications strategy in place to ensure stakeholders are engaged at the outset and feedback is incorporated throughout the preparation of the study – not just at the end."

As part of this consultation program, Shenhua Watermark is encouraging all interested community members to attend one of six community workshops:

Tamworth Community Centre (Darling St, Tamworth)

Tuesday 13th December 2011 – 11 am – 2 pm

Breeza Community Hall

Wednesday 14th December 2011 – 11 am – 2 pm

Wednesday 14th December 2011 – 4 pm – 7 pm

Gunnedah Civic Centre

Thursday 15th December 2011 – 11 am – 2 pm

Thursday 15th December 2011 – 4 pm – 7 pm

Quirindi Royal Theatre

Friday 16th December 2011 – 11 am – 2 pm

“These workshops are designed to provide the community with an update on the Watermark Project and get feedback on the important issues that need to be addressed in the EIS,” Clayton said.

Shenhua Watermark will ensure that all relevant information to the Project is posted on their website (www.shenhuawatermark.com) and encourages community members to visit the site to learn more about the Project.

The EIS planning and specialist technical studies are anticipated to continue throughout 2012, with plans in place to submit the EIS to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I) in mid 2012.

ENDS

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