



SHENHUA WATERMARK COAL PTY LIMITED
神华沃特马克煤矿有限公司
368 Conadilly St, Gunnedah NSW 2380
Tel: +61 2 6741 8800 Fax +61 2 9290 14 98

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MEDIA RELEASE

Community Fund Deadline Extended to Friday 5th August 2011

The Shenhua Watermark Community Fund has extended the deadline for applications by two weeks, with submissions now due on Friday 5th August 2011.

Communications Manager for the Watermark Project, Melanie Layton, hopes the additional two weeks will encourage groups to talk to each other and prepare submissions that address real needs in the community.

“Having only received a handful of applications so far, the Committee agreed to extend the deadline to give organizations and community members more time to prepare a submission,” Ms Layton said. “We also wanted to make allowance for two weeks of school holidays that fall right in the middle of the application period.”

According to Ms Layton, if spent correctly, a million dollars has the potential to bring about real change.

“Last year we saw a lot of small communities, such as Breeza, Curlewis and Premer undertake significant infrastructure projects in the townships because of the Watermark Community Fund.

“The Breeza Progress Association, for example, observed an increase in tourists and truck drivers stopping at the parking bays at either end of town,” continued Ms Layton. “With the money from the community fund the association was able to install a community barbeque and enviro toilet complex in the local park adjacent to the highway, to not only encourage tourists and truck drivers, but also families to stop and spend time in the village.”

Other projects completed include GS Kidd school which was the first project completed and has resulted in their pool being fully enclosed. Since then P.R.A.M.S. have made major modifications to the maternity ward at the hospital, Gunnedah Active Minds have refurbished their premises and been able to increase their campaign for mental health awareness in the local community. Yallabee have fully refurbished the bathrooms in 13 units and Hope House has commenced the modifications to their community house.

Applications for the 2011 Community Fund can be downloaded from the project website: www.shenhuawatermark.com or by contacting Shenhua reception on 6741 8800. Applications now close Friday 5th August 2011.

ENDS

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