



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

Shenhua responds to local needs with a further \$1M to the Gunnedah community

Shenhua Watermark Coal Pty Limited has committed a further \$1M towards 12 community projects throughout the Gunnedah district

Recipients of the funding have been through a rigorous application and selection process that commenced in May this year. Following the overwhelming response, whereby 63 applications were received, a committee which draws on representatives from a diverse cross section of the community was asked to advise the company by prioritising projects for funding.

This Community Fund Committee selection process is believed to be a first of its kind. The committee itself is made up to of 11 people from various community sectors (agriculture, aboriginal, health, environment, education, council, business and general community). Over 40 people initially offered to be involved in the Committee. Such interest shows the level of acceptance by the community for this approach.

The Community Fund Committee reviewed all applications and ranked the projects against criteria the Committee had formulated and recommended 12 projects to Shenhua for funding. Shenhua has endorsed all the Committee's recommendations.

Beneficiaries of this year's funding will include: Yallambee aged care facility, Gunnedah South Public School; Breeza Progress Association; GS Kidd Public School; the Salvation Army's Hope House project; Gunnedah Skate Park Committee; Gunnedah Riverine Improvement Scheme; Curlewis Progress Association; Schizophrenia Fellowship's local support group, Gunnedah Active Minds; Jacaranda Day Centre; Lions Club of Premer; and the maternity ward of the Gunnedah hospital through P.R.A.M.S.

Many of this year's successful applicants will receive funding to improve important local facilities.

Yallambee Homes for the Aged will receive \$230,000 to undertake much needed refurbishment of some of its units. Yallambee was established in 1966 and continues to provide aged care accommodation without any government assistance. In 2003, the facility came perilously close to closing, but for the Gunnedah community rallying in support to keep it operating.

A total of 13 units will receive new refurbished bathrooms, hot water heaters and electric stoves.

Health also continues to be a priority for funding in the community. Following last year's \$1M donation towards the development of the Gunnedah Rural Health GP Super clinic a further \$90,000 has been allocated for the maternity ward upgrade in the Gunnedah Hospital.

The PaediatRiC And Maternity Support (PRAMS) group submitted the application for funding which will allow for the purchase of a new Labour bed, new Foetal Monitor, a maternity specific bathroom fit-out, repainting of the maternity wing, and creation of an outdoor visiting area.

The Community Fund is established to respond to community needs. Details of specific projects and their commencements dates will be released in due course.

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