



SHENHUA WATERMARK COAL PTY LIMITED
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MEDIA RELEASE

Namoi Water Study to be Used in Watermark Mine Plan

Shenhua Watermark Pty Limited has again confirmed that the much anticipated Namoi Water Study (Study) will play a pivotal role in the development of the Mine Plan for the Watermark Project.

Watermark Project Director, Mr Joe Clayton says the Study will complement the existing investigations being carried out as part of the Environmental Assessment process.

“The current investigations taking place on site will be incorporated in the Namoi Water Study,” said Mr Clayton. “It is important the exploration program continues to enable the Namoi Water Study to receive as much information as possible to produce a more informed and robust model.

“The Namoi Water Study is not a legislative document that determines whether a mine will or will not be constructed,” Mr Clayton said. “The study has been initiated to get a better understanding of the broader aquifer systems and help the companies mining strategies manage the potential issues that may be identified in the Study.”

Shenhua Watermark confirms that should the Namoi Water Study stay on the projected 18 month timeframe the Study will dovetail with Shenhua Watermark’s approval timeline.

“We have been advised that the Namoi Water Study should take 18 months to complete, and if the study works to this timeline it will complement our approvals timeline,” continued Mr Clayton. “All our information and research will feed into the Study and Shenhua will be contributing funds to ensure the study happens.”

The mining industry is heavily regulated and Shenhua will need to practically demonstrate through the Environmental Assessment process how all identified environmental impacts will be managed. This will form the Environmental Assessment which will be submitted for development approval from the Department of Planning.

“No mining project development application can proceed in NSW without a thorough assessment of potential impacts of a mining operation on the surrounding environment, including surface and groundwater resources.

“While it is ultimately the Government that must determine whether these environmental impacts are acceptable in light of the economic and social benefits of mining, Shenhua are already 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,” said Mr Clayton.

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