

Shenhua to announce successful recipients for \$1 million funding

SHENHUA Watermark is set to announce the successful recipients of the \$1 million funding from the 2013 Community Fund next week.

The fund was established in 2009 as part of the Exploration Licence granted by the NSW Government and committed \$5 million supporting the development of the of local educational programs, medical programs, indigenous programs and environmental programs.

This funding will assist to enhance the region's economy, enhance and maintain the local environment, improve important local facilities and provide opportunities for local training and employment.

Shenhua Australia Chairman Mr Liu Xiang, said Shenhua was proud to have been able to support many significant projects across the region.

"In 2009 we started the Watermark Community Fund with a \$1 million donation towards the Gunnedah Rural Health Centre, helping to transform the community's health services.

"Through this donation the centre, which aims to ensure the town has sufficient doctors and other leading health professionals, started debt free," Mr Liu Xiang said.

"Since then we have been able to support more than 30 projects for local clubs, associations, schools and

many other facilities which have all had a significant positive impact on the local community.

"The projects funded by the Watermark Community Fund cover a wide range of community interests including sport, arts, health, indigenous, tourism, the aged, child care, recreation and the environment," Mr Liu Xiang said.

This round of funding would mark the end of the Watermark Community Fund as the Project has now finished its exploration stage, however if approved by the NSW Government, Shenhua Watermark said it will continue to be an active supporter of the local community.

"The project is expected to spend more than \$1 billion in development and employ up to 600 people during construction. During peak production we will provide up to 600 jobs and our workers will be encouraged to live locally providing wider economic benefits for the local region for the next three decades," Mr Liu Xiang said.

"In addition to this significant contribution Shenhua Watermark is committed to establishing positive outcomes for the local community through additional contributions such as Voluntary Planning Agreements with Councils and through a range of employment opportunities for residents across the North-West region including the development of apprenticeships, traineeships and graduate placement programs."