

# Unlocking the benefits of agriculture and mining

Shenhua's Watermark Project has been designed with one simple objective in mind; to avoid the need for a choice between mining and agriculture.

From the outset Shenhua has acknowledged the Project sits in an area often referred to as Australia's food bowl.

Farming has a long and proud history in the area and the black soil plains are widely regarded as some of the best in the country for cultivating food and fibre crops.

Recognising this, Shenhua has developed a mining proposal that avoids any disturbance to these valuable areas.

The black soil Liverpool Plains will be untouched.

Instead, the Project's mining has been focussed in areas that are less fertile and which are generally not used for cropping.

While some of these areas will eventually be removed from production, Shenhua is actively looking to support farming jobs and, where possible, raise the

productivity of neighbouring properties.

The project will progressively mine about 16 per cent of the Exploration Licence area over 30 years with rehabilitation to be undertaken progressively.

About one per cent of the Exploration Licence will be under mining effort at any one time.

Shenhua Watermark's Assets Management Coordinator, Grayson Wolfgang, is responsible for managing the leaseback arrangements made with former property owners on Shenhua owned land.

"Our aim is to operate in harmony with the agricultural activity already being undertaken and, through early rehabilitation, ensure that we maximise the amount of land available for agricultural effort during the life of the mine," Mr Wolfgang said.

"Peter Bailey and his father are currently leasing 'The Watermark' and 'Dixie' from Shenhua

and say that it's business as usual.

"Nothing has changed in practice since leasing the two properties.

"The farm is run just as when we owned it with the only minor difference being that we aren't growing as many crops and have decided to focus more on cattle."

Mr Wolfgang said many of Shenhua's leaseback properties will be undisturbed by mining and farmed continuously over the 30 year life of the mine.

"About one-third of the land we own is on the black soil plains and will not be disturbed by mining at all.

"Helping our leaseback farmers to actively manage this and other land is important to the company.

"At the end of the day we are one of the largest landholders in the region and it's important we work with our leaseback farmers to continue, and where possible, expand their operations."



*Shenhua Watermark's Assets Management Co-ordinator, Grayson Wolfgang.*