Shenhua Watermark owned land is currently managed as agricultural land for grazing and cropping operations.

Any agricultural land that is situated within the Disturbance Boundary and Biodiversity Offset Areas will be removed from production progressively over 30 years as a result of the Project.

Much of this land will no longer be available for agricultural purposes as it will also be reserved in perpetuity for the conservation of its ecological values.

As defined by the Strategic Regional Land Use Plan – New England North West (DP&I, 2012), a small area encompassing 96.1 hectares of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land has been identified and verified within the Disturbance Boundary and will be impacted through surface disturbance associated with open cut mining.

A further 696 hectares of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land has been identified and verified within the Biodiversity Offset Areas.

The Project will not have any impact on the alluvial soils or agricultural productivity of land outside the Project Boundary and the Biodiversity Offset Areas.

The direct annual output of the Project is estimated at $744 M per annum.

In contrast, the direct annual output of the continued use of the agricultural lands and water for agricultural purposes that will be utilised by the Project is estimated at $5 M per annum.

The direct and indirect regional employment provided by the Project will be up to 908 full time equivalent jobs compared to up to 41 agricultural-related jobs that would be forgone as a result of the Project.

To maintain and where possible enhance, the agricultural productivity of Shenhua Watermark owned land, the following management measures will be applied:

- Minimise the area of disturbance of land at any one time;
- Continue to work with land managers to ensure the highest productivity of Shenhua Watermark owned land not directly impacted by the Project;
- Develop and implement a weed and pest management plan to control the distribution of invasive plant species and feral animals;
- Implement sustainable farming practices;
- Rehabilitate the mining areas to the best possible rural land capability (including not less than 3,230 ha of Class III rehabilitated land) with slopes less than approximately 10 degrees; and
- Reinstate at least 1,000 hectares of the rehabilitated Class III land to primary production.

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