

# High praise for coal miner's community fund committee

**SHENHUA** Watermark Coal is one of six mining companies in NSW that are in the running for the industry's 2011 Environment and Community Excellence Awards.

The Chinese miner has been named as a finalist for its Community Fund Committee, where members of the Gunnedah shire are involved in the decision-making process of the company's \$5 million Community Fund.

The independent committee of 11 people determines how best to spend \$1 million per year for five years on various projects throughout the Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains region.

NSW Minerals Council CEO Dr Nikki Williams said the finalists have each developed an industry-leading environmental and community project, however they "were the tip of the iceberg".

"The NSW minerals industry is jam-packed with talented and creative people who are brilliant at thinking outside the square and finding innovative ways of tackling issues to get

results," Dr Williams said.

"We know that our growth brings challenges and sometimes we are criticised, but we must always keep improving if we are to keep leading as an industry. It is great to see that the bar has again been raised in 2011.

"These awards are a testament to the hard working men and

women right across the NSW mining sector, who can be proud of their contributions. I congratulate all finalists and I look forward to announcing the winners next Monday night."

Shenhua Watermark Coal has spent \$2 million of its \$5 million Community Fund.

One million has been given to Gunnedah's new \$6.1 million medical centre, while other

community groups such as PRAMS, the Curlewis Progress Association and Yallambee Home for the Aged have also received funding.

Other award finalists include the Barrick Cowal Gold mine, the Hunter Valley's BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal, Centennial Coal, Newcrest Mining Cadia Valley Operations and Peabody Energy Metropolitan Colliery.



SHENHUA Watermark Coal executives hand over a cheque to Yallambee Aged Care Hostel representatives last year. The coal miner's Community Fund Committee helped decide where \$1 million would be spent in the community.



MEMBERS of Shenhua's Community Fund Committee meet to discuss funding for community projects. From left are, Melanie Layton, Owen Hasler, Mark Kesby, Brett Reynolds, Wayne Griffiths, Rebecca Ryan, Adam Marshall, Harvey Stoneman and Marie Wilson. Absent: Robyn King.