

Community teams up with Shenhua

COAL mining giant, Shenhua, has announced the 10 members that will sit on its Community Fund Advisory Committee.

The committee was established after the coal company set up a \$5-million community fund aimed at supporting sustainable projects that benefit the shire long term.

The fund was one of the requirements of the State Government when it approved the company's exploration licence.

The committee will help determine where money from the fund will be spent.

The purpose is to support the development of the region's economy, enhance and maintain the environment, improve local facilities and develop and promote training and employment opportunities.

Project Director for the Watermark Project, Joe Clayton, said he was overwhelmed with the response from the community.

"We had 41 people register an interest in sitting on the committee and we received 22 nomination forms."

"This is a fabulous response and clearly demonstrates that people are committed to seeing the Gunnedah region grow and prosper," Mr Clayton said.

Mr Clayton said the members were selected from a broad cross-section of the community.

The committee has developed five key focus areas for the funding, including the Environment, Social and Community Development, Training and Education, Health and Community Infrastructure Initiatives.

Funding requests for indi-

vidual projects, or initiatives that aren't sustainable and don't benefit the broader community will not be considered.

Shenhua Watermark has already allocated \$1-million of the \$5-million fund to the Gunnedah Rural Health Centre.

The remainder of the money will be spent over the next four years.

The Watermark Committee members include:

Wayne Griffiths, Owen Hasler, Mark Kesby, Robyn King, Brett Reynolds, Rebecca Ryan, Harvey Stoneman, Marie Wilson, Adam Marshall and Di Stacey.

Joe Clayton and Shenhua Watermark's Communications Manager, Melanie Layton, will also sit on the committee.

Applications for funding will be called in June.



SHENHUA'S first community fund project. Company representatives hand over a \$1-million cheque in December 2009 towards the town's Rural Medical Centre.