

KEY PROJECT FEATURES

- Shenhua Watermark will not mine the black soil Liverpool Plains. The Watermark Project will be confined to the ridge country. There is no disturbance to Mt Watermark or the Breeza State Forest.
- Extensive mapping and geophysical surveys have confirmed that the highly productive Gunnedah Formation groundwater aquifer, which is the main water source for local farmers, does not exist within the Project Disturbance Boundary. The closest occurrence of this aquifer is 900 m from the north-eastern corner of the Eastern Mining Area and more than 1.3 km to the south of the Project Boundary.
- Minimum 150m buffer from the nearest mining area to the alluvial black soil Liverpool Plains.
- The Project will have a net production benefit of \$3,047 Million with a minimum of \$1,310 Million of these net production benefits accruing to Australia.
- In contrast, the present value of the continued use of the agricultural lands and water for agricultural purposes that will be utilised by the Project is estimated at \$40 M. Based on these comparative values, the Project is considered to be a significantly more efficient land use than continued agricultural production.
- The direct and indirect local region 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.
- Shenhua Watermark will require a workforce of up to 600 full-time equivalent employees during construction and an average of 425 full-time equivalent employees during the operation of the Project.
- 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 EIS demonstrates that Shenhua Watermark can develop a mine plan that minimises potential environmental and social impacts whilst maximising resource recovery and operational efficiency.
- No Class II land will be disturbed by open cut mining.
- Early and progressive rehabilitation of the Overburden Emplacement Area will be undertaken.
- It is proposed that 1,000 hectares of rehabilitated land with Class III characteristics within the Disturbance Boundary will be reinstated for agricultural purposes. The remaining rehabilitated land will be used for ecological conservation through the restoration of native woodland and grassland.
- The groundwater model predicts that the volume of water removed from Zones 3, 7 and 8 of the Water Sharing Plan for the Upper and Lower Namoi Groundwater Sources 2003 combined is only 35.7 ML per annum on average. This is a very small (negligible) quantity of water being equivalent to only about 25% of the usage from a single licenced agricultural bore within 10km from the Project Boundary (142 ML/annum).
- The predicted groundwater levels within the Western Mining Area final void will remain below the regional water table by approximately 1-2 m, indicating the pit lake void will act as a groundwater sink, not a source. Hence no overland spillage of water into the environment will occur.
- Based on the population estimates obtained from the field survey approximately 262 Koalas may require translocation over the life of the Project. (This equates to approximately 0.07% (8.7 koalas) per annum of the total population of Koala within the Gunnedah LGA over 30 years).
- A total of 738 hectares of CEEC Box Gum Woodland and Derived Native Grassland will be removed progressively over the life of the Project, and 51 hectares of other listed vegetation communities and flora species.
- The Biodiversity Offset Strategy as a whole will address the predicted loss of vegetation by ultimately providing, following revegetation and rehabilitation initiatives:
 - 6,366 hectares of Box Gum Woodland and Derived Native Grassland;
 - 1,759 hectares of other listed Endangered Ecological Communities; and
 - 4,890 hectares of other woodland vegetation.