



20 June 2014

Ms Gabrielle Kibble AO, Chair
Planning Assessment Commission
GPO Box 3415,
Sydney NSW 2001

Email: pac@pac.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Kibble

I write to you in support of the review of the Watermark Coal Project (RO20/13) and the related EIS.

The Hunter Business Chamber is the largest regional chamber in Australia (with over 1600 members) and we actively advocate on range of matters, across a broad cross section of industries on behalf of our members.

It is our understanding that the EIS submitted by Shenhua Watermark is most comprehensive and addresses all the key issues in regard to strategic agricultural land, water resources, biodiversity, air quality, noise and vibration, traffic matters, social and economic issues, rehabilitation of land and a number of other important matters.

We are also conscious of the need to balance competing land uses and provide all necessary environmental protections and we understand that the current EIS ensures every aspect of the proposed project is more than adequately addressed.

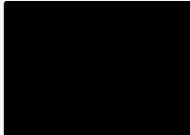
The Chamber has a strong appreciation of the contribution of mining to the regional and state economies, particularly in regard to the large numbers employed to support the mining industry, both directly and indirectly.

Although, not located in the Hunter, this project has the potential to benefit many businesses based in our region, who bring with them a strong background of expertise in the construction and operation of mining projects such as, coal handling and preparation plants, road, rail, water, electrical, communication and other necessary infrastructure. The Watermark project also represents a positive opportunity for the long term viability of the Port of Newcastle.

In the current economic climate there has been a significant downturn in investment in the mining sector and this project has the ability to provide a strong boost to both the Gunnedah community and other key regional areas, such as the Hunter.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this correspondence further.

Yours sincerely



Richard Anicich
President
Hunter Business Chamber

