

Marilyn Carter

**Shenhua Watermark PAC Determination Hearing
Presentation**

Madam Chair , Commissioners Woodward & Murrel, Community Members

My name is Marilyn Carter and together with my husband & son operate a broad acre, dry land, mixed farming business on the Liverpool Plains. We consider our operation to be highly professional and very productive, in which we produce a large variety of crops in an environmentally sustainable manner.

We have been doing this for over 30 years & our son plans to continue for at least the next 30 years! Twice as long as the stated ROM for Shenhua Watermark!

The future of the Liverpool Plains, the most productive and reliable food producing area in this country, is in your hands and ultimately that of Ministers Goward and Hunt.

During this PAC determination hearing and at the June PAC hearing we have heard from many community members, highly qualified and experienced professionals including Aboriginal representatives, farmers, agronomists, soil scientists, hydrologists, astronomers, medical professionals, engineers and environmentalists.

The overwhelming message from the community is that this is the wrong mine in the wrong place. That it just does not make sense to develop a coal resource in a prime agricultural area with abundant, secure groundwater.

Put simply, the community does not want this mine. In fact, last year, surveys were carried out across the Liverpool Plains where in all cases over 90% of the respondents voted against mining development.

Many excellent reasons have been given and much time, money and expertise has been spent by a large number of people & organisations, researching and substantiating why it is not worth the risk of going ahead with this mine.

Both now & in June, the PAC hearing times have been extended to accommodate the large number of presentations....I cannot stress enough how

strongly, we as a community feel about this mine. And, with very good reason... we will have heard in total, 3 ½ days of presentations predominately detailing why we cannot risk the very real possibility of unintended consequences adversely impacting on the productivity of this area.

Adversely risking food security, which must be a priority in a world where the population will reach 9 billion by 2030.

What more can be said?

Finally.....

I am very grateful to live in this wonderful country, where we have freedom of speech and have the opportunity to address a hearing such as this. Most people in the world do not have this privilege. We in Australia are fortunate to live in a democracy where we are represented in parliament by elected representatives who are there to voice our views. We as a community have made presentations, written countless letters, emailed, phoned and lobbied our elected representatives, both State and Federal. We have made it very clear, that the view of this community is that we simply cannot risk damaging the productivity of the Liverpool Plains for the short term gains this mine will bring.

The time has come to make a decision, the only thing that will stop this mine is political will.

This may seem a naive and simplistic point of view..I am a well educated and intelligent woman . I have attended both PAC hearings, read the relevant reports, listened to all the arguments...ultimately it comes down to

this PAC, and Ministers Goward and Hunt showing the political fortitude and strength and dare I say the "guts" to say no to this mine.

This is quite simply the wrong mine in the wrong place.