

Madame Chair, Mr Woodward and Ms Murrell,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the PAC regarding the proposed Shenhua development.

I am a fourth generation farmer on the Liverpool Plains. People of my generation represent the future of the Liverpool Plains.

The "conditions" imposed on Shenhua for the protection of our water resources are based on a lie. . The geology of the Liverpool Plains clearly shows that our aquifers are all connected and the hills and ridges act as catchment for these aquifers. BHP admits to an immediate drawdown of 180 metres and impacts to aquifers up to 20 kilometres away.

Shenhua claims a minimum impact on our water resources which will be easily mitigated.

Monitoring will not protect the immediate neighbouring farmers and there is no protection for farmers and communities lying outside the exploration area.

We know that on certain days depending on the prevailing winds, our farms will be impacted by coal dust. Two years ago, the bushfires of Coonabarabran, some 100kms away, resulted in dust and soot all over our property. Why are there no conditions imposed to protect farmers like us living outside the mining area?

Shenhua has an appalling environmental record. Its Ordos operations in Inner Mongolia show that Shenhua ignored licence conditions. Shenhua's operations extracted enormous amounts of water, local farmers were bankrupted with most being forced to leave the region and find work in the cities. Farmers suffered a myriad of significant health impacts.

Water drawdown on local aquifers destroyed agriculture, killed 700 year old oak trees and effectively turned the region into a desert. Creeks and rivers were polluted and rendered useless.

There was no respect shown to local residents and the environment. THIS IS ON THE PUBLIC RECORD.

As the POC, you have the responsibility to Australia, this area and future generations to  
~~You must not let history be repeated.~~

Nearly 60% of China's underground water is polluted. One-fifth of arable land is contaminated with inorganic chemicals like cadmium, nickel and arsenic. If the Chinese government cannot protect its own water and soils, <sup>the Air quality</sup> what hope do we have of ours being protected? Our future lies in pristine <sup>the the the the</sup> water, clean air and soils and protection of our agricultural resources, and does yours. <sup>So</sup>

The final irony is that China and America have agreed to a significant emissions reduction scheme.

And China has announced an intention to move away from coal.

Shenhua should be made come clean and admit to the entirety of the development. Once a mine has started, nothing short of an environmental catastrophe will halt the development.

Do not risk the best farming country in Australia ~~and~~ for a potential environmental, economic and social disaster that is the Watermark Project. You owe it to our future.