

William J Wilmott

NSW Planning and Assessment Commission
Level 13, 301 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Rebeca Chungue

By email: rebeca.chungue@planning.nsw.gov.au

RE: WATERMARK COAL PROJECT SSD4975

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the government, the Shenhua response and their reply to the PAC recommendations.

I'm a third generation farmer from the Liverpool Plains, married with two children. Our daughter has finished her five-year Arts/Law degree at the ANU in Canberra. Our son is at Sydney University studying Agriculture/Science, commencing his third year next year. We grow many varieties of crops; bread wheat, durum wheat, sorghum, sunflowers, chickpeas, cowpeas, canola, and oats, as well running cattle for export and domestic markets. Our commodities are highly sought after worldwide as well locally. This is due to the pristine clean environment that has not been spoilt or affected by mining activities.

Firstly, I want to express my disappointment that the Department of Planning failed to lodge my submission for the period of the PAC enquiry, which my wife read out at the last PAC hearing. This is proof that the government cannot guarantee its promise that it will ensure a vigorous and robust process.

It is clear that Shenhua is unwilling to comply with the PAC recommendations in many areas as it constantly refers to the *EPA Act* in the SEPP policy as the point of acceptance of their mining proposal. They are using this particular mining act to shield their responsibility from the PAC.

I want to analogise the true value of the Shenhua mining proposal and its benefit to the government in royalties in coal, to a packet of cigarettes. For every tonne of coal the government will receive between \$2 to \$3.50, this is equivalent to \$3.50 received for a packet of cigarettes worth \$20.00.

Madam Chair, this government is willing to allow a Chinese state-owned company to destroy this unique, ancient, fertile productive region for royalties equivalent to cigarette packets.

Madam Chair, this government is willing to allow the Chinese state-owned company to destroy our groundwater, the ancient aquifers that quench and replenish our crops, pasture, stock and native wildlife, for royalties equivalent to cigarette packets.

Madam Chair, this government is willing to allow the Chinese state-owned company to change the topography and natural geomorphology that recharges, and is responsible for, the filtration of the alluvial aquifers. All for royalties equivalent to these cigarette packets.

Madam Chair, this government is willing to compromise our beloved koalas and their habitat, as well other rare, endangered species that also depend on the natural environment of their surroundings. All for royalties equivalent to these cigarette packets.

Madam Chair, I am sure the Chinese Government wouldn't allow a foreign mining company to mine their beloved Panda region for royalties equivalent to cigarette packets, or for any price.

Madam Chair, this government is willing to destroy the Indigenous heritage and in particular artifacts that can be dated back 40,000 years, losing the potential tourism opportunity to sell this region as the Crown Jewels of the Indigenous people, all for royalties equivalent to cigarette packets.

Madam Chair, this government is willing to compromise our health, bringing us in line with those living in the Hunter Valley, with the highest per capita illnesses in cardiovascular disease, mental illness and respiratory problems. All for royalties equivalent to these cigarette packets.

Madam Chair, this government is willing to divide our communities until eventually, small villages and communities die out. All for royalties equivalent to cigarette packets.

Madam Chair, the decision will lie with the PAC as to whether the true value of this region is worth the risks for the value equivalent to the royalties received from a packet of cigarettes.

Should you have any questions about this submission please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Wilmott

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References

Attachment B- DRE Resource Significance Letter. Watermark Coal Project SSD 4975.

Rjrt.com, (2014). *Laws & Taxes / Tobacco Taxes & Payments*. [online] Available at: <https://www.rjrt.com/taxpays.aspx> [Accessed 8 Dec. 2014].