

My name is Marie Wilson and I am the Secretary of the Breeza Progress Association Inc.

I am here today to speak on behalf of the Breeza Community.

Nothing has changed for us in Breeza. We will still have our rain water tanks contaminated, we will still lose our ground water, we will still be shaken by blasting, our land still has no real value and we still don't want to move from the place we love. All of which was never really addressed in the Pac recommendations. As a matter of fact it felt like you had forgotten that we even existed especially since the Breeza Progress Associations last submission was not posted on you web page with all the others. There are those of us who believe it was deliberate as we will be most affected by this mine. I can assure you we are still hear and will continue to fight against this project. We ask that the very least you do for us is to include a make good clause in your recommendations. We need a guarantee water will be supplied to every resident of the village by Shenhua. That every house in the Village and surrounding farms have a first flush water system installed to rain water tanks provided by Shenhua.

I find it hard to believe we are back here fighting for this most precious land and our right to continue to live a life of quality and productivity. The PAC admitted this is a unique and very productive area and yet the Commission said they are generally satisfied that this mine can go ahead without significant impact to agriculture. Generally satisfied! How can you be so willing to take such a gamble? Have you considered that if all your modelling is wrong you will have helped to destroy some of the most productive land in Australia? At a time when the world is losing prime agricultural land at a frightening rate and the population of the world is growing we are willing to throw our best land away for a short term money grab. I would call that criminal. Aren't we supposed to be the guardians of this land for our future generations? Once it's gone it's gone forever, so in 30 years when all that's left of the coal mine is a final void what will this area do for jobs? Perhaps we can start a tourism industry based around what used to be.

I know the Commission placed limitations and recommendations on the project but there are some places where a mine should never be and this is most definitely one of those places.

You have called on experts with modelling of water, dust, light and noise but you have not listened to the true experts, those of us you see here today, those who work, live and love this land. Who understand the unique action of wind, storms, rain water and the aquifer beneath us.

Not one Minister from our State or Federal Parliaments has ever come and spoken to us or toured this area before agreeing to allow exploration for coal. How can you approve something you have no personal knowledge of?

Not only did my Governments approve exploration but they allowed Shenhua to spend millions of dollars on acquiring land, millions more spent on Community projects without any consultation of the people who live here.

In conclusion I believe that this mine is a done deal and was from the very start. I say shame on all of you who allow it to happen. Shame on my Governments both State and Federal for ever agreeing to the exploration of prime agricultural land on the Breeza Plains. I don't blame Shenhua but all of the people who ok'd to the mining of the Breeza plains.

I beg you to stop this madness. When in doubt don't and generally satisfied clearly shows there is doubt.

Believe me history will not shine a kind light on you who are willing to gamble on the destruction of this most unique land.