

# Taroborah Project

## Newsletter

### Taroborah Project to develop new coal mining operation

Welcome to the first Taroborah Project Newsletter.

We work for Shenhua International Group Pty Ltd, which is developing the project. We also live here in Queensland.

Our parent company is Chinese, but it is not headquartered in Beijing, Shanghai, or even Guangzhou. In fact, it comes from Henan, a largely rural province that most people have never heard of.

We think this is a good thing, because instead of having a "big city mentality", we are very much a regional player. That means we understand what it is like to live and work away from the major cities, and we like it.

As you read through this newsletter, you will learn more about the Taroborah Project, and about who we are. Every few months we will produce another newsletter, and keep you informed on what we are doing.

One thing you will hopefully discover is that we really are different. For one thing, most of the people who work on our project are Australian. We also truly believe in listening, which is why every issue will devote a page to a member of the community to tell everyone what they do, and what is important to them.

If you have any queries, or want to make a suggestion, please contact us. Our contact details are in this newsletter.

We look forward to being part of your community.

**The Taroborah Team**

Chinese company Shenhua International Group Pty Ltd is proposing to develop the Taroborah Project, a coal mining operation located approximately 22 kilometres west of Emerald.

Both open-cut and underground operations are being considered at Taroborah. Coal will be processed onsite before being transported to Gladstone Port via the Central West and Blackwater rail systems. Taroborah has an estimated mine life of up to 25 years, including construction and rehabilitation periods.

#### About Shenhua

Shenhua International Group Pty Ltd is a Brisbane-based subsidiary of Henan Shenhua Group Co Ltd, one of China's largest multi-industrial, multi-regional enterprises. The group is engaged in coal exploration and mining, electricity generation and electrolytic aluminum production.

Brisbane-based geological and engineering company IMC Mining Group has been

working on Shenhua's behalf to complete exploration and technical evaluation for the Taroborah Project and to oversee the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

#### Consulting the community

One of the main outcomes of the EIS process is the development of a Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) for the project.

A community engagement process is an important part of developing the SIMP. It will make those who are interested in and affected by the project aware of project plans and developments.

Through this process, groups, individuals and local authorities that may be impacted by the project will be consulted, and given the opportunity to raise and address their issues and concerns.





## Dave Thomas Project Manager

### What's your role on the project?

I manage the process of developing the project, from initial exploration and geological studies through to project design and feasibility analysis, tenement management, Government and community liaison, environmental management and project permitting.

### What's your background?

I am a mining engineer, originally from the farming state of Iowa, USA. I have been working in the resources industry since 1982, originally in the gold and industrial minerals (potash and borate) sectors, and in the coal sector since 1986. I moved to Australia with my family in 1997 and have worked in all of the coal basins in this country.

### What is the hardest part of your job?

Balancing the needs of the project with the rights and needs of the land owners and the mining regulations. Happily, I think this balancing act has been fairly successful.

### What will be the effect on the community?

*The Taroborah project  
provides a great opportunity  
for the mine's development  
to become an asset for the  
community.*

I believe that the Taroborah project provides a great opportunity for the mine's development to become an asset for the community.

Given Taroborah's relatively close proximity to the regional hub of Emerald, Shenhua see the opportunity to provide employment for local citizens and engage local contractors with suitable qualifications. Shenhua will also encourage their employees recruited from elsewhere to move to Emerald with their families rather than operate on a fly in/fly out basis.

Shenhua will investigate ways to enhance the local community and attract the necessary workforce, such as providing training for local employees and contractors to meet the required skill sets; enhancing existing education, medical and daycare facilities; and investing in regional sports through sponsoring local teams and programs.

### What do you hope to achieve?

Well, obviously, we hope to develop a world-class coal mining operation that achieves high productivity and low cost of mining. Importantly, we aim to combine this achievement with minimising impact on the surrounding ecological and social environments.

### How will you mark success at Taroborah?

Success at Taroborah will be the development of a world-class coal mining operation that causes minimal harm to the environment, while creating employment opportunities for local citizens and businesses and enhancing the welfare of the Emerald community.

### How do you relax at the end of the day?

After a day's work, I enjoy going home to have a couple of drinks with my wife, eat dinner with the kids, watch a bit of television or play some board games with the family, and read with my youngest daughter before she goes to bed. And hopefully the employees at Taroborah will be able to enjoy these same things.

# Protecting the community and

A concern for every community where a large project is being developed is what impact that project will have upon the community and the environment.

Not every impact is a bad one. Increased employment, development and the opportunities for new businesses are some of the positive impacts that large projects bring to a community and the surrounding district. But poorly planned projects can have negative impacts as well. These should be a concern for the community, and also for companies develop-

ing projects.

Shenhua take these matters very seriously. We want to make sure the benefits of what we are doing are shared by as many in the Emerald community as possible. We also want to make sure that we minimise the potential to inconvenience the community, or to cause detriment to the environment.

*We want to make sure the benefits of what we are doing are shared by as many in the Emerald community as possible.*

This is a tricky task. Any coal mine which produces up to 5 million tonnes of coal each year is going to be a substantial operation. During the life of the mine, the objective is to contain the impacts as much as possible to the confines of the mining lease, and to minimise the impacts outside the lease. While the mine is operating, we also have to plan for its eventual closure, and take steps to ensure that as far as possible there is little lasting evidence of its operation.

However, our concern to do the right thing, on its own, is not the sole mechanism regulating the project's operations. The State Government has established a framework for mining developments, and provided legislation that we must comply with. The Federal Government has also passed environmental legislation that imposes obligations on us in the way we develop the mine. We take all of this seriously, and are diligent about complying.

The starting point is the baseline collection of data on the project. Shenhua has spent the past five years exploring and analysing the Taraborah area to identify where the coal is, as well as the specifics of its occurrence and how it has been deposited. This has also helped us better understand the environment around, under and above the coal deposit. As we have explored, we have disclaimed parts of the exploration tenement, and narrowed our





# and the environment

focus on viable coal deposits.

Although some people might have wanted us to do this exploration faster, we wanted to get it right, and that takes time. We now think we have a good understanding of the coal deposit, as well as the surrounding underground environment. We are, however, continuing to monitor the local underground water systems, which is one of our key priorities.

In January 2012, Shenhua prepared an Initial Advice Statement, or IAS. This document lets the Government and the community know the sort of project we are considering, as well as identifying all the potential impacts, and the legislation with which we must comply.

Also at that time, we prepared a draft Terms of Reference for an Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS. This document proposes to the Government and the community what we think the impacts are, and what we will need to address as we prepare the EIS.

The draft Terms of Reference were made available to every group that might have an interest in the project. These people included not just landholders and people living near the mine, but also Council, community groups such as Agforce, the Chamber of Commerce, and environmental groups. It was also circulated to various Government departments and made available to the general public on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's website.

Once the community comments had been received and considered, and the final Terms of Reference issued by the Government in August 2012, we began preparing the EIS in earnest.

As we have done so far throughout the EIS

process, we intend to continue working with the community to make sure we understand your concerns. We will, as far as possible,

use your feedback to shape the project, and what we plan to do.

All of this consultation, as well as the work of our environmental scientists

and engineers, will lead to the preparation of a draft EIS. Again, we will give the community the opportunity to read what we propose to do, and make submissions, before a final report is given to the Government. Only after the EIS is completed will the Government decide whether to let our project go ahead or not, and what conditions it will impose upon the operation.

So, how can you get involved? You can come along to a community information session – there is one planned to be held in Emerald on 16 May 2013 – or you can write to us or call us for further information, or just

to have a chat. Details of how to contact us are in this newsletter.

You can also tell us about yourself. If you are part of a community group in the district, feel free to tell

us about what you do. The same applies to local businesses. For us to be good neighbours, we need to know who our neighbours are. Remember, we are happy to talk to everybody, not just those people who feel they might be affected by the project in some way.

At Shenhua, we really do want to do the right thing by the community. In future editions of this newsletter we will keep you informed about the project, and some of the new and different things we plan to do to make a positive contribution to the Central Highlands.

*During the life of the mine,  
the objective is to contain the  
impacts as much as possible to  
the confines of the mining lease.*

*For us to be good neighbours,  
we need to know who our  
neighbours are. Remember, we  
are happy to talk to everybody.*

# Community information session

Emerald residents and others interested in or affected by the project are invited to be included in the community consultation program. The next community information session is happening soon:

Date: Thursday, 16 May 2013

Time: 3pm – 7pm

Location: Supper Room  
Emerald Town Hall  
Egerton Street  
Emerald

## Contact us

Please contact us if you would like more information or to get involved.

Email: [info@taroborah.com.au](mailto:info@taroborah.com.au)

Call: 1800 647 446

Post: GPO Box 2579  
Brisbane QLD 4000



# Louisa Dufty

Director of Nursing/Operations

Manager, Emerald Hospital

## What are the challenges in providing medical services in a regional town?

Isolation and distance from specialist services will always be a challenge; however, the development of “telemedicine” is helping. An ongoing challenge is attracting permanent senior medical officers with proceduralist skills as well as skilled rural nursing and midwifery staff to provide the community with the same level of care as they would receive in any larger coastal city.

## Do you see any additional challenges for a rural town close to a large mining operation?

Workers in town who are fly in/fly out and get sick don't know any of the GPs. So they come to the emergency department, which creates a traffic jam of people with GP-type issues where acutely unwell people need to be the priority for care. If all of the mines would “adopt” a GP practice then their workers would have a local GP who they would get to know. The Emerald GP would be able to work closely with a worker's hometown GP and the outcome would be a continuous flow of care between home and Emerald for any ongoing health problems.

## What about a model of a live-in workforce, who are likely to be younger, some with children?

Younger age demographics are well and healthy generally. Young families need access to family GP, antenatal and birthing services. All those services are available in Emerald and are of a very high standard.

## Talking about birthing service, can you care for a woman who has a premature birth?

If a woman presented in preterm labour, which is 35 weeks or less, staff follow the guidelines and organise a transfer of care to a higher level facility, either Rockhampton or Brisbane depending on how early. If a preterm baby was



born at Emerald Hospital, there are flying specialist services that can fly in and assist the hospital doctors and midwives until the Retrieval Services from Brisbane can arrive and airlift mother and baby to a tertiary level of care.

## What about demand for physiotherapy, occupational therapy, rehab, those types of services due to the mining population?

Residents can access a large range of allied health services in Emerald. Some of the mines also contract dietitians, personal trainers and physio visits. The workers report a high degree of satisfaction with the level of advice and support they receive from these allied health services.

*Young families need access to GP, antenatal and birthing services. All those services are available in Emerald and are of a very high standard.*

## If you had a magic wand, what would you like to do here?

I'd like to provide a “known midwife” model of care for all women. At the moment, Emerald is able to provide this for 50% of births. Under

this model, women are allocated a midwife who becomes their primary carer for all antenatal care, for birth and for postnatal care in the home. With many people living away from their normal family support system, the model works especially well. The women are really happy and feel well supported, the midwives come here to work because we have the model, and because the family doesn't have to travel away there is no lost time from work apart from the parental leave the men have off.