

Taroborah Coal Project Media Release – 22/05/13

TAROBORAH COMMUNITY INFORMATION DAY BRINGS IN THE CROWDS

Almost 100 people made the trip to Emerald Town Hall last week to learn more about the Taroborah Coal Project.

Project Manager Dave Thomas said the community information day was a great success.

"We were very happy that so many people came along to find out about the project and it seemed that the community went away with the information they wanted," he said.

The Taroborah project is located 22km west of Emerald on the Capricorn Highway. The project is being developed by the Shenhua International Group Pty Ltd, a Chinese energy and aluminium company.

Both underground and opencut operations are being considered at Taroborah, and the mine would have an estimated life of up to 25 years, including construction and rehabilitation periods.

Mr Thomas said the two topics that elicited the most interest were employment opportunities and possible impacts on groundwater.

"We certainly had a lot of people interested in working at the mine, with some even bringing their resumes," he said.

The mine is expected to create between 250 and 330 jobs during the production phase.

"Our preferred option is to have a locally employed workforce, rather than a fly-in/fly-out operation," Mr Thomas said.

"But we still have to do more work to ensure that this approach is viable. A lot depends on the available workforce, as well as community support of the project. We hope to be able to make an announcement about that soon."

The other topic many people asked about was the impact on groundwater near the proposed mine.

"There will definitely be some impact on groundwater at the site but because of the geology, we believe it will be very localised and not permanent," Mr Thomas said.

"Right now we are doing additional work to see if our current understanding of the hydrology is correct. This is important for both the project and the local landholders, so we want to get it right."

Anyone with queries about the project is encouraged to email info@taroborah.com.au or to phone toll free on 1800 647 446.