

# **Taroborah Coal Project Media Release – 10/09/14**

## **SHENHUO TAKES ON COMMUNITY CONCERNS ABOUT WATER**

The company behind the Taroborah Coal Project, west of Emerald, has responded positively to community concerns about possible effects on the local aquifer. Shenhua International Group, the proponent, said a number of submissions on the Draft EIS had raised the prospect of the aquifer within and surrounding the project area being affected by the proposed operations, and they were keen to do something about it.

Shenhua has advised the regulator that they think it is a good idea to put water make good agreements in place with local landholders, as suggested by a number of people who made submissions on the Draft EIS.

"A number of landholders are worried that their groundwater bores will be affected from mining at Taroborah and asked if we would be willing to sign water make good agreements. We think this is a good idea, and have written to the regulator to say we intend to do this," Project Manager Dave Thomas said.

"There is no statutory obligation for water make good agreements on coal projects in Queensland. However Shenhua recognises the importance of local aquifers to the livelihood of the nearby landholders, and takes the view that sometimes it is important to do more than what is required under the statutes, and this is one of those occasions."

A water make good agreement obliges a company to make good any impairment of a landholder's use of an aquifer that results from the company's resource activities. It is signed between the company and a landholder whose current use of an aquifer could potentially be affected.

Mr Thomas said the company has already started working on the best way to do this.

"We have already been in consultations with the government to establish the best way to do things. There is no real standard form for such an agreement in the coal industry, so that has been a bit of a challenge," Mr Thomas said.

"There are a few technicalities, such as working out what is the normal flow of each bore, and talking to the landholders about what constitutes impairment. We are working on that, and will be talking to the landholders in due course after we have put together some recommendations which will be fair to all concerned."

Mr Thomas said Shenhua was keen to hear any views about these matters, which can be sent by email through the project's website, [www.taroborah.com.au](http://www.taroborah.com.au).

"We want to do the right thing, and work with the community to achieve that," Mr Thomas said.