



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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# Windsor invites Water Minister to visit mining area

Following media comments attributed to a representative of Shenhua Energy that they will at some time in the future mine under the Namoi River, the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has invited the Federal Minister for Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water, Senator the Hon Penny Wong to visit the area at her earliest convenience.

Mr Windsor said that Senior Vice-President of Shenhua Energy Mr Wang Jinli is quoted in the Financial Review on May 3 in part as saying, "Shenhua's development will not have a big impact on the environment because the location of the mine is on high country and away from the river system. In future there will be some mining under the river but this will be deep enough and engineered not to impact on the river."

Mr Windsor wants the Minister to fully understand the impact that this could have on not only the local area but also on the Murray Darling system.

"Comments like those of the Shenhua Vice President should ring loud alarm bells with regard to the impact on not only the local area but also the impact on the Murray Darling system.

"Whilst there may well be areas within Shenhua's mining exploration licence that are suitable for mining, I believe mining under the river is fraught with danger particularly when so little is known about the interconnectivity of the surface and groundwater systems.

"This is the very reason for the need for the independent study of the impact of mining on the water systems of the Namoi Valley taking place BEFORE any mining does.

"I invite Minister Wong to come and see for herself the geography of the area in question so that she better understands what is being proposed and its potential impacts," Mr Windsor said.

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