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Mr Paul Freeman  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: [paul.freeman@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:paul.freeman@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Freeman

**Dendrobium Mine Expansion Project - Submissions Report - (SSD\_8194)**

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) refers to your email of 19 February 2020 requesting comments on the Submission Report for the Dendrobium Mine Expansion Project.

Dendrobium Coal Pty Ltd (Dendrobium) is seeking a project approval under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) to expand its underground mining operations.

Dendrobium Coal also holds Environment Protection Licence number 3241 for Dendrobium Mine.

The EPA provided comments on the project to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPE) in a letter dated 20 September 2019 (DOC19/826671). The EPA requested further justification and information concerning the assessment of noise, air and water quality impacts.

The Submissions Report contains a revised noise impact assessment that has addressed the EPA's concerns about the application of the Noise Policy for Industry in the development of project specific trigger levels.

The Submissions Report predicts that a single residence will be affected by residual noise exceedances of 3-5 dB(A) above PSTL's and may be eligible for mitigation measures available in the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy. The EPA recommends that the existing Noise Monitoring Plan for the project be updated to include assessment at this receptor.

The expanded air quality assessment includes further details of construction impacts, incremental changes to Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility emissions and a worst-case scenario analysis as requested by the EPA.

The EPA recommends that the proposed real time air quality monitors be located to enable assessment of compliance with air quality at the most sensitive receptors D0007 & D0117. These monitors should be included in the updated Air Quality Management Plan for the project.

Phone 131 555  
Phone 02 4224 4100  
(from outside NSW)

Fax 02 4224 4110  
TTY 131 677  
ABN 43 692 285 758

PO Box 513  
WOLLONGONG  
NSW 2520

Level 3  
84 Crown Street  
WOLLONGONG NSW  
2500 AUSTRALIA

[info@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@epa.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)

The EPA considers that the air and noise impact assessments now satisfactorily meet the EPA's guidelines for consideration of environmental impacts from the proposal and can be used in determination of the project.

In relation to the discharge of mine water to Allans Creek, the EPA has assessed the EGi water quality modelling report referenced in the Submissions Report. The EGi report contained a geochemical assessment that showed project levels of bioavailable chemicals of concern in Allans Creek will be lower than Australian and New Zealand Guideline (ANZG 2018) default guideline values.

The proposed discharge of mine water from Dendrobium Mine will meet existing licence limits and no changes are necessary to the EPA licence.

If you have questions regarding the above, please phone Andrew Couldridge on (02) 4224 4100.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PB' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

02/03/20

**PETER BLOEM**  
**Manager Regional Operations**  
**Environment Protection Authority**