



SECTION 5

Engagement

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5 ENGAGEMENT

South32 is committed to continuing open and constructive dialogue with the local community and stakeholders. This section describes the consultation undertaken prior to and during the preparation of this EIS, and the ongoing community initiatives and consultation programs South32 has established in the region. Where relevant, references are provided to the EIS sections and/or specialist appendices where the issues raised are considered and addressed.

5.1 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The consultation undertaken during the preparation of this EIS is in accordance with the SEARs (Attachment 1) and is adequate and appropriate for a State Significant Development under Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

Open communication with stakeholders has been encouraged during consultation. Consultation conducted during the preparation of this EIS has provided the opportunity to identify issues of concern or interest to stakeholders and to consider these issues within this EIS.

5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CONSULTATION

5.2.1 State Government Agencies

Consultation with key NSW State Government agencies in relation to the Project commenced prior to submission of the application for Project SEARs and Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) in December 2016.

South32 continues to consult with relevant NSW State Government agencies on a regular basis in relation to the current operations of the Dendrobium Mine.

Department of Planning and Environment

The DPE has been consulted regularly during the operation of the Dendrobium Mine on implementation of the existing Development Consent DA 60-03-2001, assessment of various modifications and with respect to the Project.

The application for Project SEARs was lodged with the DPE in December 2016, and the SEARs were issued on 6 February 2017, with supplementary SEARs issued by the DPE on 18 September 2018.

A number of Project briefing meetings have also been held with the DPE. A summary of the consultation with the DPE regarding the Project is provided in Table 5-1, along with references to the relevant part of the EIS where issues raised have been considered and addressed.

Division of Resources and Geoscience (within the Department of Planning and Environment)

South32 presented a Conceptual Project Development Plan to the DRG on 29 July 2016, prior to lodging the application for Project SEARs with the DPE.

The DRG provided comments and specific input to the Project SEARs. A copy of the correspondence is provided in Attachment 2 of the SEARs (Attachment 1).

Key issues raised by the DRG in relation to the SEARs included:

- identification of post-mining land uses, including rehabilitation objectives, domains and desired outcomes for the Project (Sections 7.1 and 7.2); and
- implementation of monitoring and management measures regarding rehabilitation (Sections 7.3 to 7.8).

The issues raised by the DRG have been considered during the preparation of this EIS and are addressed in Section 7.

Correspondence was sent to the DRG in March 2019, providing an update on the Project description and scope of assessment.

A further meeting with DRG occurred in May 2019. The key focus of the discussions was the significance of the resource and project economics (Appendix L).

Office of Environment and Heritage

Consultation undertaken with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) during the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) is summarised in Appendix F.

Consultation with the OEH regarding the Project commenced in 2017 with the receipt of the OEH's comments and specific input to the Project SEARs, which were documented in a letter dated 25 January 2017. A copy of the correspondence is provided in Attachment 2 of the SEARs (Attachment 1).

**Table 5-1
Consultation Summary – NSW Department of Planning and Environment**

Date of Consultation	Consultation Context	Key Issues Raised
August 2016	Briefing regarding the Project (and the Dendrobium Mine Area 3B SMP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic context of the future of coal in the Illawarra (Section 4.1). • Gas regime in Area 3C (Section 2.2.8). • Avon Dam and Cordeaux Dam setbacks (Section 3.5.3 and Appendix A). • Ventilation shafts and surface gas drainage (Sections 3.5.7 and 3.5.8). • Train numbers and operational hours (Sections 3.4.1 and 9.2.2). • Timeframe for the use of the Cordeaux Pit Top (Figure 3-4). • Interaction with Development Consent DA 60-03-2001 (Section 3.15). • Consultation and community engagement (this section). • West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement (Section 3.8.4). • Swamp offsets (Section 6.9.6 and Appendix D). • Baseline data collection (Section 6).
October 2016	Briefing regarding the Project (and the Dendrobium Mine Area 3B SMP and Bulli Seam Operations Modification 2).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with Development Consent DA 60-03-2001 (Section 3.15).
December 2016	Submission of application for Project SEARs.	
January 2017	Interagency meeting and presentation of the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventilation shafts and surface gas drainage (Sections 3.5.7 and 3.5.8). • Depth of cover (Section 3.1). • Geological structures present at Areas 5 and 6 (Section 3.1 and Appendix P). • Project schedule (Sections 3.3 and 3.5). • Water management at pit tops (Section 3.9). • Upland swamp and stream management and mitigation (Sections 6.5, 6.8, 7.3.6 and 7.3.7 and Appendices C and D). • Collection of baseline data (Section 6).
February 2017	Draft SEARs issued.	
September 2018	Supplementary SEARs issued (Attachment 1).	
December 2018	Briefing regarding the Project (mine plan and progress of assessments).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key topics discussed considered the Independent Expert Panel into Mining in the Water Catchment (Section 8.5).
May 2019	Briefing regarding the Project (mine plan and progress of assessment).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail noise (Section 6.14 and Appendix J). • Biodiversity offsets (Section 6.9.6 and Appendix D). • Key stream features and associated setbacks (Sections 3.5.3 and 6.6 and Appendices A and C).
May 2019	Meeting with DPE to provide an update on the preparation of the EIS, progress of assessments and indicative mine plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic context of the future of coal in the Illawarra (Section 4.1). • Gas regime in Area 3C (Section 2.2.8). • Avon Dam and Cordeaux Dam setbacks (Section 3.5.3 and Appendix A). • Interaction with Development Consent DA 60-03-2001 (Section 3.15). • Swamp offsets (Section 6.9.6 and Appendix D). • Submission and public exhibition of the EIS.

Key issues raised by the OEH in relation to the SEARs included:

- the potential impacts on biodiversity, including threatened species, populations and ecological communities (Sections 6.7 and 6.9 and Appendices D and E);
- potential impacts on upland swamps and streams, including proposed offsets and mitigation measures (Sections 6.5, 6.8, 7.3.6 and 7.3.7 and Appendices C and D);
- Aboriginal cultural heritage, including Aboriginal community consultation (Sections 5.2.6 and 6.10 and Appendix F);
- potential impacts to historic heritage (Section 6.11 and Appendix G);
- potential for flooding impacts (Section 6.6 and Appendix C); and
- potential surface and underground mining impacts to the Upper Nepean or Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Areas (Sections 4.5.1 and 6.3).

The issues raised by the OEH have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

A Project meeting was held with the OEH in January 2018 to discuss a number of Project matters. Key issues raised by the OEH at the meeting were generally consistent with the comments and input to the Project SEARs documented in the letter dated 25 January 2017 (Attachment 1).

Further correspondence was sent to the OEH in March 2019, providing an update on the Project description, scope of the water resources assessments and the outcomes of the heritage assessments, as well as an overview of the biodiversity assessment and proposed offset approach.

A meeting was held with the OEH in April 2019 to discuss the key outcomes of the relevant assessments and the proposed biodiversity offset approach.

A summary of consultation with the OEH regarding the Project is provided in Table 5-2, along with references to the relevant parts of the EIS where issues raised have been considered and addressed.

Heritage Division of OEH

Correspondence was sent to the Heritage Division within the OEH in March 2019, providing an overview of the Project and the outcomes of the heritage assessments.

It is anticipated the Heritage Division will provide feedback on relevant assessments following public exhibition of the EIS.

Environment Protection Authority

The EPA is consulted regularly during the operation of the Dendrobium Mine (e.g. for activities at the Dendrobium Pit Top and Cordeaux Pit Top).

**Table 5-2
Consultation Summary – NSW Office of Environment and Heritage**

Date of Consultation	Consultation Context	Key Issues Raised
January 2017	Comments and specific input to the Project SEARs documented in a letter dated 25 January 2017.	
January 2018	Briefing regarding the Project (mine plan, approach to biodiversity assessment and outcomes of ACHA).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora, fauna and aquatic ecology survey effort (Sections 6.7 and 6.9 and Appendices D and E). • Minimisation of potential impacts on Koala habitat (Section 6.9 and Appendix D). • Assessment of catchment-wide impacts on streams (Section 6.6 and Appendix C). • ACHA and consultation (Sections 5.2.6 and 6.10 and Appendix F).
March 2019	Correspondence regarding update to Project description and scope of relevant assessments.	
April 2019	Briefing regarding the Project (assessment outcomes and biodiversity offset approach).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity assessment methodology and offsetting strategy (Sections 6.8 and 6.9 and Appendix D). • Aboriginal heritage (Section 6.10 and Appendix F). • Mine constraints (Section 3.5.3). • Project mitigation measures (Sections 6 and 8).

Consultation with the EPA regarding the Project commenced in 2017 with the receipt of the EPA’s comments and specific input to the Project SEARs, which were documented in a letter dated 25 January 2017. A copy of the correspondence is provided in Attachment 2 of the SEARs (Attachment 1).

Key issues raised by the EPA in relation to the SEARs included:

- on-site surface water management (Section 3.9);
- sewage treatment and disposal (Section 3.11.2);
- underground mine ventilation (Sections 3.5.7 and 3.5.8);
- potential impact of additional waste emplacement at the West Cliff Stage 3 and Stage 4 Coal Wash Emplacement (Section 3.8.4); and
- potential noise and air quality impacts (Sections 6.13 to 6.17 and Appendices I and J).

The issues raised by the EPA have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

A Project meeting was held with the EPA in February 2018 to discuss a number of Project matters. Key issues raised by the EPA at the meeting were generally consistent with the comments and input to the Project SEARs documented in the letter dated 25 January 2017 (Attachment 1).

Correspondence was sent to the EPA in May 2019, providing an update on the Project Description as well as an offer for an additional briefing.

A summary of the consultation with the EPA regarding the Project is provided in Table 5-3, along with references to the relevant part of the EIS where issues raised have been considered and addressed.

WaterNSW

WaterNSW has been consulted during the operation of the Dendrobium Mine, specifically in relation to the potential impacts of mining operations on the Metropolitan Special Area and water supply infrastructure. Regular meetings are held between South32 and WaterNSW, including regular updates on the Project.

WaterNSW were provided with an initial briefing regarding the Project in September 2016, specifically in relation to the lodgement of the PEA.

In January 2017, comments and specific input to the Project SEARs were provided by WaterNSW, which were documented in a letter dated 30 January 2017.

A copy of the correspondence is provided in Attachment 2 of the SEARs (Attachment 1).

Key issues raised by WaterNSW in relation to the SEARs included:

- impact on the Metropolitan Special Area, including Avon and Cordeaux Dams and associated water supply infrastructure in relation to subsidence impacts (Section 6.3 and Appendix A);
- consideration of potential impacts on future water supply infrastructure (Section 4 and 6.3);
- consideration of WaterNSW’s mining principles (Attachment 6);

**Table 5-3
Consultation Summary – NSW Environmental Protection Authority**

Date of Consultation	Consultation Context	Key Issues Raised
January 2017	Comments and specific input to the Project SEARs documented in a letter dated 25 January 2017.	
February 2018	Briefing regarding the Project (Project overview and approach to noise assessment).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of noise and air quality impacts from Dendrobium Mine surface facilities against contemporary assessment standards (Sections 6.13 to 6.17 and Appendices I and J). • Consideration of covering coal wagons (Section 9.2.2). • Discharge to Allans Creek (Section 6.6 and Appendix C). • Erosion and sediment control at ventilation shaft sites (Section 6.6 and Appendix C).
May 2019	Correspondence regarding update to Project Description.	

- consideration of the strategic management objectives of the Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management 2015 (WaterNSW and OEH, 2015) (Attachment 6);
- potential impact on groundwater and surface water (Sections 6.5 and 6.6 and Appendices B and C); and
- general monitoring and management measures to be adopted (Sections 6 and 8).

The issues raised by WaterNSW have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

A number of Project meetings have been held with WaterNSW to provide updates to the Project description and present outcomes of relevant assessments.

A summary of consultation with WaterNSW regarding the Project is provided in Table 5-4, along with references to the relevant part of the EIS where issues raised have been considered and addressed.

Dams Safety Committee

Consultation with the DSC regarding the Project commenced in 2017 with the receipt of the DSC's comments and specific input to the Project SEARs, which were documented in a letter dated 24 January 2017. A copy of the correspondence is provided in Attachment 2 of the SEARs (Attachment 1).

**Table 5-4
Consultation Summary – WaterNSW**

Date of Consultation	Consultation Context	Key Issues Raised
September 2016	Meeting regarding the Project (upcoming lodgement of PEA).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic context of the future of coal in the Illawarra (Section 4.1). • Project overview (Section 3). • Longwall mining in Areas 5 and 6 (Section 3.5). • Continued use of Cordeaux Pit Top (Section 3.4.6). • Surface disturbance for ventilation and gas drainage infrastructure in the Metropolitan Special Area (Sections 3.5.7, 3.5.8 and 6.9).
December 2016	Notification of PEA lodgement.	
January 2017	Comments and specific input to the Project SEARs documented in a letter dated 31 January 2017.	
February 2018	Advice on potential future water supply infrastructure including a potential new 'Lower Cordeaux' Dam, a tunnel from Burrawong to Avon Dam, a tunnel from Avon Dam to the new Lower Cordeaux Dam and a tunnel from Lower Cordeaux Dam to Broughtons Pass Weir.	
April 2018	Briefing regarding the Project (Project overview and preliminary outcomes of subsidence assessment).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illawarra Coal operations (Section 2.2). • Project overview (Section 3). • WaterNSW input into the assessment process. • Subsidence effects and predictions (Section 6.3 and Appendix A).
November 2018	Briefing regarding the Project (Project overview and preliminary outcomes of assessments).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine constraints and longwall setbacks (Section 3.5.3). • Surface water yields to WaterNSW dams (Section 6.6 and Appendix C). • Consideration of potential subsidence impacts on future WaterNSW assets (Section 6.3 and Appendix A).
December 2018	Briefing regarding the Project (Project overview and preliminary outcomes of assessments).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity assessment (Sections 6.8 and 6.9 and Appendix D). • Aboriginal heritage (Section 6.10 and Appendix F). • Potential management works and offsets within water Special Catchment Areas (Sections 6.6 and 9.3.6).

Key issues raised by the DSC in relation to the SEARs included:

- consideration of geological structures in the vicinity of the Project underground mining area, the Avon and Cordeaux Dams (Appendix P);
- potential impacts associated with groundwater (Section 6.5 and Appendix B);
- potential impacts on water supply infrastructure due to subsidence, and proposed monitoring measures (Section 6.3 and Appendix A); and
- risk assessment incorporating dam safety (Appendix M).

The DSC is consulted as part of the operation of the Dendrobium Mine, specifically in relation to the potential impacts of mining operations on water supply infrastructure. Regular meetings are held between South32 and the DSC, including updates on the Project.

The issues raised by the DSC have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

Roads and Maritime Services

The NSW RMS comments and specific input to the Project SEARs were documented in a letter dated 8 February 2017 (Attachment 1). In summary, the issues raised by the RMS were in relation to:

- infrastructure required to ameliorate potential traffic impacts and safety impacts associated with the Project (Section 6.12 and Appendix H); and
- potential environmental impacts of proposed road works within the road reserve (Section 6).

The issues raised by the RMS have been considered during the preparation of this EIS and are addressed in Section 6.12 and Appendix H.

A Project meeting was held with the RMS on 25 January 2018 to present an overview of the Project, as well as the outcomes of the Road Transport Assessment. Key issues raised at the meeting were generally consistent with the comments and input to the Project SEARs documented in the letter dated 8 February 2017 (Attachment 1).

Correspondence was sent to the RMS in March 2019, providing an update on the Project description and preliminary outcomes of the Road Transport Assessment, as well as an offer for an additional briefing (Appendix H).

Department of Industry

Consultation with the DI – Lands and Water (within the DI) is discussed below.

Lands and Water Division

Correspondence was sent to the Lands and Water Division in March 2019, providing an update to the Project Description and scope of assessments, as well as an offer for a briefing.

It is anticipated that the DI – Lands and Water will provide feedback on relevant assessments following public exhibition of the EIS.

Department of Primary Industries

The DPI provided comments and specific input to the Project SEARs, which were documented in a letter dated 25 January 2017 (Attachment 1).

Key issues raised by the DPI in relation to the SEARs included:

- aquatic ecology (Section 6.7 and Appendix E);
- potential impacts on surface and groundwater sources, including licensing requirements (Sections 6.5 and 6.6, Appendices B and C and Attachment 7);
- considerations in relation to the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (AIP) (NSW Government, 2012) (Attachment 7); and
- post-mining land uses, final void management and rehabilitation measures (Section 7).

The issues raised by the DPI have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

Correspondence was sent to the DPI in March 2019, providing an update on the Project description as well as an offer for a briefing.

Additionally, consultation with the DPI – Agriculture and DPI – Fisheries divisions is discussed below.

Department of Primary Industries - Agriculture

Correspondence was issued to DPI Agriculture in March 2019. A response was received directing further correspondence to Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR). A follow up letter was sent to NRAR in March 2019 providing an update on the Project and offer for a briefing.

Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries

Correspondence was sent to the DPI – Fisheries in March 2019, providing an update to the Project description and scope of the water resources and biodiversity assessments (including aquatic ecology), as well as an offer for a briefing.

It is anticipated that the DPI – Fisheries will provide feedback on relevant assessments following public exhibition of the EIS.

Other State Government Agencies

The following State Government agencies were provided with a letter in March 2019, summarising the Project and scope of assessment:

- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service;
- Transport for NSW:
 - A briefing on the Project assessment and South32's management of subsidence impacts to relevant infrastructure was presented to Transport for NSW in March 2018.
- Subsidence Advisory NSW:
 - A briefing on the Project assessment and indicative mine plan was presented to Subsidence Advisory NSW in May 2019.
- NSW Rural Fire Service;
- NSW Spatial Services Division (within the Department of Finance, Service and Innovation);
- NSW Health;
- South East Local Land Services;
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services; and
- NSW Heritage Council.

These State Government agencies did not provide specific input to the SEARs and did not request additional briefings with South32 to discuss the Project.

It is anticipated that State Government agencies will provide feedback on relevant assessments following public exhibition of the EIS.

5.2.2 Local Government Agencies

Wollongong City Council

Consultation with the Wollongong City Council continues to be undertaken regularly in relation to the current operation of the Dendrobium Mine.

In regard to the Project, the Wollongong City Council provided comments and specific input to the Project SEARs which are documented in a letter dated 7 February 2017 (Attachment 1). In summary, the issues raised by the Wollongong City Council were in relation to:

- subsidence and water catchment management (Section 6.3 and Appendix A); and
- potential impacts to transport associated with the Project (Section 6.12 and Appendix H).

The issues raised by the Wollongong City Council have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

A briefing was held with the Wollongong City Council on 28 September 2017 to present an overview of the Project.

A further briefing was held on 29 April 2019 in regard to the Project. The key topics of discussion were surrounding South32 as a valued contributor to the Illawarra economy, the role of coal in the local steel making sector and South32's approach to the assessment of its environmental impacts in preparation of the EIS.

Wollongong City Council continues to have representation on the Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC).

Wollondilly Shire Council

Consultation with the Wollondilly Shire Council continues to be undertaken regularly in relation to the current operation of the Dendrobium Mine.

The Wollondilly Shire Council provided comments and specific input to the Project SEARs which are documented in an email dated 10 February 2017 (Attachment 1). Wollondilly Shire Council raised the subject of fauna surveys, particularly focused on the identification of Koala habitat as a key issue (Section 6.9 and Appendix D).

South 32 briefed the Wollondilly Shire Council in April 2019 in regard to the Project. The key topics of discussion were the company's employment and economic contribution to the local region through the operation of its mines situated within the LGA (Appendix L), interactions with local catchments and waterways (Appendix C), and the management of flora and fauna (Appendix D).

Wingecarribee Shire Council

Correspondence was sent to the Wingecarribee Shire Council in March 2019, offering a project briefing.

Council responded that they were aware of the proposal, had previously been briefed and did not require further information.

Further opportunities for a project briefing will be offered during and post the exhibition phase of the EIS.

5.2.3 Federal Government Agencies

Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy

The Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) provided comments and specific input to the Project SEARs in a document dated 6 March 2017 (Attachment 1). In summary, the issues raised by the DoEE were in relation to:

- general avoidance, mitigation and offset measures proposed (Sections 6 and 8);
- potential impacts on biodiversity (Sections 6.7, 6.8 and 6.9 and Appendices D and E);
- potential impacts on the water resources (Sections 6.3, 6.5 and 6.6 and Appendices A to C); and
- South32's environmental record (Section 4.4.1).

The issues raised by the DoEE have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

5.2.4 Infrastructure Owners and Service Providers

Consultation has been conducted, and will continue to be conducted, with WaterNSW, RMS and Transport for NSW regarding potential subsidence impacts on their infrastructure and assets (Section 5.2.1). Consultation with other infrastructure owners and service providers is described below.

BlueScope Steel

BlueScope Steel is the owner and operator of the Port Kembla Steelworks. The Dendrobium CPP is located on land owned by BlueScope Steel.

South32 currently supplies approximately 60% of BlueScope Steel's coking coal requirements.

Additionally, BlueScope Steel supplies the Dendrobium CPP with recycled water as well as the energy requirements not supplied by Endeavour Energy.

BlueScope representatives were briefed on the Project in March 2019. The key themes of discussions surrounded the Project's linkages with current and future operations at the steelworks, as well as the ongoing socio-economic contribution of the two industries to the Illawarra region.

SIMEC

SIMEC is the owner and operator of Tahmoor Colliery, also located in the Southern Coalfields, which supplies coking coal to international and domestic customers. SIMEC also uses the coal export facilities at Port Kembla Coal Terminal.

In April 2019, SIMEC were briefed on the Project.

Port Kembla Coal Terminal

The Port Kembla Coal Terminal exports product coal following processing at the Dendrobium CPP.

Port Kembla Coal Terminal representatives were briefed on the Project in April 2019.

Pacific National

Pacific National owns and operates coal transport locomotives, and provide the key coal transport service for the transport of ROM coal from the underground mining operations along the Kemira Valley Rail Line.

Pacific National were briefed on the Project in April 2019. An overview of the Project and mine plan was discussed with the Pacific National representatives. Further discussions focused on the importance of the Illawarra coal industry to Pacific National's southern NSW operations.

Sydney Water

Sydney Water owns and maintains a number of water pipelines within the vicinity of the Project underground mining area.

Correspondence was sent to Sydney Water in September 2018, providing an overview of the Project and description of relevant Sydney Water assets, as well as an offer for a meeting.

Jemena Gas Networks

The Jemena Gas Networks owns and operates the Eastern Gas Pipeline (EGP), as well as an adjacent natural gas pipeline. The gas pipelines and associated infrastructure cross the proposed Area 6.

Correspondence was sent to the Jemena Gas Networks in September 2018, providing an overview of the Project and description of relevant Jemena Gas Works assets, as well as an offer for a meeting.

TransGrid

TransGrid owns and maintains the Avon-to-Macarthur 330 kV electricity transmission line (ETL) located to the west of the Cordeaux Dam. The ETL and associated infrastructure overlie Area 6.

Correspondence was sent to TransGrid in September 2018, providing an overview of the Project and description of relevant TransGrid assets, as well as an offer for a meeting.

Endeavour Energy

Endeavour Energy owns and maintains a number of low voltage (33 kV) aerial powerlines that cross the extent of the proposed underground mining areas.

An initial prefeasibility application for a proposed ETL connection was submitted in March 2017, with a response received from Endeavour Energy in October 2017.

Correspondence was sent to Endeavour Energy in September 2018, providing an overview of the Project and description of relevant Endeavour Energy assets, as well as an offer for a meeting.

An application for technical review of the proposed ETL was submitted in February 2019, with a revised application, including proposed loading information, submitted early March 2019 (UIL5179).

Further correspondence was provided in April 2019 on likely energy requirements for the Project.

Telstra

Telstra owns a network of fibre optic cables that supply telecommunications services to the Project. This network is located to the east of proposed underground mining Area 6 and the Cordeaux Dam.

Correspondence was sent to Telstra in September 2018, providing an overview of the Project and description of relevant Telstra assets, as well as an offer for a meeting.

Australian Rail Track Corporation

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) owns the Maldon-Dombarton Rail Corridor which is located within proposed underground mining Area 5. Construction of the rail corridor was suspended in 1988, however there is potential for development of this corridor to recommence in the future.

Correspondence was sent to the ARTC in September 2018, providing an overview of the Project and description of relevant ARTC assets, as well as an offer for a meeting.

Further correspondence was provided to the ARTC in May 2019 providing an overview of updates to the Project description.

Social Infrastructure Service Providers

In addition to the consultees described above, the NSW Police and Mount Kembla Public School were interviewed as part of the Social Impact Assessment (Appendix K).

5.2.5 Other Resource Companies

There are no tenements overlapping the Project area that are held by other resource companies. In addition, there are no material interactions between the Dendrobium Mine and any other mining operations not operated by South32.

5.2.6 Public Consultation

Local Community and Affected Landholders

Letters were sent to a number of residents and local community groups in January 2017 to provide an update on the proposed Project and the recent submission of the PEA. Residents were also invited to contact community officers if any further information regarding the Project was desired.

In March 2017, letters were sent to local residents in Mount Kembla, Kembla Heights and areas of Cordeaux Heights, Unanderra and Figtree, to inform them of the Project SEARs, as well as inviting them to participate in anonymous surveys for the Social Impact Assessment. Further details regarding the survey results can be found in Appendix K.

During the preparation of this EIS, Project specific newsletters were produced by South32 and distributed to inform the local community about the Project, and to provide updates on the progress of the EIS, specialist studies and other Project related activities.

The Project newsletters were distributed to:

- local residents;
- DCCC;
- the broader community through placement on the South32 website (Section 5.3.3);
- South32 employees;
- local businesses and suppliers; and
- the local Chambers of Commerce.

Copies of the Project newsletters are provided in Attachment 9.

South32 liaises with the local community in regard to the Project through the established DCCC and Dendrobium Community Consultation Committee – Plan for the Future Working Group (Section 5.3.2).

At the DCCC meeting held in September 2016, South32 introduced the Project to the DCCC members and initiated engagement with the DCCC in regards to the Project.

After the submission of the PEA, South32 presented an overview of the Project and described the key milestones in the planning and assessment process at the DCCC meeting held in February 2017.

At subsequent DCCC meetings, held approximately every two months between April 2017 and February 2019, South32 provided general updates on the EIS, specialist studies and related matters, and described refinements to the Project since the PEA was lodged.

More specific discussions regarding the Project were held in monthly meetings with the Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee – Plan for the Future Working Group. These meetings were summarised and presented at the DCCC meetings.

Community information sessions were held in May 2019 in Unanderra and Kembla Heights. The sessions provided the local residents with an additional opportunity to discuss the Project.

Community consultation for the Project identified there is community concern regarding the effects of the underground coal mining on water catchment values (e.g. water supply/quality) within the Metropolitan Special Area. Consultation also identified that climate change was of concern to the local community, however, it is noted that the majority of those consulted acknowledged the Project resource was metallurgical coal used for steelmaking rather than thermal coal.

Consultation also indicated that noise, dust and traffic are also of concern to the local community in the vicinity of the Dendrobium Mine surface facilities (particularly the Dendrobium Pit Top and Kemira Valley Rail Line). The key issue raised by landowners in close proximity to the Project was in regard to rail noise from the Kemira Valley Rail Line. Previous rail noise reduction programs undertaken at the Dendrobium Mine and mitigation measure to address rail noise are described in Section 6.14.

Consultation indicated that the history of Kembla Heights as a mining village was important to the local community, and the importance of South32 playing an active role in maintaining this heritage.

Issues raised by members of the local community have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

Community Survey

In June 2017 a community survey was conducted as part of the Social Impact Assessment.

The local and wider regional community was encouraged to participate through the distribution of surveys to approximately 900 households within the Dendrobium Mine's Zone of Influence.

A total of 113 survey responses were received, with 52% of responses coming from Mount Kembla/Kembla Heights and a further 33% from Cordeaux Heights. Respondents from Figtree and Unanderra represented 8 and 5% of the total responses, respectively.

Community consultation for the Project for the Social Impact Assessment identified similar issues as those identified in the May 2019 community consultation undertaken by South32.

The potential for increased jobs was the most commonly identified benefit as a result of the Project, and the benefits South32's existing community investment initiatives were also noted (Appendix K).

The Social Impact Assessment similarly identified there is community concern regarding the effects of the underground coal mining on water catchment values and indicated that rail noise, dust and traffic are also of key concern to the local community in the vicinity of the Dendrobium Mine surface facilities (particularly the Dendrobium Pit Top, Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility and Kemira Valley Rail Line) (Appendix K).

The issues raised by the survey responses are presented and addressed in the Social Impact Assessment (Appendix K) and Section 6.20.2.

Aboriginal Community

Aboriginal community consultation was undertaken in accordance with, but not limited to, clause 80C of the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation, 2009* and the OEH's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010a).

In accordance with these guidelines, South32 notified the following parties regarding the Project:

- the Office of the Registrar (NSW *Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983*);
- Wollongong Regional Operations Group, OEH;
- Native Title Services Corporation Ltd (NTS Corp Limited);
- National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT);
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services;
- South East Local Land Services;
- Illawarra LALC;
- Tharawal LALC;
- Wollongong City Council;

- Wollondilly Shire Council; and
- Wingecarribee Shire Council.

In addition to the written notifications, public notices were placed in the following publications, seeking registrations from interested Aboriginal parties:

- *Illawarra Mercury* (17 January 2017 and 8 February 2017); and
- *Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser* (18 January 2017 and 8 February 2017).

The public notices invited Aboriginal persons or groups who wished to be consulted in relation to the ACHA for the Project to contact South32.

Subsequent to the above, the following Aboriginal parties/groups registered their interest in being involved in the consultation process:

- Bellambi Indigenous Corporation Gandagara Traditional Owners;
- Biamanga (Murrin Clan/Peoples);
- Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants;
- Cullendulla (Murrin Clan/Peoples);
- Didge Ngunawal Clan;
- Goobah Development Pty Ltd (Murrin Clan/Peoples);
- Gulaga;
- Illawarra LALC;
- Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjaka Working Group;
- Kuwal Cultural Services;
- Montaga;
- Murramarang (Murrin Clan/Peoples);
- Peter Falk Consultancy;
- Tharawal LALC;
- Warra Bingi Nunda Gurri;
- Woronora Plateau Gundungara Elders Council; and
- Wurramay Consultants.

All stakeholders who registered were invited to participate in the ACHA (i.e. the Registered Aboriginal Parties [RAPs]).

South32 offered all RAPs the opportunity to attend a Project information session regarding the proposed methodology and the proposed Project at the Cordeaux Colliery on 6 March 2017. This information session provided an opportunity for the RAPs to provide comments on the proposed methodology, with any additional comments requested by 8 March 2017, allowing for a 28 day review period. Further details regarding this can be found in Appendix F.

All of the RAPs listed were provided with a copy of the draft ACHA for review and comment in January 2018. A revised draft ACHA was distributed for review and comment in October 2018.

A detailed description of the consultation undertaken with the RAPs during the preparation of this EIS is provided in the ACHA (Appendix F).

Staff and Contractors

Approximately 400 personnel are employed at the Dendrobium Mine, including South32 staff and on-site contractors' personnel.

An employee survey was conducted as part of the Social Impact Assessment, with 278 employee responses obtained. The issues raised by the survey responses are presented and addressed in the Social Impact Assessment (Appendix K) and Section 6.20.

In addition, regular meetings and briefings for employees have been conducted during the preparation of this EIS.

Community Groups

South32 has consulted with a wide range of community groups in regard to the Project, including, but not limited to:

- University representatives.
- Local Chambers of Commerce.
- Illawarra First, an assembly of the region's key business leaders who play an integral role in the decision-making.
- Local student groups.
- AusIMM Illawarra Branch representatives.
- Illawarra Innovative Industry Network (i3net).

5.3 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND INVOLVEMENT

5.3.1 Community Relations

South32's corporate stewardship approach with respect to community relations is as follows:

Becoming a trusted, valued and genuine part of the communities we work in is about creating several levels of connection, and investing substantially in each of them.

The first step is encouraging our people to contribute to their community and society, and giving them the time and resources to do that. Most of our people are usually drawn from the local communities, but those from other places are usually as eager to contribute as those born within walking distance.

The next step is to ensure that we are ready and willing to provide support whenever the local communities are in need. We want the people who live near us to know that we're good neighbours who will do whatever we can to help.

The third step is developing long-term projects that aim to deliver positive outcomes for the entire community, for many years to come. We think generationally, and we act now.

5.3.2 Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

The DCCC is established and operates in accordance with Development Consent DA 60-03-2001.

The purpose of the DCCC is to provide a forum for open discussion between representatives of the Dendrobium Mine, the community, the relevant councils and other stakeholders on issues directly relating to the Mine's operations, environmental performance and community relations, and to keep the community informed on these matters.

The DCCC meets every two months and the meeting minutes are available publicly on the South32 website.

As described in Section 5.2.6, during the preparation of the EIS, briefings on the status and progress of the Project were provided and discussed with the members of the DCCC.

Dendrobium Community Enhancement Committee

The Dendrobium Community Enhancement Committee (DCEC) is a sub-committee of the DCCC. Its purpose is to represent community interests and needs in considering applications for funding to the DCEP, as discussed in Section 5.3.4.

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee – Plan for the Future Working Group

The Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee – Plan for the Future Working Group is a sub-committee of the DCCC and provides a forum to discuss Project-related matters and represent community interests.

The Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee – Plan for the Future Working Group meets monthly, and meeting minutes can be found on the South32 website.

5.3.3 Website and Community Call Line

South32 maintains a website within the South32 web domain (<https://www.south32.net/>) for the general public to keep up to date with the operations of the Dendrobium Mine.

The web domain is a significant source of information including:

- Dendrobium Mine operations;
- environmental management plans;
- environmental monitoring results;
- independent environmental audits;
- annual reviews;
- DCCC meeting minutes; and
- Community call line.

South32 maintains a dedicated community call line (1800 102 210) for residents to contact South32 with any questions or concerns they have regarding the Dendrobium Mine.

5.3.4 Sponsorships and Community Initiatives

South32 finances community projects primarily through the allocation of funds through the DCEP. The DCEP was established in 2002 to ensure that the community in the immediate vicinity of the Dendrobium Mine benefits from its operation.

The program is administered by the DCEC. Financial contributions to the community from South32 and the DCEP Fund include:

- an annual contribution of \$0.03 per saleable tonne (plus CPI increases to the DCEP Fund on an annual basis); and
- total investment for community projects from South32 of more than \$1.4M.

Contributions (in the form of sponsorships, donations and in-kind support) to various education, community development, health, environmental, arts, culture and youth services causes in the region have included financial contributions to:

- Conservation Volunteers Australia;
- Mount Kembla Mining Heritage;
- Mount Kembla Translation Association;
- Unanderra and Figtree Residents Association;
- Mt Kembla Public School Parents and Citizens Association;
- Life Education;
- Mt Kembla Memorial Pathway Group;
- Mount Kembla Lowries (football club);
- Greenacres Disability Services Mountain 2 Mountain Challenge;
- Mt Kembla Tennis Club;
- Kembla Heights Bowls and Recreation Club;
- Kembla Heights Wetland Rehabilitation Project; and
- Unanderra Youth Project and Unanderra Homework Club.

South32 would continue to provide funding contributions to community programmes and groups during the life of the Project.

5.3.5 Public Reporting

In accordance with Development Consent DA 60-03-2001 for the Dendrobium Mine, South32 produces an Annual Review and an Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) to review the environmental performance of the Dendrobium Mine. Copies of previous Annual Reviews, AEMRs and environmental monitoring reports are available on the South32 website domain (Section 5.3.3).

South32 also publishes Annual and Quarterly reports for investors which are made available within the South32 web domain (Section 5.3.3).

South32 is registered on the National Greenhouse and Energy Register (registered as South32) (established under section 16 of the Commonwealth NGER Act), which is publicly available on the Commonwealth Clean Energy Regulator website (<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/>). South32's reporting requirements under the NGER Act are described in Sections 4.5.2.

Information regarding relevant EPLs for the Dendrobium Mine is available via a public register on the EPA's website (www.epa.nsw.gov.au).

5.3.6 Contractors and Suppliers

South32 engages more than 140 contractors and suppliers in the region at the existing Dendrobium Mine.

Wherever practicable, South32 uses the services of local providers.

Approval of the Project would allow South32 to continue to support local suppliers and contractors, providing additional security and longevity of employment in the region.