

Attention: Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood

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The Director, Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Our Ref:

File:

Date:

Z20/114640

CP-09.07.003

5 June 2020

Dear Ms Hawkeswood

SOUTH 32 RESPONSE – DENDROBIUM MINE EXTENSION PROJECT

Thank you for providing Council with the opportunity to make comment on the South 32 response to Council dated 6 May 2020 concerning the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project.

Council commends the New South Government's acceptance of all of the 50 recommendations made by the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment. The installation of an interagency taskforce to implement a detailed action plan on the Panel's recommendations is welcomed by Council. It is anticipated that these initiatives will enhance the assessment and monitoring of underground coal mining in the southern coalfield, particularly in the drinking water catchment areas.

Council recognises the importance of local coal mining to the local, regional and domestic economy. However, Council remains concerned over the extent of subsidence related impacts upon watercourses and coastal upland swamps due to the current proposed mine layout, particularly the proposed 305 metre wide longwalls. Council is also specifically concerned about the cumulative loss of water to reservoirs, watercourses and upland swamps in the drinking water catchment areas. Therefore, Council requests that the Department consider the South 32 modelling of the different possible longwall widths and the associated subsidence and water loss impacts upon the catchment, in order to reach the right balance between the proposed mining activity and protecting water resources.

South 32 acknowledges Council's previously raised concerns that all 58 Aboriginal heritage sites have the potential to be impacted by subsidence due to their proximity to the project area (ie they are located directly above or proximal to the longwalls). In Council's view, a redesign of the project mine layout should be considered to reduce the subsidence impacts upon the Aboriginal heritage sites.

The actual mine layout redesign should be determined by the Department, following a review of likely subsidence impacts associated with the South 32 modelling of different longwall widths.

Should you have any enquiries or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Ron Zwicker, Special Projects & Planning Support Manager on (02) 4227 7111.

This letter is authorised by

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