



SECTION 6

Engagement

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6 ENGAGEMENT

This section describes the consultation undertaken prior to and during the preparation of this EIS, and the ongoing community initiatives and consultation programs IMC 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.

6.1 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 an SSI application under Part 5 of the EP&A Act.

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.

Consultation for the EIS has been undertaken in consideration of *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPIE, 2021e) given that:

- Extensive consultation has been conducted for the previous application since 2017, as well as throughout the operation of the Dendrobium Mine since 2002.
- The extensive consultation undertaken has allowed for key concerns in regard to the Dendrobium Mine and the Project to be well understood.
- A range of engagement activities have been undertaken, including:
 - interviews and meetings with relevant stakeholders;
 - focus group with the DCCC;
 - distribution of community newsletters; and
 - maintenance of website and community call line for provision of feedback regarding the Dendrobium Mine and the Project.
- Commitment to continue consultation with a range of stakeholders following the lodgement of the EIS and during the life of the Project.

Furthermore, IMC has carefully considered the feedback provided by the local community, government agencies and other stakeholders on the previous application for the Dendrobium Mine.

IMC has sought to address stakeholder concerns and perceptions through commitment to a number of significant Project design measures, genuine community engagement and successful environmental management.

6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CONSULTATION

6.2.1 Community

Local Community and Affected Landholders

A letter and fact sheet were sent to a number of residents and local community groups in January 2022 to provide an update on the proposed Project and the submission of the Scoping Report.

During the preparation of this EIS, a Project-specific newsletter was produced by IMC 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 newsletter was distributed to households near the Dendrobium Mine. A copy of the Project newsletter is provided in Attachment 14.

IMC liaises with the local community in regard to the Project through the established DCCC (Section 6.4.1).

The LGAs of Wollongong, Wollondilly, Wingecarribee and Shellharbour were invited to participate in an SIA meeting or interview. Wollondilly Shire Council provided written correspondence on 2 February 2022. A councillor from Wollondilly Shire Council participated in the DCCC meeting and an interview on 4 February 2022. The Wollongong City Council provided specific input to the Project SEARs (Section 6.2.3).

Consultation undertaken with the local community and potentially affected landholders for the SIA included interviews, a focus group and provision of general information to the broader public undertaken by IMC (Appendix K). A summary of the community views on the Project based on SIA engagement undertaken is provided in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1
Summary of Community Views on the Project

Category	Community Views	Relevant Community Group
Strategic Context	Continuation of employment opportunities and the importance of the Dendrobium Mine in the regional economy.	Broader Wollongong community and workers, contractors and suppliers.
	The intertwined nature of mining and steelmaking and importance of the Dendrobium Mine on the ongoing financial sustainability of the PKCT and Port Kembla Steelworks and potential bridge to future industries.	Broader Wollongong community and workers, contractors and suppliers.
	Beyond the economy; mining and steelmaking has shaped and continues to shape the identity of the Illawarra Region and residents.	Broader Wollongong community and workers, contractors and suppliers.
	Acknowledgement of the importance of the Metropolitan Special Area and that the Project has potential for impacts to the water catchment (e.g. water losses) and mitigation measures should be applied for the Project.	Residents and businesses within the broader Illawarra Region, Aboriginal stakeholders, councils, public and private service providers and organisations and community organisations.
Design of the Project and Alternatives	The Project has a reduced footprint compared to the previous application, which may reduce potential impacts to the Metropolitan Special Area.	Broader Wollongong community.
Economic, Environmental and Social Impacts	Generally, the Project would have potential impacts on the environment and cultural heritage matters.	Residents and businesses within the broader Illawarra Region, Aboriginal stakeholders, workers, contractors and suppliers, councils, public and private service providers and organisations and community organisations.
	Importance and value of Mount Kembla's greenery, quietness and seclusion.	Mount Kembla and Kembla Heights communities.
	Amenity issues (e.g. noise, air quality and traffic) associated with the Dendrobium Pit Top and Kemira Valley Rail Line.	Mount Kembla and Kembla Heights communities.
	Safety and amenity impacts associated with Project-related traffic.	Mount Kembla and Kembla Heights communities.
	Potential impacts (e.g. traffic, noise and visual amenity) of the proposed Dendrobium Pit Top Carpark Extension on the community.	Mount Kembla and Kembla Heights communities.

Community consultation for the Project identified community concern regarding the Dendrobium Pit Top Carpark Extension. Concerns involved the potential for noise from the construction of the Dendrobium Pit Top Carpark Extension and from traffic during operations, as well as the environmental impacts of clearing valued greenery in the suburb.

Consultation 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 the mitigation measure to address rail noise are described in Section 7.14.

Consultation indicated that the history of Kembla Heights as a mining village was important to the local community, as is the importance of IMC 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.

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

The DCCC was 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 mining 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.

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.

At the DCCC meetings held in October and December 2021 and February 2022, IMC introduced the Project to the DCCC members and initiated engagement with the DCCC in regard to the Project.

At subsequent DCCC meetings, held approximately every two months, IMC provided general updates on the EIS, specialist studies and related matters, and described the design of the Project.

Website and Community Call Line

Information relating to IMC is available on the South32 website (<https://www.south32.net/our-business/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal>) for the general public to keep up to date with the operations of the Dendrobium Mine.

The website is a significant source of information including:

- Dendrobium Mine operations;
- environmental management plans;
- environmental monitoring results;
- independent environmental audits;
- annual reviews;
- DCCC and the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Committee (DCEC) meeting minutes; and
- community call line.

IMC maintains a dedicated community call line (1800 102 210) and email address (illawarracommunity@south32.net) for residents to contact IMC with any questions or concerns they have regarding the Dendrobium Mine.

Public Reporting

In accordance with Development Consent DA 60-03-2001 for the Dendrobium Mine, IMC prepares an Annual Review and an Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) on the environmental performance of the Dendrobium Mine. Copies of previous Annual Reviews, AEMRs and environmental monitoring reports are available on the IMC website (Section 6.4.2).

IMC also publishes Annual and Quarterly reports for investors, which are made available on the IMC website (Section 6.4.2).

IMC is registered on the National Greenhouse and Energy Register (registered as South32 Ltd) (established under section 16 of the NGER Act), which is publicly available on the Commonwealth Clean Energy Regulator website (<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/>).

IMC's reporting requirements under the NGER Act are described in Section 5.2.11.

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

6.2.2 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 Scoping Report in December 2021.

IMC continues to consult with relevant NSW State Government agencies on a regular basis in relation to the current operations managed by IMC.

Department of Planning and Environment

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

Project briefing meetings have also been held with the DPE throughout preparation of the EIS.

Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (within the Department of Regional NSW)

IMC presented an overview of the Project mine plan, resource and economics to the Mine Development Panel of MEG on 16 November 2021.

MEG 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 MEG in relation to the SEARs included:

- a comprehensive description of the Project (Section 4);
- local and regional geology and the physical dimensions of the coal resource (Section 4.2.3);
- a copy of the most recent resource and/or reserve statement (submitted to MEG independently of the Infrastructure Application);
- resource recovery (Section 4.2.3);
- mine design and mining method (Section 4.5);
- life of the Project (Section 4.1);
- economics of the Project (Section 7.19 and Appendix L);
- consideration of potential resource sterilisation in relation to any proposed biodiversity offsets areas (Appendix D);
- justification for the proposed mine design, schedule and final landform (Section 8 and Attachment 11); and
- consideration of the requirement for mining titles (Section 5.2.11).

An additional briefing in February 2022 was undertaken with MEG regarding the SEARs, proposed changes to the mine plan compared to the previous application and potential impacts associated with the Project.

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

Biodiversity and Conservation Division (within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment)

Consultation with the Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) regarding the Project commenced in 2021 with the receipt of comments and specific input to the Project SEARs from the BCD, which were documented in a letter dated 17 December 2021. A copy of the correspondence is provided in Attachment 2 of the SEARs (Attachment 1).

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

- the potential impacts on biodiversity, including threatened species, populations and ecological communities (Sections 7.7, 7.8 and 7.9 and Appendices D and E);
- potential impacts on upland swamps and streams, including proposed offsets and mitigation measures (Sections 7.5 and 7.8, Appendices C and D and Attachment 9);
- Aboriginal cultural heritage, including Aboriginal community consultation (Sections 6.2.5 and 7.10 and Appendix F);
- potential impacts to historic heritage (Section 7.11 and Appendix G);
- potential for flooding impacts (Section 7.6 and Appendix C); and
- potential surface and underground mining impacts to the Upper Nepean or Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Areas (Sections 5.2.11 and 7.3).

The issues raised by BCD have been considered during the preparation of this 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).

Consultation with the EPA regarding the Project commenced in 2021 with the receipt of comments and specific input to the Project SEARs, which were documented in a letter dated 20 December 2021. 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 4.9);
- sewage treatment and disposal (Section 4.11.2);
- underground mine ventilation (Sections 4.5.6 and 4.5.7);
- potential impact of additional waste emplacement at the West Cliff Stage 3 and Stage 4 Coal Wash Emplacement Area (Section 4.8.4); and
- potential noise and air quality impacts (Sections 7.13 to 7.17 and Appendices I and J).

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

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Water and the National Resource Access Regulator

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Water (DPIE – Water) and the NRAR provided input to the SEARs on 21 December 2021. Key issues raised by DPIE – Water and NRAR in relation to the SEARs included:

- details of all water take for the life of the Project and post-closure (Sections 7.5, 7.6 and 8 and Appendices B and C and Attachment 9);
- details of WALs held to account for any take of water where required, or demonstration that WALs can be obtained prior to take of water occurring (Sections 7.5 and 7.6 and Appendices B and C);
- a detailed and consolidated site water balance (Section 7.6 and Appendix C);
- assessment of potential impacts on surface and ground water sources, related infrastructure, adjacent licensed water users, basic landholder rights, watercourses, riparian land, and groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) as well as measures proposed to mitigate and reduce these impacts (Sections 7.5 and 7.6 and Appendices B and C);

- details and data of all surface and groundwater modelling (Appendices B and C);
- proposed surface and groundwater monitoring activities (Sections 7.5 and 7.6 and Appendices B and C);
- assessment of any potential cumulative impacts on water resources (Sections 7.5 and 7.6 and Appendices B and C); and
- consideration of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines (Sections 5, 7.5 and 7.6).

The issues raised by DPIE – Water have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

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 IMC and WaterNSW, including regular updates on the Project.

WaterNSW were provided with an initial briefing regarding the Project in August 2021, specifically in relation to the proposed Project surface infrastructure.

WaterNSW were provided additional briefings in September 2021 and November 2021 regarding proposed changes to the mine plan compared to the previous application.

WaterNSW provided a response to the briefing material, and included feedback on the following:

- potential water supply for the construction of Shaft Site No. 5A; and
- preferred alignment of the temporary carparking facility and access requirements.

IMC provided a further response to WaterNSW in February 2022.

In December 2021, comments and specific input to the Project SEARs were provided by WaterNSW, which were documented in a letter dated 17 December 2021. 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 Dam and associated water supply infrastructure in relation to subsidence impacts (Section 7.3 and Appendix A);
- consideration of potential impacts on future water supply infrastructure (Section 7.3);
- consideration of WaterNSW's mining principles (Attachment 6);
- 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 7.5 and 7.6 and Appendices B and C); and
- general monitoring and management measures to be adopted (Section 7 and Attachment 10).

The feedback provided by WaterNSW has been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

NSW Resources Regulator

The NSW Resources Regulator provided input to the SEARs on 17 December 2021. Key issues raised by the NSW Resources Regulator in relation to the SEARs included:

- a description and assessment of any exploration activities that will be undertaken throughout the mine life (Sections 4 and 8); and
- inclusion of a "Rehabilitation Strategy" assessment including final land uses, rehabilitation objectives and mitigation measures likely to control or prevent risks associated with mine closure (Sections 7.4 and 8 and Appendix Q and Attachment 9).

The issues raised by the NSW Resources Regulator have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

Dams Safety NSW

Dams Safety NSW 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 IMC and Dams Safety NSW.

Heritage NSW

Heritage NSW comments and specific input to the Project SEARs were documented in two letters dated 10 December 2021 and 14 December 2021 (Attachment 1). In summary, the issues raised by Heritage NSW were in relation to:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage, including Aboriginal community consultation (Sections 6.2.5 and 7.10 and Appendix F);
- detailed mapping of all heritage item(s) including mapping of Project area in relation to these items (Appendices F and G);
- compliance with the relevant CMP (Section 7.11.4 and Appendix G);
- potential impacts to heritage item(s) (Sections 7.10.3 and 7.11.3 and Appendices F and G);
- consideration to avoid and/or mitigate the impact on the significance of heritage item(s) (Sections 7.10 and 7.11 and Appendices F and G); and
- justification for any changes to heritage elements including any options analysis.

The issues raised by Heritage NSW has been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

Transport for NSW

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) (formerly NSW Roads and Maritime Services) comments and specific input to the Project SEARs were documented in a letter dated 23 December 2021 (Attachment 1). In summary, the issues raised by TfNSW were in relation to:

- potential impact on the Maldon to Dombarton rail corridor infrastructure (Section 7.3 and Appendix A);
- volume of heavy vehicles required for the Project (Section 7.12 and Appendix H); and
- mitigation and management measures to address potential traffic impacts and safety impacts associated with the Project (Section 7.12 and Appendix H).

The issues raised by TfNSW have been considered during the preparation of this EIS and are addressed in Sections 7.3 and 7.12 and Appendices A and H.

A letter was sent to TfNSW and Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) in March 2022 to provide an overview of the Project and a summary of the potential interactions between the Maldon-Dombarton Railway Corridor infrastructure and the Project.

Subsidence Advisory NSW

Subsidence Advisory NSW provided input to the SEARs on 17 December 2021. Subsidence Advisory NSW did not provide any Project-specific assessment requirements.

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands.

The DPIE – Crown Lands provided input to the SEARs on 20 December 2021. The DPIE – Crown Lands did not provide any Project-specific assessment requirements, as no Crown land, roads or waterways are in the vicinity of the proposal/would be affected by the proposal.

Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries

Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries (DPI – Fisheries) provided input to the SEARs on 14 December 2021. Key issues raised by DPI – Fisheries in relation to the SEARs were in regard to identification of key aquatic habitat, and potential impacts to aquatic habitat and corresponding mitigation measures (Sections 4, 7, 8, Appendices B, C, D, E and Attachments 9 and 10).

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

Fire and Rescue NSW

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) provided input to the SEARs on 21 December 2021; however, they did not provide any Project-specific requirements. IMC would continue to consult with FRNSW.

6.2.3 Local Government Agencies

Wollongong City Council

Consultation with the Wollongong City Council continues to be undertaken regularly in relation to the current operations managed by IMC.

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 13 December 2021. Wollongong City Council acknowledged IMC's revised mine plan, as well as the efforts to mitigate environmental impacts (Attachment 1).

An invitation was also sent to the Wollongong City Council to participate in engagement for the SIA for the Project and a subsequent meeting with a representative of the Wollongong City Council was held on 11 February 2022.

Wingecarribee Shire Council

An invitation was sent to the Wingecarribee Shire Council to participate in engagement for the SIA for the Project; however, no response was received.

Wingecarribee Shire Council was advised of the Project SSI status in December 2021 and offered a briefing; however, no response was received. The offer of a briefing remains open.

Consultation with the Wingecarribee Shire Council was undertaken for the previous application.

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

Wollondilly Shire Council

Consultation with the Wollondilly Shire Council continues to be undertaken regularly in relation to the current operations managed by IMC.

The Wollondilly Shire Council provided comments and specific input to the Project SEARs, which are documented in an email dated 16 December 2021 (Attachment 1).

Wollondilly Shire Council continues to have representation on the DCCC.

Key issues raised by the Wollondilly Shire Council were in relation to:

- potential impacts to surface water and groundwater (Sections 7.5, 7.6 and Appendices B and C);
- consultation with stakeholders during the preparation and exhibition of the EIS (Section 6);

- potential impacts to biodiversity (Sections 7.3, 7.7, 7.8 and 7.9 and Appendices A, D and E); and
- potential social impacts of the Project (Section 7.20 and Appendix K).

An invitation was also sent to the Wollondilly Shire Council to participate in engagement for the SIA for the Project, and written correspondence was received.

6.2.4 Federal Government Agencies

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

The proposed Action to extend underground mining and processing operations at the Dendrobium Mine was referred to the Federal Minister for the Environment in November 2021 (EPBC 2021/9115) (the proposed action). A delegate of the Federal Minister determined on 13 January 2022 that the proposed Action is a “controlled action” and, therefore, the Action also requires approval under the EPBC Act.

The proposed Action is to be assessed pursuant to the agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of NSW. Therefore, this EIS provides an assessment of potential impacts on the following controlling provisions considered by the Federal Minister to be relevant to the Action:

- threatened species and communities listed under the EPBC Act; and
- water resources.

The DPE subsequently issued an amendment to the SEARs to address the assessment requirements under the Bilateral Agreement between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments.

In summary, the issues assessment requirements were in relation to:

- general avoidance, mitigation and offset measures proposed (Section 7 and Attachment 10);
- potential impacts on biodiversity (Sections 7.7, 7.8 and 7.9 and Appendices D and E);
- potential impacts on the water resources (Sections 7.3, 7.5 and 7.6 and Appendices A to C); and
- South32’s environmental record (Section 5.2).

The environmental assessment requirements under the Bilateral Agreement have been considered during the preparation of this EIS.

IMC provided a briefing for DAWE on 29 March 2022, that included an overview of the Project, assessment methodology for the BDAR and EPBC Act-listed communities and species considered, offsetting strategy for the Project and water resource considerations.

6.2.5 Aboriginal Community

Aboriginal community consultation has been undertaken in accordance with, but not limited to, clause 60 of the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Regulation) and the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (ACHCRs) (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW], 2010a).

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

- Heritage NSW;
- Native Title Services Corporation Limited (NTS Corp Limited);
- Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983;
- Tharawal LALC;
- Illawarra LALC;
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services;
- South East Local Land Services;
- Wollongong City Council;
- Wollondilly Shire Council; and
- Wingecaribbee Shire Council.

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

- *Illawarra Mercury* (18 August 2021); and
- *Campbelltown-Macarthur Advertiser* (18 August 2021).

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

In response, the following Aboriginal parties/groups registered their interest in being involved in the consultation process:

- A1 Indigenous Services;
- Bellambi Indigenous Corporation Gandangara Traditional Owners;
- Biamanga (Murrin Clan/Peoples);
- Butucarbin Aboriginal Corporation;
- Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants;
- Cullendulla (Murrin clan/Peoples);
- Didge Ngunawal Clan;
- Blaen Davies;
- James Davis;
- Freeman and Marx;
- Goobah Development PTY LTD (Murrin Clan/People);
- Gulaga;
- Gumaraa;
- Illawarra LALC;
- Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjaka Working Group;
- Kawul Cultural Services;
- Korewal Elouera Jerrungurah Tribal Elders Council;
- Montaga;
- Murramarang (Murrin Clan/Peoples);
- Peter Falk Consultancy;
- South Coast People Native Title Claimants;
- Tharawal LALC;
- Thoorga Nura;
- Three Ducks Dreaming;
- Warra Bingi Nunda Gurri;
- Woka Aboriginal Corporation;
- Wori Woilywa;
- Woronora Plateau Gundungara Elders Council; and
- Wurrumay Consultants.

All stakeholders who registered were invited to participate in the ACHA (i.e. the registered Aboriginal parties).

The proposed methodology for the ACHA was provided to the registered Aboriginal parties on 2 September 2021.

IMC offered all registered Aboriginal parties the opportunity to attend a Project information session regarding the proposed methodology and the proposed Project on 29 September 2021.

The Project information session provided an opportunity for the registered Aboriginal parties to provide comments on the proposed methodology, with any additional comments requested by 30 September 2021, allowing for a 28-day review period. Further details regarding this can be found in Appendix F.

Archaeological Surveys were undertaken over separate periods between 6 October 2021 to 5 November 2021 (8 days in total).

All of the registered Aboriginal parties listed were provided with a copy of the draft ACHA for review and comment on 13 December 2021 to 24 January 2022, allowing for at least a 28-day review period. A final ACHA will be distributed to the registered Aboriginal parties following lodgement of the EIS.

An online teleconference meeting (as a face-to-face meeting was not available due to COVID-19 limitations) to discuss the draft ACHA was undertaken on 19 January 2022.

A detailed description of the consultation undertaken with the registered Aboriginal parties is provided in the ACHA (Appendix F).

6.2.6 Staff and Contractors

Approximately 650 personnel are employed at the Dendrobium Mine, including IMC staff and on-site contractors' personnel. Consultation has been conducted, and would continue to be conducted with IMC staff and on-site contractors.

6.2.7 Infrastructure Owners and Service Providers

Consultation has been conducted, and would continue to be conducted with WaterNSW and Endeavor Energy.

6.2.8 Local Industries and Industry Groups

Consultation has been, and would continue to be conducted with various local industries and industry groups, including I3net and its members, as well as Business Illawarra.

6.2.9 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 IMC.

6.3 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND INVOLVEMENT

6.3.1 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 locally.

The next step is to ensure 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.

6.3.2 Sponsorships and Community Investment

The DCEC comprises local community and IMC representatives. Its purpose is to represent community interests and needs in considering applications for funding by the DCEP.

IMC finances community projects primarily through the allocation of funding to the DCEP and a Community Investment Plan.

The DCEP was established in 2002 to ensure that the community in the immediate vicinity of the Dendrobium Mine benefits from its operation.

IMC finances community projects through the allocation of funding to the DCEP and a Community Investment Plan.

The DCEP was established in 2002 to ensure that the community in the immediate vicinity of the Dendrobium Mine benefits from its operation and is administered by the DCEC.

An annual contribution of \$0.03 per saleable tonne (increased by CPI annually) is paid to the DCEP by IMC.

IMC invests a further \$1 million annually to community initiatives that support its operations, including Dendrobium Mine. Contributions (in the form of sponsorships, donations and in-kind support) to various education, community development, health, environmental, arts, culture and youth initiatives in the region have included financial contributions to:

- Mt Kembla Public School Parents and Citizens Association;
- Life Education;
- Mt Kembla Memorial Pathway Group;
- Mount Kembla Lowries (football club);
- Wollongong City Council (localised projects);
- Various local primary, public and high schools;
- Farmborough Heights Rural Fire Brigade;
- Mount Kembla Rural Fire Brigade;
- Wollongong Homeless Hub; and
- Supported Accommodation & Homelessness Services Shoalhaven Illawarra.

IMC would continue to provide funding contributions to community programs and groups during the life of the Project.

6.3.3 Contractors and Suppliers

IMC engages more than 200 local businesses and suppliers in the region at the existing Dendrobium Mine.

Wherever practicable, IMC uses the services of local providers.

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

6.4 ENGAGEMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT

Following the lodgement of the EIS and during the life of the Project, IMC would continue consultation with a range of stakeholders in consideration of *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPIE, 2021e).

Public exhibition of the EIS would also allow the community and any interested stakeholders to provide a submission in support of the Project, commenting on aspects of the Project or objecting to the Project.

Potential opportunities for further community consultation, as well as consultation with government agencies, councils, special interest groups, may include:

- ongoing consultation with landowners and the community;
- project information sessions;
- distribution of community newsletters;
- Project-specific briefings with government agencies and local councils;
- operation of the DCCC;
- maintenance of the South32 website and community call line; and
- ongoing public reporting requirements.

IMC would continue to monitor, review and adapt community engagement over the life of the Project to maintain effective community consultation.

6.4.1 Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

The DCCC was 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 mining 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.

IMC would continue to operate the DCCC in accordance with Development Consent DA 60-03-2001 for the Dendrobium Mine or in accordance with a separate Infrastructure Approval for the Project.

6.4.2 Website and Community Call Line

Information relating to IMC is available on the South32 website (<https://www.south32.net/our-business/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal>) for the general public to keep up to date with the operations of the Dendrobium Mine.

The website would continue to include a significant source of information including:

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

IMC would continue to maintain a dedicated community call line (1800 102 210) and email address (illawarracommunity@south32.net) for residents to contact IMC with any questions or concerns they have regarding the Project.

6.4.3 Public Reporting

IMC would continue to prepare an Annual Review and an AEMR on the environmental performance of the Dendrobium Mine (including the Project). Copies of previous Annual Reviews, AEMRs and environmental monitoring reports would be available on the IMC website (Section 6.4.2).

IMC would also continue to publish Annual and Quarterly reports for investors and would be made available on the IMC website (Section 6.4.2).

IMC is registered on the National Greenhouse and Energy Register (registered as South32 Ltd) (established under section 16 of the NGER Act), which is publicly available on the Commonwealth Clean Energy Regulator website (<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/>).

IMC's reporting requirements under the NGER Act are described in Sections 5.2.11 and would continue for the Project.