

Singleton **S**hire **H**ealthy **E**nvironment **G**roup **“Dendrobium Mine Extension SSD 8194”**



A community-based group looking to address Environmental issues affecting Singleton Shire residents

P.O. Box 626
Singleton NSW 2330
ssheg@hotmail.com

Author: Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD

We seek identification as to what is making our Children and Community Sick so they can be mitigated by OH&S Compliance Orders.

SSHEG Focus on Health

SSHEG is Not Anti Mining or Anti Power Stations

Jessie Evans 0292746419

Planning Services

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

GPO Box 39, Sydney 2001

Email: jessie.evans@planning.nsw.gov.au

18 September 2019

“Underground Mining Continuation in Southern Coalfields west of the Illawarra Escapement in NSW”

This SSHEG Submission Supports “Underground Mining in general and specifically this Dendrobium Mine Extension Project in particular; continuing the long established economic and employment opportunities for NSW and the Illawarra dating back to the earliest days in the Colony.

Our longstanding Commitment to Underground Mining in the Hunter Valley has taught our Communities to appreciate the benefits of Coal Mining which is Underground and Remote from Residents Homes.

Thanking you in anticipation of your acknowledgement

Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

Environmental Impact Assessment Extracts

DENDROBIUM MINE – PLAN FOR THE FUTURE: COAL FOR STEELMAKING

South32 Dendrobium Mine

- Our Dendrobium Mine in the Illawarra Region of New South Wales is an existing underground mine primarily producing metallurgical coal for steelmaking. We currently employ around 400 people from the local region.
- Dendrobium began operating in 2002 and is an essential supplier of metallurgical coal to Australian steelmakers, including BlueScope Port Kembla Steelworks and Liberty Primary Steel Whyalla Steelworks.
- Dendrobium has development consent until 2030, however its current mineable reserves will be depleted by 2024.

Proposed Project

- We are proposing the continuation of mining activities in Dendrobium's next two underground mining areas (Areas 5 and 6), within the existing mining lease. This would include the use of existing infrastructure and require minimal additional surface infrastructure.
- Continued mining would sustain the employment of Dendrobium's workforce, create additional jobs and ensure the supply of metallurgical coal to local and overseas customers until 2048.
- Underground mining has been ongoing in the Metropolitan Special Area where the mine is located for more than 100 years.

Environmental Impact Statement

- We are seeking State and Commonwealth approval for the Project, with our application supported by this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- The EIS has been developed through extensive consultation with our stakeholders and informed by the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the Project.
- We have prepared specialist environmental studies for the EIS to address the assessment requirements and the feedback from our stakeholders.

Key Environmental Assessment Outcomes and Mitigation Measures

- We will not mine under water supply reservoirs, named watercourses and key stream features.
- We will compensate WaterNSW for the agreed volume of surface water diverted from the Sydney drinking water catchment, which is estimated at less than 1% of the Avon and Cordeaux catchment yields.
- We will pursue opportunities for industrial users to reuse our excess mine water.
- We will conduct or fund water quality improvement initiatives in Sydney's drinking water catchment.
- We will offset potential subsidence-related impacts to upland swamps consistent with Government policies.

Substantial Socio-economic Benefits

- The ongoing employment of 500 people, including 400 people currently employed at Dendrobium Mine and an additional 100 people for the Project.
- The creation of 200 jobs during project construction.
- The ongoing and essential supply of metallurgical coal to BlueScope Port Kembla Steelworks and our other customers. We currently supply around 60% of BlueScope Steelworks' metallurgical coal. If supply was disrupted BlueScope would need to invest an estimated \$150 million to upgrade port facilities and would incur between \$50 million and \$100 million per annum in additional costs principally due to higher logistics costs to gain access to seaborne coal.
- The ongoing operation of Dendrobium Mine and associated business opportunities for local suppliers, Illawarra industries and reliant businesses.
- Around \$272 million in net present value terms (\$714 million in real, undiscounted terms) in royalties, taxes and rates for local councils and the NSW and Commonwealth Governments.

Without prejudice



