



P O Box 7091, Berrima, NSW, 2577  
Office: (02) 48772118  
Fax: (02) 48771218  
Email: [alana@highlanddrilling.com.au](mailto:alana@highlanddrilling.com.au)

18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Director – Coal & Quarry Assessments  
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY. NSW 2001

**RE: SUPPORT FOR DENDROBIUM MINE EXTENSION PROJECT (SSD-8194)**

I make this submission on behalf of Highland Drilling in support of the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project.

Approval of South32 Illawarra Coal's plans to continue their Dendrobium mining operations into areas 5 and 6 will deliver significant benefits to the Illawarra Region.

For our part, nothing less than first-hand observation has led our team at Highland Drilling to appreciate South32 Illawarra's professionalism, environmental acumen and commitment to the Illawarra.

Highland Drilling provides services for resource, engineering and environmental companies throughout NSW. Companies rely on our services for critical data that informs the assessment and preparation of environmental studies and reports.

Our Company has worked with South32 Illawarra Coal on numerous projects – including some that incorporated sensitive environments, such as the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment. It is notable that, on every occasion where sensitivity was a factor, South32's promotion of safety, impact mitigation and environmental compliance was at the forefront of their practices. While I am not in a position to comment on any assessment of the Dendrobium Mine Extension's environmental impacts, this first-hand experience allows me to make this supportive submission with confidence.

Beyond the Company's commitment to undertaking environmentally responsible operations, I would also like to point to the strong history of mining in the Illawarra and the fact that they produce some of the world's best steelmaking coal right here in the Illawarra's iconic steelworks operational for decades to come. In the process, the benefits of the steel and coal industries will be kept close to home, rather than leading to investment in an inferior product from further afield.

If approval is adverse for Dendrobium's extension, it's easy to envision a domino effect that impacts the many businesses, communities and families whose wellbeing and goals for a strong future hinge on the ongoing prosperity of our local resource and manufacturing industries.

I trust that all of this will form part of your considerations, and I thank you for taking the time to read this submission.

Yours Sincerely,

Brett Delamont  
Managing Director  
HIGHLAND DRILLING