

10 September 2019

Attn: Director – Coal and Quarry Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dendrobium Mine: Plan for the Future – Coal for Steelmaking Project (SSD-8194)

I support the submission on the following grounds:

- The Project would produce metallurgical coal for steelmaking. There is currently no economically viable, commercial-scale alternative to the use of metallurgical coal in the blast furnace method of steelmaking, which is employed at the BlueScope Steelworks. The Project would provide a local and continued supply of metallurgical coal to the BlueScope Steelworks.
- The Project represents a continuation of mining at the Dendrobium Mine, providing continuation of employment for the existing Dendrobium Mine workforce and additional employment opportunities during construction and operations. In addition to the loss of 300 new jobs created over the project, the 1800 people Illawarra Coal directly employ would be impacted if this project is not approved.
- Underground coal mining is currently the only major revenue generating industry that is both compatible with the catchment status of the Project area, and permissible with consent.
- South32 has committed to a minimum of one-kilometre setbacks from the Avon and Cordeaux dam walls. South32 would also avoid the direct undermining of mapped “key stream features” (significant pools and waterfalls/steps) identified during site investigations
- South32 has committed to pursue opportunities for industrial reuse of excess mine water such that the re-use volume matches or exceeds the predicted Project surface water take.
- The Project will result in a total net benefit to the NSW economy of over \$2.8 billion, including over \$1.1 billion to the Greater Wollongong Region.

Regards,



Nicola Curtis