

John F. Coll  
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**Re :- Dendrobium Mine Extension Project (SSI-33143123)**

**Introduction**

I have been a resident of the Illawarra region for 47 years and I am passionate about the environment our region.

I was involved in the underground coal mining industry for 40 years. I have firsthand experience with environmental monitoring and compliance. Initially I worked with the Department of Mines as a surveyor, measuring Mine Subsidence and its impact on man-made and natural features. Some of these features included F6 Southern Freeway & Illawarra Railway associated with Coal Cliff Mine, Cataract Reservoir & surrounding creeks over South Bulli Mine and the Illawarra Escarpment.

I joined the Coal Industry at West Cliff Mine where my duties included the subsidence monitoring of Brennan's Creek Dam, The Appin Road and Georges River. Surveys, mapping, monitoring, protecting and reporting on Aboriginal Archaeological sites, Historic Buildings and natural features on Stokes & O'Hares Creeks were also undertaken.

I **SUPPORT** the approval of the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project Based on the following reasons :-

- 1) In my opinion the geometry of the proposed layout is conservative **and potential impacts on the "Metropolitan Space Area" have been greatly reduced.** The prediction of mine subsidence outcomes has evolved to become very accurate in the last 40 years and the experts can be trusted. South 32 has been very successful in applying a wide range of strategies to manage critical features, including Aboriginal Heritage sites, within the environment and I am confident they are well placed to continue.
- 2) The supply of Dendrobium Coal to the Port Kembla Steelworks is critical to the production of world class carbon iron and steel in the long term. The closeness of the Steelworks to the supply of quality metallurgical coal gives it a competitive advantage to stay in business. The options of alternative supply of an inferior product from elsewhere or premature closure of the Steelworks would be disastrous for the region & nation. As a long-term resident of the Illawarra I am fully **aware and appreciative of the economic and social importance of steel, coal and the supporting businesses.** The production of "Green Steel" without metallurgical coal is still not viable for the foreseeable future.
- 3) **Any suggestions that the Sydney Drinking Water Supply will be impacted are FALSE.** The Inquiry by Justice R.G. Reynolds in the 1970s on "Coal Mining under or in the Vicinity of Stored Waters" concluded that mining could be carried out "without endangering the security of stored waters if mining is carried out with proper safeguards". Over 50 years of scientific refinement have strengthened the safeguards which have been applied to this project. Dendrobium has been mining for years without impact on Sydney Drinking Water.
- 4) **The use of existing surface infrastructure means the project can proceed without detrimental impact on the residents and communities around the mine.**
- 5) South32 has proved itself to be a Responsible Corporate Citizen. Having worked at Dendrobium mine in 2015 I experienced the positive culture of the mine workforce from the Management to Operators. I personally know many of the people at the mine, throughout the ranks, and believe that their commitment to Health , Safety and the Environment is paramount. **The mine is well equipped to manage the Mine Extension Project.**

Yours Faithfully  
John F. Coll  
Emeritus Registered Land, Mining and Cadastral Surveyor