

14 June 2022

Director  
Resource Assessments (Coal & Quarries)  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
320 Pitt Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Director

**Dendrobium Mine Extension Project (SSI-33143123)**

Port Kembla Coal Terminal (PKCT) is a key link in the Illawarra region coal chain and I write on behalf of PKCT in support of the South32 Dendrobium Mine Extension Project.

As the region's only coal export terminal, we provide customers from both the Southern and Western Coalfields with access to efficient, economically viable and modern coal export facilities.

At PKCT we employ around 100 employees and contractors, the majority of whom live in the Illawarra. We prioritise local businesses and suppliers and are proud of our long history in the area.

The broader Southern Coalfield economic ecosystem (which includes the Port Kembla Steelworks, the PKCT and other industries) is estimated to employ some 5,500 direct personnel in the Illawarra region, and inclusive of the indirect workforce, up to approximately 25,000 total jobs nationally (BAEconomics, 2020).

South32 is the largest coal producer in the Southern Coalfield and makes a significant contribution to the Southern Coalfield economic ecosystem. The proximity of the Southern Coalfield metallurgical coal mines is a major factor in BlueScope's ability to make steel economically.

South32's Appin and Dendrobium operations export significant volumes of coal through PKCT each year and the loss of Dendrobium Mine as a PKCT user would have a demonstrable impact on the economic viability of our operation. As it is based on overall throughput, the Loading Charge levied on users of the terminal would increase significantly and this would undoubtedly have a negative impact on the long-term economic sustainability of PKCT as a coal export facility.

Additionally, as coal is a volatile global commodity, any increase in PKCT's Loading Charge would have flow on impacts on local coal producers, with further direct and indirect negative outcomes in the Illawarra, a region still heavily reliant on the mining and manufacturing industries.

We have recently completed a major refurbishment project on our facility, investing around \$300 million to ensure we support the coal industry in the Illawarra and can continue to meet our customers' needs long into the future.

Based on the project's positive socio-economic outcomes, PKCT supports South32's application to extend the operational life of Dendrobium Mine until 2041. This will ensure continued supply of coal through our facility and ongoing sustainability of our business; stability of operational and access costs for users; and continued economic contribution to the broader Illawarra region

If you wish to discuss this submission further please contact David Richards, PKCT General Manager, on 02 4228 0288 or email [info@pkct.com.au](mailto:info@pkct.com.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DR' followed by a stylized flourish.

David Richards  
PKCT General Manager