

11 April 2024

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Dear Jessie,

**RE: DENDROBIUM MINE/APPIN MINE MODIFICATION – COAL TRANSPORT AMENDED MODIFICATIONS**

**Background**

Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd (Illawarra Metallurgical Coal [IMC]), a wholly owned subsidiary of South32 Limited (South32), is the owner and operator of the Dendrobium Mine and the Appin Mine.

The Dendrobium Mine currently extracts coal within Consolidated Coal Lease (CCL) 768 using underground longwall mining methods, within approved mining Areas 1, 2 and 3. Run-of-mine (ROM) coal from the Dendrobium Mine is transported to the Dendrobium Coal Preparation Plant (CPP) located within the BlueScope Port Kembla Steelworks (up to 5.2 million tonnes per annum [Mtpa]).

Coal wash is approved for transport by road from the Dendrobium CPP to the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area and for beneficial use.

In October 2023, IMC submitted a Modification Report to support Modification Applications for the Dendrobium Mine Development Consent (DA 60-03-2001) and the Appin Mine Project Approval (PA 08\_0150) to allow the receipt and processing of Russell Vale Colliery ROM coal at the Dendrobium CPP and the transport of Russell Vale Colliery coal wash to the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area and for beneficial use (the proposed Modifications).

Wollongong Resources Pty Ltd (Wollongong Resources) submitted a separate modification to allow the transport of Russell Vale Colliery ROM coal to the Dendrobium CPP.

Wollongong Resources recently announced a business review of the Russell Vale Colliery. Irrespective of the outcome of the business review, it is understood stockpiles of ROM coal from Wollongong Resources operations remain at its pit tops and the Port Kembla Coal Terminal (PKCT). As per the strategic justification for the proposed Modifications, there is an opportunity to wash ROM coal from other sources (in addition to Russell Vale Colliery) to improve its quality prior to sale, with no change to the existing Dendrobium CPP throughput (5.2 Mtpa).

Accordingly, IMC has identified the requirement to amend the Modification Application for the Dendrobium Mine Development Consent (DA 60-03-2001) and the Appin Mine Project Approval (PA 08\_0150) to allow the receipt and processing of ROM coal from the Russell Vale Colliery, PKCT and other sources at the Dendrobium CPP, and the transport of associated coal wash to the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area and for beneficial use (the amended Modifications).

IMC now seeks to amend the proposed Modifications under section 113 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.

The Applicant for the amended Modifications is:

Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd  
PO Box 514  
UNANDERRA NSW 2526

### **Overview of the Amended Modifications**

The amended Modifications would involve:

- Receipt and processing of ROM coal from the Russell Vale Colliery, PKCT and other sources at the Dendrobium CPP (modification to Dendrobium Mine Development Consent [DA 60-03-2001]) within the current capacity of the Dendrobium CPP (5.2 Mtpa of ROM coal).
- Use of internal roads at the BlueScope Port Kembla Steelworks and PKCT to transport ROM coal and product coal between the Dendrobium CPP and PKCT (as per existing operations for the transport of Dendrobium Mine product coal to PKCT on internal roads).
- Transport of the associated coal wash from the Russell Vale Colliery, PKCT and other sources from the Dendrobium CPP to the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area or to beneficial use (modification to Appin Mine Project Approval [PA 08\_0150]) within the current coal wash transport rate from the Dendrobium CPP (1.1. Mtpa).
- Receipt of coal wash from the Dendrobium CPP at the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area or to beneficial use (modification to Appin Mine Project Approval [PA 08\_0150]) within approved capacity of the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area.

It would remain the responsibility of the owner of the ROM coal to ensure approvals are in place to transport the ROM coal on public roads to the PKCT or Dendrobium CPP.

### **Environmental Review**

IMC has undertaken a review of potential environmental impacts of the amended Modifications, the following describes that there would be no change to potential impacts compared to those described in the Modification Report.

#### **Road Transport**

It would be the responsibility of the owner of the ROM coal to transport the ROM coal on public roads to the Dendrobium CPP (or PKCT) within the transport limits relevant to their approval.

The amended Modifications would not change the Dendrobium CPP processing rate or the current coal wash transport rate from the Dendrobium CPP to the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area (1.1 Mtpa).

There is no requirement for any change to the road haulage route(s) on public roads, haulage vehicle type or haulage vehicle frequency, beyond what was previously assessed for the proposed Modifications.

No additional road transport impacts are therefore expected as a result of the amended Modifications.

#### **Road Traffic Noise**

As there would be no change to the approved road haulage route(s) on public roads, haulage vehicle type or haulage vehicle frequency, beyond what was previously assessed for the proposed Modifications.

No additional road traffic noise impacts are therefore expected as a result of the amended Modifications.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

#### *Scope 2 GHG Emissions*

As there would no change to the current capacity of the Dendrobium CPP, no increase in electricity use is required for the amended Modifications, beyond what was previously assessed for the proposed Modifications.

No additional Scope 2 emissions are therefore expected as a result of the amended Modifications, beyond what was previously assessed for the proposed Modifications.

#### *Scope 1 GHG Emissions*

There would be no additional truck movements compared to the currently approved operations and the proposed Modifications.

No additional Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions are therefore expected as a result of the amended Modifications, beyond what was previously assessed for the proposed Modifications.

### Conclusion

The amended Modifications would enable the improvement of product coal quality from the Russell Vale Colliery, PKCT and other sources via washing at the Dendrobium CPP to meet customer requirements.

The amended Modifications described in this letter would result in no change to environmental impacts compared to previously proposed Modifications.

In weighing up the main environmental impacts (costs and benefits) associated with the proposal as assessed and described in this amended Modification Report, the amended Modifications are, on balance, considered to be in the public interest of the State of NSW.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned on 0438 042 897.

Yours sincerely



**Gary Brassington**  
Manager Approvals  
Illawarra Metallurgical Coal – South32