



Jacqueline Tracey
A/Executive Director
Office of the Independent Planning Commission

Via email: jacqueline.tracey@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

6 October 2020

Dear Ms Tracey

Dendrobium Extension Project (SSD 8194)

Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Limited owns and operates the Dendrobium Mine in the southern coalfield of NSW approximately 8 kilometers west of Wollongong. The mine produces metallurgical coal for steelmaking.

The existing development consent permits the extraction of up to 5.2 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal every year from five underground mining areas until December 2030.

In June 2019, Illawarra Coal Holdings lodged an application for the Dendrobium Extension Project (the project). The project involves the extraction of an additional 78 million tonnes of ROM coal from two new mining areas within the existing mining lease area, and an extension of the life of the mine until December 2048.

During the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement the Department received 762 public submissions, of which 603 supported the project and 153 objected to the project.

On 23 September 2020, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces requested the Independent Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing into the carrying out of the Dendrobium Extension Project, prior to determining the application (see **Attachment 1**).

In accordance with the Minister's terms of reference for the project, the Commission is requested to hold a public hearing and make its determination of the application within 12 weeks of receiving the Department's assessment report, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.

The Department is currently finalising its assessment of the project and it is expected that the project will be referred to the Commission by mid-October 2020.

If you require any further information please contact Stephen O'Donoghue, Director Resource Assessments on 0477 345 626.

Yours sincerely

Mike Young
Executive Director
Energy, Industry and Compliance

Attachment 1: Minister's Request for Public Hearing