



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENCES FOR SOUTH32 APPLICATION TO CONTINUE MINING AT AREA 3B, DENDROBIUM MINE**

**South32 Limited** ("South32"; "the Company") (ASX/JSE/LSE: S32) advises that Illawarra Coal's application to the New South Wales (NSW) Government for continued mining operations at Area 3B, at the Dendrobium Mine, will be made available for public comment from today until 11 April, 2016.

The original Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) submitted by the company received approval in February 2013. Having extracted three of the first five longwalls of the approved SMP, South32 is now seeking endorsement for the remaining five longwalls.

The submission is available for viewing on the South32 website [www.south32.net](http://www.south32.net).

Ricus Grimbeek, Chief Operating Officer and President of the Australian Region, said the company will mine safely and responsibly.

"Our application to continue to mine is comprehensive in nature and includes predictions of impacts based on years of scientific data collected by experts. Dendrobium Mine has the most extensive groundwater data set of any coal mine in NSW.

"We fully appreciate the important relationship between natural resource use and conservation. South32 is committed to ensuring we minimise environmental impacts at all of our operations.

"Illawarra Coal has been successfully mining at Dendrobium for over fifteen years. We are a proud member of the community and a significant employer in the region."

The Dendrobium Mine, which produces premium quality metallurgical coal, has operated without significant environmental impacts since approval was granted by the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments in 2001. The operation has also remained compliant with all consent conditions.

Continued mining in Dendrobium Area 3B would ensure ongoing employment for approximately 400 people, continue to bring financial contribution to the NSW economy, and the ongoing reliable and predictable supply of metallurgical coal to the global steelmaking market.

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