

Illawarra Coal



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Illawarra Coal pleased with Dendrobium Consent modification

Illawarra Coal said today that it is pleased to receive approval from the NSW Department of Planning of its application to modify the original Dendrobium Mine consent.

The consent modification, granted 8 December 2008, provides details relating to the future configuration of the Mine until 31 December 2030, providing greater assurance for the ongoing supply of coking coal to the steel industry and direct employment for 270 employees and contractors.

Illawarra Coal's General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs, John Brannon said Illawarra Coal was pleased with the modified approval which among other things, will allow for a more sustainable future mine layout in the Mine's Area 3.

"The original consent, approved in November 2001, has been modified in response to what we now know about the mining conditions in the area, and reinforces rigorous environmental controls and standards in relation to natural features such as swamps, creeks and waterfalls" he said.

"With this approval we have a future mining footprint that will not only help to ensure continued supply of valuable coking coal from the Wongawilli seam and ongoing employment for many local families, but also recognises the importance of environmental features such as Wongawilli Creek.

"This modified consent lays the foundation for a demanding approval process which, coupled with Illawarra Coal's preparation of comprehensive environmental management plans and monitoring programs, provides the right combination for a sustainable mining industry."

The modified consent does not remove the requirement for approval of subsidence management plans prior to extraction of coal in future mining areas.

Dendrobium Mine commenced longwall operations in April 2005 following original consent approval in 2001.

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