



Nature Conservation Council

The voice for nature in NSW

Monday 9th March 2026

Submission to the Department of Planning and Environment

RE: DA92/97-Mod-8 – Mount Pleasant Mod 8 - Extension of mine life

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales (NCC) is the state's peak environment organisation. We represent over 200 environment groups across NSW. Together we are dedicated to protecting and conserving the wildlife, landscapes and natural resources of NSW.

NCC objects to Mod 8 - Extension of mine life due to its unacceptable greenhouse gas emissions and impact on climate, and incongruency with both state and international climate plans.

Should be assessed as a new project

This project should not be assessed as a modification, as it represents a major expansion of mining activity, extending the mine life and increasing production. Treating it as a "modification" avoids proper independent review and does not allow for a full assessment of the environmental and social impacts. This extension should be assessed by the Independent Planning Commission.

Massive greenhouse gas emissions

The proposed expansion would release 1.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gases locally in NSW and over 100 million from the downstream emissions of the coal burned overseas. These emissions would make it harder for the state to meet its 2030 and 2035 climate targets, the world to meet international climate targets, and all greenhouse gas emissions increase risks to communities in NSW already affected by extreme weather, including in the locality of the project. This mine, including its scope 3 emissions, are not in line with Paris Agreement goals of limiting warming below 2 degrees.

Climate Change Impacts Not Assessed

The Denman decision by the NSW Court of Appeal on the prior expansion of the Mount Pleasant coal mine established that the planning process must assess the local effects of climate change caused from the downstream emissions from coal



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mined in NSW. Whilst the case is before the High Court, assessing this application could create uncertainty and confusion.

Contradicts NSW Net Zero Commission climate advice

This proposed extension directly contradicts the NSW Net Zero Commission’s recommendations from the Coal Mining Emissions Spotlight Report released in December 2025. In particular, Finding 4 clearly states: “Continued extensions or expansions to coal mining in NSW are not consistent with the emissions reduction targets in the Climate Change Act or the Paris Agreement temperature goals it gives effect to.” Approving this project would go against both state climate law and international commitments.

For these reasons, we submit that Mod 8 – Extension of Mine Life should be refused. At a minimum, it should be assessed as a new project, subject to full environmental, social and cultural assessment.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. Your contact person at Nature Conservation Council of NSW is Coal Mining and Methane Campaigner, Manjot Kaur (mkaur@nature.org.au).

Yours sincerely,



Jacqui Mumford
CEO of Nature Conversation Council NSW

