Notice of decision

Section 2.22 and clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application type	Modification application
Application number and project name	DA92/97-Mod-8 Mount Pleasant Operation Modification 8
Applicant	MACH Mount Pleasant Operations Pty Limited (MACH)
Consent Authority	Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Decision

The A/ Deputy Secretary, Development Assessment and Sustainability under delegation from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has, under 4.55(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (**the Act**) modified the consent subject to the recommended conditions.

A copy of the Department's assessment report, instrument of modification and a consolidated version of the conditions of consent is at: https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mt-pleasant-mod-8-extension-mine-life

Date of decision

14/08/2026

Reasons for decision

The following matters were taken into consideration in making this decision:

- the relevant matters listed in section 4.15 of the Act and the additional matters listed in the statutory context section of the Department's assessment report;
- the prescribed matters under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*;
- the reasons given by the consent authority for the grant of the original consent;
- the objects of the Act;
- the considerations under s 7.14(2), 7.16(3) and 7.17(2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW);
- all information submitted with the modification application during the assessment and information considered in the Department's assessment report;
- the findings and recommendations in the Department's assessment report;
- the submissions made concerning the modification; and
- the views of the community about the project (see Attachment 1).

The findings and recommendations set out in the Department's assessment report were accepted and adopted as the reasons for making this decision.

The decision maker was satisfied that the development to which the consent as modified relates is substantially the same development as the development authorised by the consent (as last modified under section 75W).

The key reasons for granting the modification are as follows:

- the modification would provide a range of benefits for the region and the State as a whole, including royalty payments and taxes, continued employment for around 575 full time equivalent workers;
- the modification is permissible with consent, and is consistent with NSW Government policies;
- the impacts on the community and the environment can be appropriately minimised, managed or offset to an acceptable level, in accordance with applicable NSW Government policies and standards;
- the issues raised by the community during consultation and in submissions have been considered and adequately addressed through changes to the project and the recommended conditions of consent; and
- weighing all relevant considerations, the modification is in the public interest.

Attachment 1 – Consideration of Community Views

The department exhibited the modification from 17 February 2026 until 9 March 2026 and received 817 unique submissions, including 621 submissions in support and 190 objections, with six submissions making comment.

Public submissions received in support of the modification were based on employment and economic benefits, including sustained job security and employment opportunities, increased economic opportunities for local businesses and service providers, and associated social benefits for the local and regional community.

The key issues raised by the community (including in submissions) and considered in the department's assessment report and by the decision maker primarily include the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions and ongoing amenity impacts and impacts to water resources. Other issues are addressed in detail in the department's assessment report.

Issue	***Consideration***
Greenhouse Gas Emissions *Contribution of the modification to climate change and socio-economic impacts of climate change* *Consistency with NSW emissions reduction targets*	• The Department considers the proposed modification is consistent with NSW Government policy regarding greenhouse gas emissions. • The GHG assessment for the modification has been completed in accordance with the *NSW Guide for Large Emitters* and MACH have demonstrated their obligations under the Safeguard Mechanism. • The Department considers that greenhouse gas emissions have been minimised to the greatest extent practicable given the proposed modification has met the relevant NSW Government guidance for emissions avoidance, mitigation and offsetting. • The emissions intensity for mining operations for the proposed modification is significantly lower than compared to the wider coal mining industry and mining operations would cease under the modification prior to 2035. • The NSW Government expects that overall net emissions from the coal mining sector will decline consistent with NSW's targets from 2030, in line with forecast production declines and the implementation of mitigation technologies and offsetting. • The Department has considered the GHG emissions in the context of relevant NSW and Commonwealth policies and guidelines, including the emissions reduction targets and guiding principles set out in the Net Zero Future Act. • The Department has also considered the environmental, social and economic effects of climate change impacts in the locality having regard to the views of the community. The Department acknowledges that additional greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project would contribute to climate change and therefore to climate impacts in the locality. Conditions • Prepare a Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Plan in consultation with the NSW Environment Protection Authority
Continuation of amenity impacts	• The modification would generally extend the duration over which existing approved amenity impacts would occur. • Noise generated by the modification is predicted to comply with the existing consent criteria and project noise trigger levels during all assessment periods under the assessed meteorological conditions. The modification would result in minor exceedances of road traffic and rail noise at receivers with existing mitigation and/or acquisition rights. • Exceedances of the relevant criteria for particulate matter for the modification are limited to two private residential receivers with existing mitigation and acquisition rights. Conditions • The Department therefore considers that the existing conditions of consent to manage impacts to amenity including the preparation of a management plans are appropriate to manage the potential impacts associated with the modification.
Impacts to water resources	• The modification would generally involve the continuation of existing and approved potential impacts to water resources within the approved surface disturbance area for six years to 2032. • Impacts to catchment excision and streamflow in the Hunter River would be negligible as a result of the modification, and overflows from sediment dams are only predicted during high rainfall events. • MACH holds sufficient Water Access Licences (WALs) under the *Water Management Act 2000* to account for all direct and indirect groundwater take consistent with the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (AIP). • Groundwater-dependent ecosystems are predicted not to experience measurable drawdown impacts. Conditions • The Department considers the existing conditions of consent including the preparation of a water management plan are appropriate to manage the potential surface and ground water impacts associated with the modification.