MACH Energy

Mount Pleasant Operation

11 November 2026

Mount Pleasant Jobs Statement

A number of Mount Pleasant workers have expressed concern about speculation regarding the need for operational certainty for the project and workforce numbers.

Given much of this speculation is decoupled from the operational and commercial factors guiding planning around jobs numbers, MACH Energy is keen to provide context to its workforce on this important topic.

Mount Pleasant has operated under development consent SSD 10418 since 2024 and is currently producing at an annualised rate of 16.5 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal a year. The operation employs approximately 830 full-time equivalent workers with around 724 in operational roles and more than 100 in project roles. The workforce grew to this level after MACH commenced operating under SSD 10418 in February 2024.

Following the High Court's decision, and without the proposed legislation, the mine would be forced to revert to its earlier consent, DA 92/97, which permits production of up to 12.5 million tonnes a year (since the approval of MOD8). MOD8 may be the subject of further legal challenge.

The figure of 575 personnel in the MOD8 application describes the workforce for a mine planned from the outset to operate at 12.5 million tonnes a year within the DA 92/97 footprint. It does not describe what happens when a mine operating at 16.5 million tonnes must suddenly revert to that consent and associated footprint.

The two consents cover different areas. A significant part of the area currently being mined under SSD 10418 cannot be mined under DA 92/97. The existing fleet would have to be moved into a smaller, more constrained area, where only about half of it could be used in the medium term.

As a result, MACH expects more than 400 roles would be lost across operations, projects and support staff if the mine was forced to revert to DA 92/97. MACH modelled a range of production scenarios, and the impact on jobs was consistent across all of them. The reduction would last more than two years, until enough additional working area could be developed within the DA 92/97 footprint for employment to recover towards the levels in the MOD8 application.

It is important to note that major mining projects like Mount Pleasant have substantial lead times for production ramp-ups and wind-downs, often requiring 12-18 months or longer to adjust mine plans, equipment deployment, infrastructure, regulatory approvals and contractual commitments. This sectoral context is why the NSW Planning arrangements are deliberately designed to provide project proponents with significant lead time for major changes to production and why ongoing legal activism has threatened the jobs of hundreds of workers at Mount Pleasant. These workers have lived with ongoing uncertainty for too long.

MACH notes that many of the sponsors of recent legal action advocate the immediate closure of the Mount Pleasant project and the immediate and permanent job losses associated with such a move.