

**From:** [Sara McLoughlin](#)  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Submission opposing the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project  
**Date:** Saturday, 27 August 2022 3:03:27 PM

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My concern about the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project is that it destroys habitat for the newly discovered species named the Hunter Valley Delma and I oppose extension of the mine because we cannot afford to keep unraveling the web of life by losing species of creatures that form links in the web that keeps ecosystems functioning.

We are in the midst of an extinction crisis. We must prioritise conservation and protection of biodiversity wherever possible in every planning process.

Before the mine is approved the Precautionary Principle applies until we know the plan will not condemn a species to extinction.

Please refuse consent for the Mt Pleasant Optimisation Project, to signal to Industry that such concerns matter to this government committed to preserving habitat at a time when little is known about this species. Ecosystems are collapsing due to habitat loss as Australia State of the Environment 2021 reports, Rachel Carson's Silent Spring warned this time would come. It is crunch time when the results of ecological irresponsibility have come to fruition. Tick-a-box management no longer serves. Mine managers must think about minimising environmental shocks or lose Social Licence to mine altogether.

Mine managers may be in the habit of thinking about the Environment in cutesy, dismissible Memes, but that isn't realistic. We are coming to the end of 'to Mine is Right' Mines have to stop externalising costs onto other people and to think in broader landscape impact terms.

Delma vescolineata is likely to be listed as a threatened species under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 therefore no additional mining should be allowed to occur before the effective conservation of this species is understood.

If additional mining is approved at Mt Pleasant, insist it be staged in such a way as to allow the completion of research into that detail.

Thank you considering my submission,

Yours sincerely,  
Sara McLoughlin