

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30/06/2021 4:21:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 30/06/2021 - 16:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Barbara

Last name

Fox

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Blaxland 2774

Submission

I am OPPOSED to the release of exploration licenses in the Hawkins Rumker regions for the following reasons:

- I am against further coal mining development anywhere due to its negative impact on climate change
- I have made significant personal investment in renewable energy to minimise the effects on climate change and further coal mining reduces the effects of this investment
- I have family living in the region and regularly visit the area, further coal development in the region would detract from the natural environment and local communities
- I would prefer that government spends taxpayer's money on the development of renewable energy resources

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30/06/2021 1:31:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 30/06/2021 - 13:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Janet

Last name

Thompson

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Sydney 2041

Submission

I oppose any exploration to find coal deposits in the Hawkins Rumker areas near Mudgee on the grounds that coal should not be extracted and burnt because of the damage it and other fossil fuels cause to the world's environment by release of carbon. Because of this increase in carbon load, the planet is warming hence the damage being done to the ocean, the Great Barrier Reef and emergencies over the world like NW USA and their current barely survivable heatwave. More immediately, the health effects of living near coal mines and coal fired power plants are well established, coal dust causes respiratory problems, as does increased heavy traffic. Mudgee is a famous wine growing area, and this industry will be impacted negatively by pollution. Coal purveyors artificially inflate their employment promises, as increased automation of mines means few jobs are created, and those that are are often FIFO, and of little support to the local communities. Significant investment in any coal production is unlikely to be forthcoming, as investors are aware of the doomed nature of the enterprises. Please use your brains, and stop deluding everyone about fossil power's future viability. Seek out renewables, get with 21st century.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30/06/2021 1:01:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 30/06/2021 - 13:01

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Blaxland

Submission

I DON'T want the release the Hawkins and Rumker areas, located about 30 km east of Mudgee NSW, for coal exploration due to environmental concerns I have the future of the world.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30/06/2021 12:53:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 30/06/2021 - 12:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Catherine

Last name

Waldron

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Nullo Mountain 2849

Submission

To the advisory body for strategic release

I am alarmed and shocked that coal exploration is even being considered in and around Rylstone. The impacts from coal extraction are far reaching and untenable in the so called Hawkins, Rumker, Ganguddy-Kelgoola areas.

I (and many so not know of these plans) are firmly apposed to any exploration which leads to new coal mining in the area.

It pains me to even outline the obvious well researched, well documented, well know risks to public health, transport, aquifers, native species, endangered species (fauna and flora), local infrastructure, undocumented first nations cultural sacred sights, tourism, farming, mental health impacts, increased social devisions arising from differing options concerning the so called benefits of coal mining. Fly in fly out workers operating in more and more automated mining environments do not have positive impacts on local communities. The supposed benefits of mining line the pockets of the few.

The premise that this process is transparent is a farce, made evident by the fact that public consultation has been minimal and the low numbers allocated for attendance of meetings.

Sincerely

Catherine Waldron

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29/06/2021 4:30:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 29/06/2021 - 16:30

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Brent

Last name

Barlow

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone 2849

Submission

I strongly object to any new coal mines being developed in the Hawkins Rumker area. As a property owner I'm concerned about the possibility of water in springs and aquifers being affected. As a long time local journalist and broadcaster I've also seen how this proposal has undermined the confidence of the local community. In recent years, Rylstone and Kandos have begun to thrive through tourism and the move by city residents to relocate to a beautiful and environmentally clean area. Shops have never been busier and property and house prices have increased considerably. Unfortunately, this coal mine proposal has already had an adverse affect on the economy. I have spoken to a number of people who have recently bought properties with the intention of spending a considerable amount of capital to refurbish dwellings or build new ones. These have now been put on hold because of the uncertainty of the current situation. Other new property owners want to invest in infrastructure such as fencing and sheds and buy new machinery, and this again had been put on hold. I wonder if the government takes these adverse impacts into consideration. It also impacts on tradespeople, suppliers and transport who miss out on jobs because of this. Finally, I want to point out that I am not against coal mining. This proposal is wrong for the above reasons and would be disastrous for this area that has gained a reputation for its National Park, beautiful scenery, clean air, platypus in the local river, great coffee shops and enviable birdlife.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29/06/2021 12:09:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 29/06/2021 - 12:09

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Sam

Last name

Hamilton

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2849

Submission

Good morning

I wish to register my concerns around the "PIRA" process for the above mentioned development.

Despite being a land owner within the Rumker exploration area and also a landowner and residing immediately next to the area I have received no communication from government regarding this process. I only know of its existence by chance conversation with a neighbor and the efforts of the "Rylstone Coal Free Community Group"

Now I am aware of this proposal I strongly feel it is rushed and poorly advertised given the current pandemic situation. Newspaper and direct contact with some of the landowners would seem grossly inadequate. This is not the time to undertake this process as community involvement is difficult and may well be bias.

One can only assume this is a deliberate ploy to limit community involvement and input.

I also believe government has no mandate to release this proposal given the overwhelming global anti coal sentiment

Sam Hamilton

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29/06/2021 9:51:09 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 29/06/2021 - 09:51

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Raymond

Last name

Harris

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2027

Submission

Although we live in Sydney we visit Ralston to visit our friends there who are deeply committed to retaining the pristine environment and the general landscape. I am completely opposed to the possibility of an open cut coal mine or for that matter any coal mine in the areas. Government even considering this alerts me to the fact that they are out of touch with public opinion at a time when the containment of coal is a universal objective. I will do everything in my power to change the government if this is approved.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29/06/2021 7:48:54 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 29/06/2021 - 07:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Lisbeth

Last name

Lane

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Austinmer

Submission

Please think to the future of our children and grandchildren. Globally people who understand the long term effects of continuing to mine coal and advocate for other sources of energy urge governments look to alternative sustainable energy sources. I am not a resident of the area in question here but am appalled that continuing exploration is even being considered. You are proposing to destroy a community and jeopardise a viable future for the sake of short term gains. Please think again. There may not be easy solutions but to continue to push coal mining in the light of sound evidence against that path is surely insanity and is at the expense of our future generations. Please think about the future world your children and their children will be born into. We have a global responsibility to actively reduce emissions.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28/06/2021 6:28:05 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 28/06/2021 - 18:28

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Ben

Last name

Foster

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rydalmere

Submission

On behalf of myself and other like-minded Australian's I am completely against this further exploration into these areas, the future is clearly one with less coal not more! Stop this idiocy!

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28/06/2021 2:08:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 28/06/2021 - 14:08

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2850

Submission

It is ludicrous to say that because Australia has cleaner coal our mining practices are helping reduce emissions world wide. How many damning reports must we ignore before we stop raping our planet. Even if you ignore the obvious destruction of our beautiful country and the many, many years (if ever) it would take to regenerate 'some' of what is destroyed in the process, even if your ignore the fact that many animals, insects or plants may never return, this is our home! Many have worked hard for years to finally get our little corner of paradise. Contributing to society and paying taxes. Is this the thanks we get! This for many is our life's work. We are constantly being warned to act NOW to stop the destruction and degradation of this beautiful planet. We know that mining, in all ways, has a permanent negative impact. We need to stop or there will be nothing left to save.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28/06/2021 11:55:03 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 28/06/2021 - 11:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Ian

Last name

Simmons

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

RYLSTONE 2849

Submission

The true relevancies and objections with regard to mining Coal in this area are partly:

1. Destruction of pristine farmland. This case has been argued and won in the Hunter Valley, adjacent to proposed exploration. Please refer to the Legal documentation banning further exploitation of this irreplaceable land.
2. Jobs. This is a tired old argument that the mines will provide jobs. Rylstone and adjacent Villages have already plenty of jobs for those who want to and are willing to work. The ingress of itinerant mining staff and families will grossly upset the fine balance of Tourism enjoyed by the community.
3. Existing faculties. The forced expansion of population will exceed the existing ones available. Roads, Hospitals, Doctors and Police are barely adequate at the moment with emphasis on Police personnel.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28/06/2021 11:45:38 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 28/06/2021 - 11:45

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

lan

Last name

banks

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Sunshine Beach

Submission

Not only is this beautiful country in an area ripe for further tourism but coal is yesterdays fuel suitable for the 1850's when no alternative or knowledge of the enviromental damage

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28/06/2021 10:59:46 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 28/06/2021 - 10:59

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Kevin

Last name

Fox

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Nullo Mountain 2849

Submission

I strongly object to coal exploration and any subsequent mining in the Hawkins-Rumker region for the following reasons:

- negative impact on rural industry & landscapes
- negative impact on tourism features of the area
- negative impact on the natural environment
- negative impact on aboriginal heritage sites, many of which I know from personal experience remain undocumented
- negative impact of coal mining on water resource quantity & quality, especially in an area vulnerable to drought and bushfire
- negative impact on local communities & economy with no real benefit from these negative impacts
- global trends toward lower use of thermal coal make the mining unviable & less economically relevant
- the PRIA process will not adequately evaluate the proposed release in a sufficiently rigorous benefit/cost analysis
- full & best practice use of existing coal mining should occur before new areas are released for further exploration/development

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28/06/2021 10:47:32 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 28/06/2021 - 10:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Susan

Last name

Barling

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone

Submission

I am a resident of Rylstone and would like to voice my dissent to proposed release of land for mining exploration.

It is absolute folly to continue to push to open more coal mines.

What is the matter with you

Nobody on this planet should be considering coal, renewables are the future with many jobs coming from those industries. New technologies are surfacing all the time.

Please have some sense and not continue down this road to damaging our lives and more significantly, Planet Earth.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27/06/2021 10:51:07 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Sun, 27/06/2021 - 10:51

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Beverly

Last name

Bingley-Pullin

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone Airpark, Rylstone NSW2849

Submission

In response to health concerns raised by the Hunter Valley community, patterns of NSW emergency department presentations and hospital admissions, as well as mortality, cancer incidence and self-reporting health survey data for those areas were compared with other parts of NSW. Some regions with exposures to open-cut coal mining and power generation were shown to have higher rates of emergency department attendance for asthma and respiratory disease, and higher rates of hospital admissions for asthma, respiratory conditions and cardio-vascular disease.

My husband is a chronic asthmatic and we chose Rylstone due to the height 2000 feet, cleaner air, beautiful and restful surrounds. Without question he has shown a marked improvement but the possibility of an open cut coal mine would have a chronic effect on his health and I am sure others in the district. This has been shown to be a fact.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27/06/2021 10:13:28 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Sun, 27/06/2021 - 10:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Robert

Last name

Bingley-Pullin

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone Airpark, Rylstone, NSW 2849

Submission

FOSSIL FUEL PRODUCERS ARE STRUGGLING TO SECURE FINANCE AS CLIMATE CONCERNS MOUNT. THE AUSTRALIAN 17/6/21.

I draw attention to the recent Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Assn

(APPEA) in which petroleum companies were increasingly facing an investment squeeze due to climate policies. Cords Chambers Westgarth M&A lawyer Sandy Mak told the APPEA conference she was already struggling to get deals involving fossil fuels or coal over the line given strict lending protocols . On trying to do an M&A deal that has any kind fossil fuel, thermal coal aspect to it , she can not do it as it is against Environment Social and Governance (ESG) mandate.

Why I ask, are you considering such a move when finance to develop the mine is virtually impossible bearing in mind the ESG and banking regulations.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26/06/2021 6:04:00 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Sat, 26/06/2021 - 06:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mudgee 2850

Submission

This proposal should not go ahead.

The global increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels and the associated enhanced greenhouse effect, global warming and climate change is already having catastrophic impacts on our planet. To be considering opening new coal mines is utterly irresponsible.

With global demand for fossil fuels falling, it casts serious doubt over the long term viability of the project whilst picturesque area of natural beauty would be destroyed.

Please do not grant an approval.

Asking on behalf of myself and future generations.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25/06/2021 8:52:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Fri, 25/06/2021 - 20:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Juliana

Last name

Gilders-Seysan

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Budgee Budgee

Submission

I do not agree with continued Mining in the Mudgee area in the Ralston area in the loo area in the Bylong area in Googong area or any of the surrounding areas. This is not actually good for the long-term health of the environment of the people and it is damaging for future generations. Any short-term gain will be far outweighed by the long-term losses we should be looking for far more sustainable ways to drive economic growth this is not it. Not on this land not at this time not ever

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25/06/2021 3:17:25 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Fri, 25/06/2021 - 15:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Troy

Last name

Killer

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mudgee

Submission

Hey I 100% agree let's go ahead with the mines.

It would be fantastic for the region

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24/06/2021 9:53:10 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Thu, 24/06/2021 - 09:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Stephen

Last name

Gaut

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone

Submission

I disagree with mining in Rumker and Hawkins in the Rylstone region. The region has unsurpassed beauty and is a tourist destination. The ugliness of mining together with all the added infrastructure, noise, dust, added people not from our region and who will not understand our tight community, will change the whole nature of the area. Food production, forestry, animal habitats, unique flora will be destroyed forever. There is no future in opening up new regions to coal mining considering how unpopular this is now and is an industry with no real future. The govt hopes to make money destroying the lives of Australians and future generations selling us to overseas markets.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23/06/2021 12:52:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 23/06/2021 - 12:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Ian

Last name

Bailey

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

LIVERPOOL 2170

Submission

The DPIE, Dear Secretary, The 1000+ members and friends of Birding NSW inc are committed to conservation of the threatened ecosystems of our State. Millions of trees and the life-forms they support have been lost since white settlement and we now cannot afford to lose one more tree or bush.

The idea of offsets or biobanking does not, cannot work. It is impossible to replace or reserve a section of bushland in the complex form developed over millions of years. The adjacent forests and reserves also rely on surrounding bush that acts as a buffer zone.

Consequently, we ask that this coal mining proposal be halted and permanently shelved for the sake of our threatened biodiversity.

We are sure others will write about the bird species expected to suffer. We are simply taking the view now: no habitat, no birds.

Sincerely, Ian Bailey, Office of Conservation Birding NSW inc.

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23/06/2021 9:31:07 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 23/06/2021 - 09:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Breakfast Creek 2849

Submission

As a local rural landholder I have no negative issue with the proposal of licences for the purpose of coal exploration in our district. Any industry, local employment and sponsorship opportunities would benefit our flailing twin town services.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22/06/2021 12:01:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 22/06/2021 - 12:01

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2850

Submission

We are the children of Mother Nature. STOP RAPING OUR MOTHER YOU REPUGNANT MONSTERS!

We are not defending nature, WE ARE NATURE DEFENDING ITSELF.

Get your wicked evil greedy claws off our SCARED COUNTRY, and go back to hell from where you were created! If you want to rape and pillage then do it to you and yours, in your backyard.

What a coincidence that the pedophiles have put the illegal thieving miscreant barnaby back at the helm of the LNP's destruction project.

Absolute wicked scum!

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22/06/2021 8:55:48 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 22/06/2021 - 08:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Janet

Last name

Thompson

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Balmain Sydney 2041

Submission

I wish to object to the proposed exploration for a coal mine 30 kms from Mudgee. The grounds for objection are because of the harm it would cause to our environment, for local population and wildlife who will have contaminated air to breathe from dust, for pollution of waterways, from abandonment of piles of disturbed byproduct, noise and light pollution from machinery on site and heavy vehicles on surrounding roads. But the biggest reason for objection is the increase of carbon in earth's atmosphere warming the planet when the coal is burnt. This makes the project economically unsound as the coal market dwindles as the world learns of cheap, clean renewable energy sources. A new coal mine is a dumb idea, useful for a few for brief profit.

Janet Thompson

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21/06/2021 5:44:05 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 21/06/2021 - 17:44

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Sydney 2000

Submission

As a land owner in Mudgee, I can confirm that I am a proud supporter of the town of Mudgee and its future growth, driven primarily by the nearby coal mines that are arguably some of the most efficient, well run coal mines in the country. The opportunity to continue this growth with the release of further land for future coal mining will be a huge boost for the area and something many country towns can only dream of as they face declining populations, increasing unemployment and rising socio-economic problems.

The coal mines located 25 to 45 minutes from Mudgee have proven over the years to work hand in glove with the town and its community. The mines have been successful in providing a large number of jobs to the local workforce, increasing the population by bringing outside workers and their families to the town and giving back to the community with grants and sponsorship. The opportunity to have more mines operating in the Mudgee area is something that should be embraced with both hands. It will create further employment opportunities, increase the town's population which in turn will create further employment opportunities, and increase the economic standing of the town immeasurably.

While it is obvious that new mines will help with the continued success of mining associated industries in the region, it will also have an impact on the rest of the businesses in the area as more people to the town will mean more jobs are needed across all industries and this in turn will have a huge benefit to the town as a whole. As regional areas and country towns around NSW and in fact, all of Australia, face economic hardship as populations decline, young people move away and socio-economic problems start to rise, not decline, Mudgee has an incredible opportunity to buck the trend with the approval of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for mining projects. New mines will present the town with the chance to continue to grow and get stronger – creating more jobs for the current population plus the future residents that are attracted to the Mudgee area. Based on research that says one mining job creates 2 or more new jobs in sub/supporting industries, the approval of these areas and subsequent mines stands to benefit even those that don't work in the mining industry within the township. More people in town means you will see more people employed at places like restaurants and cafes, more retail shops, more cars sold and more people in general shopping and being employed by local businesses to keep up with the increase in demand a growing population creates. All these things are a huge boost for the local economy and an incredible opportunity for the town of Mudgee and its people.

It is for this reason I am formally writing to you to support the approval of these new coal exploration sites.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 10:38:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 22:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Paul

Last name

Links

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Wamberal 2260

Submission

I am writing to you as I am sincerely opposed to the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration. I believe such an opening is a precursor to future coal mining and therefore this needs to be stopped now.

I am 61 years old and live on the Central Coast of NSW. From an early age I have been a keen bushwalker and have walked many times in the vicinity of the region associated with the Hawkins Rumker area. I also have family living in the rural hinterland of Mudgee and regularly visit them conducting bush walks in the catchments of the Cudgegong River. As I understand, the proposed release areas have the potential to threaten the water flow to Mudgee. Future expanded Coal Mining in this region will significantly impact in a negative manner the water resources in these local areas.

More than anything I am acutely aware of the potential disturbance and destruction of natural waterways which would impact on fish habitat and potentially lead to a loss of already threatened species. We need to preserve our already endangered ecological communities - not threaten their existence with coal mining expansion. As I understand, NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. Many of these species could be lost if we open up this region for coal exploration.

In a week where the IPCC has released a report indicating that our planet is running headlong into an overheating climate, we need to do everything within our power to stop the expansion of coal mining and the continued burning of fossil fuels.

The expansion of coal mining into this beautiful region will lead to an industrialisation of an incredible World Heritage area right on our doorstep. We need to protect this region, its waterways and the endangered ecological communities that call it home.

Please listen to the people and I urge you to put a stop to this proposed coal exploration.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Links

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 10:38:02 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 22:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Ma

Last name

Brittain

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3031

Submission

As a global citizen, I simply cannot stand by while we destroy more of our precious land. We are on the verge of climate crisis, and this is not the path out of our mess. I also cannot allow for the destruction of unceded Wiradjuri land without the approval of Elders, and for such a colonial cause. I've outlined more reasons below.

Issues with the PRIA Process:

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is fundamentally flawed. The area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area, and it also states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened fauna and flora. One question is how the government can assure that any future exploration licenses would include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values", when their own exploration process couldn't get it right.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption Report, Reducing the opportunities and incentives for corruption in the state's management of coal resources 2013, included recommendations that there should be community consultation. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has been aware of the potential coal release areas in Hawkins and Rumker for a year, however they only issued notices for community consultation in June 2021.

Community consultations were advertised for 29 and 30 July 2021, yet the portal for online submissions opened two weeks before this on 14 June 2021. The only people in the region who were notified were landowners whose properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration zones. Apart from this, the only other notification provided were one-off advertisements in a few newspapers. This is not notifying the nearly 3000 residents in surrounding areas on Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabbe, Olinda and Kelgoola. Why is it that these people would not be notified of potential new coal release areas when they receive their water from the potential release areas, and the coal would be transported through these areas?

The community consultation meeting were capped at four groups of 50 people, with one of these to be held in Mudgee. How could this possibly be a real attempt to have consultation with a population of nearly 3000 people?

There is no transparency in how the Government will weight and evaluate the submissions during the PRIA process. The Government has not agreed to make the report on the PRIA outcomes publicly available prior to its submission to Cabinet. This is also contrary to the Independent Commission Against Corruption findings, which highlighted the role of public officials in providing frank and independent advice to a minister and noted that public officials continue to remain vulnerable to potential demands to change recommendations to align with a minister's wishes.

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources:

The Reserve Bank of Australia anticipates international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable.

In its Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW released in June 2020, the NSW Government describes one of its four actions is supporting diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phase-out of thermal coal mining.

Australia exports 75 percent of its coal to Japan, South Korea and China. These countries have followed other countries in a worldwide trend and committed to move away from fossil fuels, which will result in decreased demand for coal.

This year, the G7 has committed to end public support for unabated coal generation by end of 2021.

The International Energy Agency Roadmap for the global energy sector states the world's coal will decline to just one fifth of current levels by 2040, and to one tenth by 2050.

Water:

One of the greatest threats is to our region's precious water supplies. This area is rich in natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers 10, 11. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways.

The Rylstone Dam catchment is in the proposed exploration areas. The upper catchment of the Cudgegong River feeds into the water supplies of Rylstone Dam and Windamere Dam. The Hawkins Rumker proposed release areas threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted.

Without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture. No tourism. Nothing to fight bushfires with.

Flora and Fauna:

There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.

The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek¹⁶ could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cops Creek is thoroughly unique¹⁶ and would be under threat.

Mines would transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact on the value of the amazing World Heritage area on our doorstep.

Aboriginal Heritage:

There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk. We have a duty as a nation to protect these sites.

Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining and our laws are inadequate to protect these sites.

Impact on current local economy:

Large areas would become coal mines. The proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas cover approximately 32,000 ha of land and would directly affect 180 landholders. There will be a loss of agricultural lands, farms would disappear or lose their water, and productive agricultural lands would be dug up or left fallow.

The people in the region have built long-term sustainable economic stability for this region. This revenue stays in the pockets of our local businesses. Businesses that have helped build the tourism industry in the region include vineyards, olive groves, horse studs, beef and sheep farms, eco-tourism, short stay accommodation, restaurants, cafes, antique shops, soft furnishings and knick-knacks for example. These businesses are incompatible with mining: tourists do not come to see coal mines.

Mines provide a flow of revenue to governments and their (mostly foreign) owners, however, the flow on to local businesses and local communities is generally not seen. The Hunter is the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas.

Mining is a specialist industry. People with the skills tend to follow the mines and very few additional local jobs are created. Like many industries, mining is becoming more automated, requiring fewer people. Over the next five years, mining is predicted to create just 0.4 percent of new jobs across all of Australia.

Just the threat of new mines being developed decimates many of the existing businesses as people stop investing or move away – even if the mine ultimately does not get approved. This has already happened in nearby Ulan, Wollar and Bylong.

The cost of living, especially housing, is often driven up to levels locals can no longer afford, as they cannot compete with the high wages miners receive.

Local towns close once the mines move on as they no longer have the income from the mines they were dependent on; and unemployment and associated issues such as crime, increase. This is the very reason strategies such as transitioning communities dependent on coal mining in NSW are required.

Social & health implications:

Air, water, soil and noise pollution, do not stay within the boundaries of the coal mining sites.

The neighbouring Hunter Valley is now a pollution 'hotspot' and has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW.

There would be a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on our local and rural roads. Traffic incidents increase from mine workers travelling to and from work. The quality of our roads is already very poor and they are not suited to increased or heavy load traffic. Historically, mines in this council area have been loath to put money into fixing any traffic issues created by their presence.

Noise and vibration will dramatically increase with blasting, heavy earthmoving equipment and machinery operating in the mines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and by coal being transported out on trains and trucks running through our towns.

Trains and trucks are not covered and the coal dust and associated pollution from transporting the coal can travel for kilometres.

Mines can be associated with increased rates of alcohol and drug abuse, violence, sexual assaults, and other crimes in adjoining communities.

Health effects are already being felt as people experience anxiety and stress about the threat to their region²⁸ and economic stability.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 10:33:07 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 22:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Canberra

Submission

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Descendant of the Dabee Wiradjuri Apical Ancestors of the area covered by the Hawkins Rumker proposal. I strongly oppose that the proposed exploration areas are opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and request that the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

I oppose the Hawkins Rumker proposal due to the potential risks of destroying or harming the many Aboriginal heritage sites already known in the area and destroying or harming the Land and waters of my people.

There are currently 28 publicly listed Aboriginal cultural sites in the proposed Hawkins and Rumker release areas⁷, six in the Hawkins area and 22 in the Rumker area (see Table 1). It should be noted that this is a gross underestimation of the number of sites in the area: in collaboration with other Traditional Custodians I have been connecting with residents and landowners in the Hawkins Rumker and surrounding areas to be able to visit sites and Country, previously locked off due to it being privately owned, and to prevent further destruction to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Many further Significant Sites have been identified and Artefacts found, these are in the process of being provided to AHIMS.

INTRODUCTION

Yindymarra is a key way of being for the Wiradjuri peoples, to respect and honour everything. Yindymarra is interconnected with identity, belonging, culture, spirituality, language, law and kinship¹⁰.

Aboriginal peoples relationship with the land is based on respect: the land has cared for Aboriginal peoples; Aboriginal peoples have cared for land in return. Each Aboriginal person is entrusted with the knowledge and responsibility to care for their Country. The deep relationship with Country means that disrespect, damage or destruction of Country leads to negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples.

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

Over centuries, Australian colonists have eroded Aboriginal culture and identity with Australia's various abhorrent laws, including the 1901 Constitution, which did not recognize our First Nations peoples as human beings until the 1967 Referendum, the state sanctioned removal of my family from traditional land and the land granted to non Aboriginal pastoralists, the state sanctioned massacres of my family, the state sanctioned forced labour inflicted on my family and the forced removal of children under the Assimilation Policy.

As a Traditional Custodian I feel strongly that the Hawkins Rumker proposal contributes to the ongoing cycle of intergenerational trauma.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CULTURAL SITES

The Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal Community members believe that sites are interconnected and not isolated entities. Each site represents only one part of a bigger picture. If you find an artefact, for example, the shard of a knife, it is not just an artefact. By looking at the surrounding landscape (reading Country), and looking at the food sources, water sources and surrounding landscape, one can connect that artefact to the larger story of who was there and what they did:

Mining operations of any kind, risk disturbing sites. Moving, damaging, or destroying one site, destroys the meaning of the sites and their interconnectedness:

You cannot simply move an artefact for safe keeping during mining operations and then put it back afterwards in the altered landscape; the meaning of sites are lost in altered landscapes.

Destroying sites or Country has an enormous negative impact at the individual and community level:

CONTINUED EROSION OF CULTURAL SITES

Songlines are an important part of Aboriginal culture and have been passed down from generation to generation for tens of thousands of years.

They not only map travel routes, but talk of the Creation events, the connectedness between places, and the ceremonies associated with those places¹². When land routes are blocked or changed, the Songlines are broken.

Mining operations have already significantly impacted the Wiradjuri people's Culture. Irreversible damage to Country through altered landscapes has also resulted in devastating loss to Cultural sites.

DESECRATION OF ANCESTRAL RESTING GROUNDS

There has been approximately seven to eight non-Aboriginal generations in Australia since colonization. Yet there are thought to be approximately 3000 generations of Aboriginal peoples in Australia. A new mine would add to the already countless Ancestors and family of mine who have already been disturbed.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

The news of the proposed Hawkins Rumker land release areas for coal mining had far reaching negative effects on the social and emotional wellbeing of myself and the local Wiradjuri people:

Ingrained in Aboriginal culture is the responsibility to care for Country for future generations. Needing to protect Country and culture from the impacts of the Hawkins Rumker proposal placed a heavy burden on us to take action. The impact on the Wiradjuri people if they were to suffer even more disruption or destruction to Country is too painful to contemplate.

DAMAGE TO COUNTRY AND WATER

I am deeply worried that Mining Operation will have a heavy impact on our Waterways and Swamps. The area under the PRIA has been drought affected for a long period and water resources are already heavily impacted by farming practices.

Traditional Owners believe subsidence from Mining practices affect the Newnes Plateau area and fear that the Hawkins Rumker Mining Proposal could equally affect the waterways swamps and vital ecological hanging swamps in this area.

CONCLUSION

I strongly oppose the proposed Hawkins Rumker potential release areas for the following reasons:

- Disproportionate impacts on the Wiradjuri peoples through the disruption and or destruction of cultural sites;
- Negative impact on Wiradjuri peoples' culture and wellbeing seeing more Songlines broken
- Negative impact on wellbeing to the Wiradjuri peoples seeing Country altered or destroyed
- Reinforcement of the exclusion of Aboriginal peoples from accessing their cultural heritage;
- Continued intergenerational trauma.
- Unsustainable use of water and negative affect on swamps and waterways in a drought affected area.

The level of community opposition to the Hawkins Rumker potential proposed release area with concerns raised regarding the impacts Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and negative impact to wellbeing due to damage or destruction of Country and culture, clearly indicate that a social license to operate for this project has not been achieved.
I believe that this proposal places our Country and Water at unacceptable risk. Further Mining in the area puts the birthrights of a clean and safe environment at risk and affects the lives of our children and our children's children.

I ask that Traditional Custodians of the land in the Hawkins and Rumker areas should be represented on the DPIE team or Advisory Board.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 10:31:21 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 22:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Oliver

Last name

Lawrance

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Paddington 2021

Submission

August 17, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am completely against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration going ahead as the value of the natural ecosystem and landscape and the local tourism and farms in the region are much more important than the short term benefit of digging up more coal.

I am 45 years of age and have been visiting the Rylstone area for last 20 years as I have close friends who grew up there. I would visit every year in the summer and winter holidays - bushwalking, swimming, helping out on the farm and visiting the local towns like Rylstone. On these trips I've had the privilege of seeing such diverse wildlife as well as incredible landscapes and natural wonders.

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is fundamentally flawed as it does not correctly acknowledge the threatened fauna and flora in the area which is a requirement of the process. The government said they would assure that any future exploration licenses would include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values" yet clearly they have not done this.

There are so many endangered flora and fauna species in the area as well as endangered ecological communities. I believe the NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. It's also clear that the waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.

There has also been completely inadequate community consultation. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has been aware of the potential coal release areas in Hawkins and Rumker for a year, however they only issued notices for community consultation in June 2021. Why wasn't this process initiated at the start of the year to give 6-8 months to engage with the community? Why leave it to the last minute?

The proposed coal areas cover a huge area of land, I believe it's about 32,000 ha and would directly affect 180 landholders. There will be a loss of agricultural lands, and coal mines will undermine the local eco-tourism that has been built in the region. Businesses that rely upon tourism in the region will be adversely affected including vineyards, olive groves, horse studs, beef and sheep farms, eco-tourism, short stay accommodation, restaurants, cafes, and antique shops. Tourism and these types of businesses are incompatible with mining: tourists like me do not come to see coal mines, we want to see the natural landscape and wildlife and the culture of the small towns and farms.

I really hope your committee will carefully listen to all the submissions against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration project. There is so much at stake here, and it is clear to me that the value of the natural ecosystem and landscape as well as the local tourism and farms in the region are much more important than digging up more coal.

There are such clear ethical, environmental and economic arguments against the coal proposal and it should never see the light of the day.

Yours sincerely,
 Oliver Lawrance
 [REDACTED] Paddington, NSW 2021

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:53:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Matthew

Last name

Swain

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Cooma 2630

Submission

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Prepared by:

Matthew Swain Traditional Custodian Dabee Wiradjuri Country

[REDACTED] Cooma NSW 2630

August 2021

My name is Matthew Swain and I am a Descendant of the Dabee Wiradjuri Apical Ancestors of the area covered by the Hawkins Rumker proposal. I strongly oppose that the proposed exploration areas are opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and request that the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

I oppose the Hawkins Rumker proposal due to the potential risks of destroying or harming the many Aboriginal heritage sites already known in the area and destroying or harming the Land and waters of my people.

There are currently 28 publicly listed Aboriginal cultural sites in the proposed Hawkins and Rumker release areas⁷, six in the Hawkins area and 22 in the Rumker area (see Table 1). It should be noted that this is a gross underestimation of the number of sites in the area: in collaboration with other Traditional Custodians I have been connecting with residents and landowners in the Hawkins Rumker and surrounding areas to be able to visit sites and Country, previously locked off due to it being privately owned, and to prevent further destruction to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Many further Significant Sites have been identified and Artefacts found, these are in the process of being provided to AHIMS.

INTRODUCTION

Yindymarra is a key way of being for the Wiradjuri peoples, to respect and honour everything. Yindymarra is interconnected with identity, belonging, culture, spirituality, language, law and kinship¹⁰.

Aboriginal peoples relationship with the land is based on respect: the land has cared for Aboriginal peoples; Aboriginal peoples have cared for land in return. Each Aboriginal person is entrusted with the knowledge and responsibility to care for their Country. The deep relationship with Country means that disrespect, damage or destruction of Country leads to negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples.

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

Over centuries, Australian colonists have eroded Aboriginal culture and identity with Australia's various abhorrent laws, including the 1901 Constitution, which did not recognize our First Nations peoples as human beings until the 1967 Referendum, the state sanctioned removal of my family from traditional land and the land granted to non Aboriginal pastoralists, the state sanctioned massacres of my family, the state sanctioned forced labour inflicted on my family and the forced removal of children under the Assimilation Policy.

As a Traditional Custodian I feel strongly that the Hawkins Rumker proposal contributes to the ongoing cycle of intergenerational trauma.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CULTURAL SITES

The Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal Community members believe that sites are interconnected and not isolated entities. Each site represents only one part of a bigger picture. If you find an artefact, for example, the shard of a knife, it is not just an artefact. By looking at the surrounding landscape (reading Country), and looking at the food sources, water sources and surrounding landscape, one can connect that artefact to the larger story of who was there and what they did:

Mining operations of any kind, risk disturbing sites. Moving, damaging, or destroying one site, destroys the meaning of the sites and their interconnectedness:

You cannot simply move an artefact for safe keeping during mining operations and then put it back afterwards in the altered landscape; the meaning of sites are lost in altered landscapes.

Destroying sites or Country has an enormous negative impact at the individual and community level:

CONTINUED EROSION OF CULTURAL SITES

Songlines are an important part of Aboriginal culture and have been passed down from generation to generation for tens of thousands of years. They not only map travel routes, but talk of the Creation events, the connectedness between places, and the ceremonies associated with those places¹². When land routes are blocked or changed, the Songlines are broken.

Mining operations have already significantly impacted the Wiradjuri people's Culture, Irreversible damage to Country through altered landscapes has also resulted in devastating loss to Cultural sites.

DESECRATION OF ANCESTRAL RESTING GROUNDS

There has been approximately seven to eight non-Aboriginal generations in Australia since colonization. Yet there are thought to be approximately 3000 generations of Aboriginal peoples in Australia. A new mine would add to the already countless Ancestors and family of mine who have already been disturbed.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

The news of the proposed Hawkins Rumker land release areas for coal mining had far reaching negative effects on the social and emotional wellbeing of myself and the local Wiradjuri people:

Ingrained in Aboriginal culture is the responsibility to care for Country for future generations. Needing to protect Country and culture from the impacts of the Hawkins Rumer proposal placed a heavy burden on us to take action. The impact on the Wiradjuri people if they were to suffer even more disruption or destruction to Country is too painful to contemplate.

DAMAGE TO COUNTRY AND WATER

I am deeply worried that Mining Operation will have a heavy impact on our Waterways and Swamps. The area under the PRIA has been drought

been largely removed, threatening riparian and rare ecology, riparian forest, swampland and waterways. The area is ecologically affected for a long period and water resources are already heavily impacted by farming practices. Traditional Owners believe subsidence from Mining practices affect the Newnes Plateau area and fear that the Hawkins Rumker Mining Proposal could equally affect the waterways swamps and vital ecological hanging swamps in this area.

CONCLUSION

- I strongly oppose the proposed Hawkins Rumker potential release areas for the following reasons:
- Disproportionate impacts on the Wiradjuri peoples through the disruption and or destruction of cultural sites;
 - Negative impact on Wiradjuri peoples' culture and wellbeing seeing more Songlines broken
 - Negative impact on wellbeing to the Wiradjuri peoples seeing Country altered or destroyed
 - Reinforcement of the exclusion of Aboriginal peoples from accessing their cultural heritage;
 - Continued intergenerational trauma.
 - Unsustainable use of water and negative affect on swamps and waterways in a drought affected area.

The level of community opposition to the Hawkins Rumker potential proposed release area with concerns raised regarding the impacts Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and negative impact to wellbeing due to damage or destruction of Country and culture, clearly indicate that a social license to operate for this project has not been achieved. I believe as a Custodian that this proposal places our Country and Water at unacceptable risk. Further Mining in the area puts the birthrights of a clean and safe environment at risk and affects the lives of our children and our children's children.

I ask that Traditional Custodians of the land in the Hawkins and Rumker areas should be represented on the DPIE team or Advisory Board.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:52:50 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

4000

Submission

Hi, I really hope that this area is not exploited for coal. It is such a beautiful natural area and not to mention camphill cottage is in it, and national parks near by... it is important to consider the environmental impact for wellbeing and sustainability.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:36:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

5000

Submission

Dear Director Energy and Resources Policy,

RE: Coal Exploration 50km of Mudgee.

I am writing to express my disgust of the proposal that the NSW government is considering whether to release the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration.

Allowing this process to start could lead to irreversible environmental damage. That same environment which has already been destroyed by the fires in 2020 which were exacerbated by the under funding of resources by the Berejiklian government.

Please don't our unique ecosystems down again.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:36:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Luca

Last name

King

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2323

Submission

I want to express my extreme disappointment in our government for even considering releasing these areas for coal exploitation.

Coal is an unsustainable element and an extremely volatile environmental process. Especially in light of the most recent climate report, reporting that our current situation is a code red, it is disgusting and inhuman to be considering opening another coal mine.

Why is our government so eager to take even more sacred land away from our Indigenous Peoples?

I implore our government to reconsider releasing these areas for coal exploitation.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:34:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Russell

Last name

Cox

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2330

Submission

Dear you,

No. No! No new coal! Coal is dead. Don't ruin Australia, and the world, by continuing this bullshit. Let's move Australia into THIS century, and focus on renewable energy. Leave the carbon in the ground. Create jobs that people can be proud of, that benefit the country as a whole, rather than a few rich corporations that only care about their own wealth.

Sincerely,

An Australian citizen, and citizen of the world

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:26:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:26

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Sophia

Last name

Derkenne

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Hinton 2321

Submission

I am opposed to the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped now.

There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk. Many of these are not yet officially documented. The existing Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors incorrectly states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area. This is despite the documented official records as well as local knowledge pointing to many more sites. Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining and our laws are inadequate to protect these sites.

There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.

The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cows Creek is thoroughly unique and would be under threat.

Mines would transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact on the value of the amazing World Heritage area on our doorstep.

This national park needs to be protected in its entirety and not exploited for profit and the benefit of the rich.

Do. Not. Do. This.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:19:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Cooma

Submission

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Descendant of the Dabee Wiradjuri Apical Ancestors of the area covered by the Hawkins Rumker proposal.

I strongly oppose that the proposed exploration areas are opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and request that the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

I oppose the Hawkins Rumker proposal due to the potential risks of destroying or harming the many Aboriginal heritage sites already known in the area and destroying or harming the Land and waters of their people.

I strongly oppose the proposed Hawkins Rumker potential release areas for the following reasons:

- Disproportionate impacts on the Wiradjuri peoples through the disruption and or destruction of cultural sites;
- Negative impact on Wiradjuri peoples' culture and wellbeing seeing more Songlines broken
- Negative impact on wellbeing to the Wiradjuri peoples seeing Country altered or destroyed
- Reinforcement of the exclusion of Aboriginal peoples from accessing their cultural heritage;
- Continued intergenerational trauma.
- Unsustainable use of water and negative affect on swamps and waterways in a drought affected area.

I believe that this proposal places our Country and Water at unacceptable risk. Further Mining in the area puts the birthrights of a clean and safe environment at risk and affects the lives of our children and our children's children.

I ask that Traditional Custodians of the land in the Hawkins and Rumker areas should be represented on the DPIE team or Advisory Board.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:13:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

4005, Teneriffe, Brisbane

Submission

Dear Sir, Dear Madam

I was very disappointed to know that such a beautiful place in NSW will be using for coal mining. I completely disagree with this intention as the only one way to save Australia's nature, national parks and heritage is to be smart and don't let money to be at the first place. I'm against of the idea of coal mining in Rylestone, NSW.

With Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:12:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Elizabeth

Last name

Dudley-Bestow

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Katoomba 2780

Submission

Hello,

I object to the Hawkins Rumker area being opened up for potential coal mining for both heart felt feelings and scientific reasoning.

I have lived multiple decades in the Blue Mountains region, and walked through the Wollemi areas in many seasons, seen signs of Aboriginal occupation and felt the pull of the land. I have seen pagodas cracked from coal mining underneath, I have seen swamps drained and dried out from coal mining underneath. I really don't want to see more of that.

And for what? For something that the scientific community - through such agency as the recent International Panel on Climate Change - is begging us to stop doing.

Just say no.

regards
 Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow
 Landscape Planner

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:12:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Cooma

Submission

My name is [REDACTED] & my husband and children are Descendants of the Dabee Wiradjuri Apical Ancestors of the area covered by the Hawkins Rumker proposal.

I strongly oppose that the proposed exploration areas are opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and request that the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

I oppose the Hawkins Rumker proposal due to the potential risks of destroying or harming the many Aboriginal heritage sites already known in the area and destroying or harming the Land and waters of their people.

I strongly oppose the proposed Hawkins Rumker potential release areas for the following reasons:

- Disproportionate impacts on the Wiradjuri peoples through the disruption and or destruction of cultural sites;
- Negative impact on Wiradjuri peoples' culture and wellbeing seeing more Songlines broken
- Negative impact on wellbeing to the Wiradjuri peoples seeing Country altered or destroyed
- Reinforcement of the exclusion of Aboriginal peoples from accessing their cultural heritage;
- Continued intergenerational trauma.
- Unsustainable use of water and negative affect on swamps and waterways in a drought affected area.

I believe that this proposal places our Country and Water at unacceptable risk. Further Mining in the area puts the birthrights of a clean and safe environment at risk and affects the lives of our children and our children's children.

I ask that Traditional Custodians of the land in the Hawkins and Rumker areas should be represented on the DPIE team or Advisory Board.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:10:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 21:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Julie

Last name

Hunter

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2027

Submission

To the Director Energy and Resource Policy,
 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

17th August 2021

Submission against the proposed Hawkins Rumker Coal Mine

My name is Julie Hunter and my family has had a long connection with Rylstone and the land it is on and it's surrounds.

My grandfather grew up here and his great grandfather before him. They lived on Short street. My grandmother and my great aunts lived here too. My mother and her sisters spent time visiting their grandparents when they were kids and I have been visiting Rylstone since I was born. There is a photo of me on the porch at Short street. I was not yet one year old. We were there for a family reunion for which there have been many since.

My family are the Howe family. We are buried in its soil and have contributed to the building of a community, a town, a village.

My aunty told me that she lived here as a kid attending the local school because she had asthma and my nana and grandfather pa sent her away from Sydney to Rylstone for the fresh air and so that she could breathe.

A coal mine would mean the end to this fresh air.

I am against the development of the Hawkins Rumker exploration and coal mine and subsequent mines in the area and put forward the notion that they should not proceed for the following reasons:

- the irreversible destruction of ancient and sacred lands.
- the negative health impacts to the community. It is a fact that coal mining impacts the health and life expectancy of residents and this is backed by numerous studies and it is well documented.
- the negative impact to waterways, the environment, it's plants and animals.

There are alternative options available to powering our future. It's time to end our relationship with coal mining.

Kindest regards,

Jules

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 8:52:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Douglas

Last name

Steed

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Woy Woy 2256

Submission

The proposal to have the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration is of great concern, not only to the local community and environment now, but also to the youth of today who we have a duty of responsibility to leave planet Earth in a better condition than what is forecast as a result of climate change and environmental degradation.

Mining exploration on its own causes too much damage to the environment, let alone actual coal mining, and needs to be stopped now.

Having organised many Duke of Edinburgh Awards expeditions, and mapped out many treks in the neighbouring Wollemi National Park and Coricudgy State Forest I am well aware of the highly sensitive nature of the environment in the area, which includes our protected Wollemi Pine, and numerous Aboriginal Heritage sites that would be threatened by coal mining activities. Candidates for the Gold Award were encouraged to leave the environment, especially around their campsites, in a better condition than what they found them in.

As a Head Teacher - Science for many years teaching HSC Earth and Environmental Science, and coordinating Streamwatch, Clean Up Australia, National Tree Day and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards at a number of schools, I would be appalled, as would most students, at any government that gave the go-ahead for any further fossil fuel exploration at all.

Our focus needs to be on renewable, sustainable and environmentally friendly practices that will care for our country.

Douglas Steed
 Head Teacher - Science (Chatswood HS and Normanhurst Boys HS) retired
 Duke of Edinburgh Awards Coordinator
 Streamwatch Teacher of the Year 2009.

[REDACTED]

Woy Woy, NSW 2256

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 8:46:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:46

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Bronwyn

Last name

Powell

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Dubbo 2830

Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I have lived in the Cudgegong-Macquarie Catchment for 14 years, and regularly bushwalk and camp in the upper catchment, and paddle on the Cudgegong and Macquarie Rivers. I understand the importance of healthy catchments for healthy rivers. The Hawkins Rumker coal exploration proposal threatens the health of the catchment and rivers. Spring and bores can be contaminated, and drilling can crack and drain groundwater sources. Water supply to several towns is also threatened.

I am also concerned about the detrimental impact to:

- Threatened species: NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. Plus the riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek, and the unique Swamp Grassland and Spagnum Bog in the central Cox's Creek, could all be lost forever.
- Aboriginal heritage: cultural sites in the proposed areas may be lost, including rock art sites and ceremonial sites.
- Coal and climate change: this one is obvious – climate change is here and no more coal mines should be approved. 100% renewables now.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 17/08/2021 8:39:34 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Flemington 3031

Submission

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment.

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My reasons and/or how it will impact me are outlined below.

I am [REDACTED] years of age and strongly believe and am against this coal exploration. This country is important and mining actively destroys the environment.

Issues with the PRIA Process:

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is fundamentally flawed. The area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area, and it also states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened fauna and flora. One question for the government can assure that any future exploration licenses would include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values", when their own exploration process couldn't get it right.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption Report, Reducing the opportunities and incentives for corruption in the state's management of coal resources 2013, included recommendations that there should be community consultation. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has been aware of the potential coal release areas in Hawkins and Rumker for a year, however they only issued notices for community consultation in June 2021.

Community consultations were advertised for 29 and 30 July 2021, yet the portal for online submissions opened two weeks before this on 14 June 2021. The only people in the region who were notified were landowners whose properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration zones. Apart from this, the only other notification provided were one-off advertisements in a few newspapers. This is not notifying the nearly 3000 residents in surrounding areas on Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabbe, Olinda and Kelgoola. Why is it that these people would not be notified of potential new coal release areas when they receive their water from the potential release areas, and the coal would be transported through these areas?

The community consultation meeting were capped at four groups of 50 people, with one of these to be held in Mudgee. How could this possibly be a real attempt to have consultation with a population of nearly 3000 people?

There is no transparency in how the Government will weight and evaluate the submissions during the PRIA process. The Government has not agreed to make the report on the PRIA outcomes publicly available prior to its submission to Cabinet. This is also contrary to the Independent Commission Against Corruption findings, which highlighted the role of public officials in providing frank and independent advice to a minister and noted that public officials continue to remain vulnerable to potential demands to change recommendations to align with a minister's wishes.

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources:

The Reserve Bank of Australia anticipates international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable.

In its Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW released in June 2020, the NSW Government describes one of its four actions is supporting diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phase-out of thermal coal mining

Australia exports 75 percent of its coal to Japan, South Korea and China. These countries have followed other countries in a worldwide trend and committed to move away from fossil fuels, which will result in decreased demand for coal.

This year, the G7 has committed to end public support for unabated coal generation by end of 2021.

The International Energy Agency Roadmap for the global energy sector states the world's coal will decline to just one fifth of current levels by 2040, and to one tenth by 2050.

Water:

One of the greatest threats is to our region's precious water supplies. This area is rich in natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers 10, 11. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways.

The Rylstone Dam catchment is in the proposed exploration areas. The upper catchment of the Cudgegong River feeds into the water supplies of Rylstone Dam and Windamere Dam. The Hawkins Rumker proposed release areas threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla: water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted.

Without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture, no tourism, nothing to fight bushfires with.

Flora and Fauna:

There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.

The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek¹⁶ could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cows Creek is thoroughly unique¹⁶ and would be under threat.

Mines would transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact on the value of the amazing World Heritage area on our doorstep.

Aboriginal Heritage:

There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk. We have a duty as a nation to protect these sites.

Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining and our laws are inadequate to protect these sites.

Impact on current local economy:

Large areas would become coal mines. The proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas cover approximately 32,000 ha of land and would directly affect 180 landholders. There will be a loss of agricultural lands, farms would disappear or lose their water, and productive agricultural lands would be dug up or left fallow.

The people in the region have built long-term sustainable economic stability for this region. This revenue stays in the pockets of our local businesses. Businesses that have helped build the tourism industry in the region include vineyards, olive groves, horse studs, beef and sheep farms, eco-tourism, short stay accommodation, restaurants, cafes, antique shops, soft furnishings and knick-knacks for example. These businesses are incompatible with mining: tourists do not come to see coal mines.

Mines provide a flow of revenue to governments and their (mostly foreign) owners, however, the flow on to local businesses and local communities is generally not seen. The Hunter in the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas.

Mining is a specialist industry. People with the skills tend to follow the mines and very few additional local jobs are created. Like many industries, mining is becoming more automated, requiring fewer people. Over the next five years, mining is predicted to create just 0.4 percent of new jobs across all of Australia.

Just the threat of new mines being developed decimates many of the existing businesses as people stop investing or move away – even if the mine ultimately does not get approved. This has already happened in nearby Ulan, Wollar and Bylong.

The cost of living, especially housing, is often driven up to levels locals can no longer afford, as they cannot compete with the high wages miners receive.

Local towns close once the mines move on as they no longer have the income from the mines they were dependent on; and unemployment and associated issues such as crime, increase. This is the very reason strategies such as transitioning communities dependent on coal mining in NSW are required.

Social & health implications:

Air, water, soil and noise pollution, do not stay within the boundaries of the coal mining sites.

The neighbouring Hunter Valley is now a pollution 'hotspot' and has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW.

There would be a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on our local and rural roads. Traffic incidents increase from mine workers travelling to and from work. The quality of our roads is already very poor and they are not suited to increased or heavy load traffic. Historically, mines in this council area have been loath to put money into fixing any traffic issues created by their presence.

Noise and vibration will dramatically increase with blasting, heavy earthmoving equipment and machinery operating in the mines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and by coal being transported out on trains and trucks running through our towns.

Trains and trucks are not covered and the coal dust and associated pollution from transporting the coal can travel for kilometres.

Mines can be associated with increased rates of alcohol and drug abuse, violence, sexual assaults, and other crimes in adjoining communities.

Health effects are already being felt as people experience anxiety and stress about the threat to their region²⁸ and economic stability.

I wish my name to be withheld from the PRIA submission site: Yes

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 8:37:38 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Jett

Last name

Chudleigh

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3040

Submission

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
 Locked Bag 502
 Parramatta NSW 2124

Jett Chudleigh

17/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My reasons and/or how it will impact me are outlined below.

Issues with the PRIA Process

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is fundamentally flawed. The area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area, and it also states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened fauna and flora. One question is how the government can assure that any future exploration licenses would include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values", when their own exploration process couldn't get it right.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption Report, Reducing the opportunities and incentives for corruption in the state's management of coal resources 2013, included recommendations that there should be community consultation. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has been aware of the potential coal release areas in Hawkins and Rumker for a year, however they only issued notices for community consultation in June 2021.

Community consultations were advertised for 29 and 30 July 2021, yet the portal for online submissions opened two weeks before this on 14 June 2021. The only people in the region who were notified were landowners whose properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration zones. Apart from this, the only other notification provided were one-off advertisements in a few newspapers. This is not notifying the nearly 3000 residents in surrounding areas on Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabbe, Olinda and Kelgoola. Why is it that these people would not be notified of potential new coal release areas when they receive their water from the potential release areas, and the coal would be transported through these areas?

The community consultation meeting were capped at four groups of 50 people, with one of these to be held in Mudgee. How could this possibly be a real attempt to have consultation with a population of nearly 3000 people?

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The International Energy Agency Roadmap for the global energy sector states the world's coal will decline to just one fifth of current levels by 2040, and to one tenth by 2050.

Water

One of the greatest threats is to our region's precious water supplies. This area is rich in natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers^{10, 11}. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways.

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Without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture, no tourism, nothing to fight bushfires with.

Flora and Fauna

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Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.

The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek¹⁶ could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cox's Creek is thoroughly unique¹⁶ and would be under threat.

Mines would transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact on the value of the amazing World Heritage area on our doorstep.

Aboriginal Heritage

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Impact on current local economy

Large areas would become coal mines. The proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas cover approximately 32,000 ha of land and would directly affect 180 landholders. There will be a loss of agricultural lands, farms would disappear or lose their water, and productive agricultural lands would be dug up or left fallow.

The people in the region have built long-term sustainable economic stability for this region. This revenue stays in the pockets of our local businesses. Businesses that have helped build the tourism industry in the region include vineyards, olive groves, horse studs, beef and sheep farms, eco-tourism, short stay accommodation, restaurants, cafes, antique shops, soft furnishings and knick-knacks for example. These businesses are incompatible with mining: tourists do not come to see coal mines.

Mines provide a flow of revenue to governments and their (mostly foreign) owners, however, the flow on to local businesses and local communities is generally not seen. The Hunter is the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas.

Mining is a specialist industry. People with the skills tend to follow the mines and very few additional local jobs are created. Like many industries, mining is becoming more automated, requiring fewer people. Over the next five years, mining is predicted to create just 0.4 percent of new jobs across all of Australia.

Just the threat of new mines being developed decimates many of the existing businesses as people stop investing or move away – even if the mine ultimately does not get approved. This has already happened in nearby Ulan, Wollar and Bylong.

The cost of living, especially housing, is often driven up to levels locals can no longer afford, as they cannot compete with the high wages miners receive.

Local towns close once the mines move on as they no longer have the income from the mines they were dependent on; and unemployment and associated issues such as crime, increase. This is the very reason strategies such as transitioning communities dependent on coal mining in NSW are required.

Social & health implications

Air, water, soil and noise pollution, do not stay within the boundaries of the coal mining sites.

The neighbouring Hunter Valley is now a pollution 'hotspot' and has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW.

There would be a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on our local and rural roads. Traffic incidents increase from mine workers travelling to and from work. The quality of our roads is already very poor and they are not suited to increased or heavy load traffic. Historically, mines in this council area have been loath to put money into fixing any traffic issues created by their presence.

Noise and vibration will dramatically increase with blasting, heavy earthmoving equipment and machinery operating in the mines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and by coal being transported out on trains and trucks running through our towns.

Trains and trucks are not covered and the coal dust and associated pollution from transporting the coal can travel for kilometres.

Mines can be associated with increased rates of alcohol and drug abuse, violence, sexual assaults, and other crimes in adjoining communities.

Health effects are already being felt as people experience anxiety and stress about the threat to their region²⁸ and economic stability.

Yours sincerely,
Jett Chudleigh

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 8:36:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Freja

Last name

Black

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3053

Submission

I am opposed to the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped now. This is land of cultural significance, a beautiful landscape that has an entire ecosystem that depends upon it. Leave it alone!

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 8:31:38 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Emma

Last name

Cohen

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2021

Submission

The possible economic gain from this project would be far outweighed by the harm caused to our First Peoples and their Country.

DPIE must also consider the irreparable harm that the coal industry is having on our climate. Continuing to release land for coal exploration is in stark opposition to the course recommended by the United Nations and the scientific community. Continuing to encourage the degradation of Country to enrich the coal industry will only undermine the NSW community's faith in the government's ability to manage our land and resources in a responsible and forward-thinking manner.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 8:30:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:30

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Angus

Last name

Ireland

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2850

Submission

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Lue, 2850

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: PROPOSED HAWKINS RUMKER COAL EXPLORATION

We live at [REDACTED] Lue and Hawkins Creek passes through our property 'Lochiely' - so only a few kilometres from the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal area. We would like to strongly express our opposition to the granting of approval to explore. Our foremost concern is about climate change. The International Panel on Climate Change's recent report IPCC AR6 came out last week, confirming that global warming is occurring faster than predicted. They advise that Australia has warmed by 1.4oC already, while the rest of the world has warmed by 1.1oC. Reaching 1.5oC is now expected for the globe anytime between 2021-2040. With the technology for renewable energy sources now well advanced, surely the time for commencing exploration for fossil-fuel energy sources has now passed! It may be logical to keep existing coal mines in operation to ensure a stable transition but with the exploration/EIS/approval/construction processes often taking many years, this coal mine may well become a redundant dinosaur before any coal is extracted. Our second concern is about the threat to our property's precious clean water supply. Hawkins Creek joins Lawson Creek on our property and together these two creeks provide just enough fresh clean water to get our livestock through the worst of the recent 2017-2019 drought. We pump water from Lawson creek to a reticulated trough system that services 90% of the property and it was only just enough to see us through the drought - as evidenced by the fact that the carp had to swim sideways after each pumping. A coal mine in this location will break through and severely affect the aquifers which currently feed both Hawkins and Lawson Creeks, damaging our livelihood and risking the financial viability of our grazing operation. We have seen this affect on farmers in the Goulburn River catchment from the Ulan, Moolarben and Wollar coal mines. In addition, open cut and underground coal mines have a record of contaminating fresh water supply and consequently destroying biodiversity in freshwater systems. Livestock and all other life forms are harmed by contaminated water. Our third concern is acid mine leakage. We know from other potential mines in this district that the bedrock in the Lue/Rylstone area has a high sulphur content which transforms to sulphuric acid when exposed, causing major damage to ecological systems. The United Nations has identified acid mine leakage as the second biggest problem facing humanity after climate change, so it's difficult to overstate the harm caused by this impact. There are of course many other impacts on native animal wildlife health and human health from coal mines and the list goes on. For all these reasons, we strongly encourage the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to not approve Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

Yours sincerely

Angus and Irene Ireland

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 8:23:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Tess

Last name

Sebastian

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Fitzgibbon

Submission

I am strongly against the building of a coal mine. Australia's long term energy solutions needs to be aligned with renewable and sustainable options which coal is not.
This proposal should not proceed.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 8:21:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Shaun

Last name

Watson

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bronte 2024

Submission

I am a medical doctor, father and grandfather who has spent much time around Mudgee, Ilford, Rylstone and the Wollemi National Park. It is beautiful, priceless country that has already been deeply scarred by coal mining. Never forget the devastation of the Wollemi by the incomprehensible "black summer" fires, also a consequence of coal mining, as made clear by IPCC 2021.

How can a government that is ostensibly committed to zero emissions by 2050 even dream up the idea of opening a vast tract of precious country to coal mining, and why explore if there is no intention to dig.

Don't think you can dig and sell coal and wash your hands of the emission costs. That will just not cut it in the post "black summer" and IPCC 2021 world. Coal is a toxic drug and we must quit the habit if our species is to survive with any quality of life - Who is the most culpable? The buyer? The dealer? Or the syndicate behind the dealer?

Give up this reprehensible nonsense of another mega coal project now!

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 8:19:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Rachel

Last name

Ballesty

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Dee Why

Submission

I oppose the release of Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration as it is not compatible with IPCC report's factual reporting that new coal, oil and gas explorations will worsen the impending climate change disaster. I ask you to abolish these plans and invest in renewable energy instead. Thank you.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 8:07:15 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 20:07

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

4055

Submission

Please protect the beautiful landscape of this precious place.

We'd love to see the government support and invest in more sustainable power options, preserving, protecting and investing in the future of our country and generations to come.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:58:32 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone

Submission

I live close to the proposed mines and feel that there are much better ways to see our countries future in renewable energy sources rather than coal exploration. It has been proven that coal exploration is not needed in our green and bio-future. I am a person who believes in the protection of our environment and not the exploitation of it. It is close to many houses and our community and will not be a good idea for many reasons. It will create noise, tap into our water supplies, clog the roads with trucks and drive many people away from the community. This is a peaceful community and we care about the protection of our local environment. There are several records of Koalas in the Hawkins area. A scientific study undertaken by BioLink found that 71% of Koala populations had been lost in six fire-affected areas in northern NSW after the catastrophic 2019/2020 bushfires. These lands are rich in Wiradjuri heritage. Publicly available data reveal 26 separately recorded sites including rock shelters with painted or engraved art, camp sites and grinding grooves. The area is part of a very intact landscape with almost two-thirds of it covered in native vegetation and more than 10% known or potential threatened ecological communities. Other important species recorded in Hawkins-Rumker include the critically endangered Regent honeyeater and the nationally-endangered Spotted-tailed quoll, which is reliant on large, intact habitats with old growth elements to survive. To the north east, the Rumker release area runs along 33km of the border of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Concern has already been raised at the World Heritage Centre and IUCN about the potential impacts of eight mining operations on the boundaries of the site.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:52:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Tom

Last name

Loneragan

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Frenchs Forest

Submission

I was born in Mudgee and have spent years visiting family in Rylstone. This is a terrible idea - especially considering there are ample deposits of coal sitting within existing mines the Hunter. Please do not go ahead with this plan and destroy our beautiful landscape. None of the community want this...

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:52:34 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2850

Submission

I am A proud Aboriginal woman I am from Rylstone.

My heart breaks at the thought of mining on my Country.

My [REDACTED] are from Rylstone please dont Drill and Mine our Country.

This area is sacred to our family and many other Aboriginal mobs due to songlines and ceremony.

Our Rock art should stay in tact.

Our rivers should run clean

Our children should dance

Our children should sing up country

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:39:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

4573

Submission

I feel very concerned about this situation. I sincerely hope the area is not release for coal mining. The area is a beautiful natural habit. Please don't destroy it.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:39:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Paula

Last name

Novotna

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

LAWSON NSW 2783

Submission

See attached submission - please put an end to this exploration.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:36:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone

Submission

As regular visitors to Rylstone and the Rylstone Aerodrome Airpark we are very concerned about the prospect of a coal mine in the area. This is a town that thrives on tourism, wineries, olives and local town events. A coal mine would completely destroy the local community charm and clean environmental surrounds that is so compelling. We implore you to halt the progress of this potential coal mine site.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:29:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:29

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Sonja

Last name

Lord

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3127

Submission

It would be such a tragedy if a beautiful area was devastated by a coal. This does not need to happen in this area. Animals and peoples home will be effected. We do not need new coal mines anywhere. To even suggest such a thing should even be considered is disgusting.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:28:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:28

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Sean

Last name

Clayton

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2778

Submission

I'm opposed to this mine, as I believe it will be a net loss for the environment and our community.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:22:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Petrie

Submission

It would be such a shame to destroy such a beautiful area, additionally 2020 era is not for coal, renewable energy should be the focus, Australia has so many options available.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:21:50 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Cecily

Last name

Satin

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Diamond Creek

Submission

Please don't do this. We need sustainable solutions now more than ever.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 17/08/2021 7:14:48 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:14

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Cooma 2630

Submission

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Prepared by:

[REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Descendant of the Dabee Wiradjuri Apical Ancestors of the area covered by the Hawkins Rumker proposal. I am a Member of the Native Title Claimants Group covering the area proposed and a Traditional Custodian. I strongly oppose that the proposed exploration areas are opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and request that the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

I oppose the Hawkins Rumker proposal due to the potential risks of destroying or harming the many Aboriginal heritage sites already known in the area and destroying or harming the Land and waters of my people.

There are currently 28 publicly listed Aboriginal cultural sites in the proposed Hawkins and Rumker release areas, six in the Hawkins area and 22 in the Rumker area. It should be noted that this is a gross underestimation of the number of sites in the area. In collaboration with other Traditional Custodians I have been connecting with residents and landowners in the Hawkins Rumker and surrounding areas to be able to visit sites and Country, previously locked off due to it being privately owned, and to prevent further destruction to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Many further Significant Sites have been identified and Artefacts found, these are in the process of being provided to AHIMS.

INTRODUCTION

Yindymarra is a key way of being for the Wiradjuri peoples, to respect and honour everything. Yindymarra is interconnected with identity, belonging, culture, spirituality, language, law and kinship. Aboriginal peoples relationship with the land is based on respect. The land has cared for Aboriginal peoples; Aboriginal peoples have cared for land in return. Each Aboriginal person is entrusted with the knowledge and responsibility to care for their Country. The deep relationship with Country means that disrespect, damage or destruction of Country leads to negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples.

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

Over centuries, Australian colonists have eroded Aboriginal culture and identity with Australia's various abhorrent laws, including the 1901 Constitution, which did not recognize our First Nations peoples as human beings until the 1967 Referendum, the state sanctioned removal of my family from traditional land and the land granted to non Aboriginal pastoralists, the state sanctioned massacres of my family, the state sanctioned forced labour inflicted on my family and the forced removal of children under the Assimilation Policy. As a Traditional Custodian I feel strongly that the Hawkins Rumker proposal contributes to the ongoing cycle of intergenerational trauma.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CULTURAL SITES

The Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal Community members believe that sites are interconnected and not isolated entities. Each site represents only one part of a bigger picture. If you find an artefact, for example, the shard of a knife, it is not just an artefact. By looking at the surrounding landscape (reading Country), and looking at the food sources, water sources and surrounding landscape, one can connect that artefact to the larger story of who was there and what they did. Mining operations of any kind, risk disturbing sites. Moving, damaging, or destroying one site, destroys the meaning of the sites and their interconnectedness. You cannot simply move an artefact for safe keeping during mining operations and then put it back afterwards in the altered landscape; the meaning of sites are lost in altered landscapes. Destroying sites or Country has an enormous negative impact at the individual and community level.

CONTINUED EROSION OF CULTURAL SITES

Songlines are an important part of Aboriginal culture and have been passed down from generation to generation for tens of thousands of years. They not only map travel routes, but talk of the Creation events, the connectedness between places, and the ceremonies associated with those places. When land routes are blocked or changed, the Songlines are broken. Mining operations have already significantly impacted the Wiradjuri people's Culture, Irreversible damage to Country through altered landscapes has also resulted in devastating loss to Cultural sites.

DESECRATION OF ANCESTRAL RESTING GROUNDS

There has been approximately seven to eight non-Aboriginal generations in Australia since colonization. Yet there are thought to be approximately 3000 generations of Aboriginal peoples in Australia. A new mine would add to the already countless Ancestors and family of mine who have already been disturbed.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

The news of the proposed Hawkins Rumker land release areas for coal mining had far reaching negative effects on the social and emotional wellbeing of myself and the local Wiradjuri people.

Ingrained in Aboriginal culture is the responsibility to care for Country for future generations. Needing to protect Country and culture from the impacts of the Hawkins Rumker proposal placed a heavy burden on us to take action. The impact on the Wiradjuri people if they were to suffer even more disruption or destruction to Country is too painful to contemplate.

DAMAGE TO COUNTRY AND WATER

I am deeply worried that Mining Operation will have a heavy impact on our Waterways and Swamps. The area under the PRIA has been drought affected for a long period and water resources are already heavily impacted by farming practices. Traditional Owners believe subsidence from Mining practices affect the Newnes Plateau area and fear that the Hawkins Rumker Mining Proposal could equally affect the waterways swamps and vital ecological hanging swamps in this area.

CONCLUSION

I strongly oppose the proposed Hawkins Rumker potential release areas for the following reasons:

- Disproportionate impacts on the Wiradjuri peoples through the disruption and or destruction of cultural sites;
- Negative impact on Wiradjuri peoples' culture and wellbeing seeing more Songlines broken
- Negative impact on wellbeing to the Wiradjuri peoples seeing Country altered or destroyed
- Reinforcement of the exclusion of Aboriginal peoples from accessing their cultural heritage;
- Continued intergenerational trauma.
- Unsustainable use of water and negative affect on swamps and waterways in a drought affected area.

The level of community opposition to the Hawkins Rumker potential proposed release area with concerns raised regarding the impacts Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and negative impact to wellbeing due to damage or destruction of Country and culture, clearly indicate that a social license to operate for this project has not been achieved.

I believe as a Custodian that this proposal places our Country and Water at unacceptable risk. Further Mining in the area puts the birthrights of a clean and safe environment at risk and affects the lives of our children and our children's children.

I ask that Traditional Custodians of the land in the Hawkins and Rumker areas should be represented on the DPIE team or Advisory Board.

I would also like to note that NSW has a declared goal of net zero emissions by 2050 and Australia has a commitment to the 2018 Paris agreement. Coal exploration directly goes against these agreements and harms the future of our young people. It is well known that any temperature rise from green house gases will have a catastrophic effect on our climate. We should be focusing on renewable energy sources and offering jobs in these areas. It makes me sick that you would approve any coal mining exploration when you know how harmful it is to Australian people on so many levels.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:10:34 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

4226

Submission

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Descendant of the Dabee Wiradjuri Apical Ancestors of the area covered by the Hawkins Rumker proposal. I am a Member of the Native Title Claimants Group covering the area proposed and a Traditional Custodian.

I strongly oppose that the proposed exploration areas are opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and request that the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

I oppose the Hawkins Rumker proposal due to the potential risks of destroying or harming the many Aboriginal heritage sites already known in the area and destroying or harming the Land and waters of my people.

There are currently 28 publicly listed Aboriginal cultural sites in the proposed Hawkins and Rumker release areas, six in the Hawkins area and 22 in the Rumker area (see Table 1). It should be noted that this is a gross underestimation of the number of sites in the area: in collaboration with other Traditional Custodians I have been connecting with residents and landowners in the Hawkins Rumker and surrounding areas to be able to visit sites and Country, previously locked off due to it being privately owned, and to prevent further destruction to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Many further Significant Sites have been identified and Artefacts found, these are in the process of being provided to AHIMS.

INTRODUCTION

Yindymarra is a key way of being for the Wiradjuri peoples, to respect and honour everything. Yindymarra is interconnected with identity, belonging, culture, spirituality, language, law and kinship¹⁰.

Aboriginal peoples relationship with the land is based on respect: the land has cared for Aboriginal peoples; Aboriginal peoples have cared for land in return. Each Aboriginal person is entrusted with the knowledge and responsibility to care for their Country. The deep relationship with Country means that disrespect, damage or destruction of Country leads to negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples.

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

Over centuries, Australian colonists have eroded Aboriginal culture and identity with Australia's various abhorrent laws, including the 1901 Constitution, which did not recognize our First Nations peoples as human beings until the 1967 Referendum, the state sanctioned removal of my family from traditional land and the land granted to non Aboriginal pastoralists, the state sanctioned massacres of my family, the state sanctioned forced labour inflicted on my family and the forced removal of children under the Assimilation Policy.

As a Traditional Custodian I feel strongly that the Hawkins Rumker proposal contributes to the ongoing cycle of intergenerational trauma.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CULTURAL SITES

The Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal Community members believe that sites are interconnected and not isolated entities. Each site represents only one part of a bigger picture. If you find an artefact, for example, the shard of a knife, it is not just an artefact. By looking at the surrounding landscape (reading Country), and looking at the food sources, water sources and surrounding landscape, one can connect that artefact to the larger story of who was there and what they did:

Mining operations of any kind, risk disturbing sites. Moving, damaging, or destroying one site, destroys the meaning of the sites and their interconnectedness:

You cannot simply move an artefact for safe keeping during mining operations and then put it back afterwards in the altered landscape; the meaning of sites are lost in altered landscapes.

Destroying sites or Country has an enormous negative impact at the individual and community level:

CONTINUED EROSION OF CULTURAL SITES

Songlines are an important part of Aboriginal culture and have been passed down from generation to generation for tens of thousands of years.

They not only map travel routes, but talk of the Creation events, the connectedness between places, and the ceremonies associated with those places¹². When land routes are blocked or changed, the Songlines are broken.

Mining operations have already significantly impacted the Wiradjuri people's Culture. Irreversible damage to Country through altered landscapes has also resulted in devastating loss to Cultural sites.

DESECRATION OF ANCESTRAL RESTING GROUNDS

There has been approximately seven to eight non-Aboriginal generations in Australia since colonization. Yet there are thought to be approximately 3000 generations of Aboriginal peoples in Australia. A new mine would add to the already countless Ancestors and family of mine who have already been disturbed.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

The news of the proposed Hawkins Rumker land release areas for coal mining had far reaching negative effects on the social and emotional wellbeing of myself and the local Wiradjuri people:

Ingrained in Aboriginal culture is the responsibility to care for Country for future generations. Needing to protect Country and culture from the impacts of the Hawkins Rumker proposal placed a heavy burden on us to take action. The impact on the Wiradjuri people if they were to suffer even more disruption or destruction to Country is too painful to contemplate.

DAMAGE TO COUNTRY AND WATER

I am deeply worried that Mining Operation will have a heavy impact on our Waterways and Swamps. The area under the PRIA has been drought affected for a long period and water resources are already heavily impacted by farming practices.

Traditional Owners believe subsidence from Mining practices affect the Newnes Plateau area and fear that the Hawkins Rumker Mining Proposal could equally affect the waterways swamps and vital ecological hanging swamps in this area.

CONCLUSION

I strongly oppose the proposed Hawkins Rumker potential release areas for the following reasons:

...likely to impact the proposed Rumker Rumker potential release area and surrounding areas.

- Disproportionate impacts on the Wiradjuri peoples through the disruption and or destruction of cultural sites;
- Negative impact on Wiradjuri peoples' culture and wellbeing seeing more Songlines broken
- Negative impact on wellbeing to the Wiradjuri peoples seeing Country altered or destroyed
- Reinforcement of the exclusion of Aboriginal peoples from accessing their cultural heritage;
- Continued intergenerational trauma.
- Unsustainable use of water and negative affect on swamps and waterways in a drought affected area.

The level of community opposition to the Hawkins Rumker potential proposed release area with concerns raised regarding the impacts Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and negative impact to wellbeing due to damage or destruction of Country and culture, clearly indicate that a social license to operate for this project has not been achieved.

I believe as a Custodian that this proposal places our Country and Water at unacceptable risk. Further Mining in the area puts the birthrights of a clean and safe environment at risk and affects the lives of our children and our children's children.

I ask that Traditional Custodians of the land in the Hawkins and Rumker areas should be represented on the DPIE team or Advisory Board.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 7:06:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 19:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Mck

Last name

Houlbrook

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

MARRICKVILLE

Submission

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
 Locked Bag 502
 Parramatta NSW 2124

Dr Michael Houlbrook

[REDACTED]

Marrickville
 NSW 2204

17th August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

This catalogues my opposition to the Hawkins Rumker project.

I have a strong and abiding connection to this region which dates back to the mid 1990s. I have visited the region several times a year for approximately 25 years. These visits have been connected to family relationships in the area and centred on the town of Rylstone. My opposition to this project is related to three broad areas of concern:

1. The thriving development of the region in the last 25 years, both agriculturally and in its increasing popularity as a tourist region.
2. The cultural and natural history significance of the area (in particular, the rich and important nature of the birdlife).
3. The redundancy of fossil fuels in the sustainable future of the planet.

Since the mid 1990s I have observed this area becoming a popular escape for visitors from the larger urban areas. Apart from their outstanding natural beauty of the area in the Wollemi hinterland, there is been a significant development in the production of high quality produce, particularly in wine and food. During the last two decades the town of Rylstone in particular has transformed into a vibrant rural community, with strong and friendly social connection. It has become a welcoming and successful rural destination.

The area has interesting historical features, both of settler and First Nations origins and these things are associated with outstanding natural features. Examples are found in places such as Gungahlin/Dunn's Swamp and in the historic buildings of the villages and hamlets in the region. As a keen bird watcher it is a delight to observe species of the region which is blessed with many of the species found in the nearby Capertee Valley – and internationally recognised destination for ornithologists.

All of these things are put at risk by the development of fossil fuel exploration and potential, subsequent extraction. The latest report of the IPCC makes it abundantly clear that the further development of fossil fuels has disastrous consequences for humankind. By contrast, the ongoing enhancement of the positive features of this region show great promise for local people and the development of sustainable and productive enterprises. This is an opportunity to create fulfilling jobs and build on the developments in the region over the last 25 years.

Opposing the further exploration of this region is imperative and entirely justified on the basis of the rich alternative strategies for developing the region.

Sincerely

Michael Houlbrook

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 6:53:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 18:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Rob

Last name

Loneragan

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone 2849

Submission

I am the original proprietor of the Rylstone Aerodrome Airpark. I was born in the Mudgee area and my family have been involved in business in the district since 1870.

The previously abandoned aerodrome was purchased in 2009. Following the purchase a great deal of upgrade, construction and improvements to return the Airfield to a standard for safe operation was carried out.

After several years of planning and obtaining approvals the 63 Lot Airpark was finally registered in 2015.

This project began a migration of aviation like minded investors to Rylstone and the Airpark. Since 2015 there has been millions of dollars invested by myself and others who have purchased Lots in the Airpark which has been a great economic boost to Rylstone and the local district.

Annual Aviation events have attracted thousands of visitors, aircraft and pilots to the town and have provided a significant boost to the local economy.

This vital piece of infrastructure now also provides important facilities for several Government emergency services and agencies that regularly use the Aerodrome in the course of carrying out their operations.

The approval to open up new coal mining operations within a few hundred meters of the Airfield would significantly impact on what has made the Airpark such an attractive proposition to those who have purchased here. Additionally it would deter future investors from wanting to purchase at the Airpark because the natural beauty, attractive rural landscape and pristine environment of the area would forever be scarred and spoiled.

The loss of valuable and productive farmland would be a tragic loss for the region and would be devastating for the families who have farmed here for generations.

The global demand for coal is on the reduction and the existing reserves in existing productive mines should be exhausted before new sources are developed.

It is time for Governments to take responsibility for how we as a country are contributing to the worlds carbon production through the export of such resources as Coal.

This development is dangerous to our environment and is devastating to the livelihoods of so many people who live in our community and district.

Government and our nation need to take a stand and to step up on a collaborative basis to investigate and create innovative ways how we can develop alternative sources of energy.

To our politicians, please be big and bold and do the right thing by our local community, our state, our country and the world, do not allow the development of this coal mine to proceed. We need you to make a decision that is in the interests of all mankind.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 6:46:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 18:46

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Yana

Last name

Martirosova

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

CAMIRA QLD 4300

Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am against building a new coal mine in Rylestone in rural NSW.

Thank you

Yana

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 6:44:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 18:44

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Lauren

Last name

Swain

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Brunswick 3056

Submission

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Prepared by: Lauren Swain Traditional Custodian Dabee Wiradjuri Country

[REDACTED] Brunswick, 3056.

August 2021

My name is Lauren Swain and I am a Descendant of the Dabee Wiradjuri Apical Ancestors of the area covered by the Hawkins Rumker proposal. I am a Member of the Native Title Claimants Group covering the area proposed and a Traditional Custodian.

I strongly oppose that the proposed exploration areas are opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and request that the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

I oppose the Hawkins Rumker proposal due to the potential risks of destroying or harming the many Aboriginal heritage sites already known in the area and destroying or harming the Land and waters of my people.

There are currently 28 publicly listed Aboriginal cultural sites in the proposed Hawkins and Rumker release areas⁷, six in the Hawkins area and 22 in the Rumker area (see Table 1). It should be noted that this is a gross underestimation of the number of sites in the area: in collaboration with other Traditional Custodians my family has been connecting with residents and landowners in the Hawkins Rumker and surrounding areas to be able to visit sites and Country, previously locked off due to it being privately owned, and to prevent further destruction to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

Many further Significant Sites have been identified and Artefacts found, these are in the process of being provided to AHIMS.

INTRODUCTION

Yindyamarra is a key way of being for the Wiradjuri peoples, to respect and honour everything. Yindyamarra is interconnected with identity, belonging, culture, spirituality, language, law and kinship¹⁰.

Aboriginal peoples relationship with the land is based on respect: the land has cared for Aboriginal peoples; Aboriginal peoples have cared for land in return. Each Aboriginal person is entrusted with the knowledge and responsibility to care for their Country. The deep relationship with Country means that disrespect, damage or destruction of Country leads to negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples.

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

Over centuries, Australian colonists have eroded Aboriginal culture and identity with Australia's various abhorrent laws, including the 1901 Constitution, which did not recognize our First Nations peoples as human beings until the 1967 Referendum, the state sanctioned removal of my family from traditional land and the land granted to non Aboriginal pastoralists, the state sanctioned massacres of my family, the state sanctioned forced labour inflicted on my family and the forced removal of children under the Assimilation Policy.

As a Traditional Custodian I feel strongly that the Hawkins Rumker proposal contributes to the ongoing cycle of intergenerational trauma.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CULTURAL SITES

The Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal Community members believe that sites are interconnected and not isolated entities. Each site represents only one part of a bigger picture. If you find an artefact, for example, the shard of a knife, it is not just an artefact. By looking at the surrounding landscape (reading Country), and looking at the food sources, water sources and surrounding landscape, one can connect that artefact to the larger story of who was there and what they did:

Mining operations of any kind, risk disturbing sites. Moving, damaging, or destroying one site, destroys the meaning of the sites and their interconnectedness:

You cannot simply move an artefact for safe keeping during mining operations and then put it back afterwards in the altered landscape; the meaning of sites are lost in altered landscapes.

Destroying sites or Country has an enormous negative impact at the individual and community level:

CONTINUED EROSION OF CULTURAL SITES

Songlines are an important part of Aboriginal culture and have been passed down from generation to generation for tens of thousands of years. They not only map travel routes, but talk of the Creation events, the connectedness between places, and the ceremonies associated with those places¹². When land routes are blocked or changed, the Songlines are broken.

Mining operations have already significantly impacted the Wiradjuri people's Culture, Irreversible damage to Country through altered landscapes has also resulted in devastating loss to Cultural sites.

DESECRATION OF ANCESTRAL RESTING GROUNDS

There has been approximately seven to eight non-Aboriginal generations in Australia since colonization. Yet there are thought to be approximately 3000 generations of Aboriginal peoples in Australia. A new mine would add to the already countless Ancestors and family of mine who have already been disturbed.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

The news of the proposed Hawkins Rumker land release areas for coal mining had far reaching negative effects on the social and emotional wellbeing of myself and the local Wiradjuri people:

Ingrained in Aboriginal culture is the responsibility to care for Country for future generations. Needing to protect Country and culture from the impacts of the Hawkins Rumer proposal placed a heavy burden on us to take action. The impact on the Wiradjuri people if they were to suffer even more disruption or destruction to Country is too painful to contemplate.

DAMAGE TO COUNTRY AND WATER

I am deeply worried that Mining Operation will have a heavy impact on our Waterways and Swamps. The area under the PRIA has been drought affected for a long period and water resources are already heavily impacted by farming practices.

Traditional Owners believe subsidence from Mining practices affect the Newnes Plateau area and fear that the Hawkins Rumker Mining Proposal could equally affect the waterways swamps and vital ecological hanging swamps in this area.

CONCLUSION

I strongly oppose the proposed Hawkins Rumker potential release areas for the following reasons:

- Disproportionate impacts on the Wiradjuri peoples through the disruption and or destruction of cultural sites;
- Negative impact on Wiradjuri peoples' culture and wellbeing seeing more Songlines broken
- Negative impact on wellbeing to the Wiradjuri peoples seeing Country altered or destroyed
- Reinforcement of the exclusion of Aboriginal peoples from accessing their cultural heritage;
- Continued intergenerational trauma.
- Unsustainable use of water and negative affect on swamps and waterways in a drought affected area.

The level of community opposition to the Hawkins Rumker potential proposed release area with concerns raised regarding the impacts Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and negative impact to wellbeing due to damage or destruction of Country and culture, clearly indicate that a social license to operate for this project has not been achieved.

I believe as a Custodian that this proposal places our Country and Water at unacceptable risk. Further Mining in the area puts the birthrights of a clean and safe environment at risk and affects the lives of our children and our children's children.

I ask that Traditional Custodians of the land in the Hawkins and Rumker areas should be represented on the DPIE team or Advisory Board

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21/06/2021 2:46:19 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 21/06/2021 - 14:46

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Joel

Last name

Fuller

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Coxs Creek 2849

Submission

My young family and I live on the border of Wollemi national park, an area now under the "Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker".

We purchased this land just over 3 years ago, with the view to raise our children in an area surrounded by nature. Our block is part of a conservation agreement with the NSW Bioconservation Trust, due to the pagoda rock formations and localised flora and fauna.

I am opposed to any coal exploration in this area for several reasons, but mainly due to fact that this seems completely not required, coal is an industry that does not have a future, it does not seem wise to promote any form of industry that has a limited shelf life.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21/06/2021 11:54:34 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 21/06/2021 - 11:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Graeme

Last name

Debenham

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Lisarow 2250

Submission

The Hunter coal miners will not benefit from the additional competition from new coal mines in this area. The additional transport will overload road and rail for no benefit to locals, state production, national production. There is already more accessible coal than the world needs and this is driving prices and profits down.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19/06/2021 3:49:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Sat, 19/06/2021 - 15:49

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

BRIAN

Last name

KING

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Glen Alice 2849

Submission

These developments will provide a much needed boost to local economies Small towns like Kandos and Rylstone are doing ok now but once Covid passes, say 18 months , they will revert to towns struggling to prosper. This mining activity will largely alleviate this decline. Wider economic benefits from mining are well known . With world coal demand still strong these mines are a big plus for the Midwest, and will serve the area well for perhaps the next 20-30 years

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 18/06/2021 2:12:45 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Fri, 18/06/2021 - 14:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mudgee

Submission

I support the opening of these areas for coal exploration for the following reasons:

- Exploration activities are heavily regulated and occur in line with government rules and in agreement with specific landholders. It is not a "free for all" and is likely not to occur across the whole area described on the maps.
- Exploring for coal does not necessarily mean that there will be a coal mine sometime in the future. That process is also heavily regulated and requires thorough environmental and community assessment.
- Coal remains NSW's largest export and will be so for the foreseeable future. It provides the state government with valuable royalties to fund public infrastructure and provides the livelihood for thousands of NSW families directly and indirectly. It makes strategic sense to explore for more in an area that currently already has existing mines and associated infrastructure and service suppliers.
- Exploration (and any future potential development) will provide valuable jobs in a region that needs them - specifically on the back end of Covid-19.

The opening of these areas to exploration fall in line with the NSW Premier's Priorities of providing "a strong economy" through associated jobs and flow on effects to local businesses while also "breaking the cycle of disadvantage" in towns like Kandos where unemployment is well above the state average.

There are a lot of organised groups who don't want anything to do with coal and are often front and centre in any public debate. That is their right. However, there is also an immense amount of people who do support exploration of coal who are in the community but aren't aware of these types of government processes for providing feedback and their views aren't always captured. This was evident in the recent Upper Hunter by-election that showed resounding support for ongoing coal jobs across a multitude of candidates. I hope this is taken into account during the decision making process.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/06/2021 12:00:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Fri, 18/06/2021 - 12:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Julia

Last name

Tierney

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone 2849

Submission

I object to the development of coal mining in the Rylstone districts. The area is of unique natural beauty and rivals the World Heritage status of the Blue Mountains. The area is also home to abundant wildlife including endangered quolls, and many unique bird species. Many local people have devoted their lives to preserving this wildlife corridor and the special flora and white box forests of the area. In a land of extreme droughts and high temperatures it is important to have the livelihoods of the local food producing farms protected. Mining will devastate them. The area is also a successful tourist destination owing to its cafes, restaurants, quirky shops, airport, wineries, festivals, museums, 2 golf courses and walking trails and includes scenic drives especially along Bylong Valley Way. To mine it should be a criminal act. It is hard to understand why a community should unnecessarily targeted opening new coal mines when coal is quickly going out of favour.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/06/2021 10:32:25 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Fri, 18/06/2021 - 10:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2795

Submission

I object to any coal mining in this area:

1. Greenhouse gas emissions created both during mining and downstream usage.
2. Loss of amenity in beautiful natural area adjoining Wollemi National Park.
3. Threats to water courses, e.g. Coxs Creek and Growee River, such as subsidence.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/06/2021 2:03:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Thu, 17/06/2021 - 14:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Philip

Last name

Ord

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Wollar 2850

Submission

The proposal to open up further areas to coal exploration is myopic in the extreme given the world's desperate need to move away from fossil fuels. Additionally, given the proposed areas are prime farmland, the NSW Government is going to provoke a voting backlash at the next election. Australia, and the world, do not need more coal mines!

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/06/2021 3:11:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 16/06/2021 - 15:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Johan

Last name

Van der Heyde

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

[REDACTED] Rylstone, 2849.

Submission

It is my believe that the development of a coal mine will be of utmost importance for the survival and development of the Rylstone area.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/06/2021 2:23:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 16/06/2021 - 14:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Kevin

Last name

Eadie

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Drummoyne 2047

Submission

Given the statements from reputable world bodies like the International Energy Agency and informed Australians, the thought of any more coal exploration in Australia should be abandoned immediately.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/06/2021 1:10:18 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 16/06/2021 - 13:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mudgee

Submission

I find it hard to understand why these areas are being considered when they are so close to the failed KEPCO Bylong valley coal project. I believe these new areas would have many of the same issues that made the Bylong project unacceptable.

Just to list a few they are in proximity to the World Heritage listed BMNP.

There is a lack of infrastructure in the communities in close proximity to these proposed mine sites. Schools, health care and mostly a shortage of housing in an area that is already suffering extreme stress.

The area has a recognised scenic drive listed as in the top 10 in NSW.

It is in an area of scenic fertile farm land.

There is no means of transporting the mined material to port or power station without the use of road transport. Which if used will impact negatively on surrounding communities. The nearby Sandy Hollow line is already running at capacity.

Furthermore with recent international agreements that there should be no more opening up of new (greenfield) coal mines due to the extreme threat of Climate Change so any new projects should be rejected.

So I believe strongly that any coal development in these areas is a bad decision and will face considerable opposition.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/06/2021 12:12:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 16/06/2021 - 12:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Amy

Last name

spry

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Cox's creek

Submission

I am concerned about my business as it might contaminate or disturb our water flow to our water supply as we are a water business

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15/06/2021 5:38:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 15/06/2021 - 17:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Amanda

Last name

Whiles

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2850

Submission

I do not want this development in my area. Period. These areas are of considerable environmental beauty and essential for wildlife. There are also areas of good agricultural land. Tourism is so important to us, and a huge hole in the ground has little appeal. This is a huge backwards step and is wrong in every way. When the G7 have said no more coal and the future is in renewables, and the international energy agency said no more coal... what can your department and government seriously be thinking? Is it because you stopped the Liverpool plains which was another absolute planning disaster? And the rest of the world is saying no more coal due to global warming, what on earth is the proposal about? It is totally backwards and would be yet again another blight on our local regional environment for absolutely no justifiable reason. The idea should be abandoned as coal is now a bygone era, and leave the coal in the ground and the trees on the land. The water needs to remain accessible in the water aquifers for farmers and nature, not to be ruined by huge coal mines. This is a totally backwards plan in every way.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Whiles

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15/06/2021 3:49:52 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 15/06/2021 - 15:49

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Jemma

Last name

Lieschke

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Dee Why 2099

Submission

Climate Change is an incredibly serious concern and Australia needs to start working towards a future without coal. Resources need to be focused on investigating and developing coal alternatives rather than searching for new coal stockpiles.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19/08/2021 12:00:20 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Thu, 19/08/2021 - 00:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Darren

Last name

Baguley

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Nullo Mountain 2849

Submission

To whom it may concern.

I am writing in regard to the proposed Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA), to determine if you will issue coal exploration licences in the Rylstone area.

I object to the issue of any new coal exploration licences on general and specific grounds.

General grounds

Given the events of this region's most recent drought and the Black Summer bushfires coupled with the release of the most recent IPCC report, I find it unbelievable that the NSW State Government is even considering releasing more areas for coal exploration and exploitation.

Specific grounds

The Hawkins and Rumker areas are located in the Central Tablelands region of New South Wales and fall within the Md-Western Regional local government area. The region is a rural landscape, comprised of cleared agricultural land surrounded by vegetated slopes and ridgelines. The land zones set out in the Md-Western Regional Local Environmental Plan 2012 are predominantly RU1 Primary Production, with some R5 Large Lot Residential and E3 Environmental Management.

The release of Hawkins Rumker for coal exploration and mining is not consistent with the local environment plan. Which identifies:

the region's rural, natural and heritage attributes

- fostering a sustainable and vibrant economy
- rural uses that minimise land use conflict and adverse impacts on amenity.

The Independent Planning Commission findings relating to the Bylong Valley stated that mining would be a new land use, and that agriculture and tourism land uses are preferred. The Hawkins and Rumker areas have very similar landscape and heritage values to the Bylong Valley. They have predominantly agricultural and tourism economies, which are far stronger than existed in Bylong.

To give an indication of the strength of this area's agricultural and tourism values, I would like to relate the following. Before moving west of the Sandstone Curtain, I was a journalist. I spend my time primarily on my commercial hazelnut, cattle and sheep property, however, I do still write for some publications I enjoy working with.

Some years ago, after an abundance of elderflowers on one of the shrubs in our foodforest, I recalled an episode of River Cottage where Hugh made elderflower 'champagne' and I encouraged my wife to start making a brew with the natural spring water and elderflowers.

It is non-alcoholic and naturally fermented from the yeasts on the flowers. It's a great, refreshing drink for watching sunsets in summer from the backyard looking out over the Cudgong Valley.

Over the years, some of the bottles have been gifted to family and friends. It has never been sold. However, one weekend in early June 2021, we were contacted by an editor whom I'd sent a bottle to as a Christmas present. She was visiting Rylstone from Sydney with her 4WD club, loved the Elderflower champagne and wanted to visit, to buy some.

The club were in Rylstone having lunch at the yum cha, and were planning to stay in Dunns Swamp for a couple of nights. I agreed it was ok for the group to drop in. A couple of hours later, six 4WDs arrived. I knew only my editor, but was happy to host them for the afternoon. They enthused about the property, the amazing location, the abundance. They tasted champagne and loaded cases into their cars to take home. They dreamed dreams for us of a deck, cellar door and the multitude of home made products here that could be sold to like-minded Sydney visitors.

This is sustainable, planet friendly economic activity, bringing people close to where food is grown, with the best ingredients and a clean environment. This is what this region should be building its future on.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19/08/2021 12:02:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Thu, 19/08/2021 - 00:02

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Karla

Last name

Hayes

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2500

Submission

To whom ever it may concern,

My name is Karla Hayes, and I am writing this to convey my strong opposition to the proposal for the Hawkins and Rumker areas to be opened for coal exploration.

I currently live in Wollongong but I am a regular visitor to the area as a cyclist who enjoys bicycle tourism, long distance cycling and exploring Australia's wild places.

Even though I don't live in the area I strongly oppose the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration - it's a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped immediately. I may not live in the area but it does not take a science degree to understand that we are interdependent - all humans and ecosystems depend on each other to survive and flourish, when one domino falls we all do. The ecological, economic and social well-being of those in the area should not be risked on another coal project that will bring more harm than good.

Also to state the obvious - we cannot afford to be opening any more coal mines or explore for future coal when our planet is rapidly heating due to climate change (brought on by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal). I am 24. The creation of another Australian coal mine would further jeopardise my future and the future of the Australian community, let alone any children I may choose to have.

Firstly, the risks to water are a clear reason this project should not go ahead. I have seen the damage caused by the Appin mine to local systems in the Illawarra - once water is gone or contaminated this cannot be reversed. Coal mining is an extremely thirsty and wasteful process consuming approximately 653 litres for each tonne of coal produced. It poses a great threat to local water resources, with open cut and underground mines contaminating water, destroying water ways and ecosystems and lowering water tables.

The Rylstone Dam catchment is within the proposed exploration areas, and the proposed release areas threaten water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; as well as potentially Mudgee. The region recently came out of a drought - what will happen next time we have drought or a catastrophic fire event? Without water there is no life - no ecology, no economy, no communities, agriculture or tourism.

Secondly, many endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecologies could be lost if this project went ahead. NSW BioNet recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

Ecosystems depend on water, particularly ecosystems found in waterways or in the riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek that could also be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in central Cows Creek is a unique ecosystem that is also threatened by this proposal. Not to mention the mines transforming a beautiful area into a harsh, industrialised landscape, impacting the value and viability of tourism operations and travel to the World Heritage area on its doorstep. The mine could also irreversibly damage precious Aboriginal heritage sites.

Finally - a non exhaustive list of the potential social and economic impacts of mining activity.

- pollution or water, soil, air and noise - these are not contained within the perimeters of coal mines and affect neighbouring communities
- The Hunter Valley was recently considered a pollution 'hotspot' - with some of the highest rates of respiratory and cardiac conditions in the state.
- The stress of more traffic, especially large heavy vehicles on local and rural roads, especially when mines have not been inclined to put money into fixing traffic problems and damage created by their presence
- Vibration and noise created by blasting, heavy earth moving equipment and machinery operating 24/7 will have immense impacts on the health of ecosystems and humans
- Air quality reduced by coal dust from mining and transport of coal
- A beautiful area being transformed into an unsightly coal mine could pose a significant mental weight on locals and visitors alike
- Transient shift work can often result in an increase in violence and crime in the affected and nearby communities.
- An increase in socioeconomic divides form, as locals are often unable to compete with the high wages of miners who drive up housing and other costs.
- The people in the region have built long-term sustainable economic stability for this region. This revenue stays in the pockets of our local businesses. Businesses that have helped build the tourism industry in the region include vineyards, olive groves, horse studs, beef and sheep farms, eco-tourism, short stay accommodation, restaurants, cafes, antique shops, soft furnishings and knick-knacks for example. These businesses are incompatible with mining: tourists do not come to see coal mines.
- Local towns close once the mines move on as they no longer have the income from the mines they were dependent on; and unemployment and associated issues such as crime, increase.

In conclusion - this project will cause more harm than good. It will not enable NSW to reach its own net-zero goals let alone Australia's duty to the world to reduce emissions and reach net zero.

I am appalled that this project was even suggested.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:54:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 23:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Julie

Last name

Car

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2148

Submission

As a landowner in Hawkins and a mother of four, I object to this proposal based on intergenerational equity and the NSW governments' intent to destroy what little biodiversity we have left.

It is well documented that the insurance industry will no longer underwrite coal mining yet the government persists in approving licences thereby making Australians the laughing stock of the developed world. Will the NSW government underwrite the reparation cost of climate change and decimation of the natural environment to our future generations?

Is this how we, as global citizens intend on reducing carbon emissions?

Since the expansion of mining in Wollar and blasting of Bowden's mine, I have not seen a Gang-gang Cockatoo that previously frequented the woodlands of the Dividing Range ridge in the Parish of Hawkins. This proposal, nor the ensuing mining of Bowden's or Peabody's, stipulate that their proposal have any effect on the Cacatuidae genus.

The ruggedness and lack of public access to this natural area has ensured a pristine natural environment promoting ecological communities and biodiversity. This proposal would begin the destruction of that which is irreplaceable.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:50:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 23:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Darren

Last name

Baguley

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Nullo Mountain 2849

Submission

To whom it may concern.

I am writing in regard to the proposed Hawkins Rumber Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA), to determine if you will issue coal exploration licences in the Rylstone area.

I object to the issue of any new coal exploration licences on general and specific grounds.

General grounds

Given the events of this region's most recent drought and the Black Summer bushfires coupled with the release of the most recent IPCC report, I find it unbelievable that the NSW State Government is even considering releasing more areas for coal exploration and exploitation.

Specific grounds

Given that the area covered by Hawkins and Rumker is less than five hours drive from Sydney, there are large areas of pristine environment. Possibly the most precious of these are the montane bogs, montane fens and hanging swamps along Cox's Creek, Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek. These are all important parts of the complex of endangered montane mire communities distributed across the tablelands and adjacent ranges of NSW and are referable to the Montane Peatlands and Swamps Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) listing under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and the Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 listing.

The name of some other creeks are also indicative of the presence of swamps, such as Dairy Swamp Creek and Greenhills Swamp Creek. While no data is available for the vegetation on these waterways, it is probable EEC could also be present.

Exploration and mining activity drills or digs holes in the ground and these activities cannot but have a detrimental impact upon the quantity and quality of water quality and on these waterways. Mines both damage any existing water resources within the in which extraction takes place and they require a significant amount of water to operate.

No matter what type of mining is proposed – underground or open cut - the impacts on springs, creeks and rivers are detrimental and irreversible. These swamps are highly dependent upon groundwater and they are scarce and already under pressure from a rapidly changing climate; anyone who doubts the impact of longwall mining should walk the dead swamps of the Newnes Plateau.

These swamps absorb and hold water in the landscape providing life-giving moisture for native animals and plants as well as livestock during drought.

Mining in Hawkins RUmker will lead to the permanent loss of endangered aquatic environments such as meadows, sphagnum bogs, wetlands and associated ecosystems as well as the wide range of threatened species, populations and communities that make up these natural treasures.

The meadows, sphagnum bogs, wetlands and associated ecosystems of Cox's Creek, Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek are unique, they are at lower elevations than these communities are usually found and further west - they are precious endangered ecological communities. The impact of mining cannot just be offset through the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme – these communities are not found anywhere else, they cannot be offset and they cannot be 'fixed' if they are damaged.

The NSW Government is swimming against the tide when it comes to further exploitation of coal - please stop this madness, if not for us, for our children and their children.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:47:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 23:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Phil

Last name

Bradley

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Winston Hills 2153

Submission

Objection to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I oppose the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration proposal. The reasons for my objection include the following detrimental impacts:

1. I am extremely concerned that this proposal does not give proper consideration to its potential impact on climate change. I am very worried that if approved it would cause a high risk of sidelining the principles of ecologically sustainable development as contained in section 6 (2) of the Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991, community consultation will be eroded, especially intergenerational equity and duty of care in respect to our global heating crisis! Only last month in the Shama versus Vickery Coal Mine case, Justice Mordecai Bromberg of the Federal Court of Australia formalised into law that Australia's Environment Minister has a duty of care to "avoid causing personal injury or death" not just to Shama and her friends but to all Australians under 18 "arising from emissions of carbon dioxide into the Earth's atmosphere". Justice Bromberg added "The world as we know it will be gone... It will largely be inflicted by the inaction of this generation of adults in what might fairly be described as the greatest inter-generational injustice ever inflicted by one generation of humans upon the next."
2. We must take heed that the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that "to provide a 93% mid-value probability of not exceeding [a dangerous post industrial increase of] 2°C, the concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gases would need to be stabilised at, or below, 350 ppm CO₂equivalent, that is, well below current levels, which means no carbon budget left for 2°C".
3. I believe that in order to create jobs for the increasingly large number of unemployed people in NSW, the best solution is to build renewable energy projects in solar and wind and in particular to encourage community power solutions, many of which could be built through agreements with the local government authorities. Other renewable energy projects should proceed in partnership with the Federal Government and/or with the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. Rather than proceeding with this proposal, there are many other environmentally sensible projects that would efficiently provide more jobs including much needed local waste recycling facilities and work related to the NSW Government's Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Plan such as its priority 'Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Model Availability Program'.
4. I also express my opposition to the project on the grounds of its accumulated greenhouse gas impact on top of other climate damaging fossil fuel projects approved in NSW, such as Whitehaven Coal's Vickery giant coal mine near Gunnedah, and Santos' Narrabri Gas Project in the Pilliga which consists of 850 coal seam gas wells in the Pilliga Forest and surrounds.
5. The region's people have built long-term sustainable economic stability for this region. This revenue currently stays in the community and local businesses. These businesses helped to build the eco-tourism industry in the region, but nearby mining would negatively impact on the value of the fabulous adjacent World Heritage area. Other businesses include vineyards, olives, horse studs, beef and sheep farms, accommodation, restaurants, cafes, antique shops and soft furnishings. These businesses are not compatible with mining and tourists do not come to see coal mines, so the region's economy would therefore be damaged if the project were approved.
6. Mines provide revenue mostly to their overseas owners and less to governments, however the flow on to local businesses and local communities is generally minimal. Most profit goes overseas. Also very few additional local jobs will be created. The cost of housing is likely to increase so much due to demand from imported workers, that locals would no longer be able to afford it.
7. General environmental damage would also occur - air, coal dust, water, ground and noise pollution - that will detrimentally impact on neighbouring land and communities. This will exacerbate already high local regional rates of respiratory and cardiac disease.
8. Increased traffic, including heavy vehicles will also be a big problem on the local and nearby main roads. Coal train wagons and trucks are still not covered, so the resultant coal dust and associated pollution can travel long distances.

In summary, the Hawkins Rumker PRIA is an unacceptable proposal. It will if approved create damaging greenhouse gas, dust, air, water, ground and noise pollution, as well as impact detrimentally on local communities and special Aboriginal heritage areas, and threaten fauna and flora.

I object to this terrible proposal and don't need my name withheld from the submission site.

Yours sincerely,
 Phil Bradley
 Winston Hills 2153
 18 August 2021

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:39:21 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 23:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Deborah

Last name

Cooke

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone 2849

Submission

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
 Locked Bag 502
 Parramatta NSW 2124

Deborah Cooke

[REDACTED]

Mt. Marsden NSW 2849

17 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. The ways in which it will impact me are outlined below.

I am 50 years of age and I have been living in the Rylstone area for 11 years. The natural beauty, clean air, unique and rugged landscapes drew me to the region as well as the abundant opportunities to bushwalk, camp, horse ride, cycle and kayak.

I live on 150 acres of beautiful farmland and regenerating bushland. I derive my income from on-farm and off-farm work. When COVID hit in March 2020, my off-farm employment was badly impacted and I sought other means of income. In June 2020, I listed my property on a camping website and over the course of the year hosted several hundred campers from all over New South Wales as well as Victoria. Reviews left by campers reveal the enjoyment they derived, predominantly, from immersing themselves in the natural beauty of this region.

The flow of positive feedback as well as the steep rise in tourist numbers visiting the region have motivated me to expand my business to farm stay accommodation and glamping. This region is fast attracting an increasing number of tourists who are seeking time out in superb surroundings relatively close to Sydney. A coal mine is not compatible with this trajectory. The many existing and vibrantly successful tourist operations as well as nascent tourist operations, such as mine, will be detrimentally impacted by coal mining. Dust, noise and scarred and broken landscapes are not drawcards for tourists.

Other reasons for my objection to coal exploration are as follows:

The world is moving away from coal

In his article, 'The future of coal has already been decided in boardrooms around the globe' (ABC, 28 Jan 2020), Ian Verrinder writes of the retreat from coal investment by ANZ, Australia's biggest lender to the coal industry. Within four years from 2020 the bank will shed more than \$700 million in thermal coal loans which constitutes a 75 per cent reduction. American investment bank Goldman Sachs, writes Verrinder, 'has ruled out future thermal coal financing, either for new mines or power stations globally'.

The fundamental gist of Verrinder's article is that most global banks are already acutely aware of the dangers of committing vast amounts of capital to coal mines and coal fired power stations. They deem the risk too high. Executives and directors are also acutely aware of the potential for legal action given how evident the financial and environmental risks are. Not to mention the human health impacts.

The drastic reduction in exposure to thermal coal by global investment banks is surely signalling the imminent demise of this fossil fuel? Its future is bleak. And yet, our policy makers persist. Somehow we are supposed to buy the lie that coal mining in 2021 will benefit our community. It will ultimately destroy viable agricultural land, our thriving community, tourism, flora and fauna already pushed to the brink, precious, limited water resources and cultural heritage but still it will be worth it. This futureless commodity, which global investment banks won't touch, the extraction of which lays waste to irreplaceable landscapes and leaves dollars in the pockets of a few, will be worth it. Just ask the neighbouring communities of Wollar, Ulan and Bylong.

As a landholder I have experienced the stress associated with the scarcity of stock feed during drought conditions. I have witnessed the psychological stress and financial strain on family, friends and the wider community of sourcing feed from interstate. Water requirements for coal mining as well as groundwater impacts will result in further loss of water available for the production of drought fodder in the region. Given the unreliability of rainfall, the shortening of seasons and the current soil moisture deficit, it is imperative that precious water resources are preserved.

The bushfires which took hold in this region over the summer of 2019 - 2020 threatened my property from both the east and west. A local fire captain who has fought fires for more than thirty years explained that the watercourses they traditionally relied on to slow, if not halt, fires had dried up. It was not possible to stop the fires without them.

Our drying continent is leaving us all, but particularly rural and regional communities, more vulnerable to the devastation of bushfires. The availability of already limited water resources is critical. Exploration and mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers. Mining itself consumes vast volumes of water.

Having experienced the relentless nature of the Gosper's Mountain fire which raged on our doorstep for months and having witnessed the shattering impact of it on my community, it is my view that this proposal for coal mining with its inevitable drain on water resources, is entirely deplorable.

Flora and Fauna

Wildlife experts have estimated that the 2019-2020 bushfires in Australia killed or displaced almost three billion animals. The event has been ranked as one of the worst wildlife disasters in modern history.

The Wollemi National Park, part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area which abuts the area proposed for coal mining lost 500 000 hectares of bushland to fires. The loss of wildlife in these areas is unfathomable. This is not the time nor the place to be considering coal mining with its inevitable disturbance to critical waterways, habitats and food sources for already threatened and endangered wildlife. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

Cultural Heritage

There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk. We have a duty as a nation to protect these sites.

I occasionally have the privilege of working with young Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi men and women. For them, cultural heritage is everywhere. Cultural heritage is artifacts and ceremonial sites but it is country itself. Reconnecting with country is integral to identity so the prospect of yet more land being dug up and altered beyond recognition for the purposes of mining, is deeply distressing to them.

IPCC Report

According to the latest IPCC Report (9 Aug 2021) the evidence is clear that carbon dioxide is the main driver of climate change and that stabilizing the climate will require 'strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions'. New coal does not appear to have a place in this scenario. School aged children have grasped the urgent need to phase out the burning of fossil fuels. Our policy makers have not.

Alternatives to coal for energy generation abound here and overseas. Renewable energy technology transfer to developing and emerging nations is surely a wiser and more long term viable strategy for Australia than the exporting of coal.

The Rylstone Region has of late suffered through drought, bushfires and COMD. This proposal for a coal mine adds insult to injury. My community's concerns regarding this proposal, I believe, are echoed in the wider collective voice across Australia; climate change is real and the death knell for fossil fuels has sounded loud and clear.

I wish my name to be withheld from the PRIA submission site: No

Yours sincerely,
Deborah Cooke

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:04:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 23:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Yasmin

Last name

Hannouf

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Kandos

Submission

As a recently arrived resident of Kandos I am strongly opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped now.

While I wholeheartedly agree with the well researched objections you will find below, the result of research undertaken by the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community, my own personal objectives are based on my love of the natural beauty of the area. I feel that this natural beauty is better suited to serve the tourism economy and will be decimated by the building of any new coal mines.

I could live anywhere in Australia, but I choose to live in this region and I very much hope that the beauty that drew me, and which draws a great many other people to the region (people who spend money in the region) is not undermined by the actions of those who support these mining proposals.

Please stop this process now.

Thank you and I submit the following:

THE EFFECTS ON WATER SOURCES

- One of the greatest threats is to our region's precious water supplies.
- Mines have a significant negative impact on the water resources of a local area.
- Even exploratory drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers. The supply of water in creeks and rivers decreases.
- Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.
- Coal mining consumes approximately 653 litres for each tonne of coal produced.
- Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways.
- Subsistence from exploration and mining can crack rock substrate and lower water tables.
- The Rylstone Dam catchment is in the proposed exploration areas. The upper catchment of the Cudgegong River feeds into the water supplies of Rylstone Dam and Windamere Dam.
- The proposed release areas threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted.
- This region recently came out of a long drought. What will happen in our next drought if there is a coal mine using so much of our water?

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1

Without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture, no tourism. With what will we fight bushfires?

THE EFFECTS ON NATIVE ANIMALS AND PLANTS:

- ☐ There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.
- ☐ Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.
- ☐ The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cox's Creek is thoroughly unique and would be under threat.
- ☐ Mines would transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact on the value of the amazing World Heritage area on our doorstep.

THE EFFECTS ON ABORIGINAL HERITAGE:

- ☐ There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk.
- ☐ Many of these are not yet officially documented. T
- Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area. This is despite the documented official records as well as local knowledge pointing to many more sites.
- ☐ Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining and our laws are inadequate to protect these sites.

SOCIAL & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:

- ☐ Air, water, soil and noise pollution, do not stay within the boundaries of the coal mining sites. Underground mines must bring the coal to the surface
- ☐ The Hunter Valley is now considered a pollution 'hotspot'. It has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW.

transparency and public consultation on new

- There would be a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on our local and rural roads.
- The quality of our roads is already very poor and they are not suited to increased or heavy load traffic. Historically, mines in this council area have been loath to put money into fixing any traffic issues created by their presence.
- Noise and vibration will dramatically increase with blasting, heavy earthmoving equipment and machinery operating in the mines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Coal is likely to be transported on uncovered trains, trucks or overhead conveyors running through our towns, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Air quality would be reduced due to coal dust from blasting, mining and transporting coal.
- Mines would transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact our mental wellbeing.
- The transient and shift work nature of miners can often result in an increase in violence and crime in the affected and nearby communities.
- Socioeconomic divides form, as locals are often unable to compete with the high wages of miners who drive up housing and other costs.

THE EFFECTS OF LOCAL ECONOMY:

- Large areas would be affected coal mines. The proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas cover approximately 32,700 ha of land and would directly affect 180 landholders.

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2

he existing

Hawkins Rumker Review of

Environmental Factors

incorrectly states there are no known

- There will be a loss of agricultural lands, farms would disappear or lose their water, and productive agricultural lands would be dug up or left fallow.
- The people in the region have built long-term sustainable economic stability for this region. This revenue stays in the pockets of our local businesses. Businesses that have helped build the tourism industry in the region include vineyards, olive groves, horse studs, beef and sheep farms, eco-tourism, short stay accommodation, restaurants, cafes, antique shops, soft furnishings and knick-knacks for example. These businesses are incompatible with mining: tourists do not come to see coal mines.
- Mines provide a flow of revenue to governments and their (mostly foreign) owners, however, the flow on to local businesses and local communities is generally not seen.
- The Hunter is the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas.
- Mining is a specialist industry. People with the skills tend to follow the mines and very few additional local jobs are created. Like many industries, mining is becoming more automated, requiring fewer people. Over the next five years, mining is predicted to create just 0.4 percent of new jobs across all of Australia.
- Just the threat of new mines being developed decimates many of the existing businesses as people stop investing or move away – even if the mine ultimately does not get approved. This has already happened in nearby Ulan, Wollar and Bylong.
- The cost of living, especially housing, is often driven up to levels locals can no longer afford, as they cannot compete with the high wages miners receive.
- Local towns close once the mines move on as they no longer have the income from the mines they were dependent on; and unemployment and associated issues such as crime, increase. This is the very reason strategies such as transitioning communities dependent on coal mining in NSW are required.

QUESTION WHY WE NEED MORE COAL:

- NSW government's own net-zero goal
- NSW government's 2021 Intergenerational report forecasts decreased royalties from thermal coal as international demand falls, both globally and from two of our major coal customers, Japan and South Korea.
- The Reserve Bank of Australia anticipates international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable
- The International Energy Agency, called for an immediate ban on new oil, coal and gas development
- The G7 agreed to end government support for new coal power by end of 2021
- World wide trend to move to sustainable energy sources
- The premise supporting the release of these areas undermines and contradicts more recent

3

government policies. □.

ISSUES WITH THE PRIA PROCESS ITSELF:

is

It even contradicts its own strategic statement about

the future of coal

'Opening up the

Hawkins and Rumker areas is diametrically opposed to the stated intent of "giving our coal-reliant communities time to adapt".

This region is not reliant on coal.

This reasoning

analogous to stating drug rehabilitation is needed while introducing heroin to a community.

- The problem with a 'provisional assessment'. If only a preliminary assessment is done, the full extent of the social, economic and environmental impacts on the areas remains unknown and recommendations made for release of the areas for exploration based on incomplete information.

This will be putting landholders and residents in a state of limbo, unsure if their

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homes and livelihoods will be lost. As it is, some people are wondering if they will bother

rebuilding after the fires when they may lose it all again, this time permanently.

- DPIE has said the PRIA will be a desktop assessment. However, there is limited data for the area, so conclusions may be drawn without sufficient detail available.

□ The depth of assessment does not sufficiently address issues that would come to light with a full Environmental Impact Statement. Water is likely to be a huge issue as the Hawkins Rumker Ganguddy-Kelgoola areas are instrumental to the health of the Cudgegong River and all that relies on it downstream. This is unlikely to be addressed in a 'preliminary' assessment.

- The

Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened flora and fauna. One questions how the government can assure that any future exploration licenses would include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values" when their own exploration approval failed to do this.

- Lack of transparency - No transparent method has been provided for how the Government will weight and evaluate the submissions.

- This submission process is the only time the community will have any say in the process until we are presented with the NSW Cabinet's decision.

□ Lack of real community consultation. The PRIA process is as a result of the Independent Commission Against Corruption recommendations that there should be community consultation. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has been aware of these coal release areas for over a year, yet it has only issued notices for consultation in June 2021. The community consultations occurred after the submission portal was already open. In-person consultation was capped at four groups of 50 people, with one of these to be held in Mudgee (there are over 3000 people in the greater Rylstone region). With COVID outbreaks in Sydney, the in-person consultation moved to an online format, with less than one week's notice. This area has poor internet connectivity and the people here are not highly internet savvy. Expected participation dropped rapidly with the move to online meetings.

MENTION ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN THINK OF!

NOW SUBMIT YOUR CONCERNS:

CLICK HERE TO UPLOAD YOUR LETTER OR COPY AND PASTE THE TEXT IN THE BOX PROVIDED:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/hawkins-rumker>

4

Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors

prepared by the Government is

fundamentally flawed.

The geographical area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker

area, and it also states

there are no known

www.rylstonecfc.com www.facebook.com/rylstonecfc [www.twitter.com/NoCoalRylstone](https://twitter.com/NoCoalRylstone)

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:03:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 23:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Kimberley

Last name

Cramp

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Clovelly

Submission

Dear Reader,

I am a recurring visitor to the Rylstone region and I am writing to voice my opposition to the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I believe the exploration is a step towards a full blown mining operation that will adversely impact the local community and its economic stability.

I think the adverse impact on the people of Rylstone and the surrounding area, which includes dear friends who are extremely opposed to this project, outweighs any gain from the exploration. My friends property borders what could become a mining site which would directly impact their quality of life. They are concerned about destroying the beloved landscape that draws tourism, about losing water sources to drilling, wiping out any of the 293 protected and endangered species in the mid west regional council. Effectively, the concern is that the area becomes unlivable.

The coal exploration would mark a significant transition for the area from a quintessential food and wine destination to an industrialised township that may not be sustainable. Businesses that have helped build the tourism industry in the region include vineyards, olive groves, horse studs, short stay accommodation, restaurants and cafes for example. These businesses are incompatible with mining: tourists do not come to see coal mines.

I write to urge you reconsider the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:59:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 22:59

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

MARGARET

Last name

CAMERON

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Lue 2850

Submission

My name is Margaret Cameron.

I object to the release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration.

I share my time between my home in Sydney and 'WYUNA' a small farm in Lue that we have owned since 1997. We also have a house in Rylstone that we have owned since 2010. We have promoted our properties for short term holiday accommodation and agri-tourism and our offerings have proven very successful. Not only does this provide me with a modest income, but it also provides jobs for many local people.

Our properties are unique and draw in visitors from Sydney, Newcastle and many other surrounding regions and, together with other quality local businesses and accommodation, have helped to grow the popularity of the town of Rylstone as a tourist destination. The increase in tourism has helped many local businesses to thrive and provides opportunities for other local people, many of those being young people, to capitalise on this increased flow of visitors through cottage industries and provision of services.

Mining and tourism/agri-tourism simply cannot co-exist, they operate to the exclusion of the other. Tourists visit our region for a change of pace, for peace and quiet and not for dust, filth and noise. Tourists will stop coming should a coal mine be approved. We know that there is no future in coal mining, while there is certainly a bright future in tourism for our region. We should be investing in tourism and not mining. Just this week, BHP has made massive moves to forego fossil fuels. BHP chief executive Mike Henry concedes that increasingly more investors want the option of moving away from fossil fuels.

There have been many recent legal battles over the opening of new coal mines, and many prominent applications have been refused. Even so, we still seem to be having the same conversations in regards to new coal exploration. The most prominent and relevant cases are the recent judgement in the Sharma case, the Rocky Hill case and the Kepko mine in Bylong, all being examples of efforts that have failed for basically the same reasons.

THE SHARMA CASE

The recent decision of Justice Bromberg in Sharma v Minister for the Environment [2021] FCA 560 found that a novel duty of care is owed by the Minister for the Environment to Australian children who might suffer potential "catastrophic harm" from the climate change implications of approving the extension to the Vickery coal mine in New South Wales.

Justice Bromberg agreed that the Minister for Environment had a duty to take "reasonable care" not to cause Australian children personal injury when exercising her powers to grant mine approvals.

THE ROCKY HILL CASE

The Rocky Hill case was a watershed decision for climate change action. Set in beautiful Gloucester in NSW, the application to open a new coal mine was refused because its benefits were outweighed by its "disbenefits" of visual, air quality and social impacts on existing uses in the vicinity of the mine, as well as the impacts of the green house gas emissions by the proposed mine.

KEPCO - BYLONG VALLEY

On the 18th September 2019, the Independent Planning Commission of New South Wales rejected KEPKO Bylong Australia's application to build the Bylong Valley coal mine on several grounds, including its contribution to climate change.

This new 'judge made law' reflects the universal need to move toward net zero emissions by ceasing to promote the fossil fuel industry. It cannot be ignored. Further according to the Lowy Institute's Climate Poll 2021, 63% of Australians support a ban on new coal mines opening in Australia.

This beautiful part of the world should be treated with respect and protected.

I object to this project in its entirety, our region and future Australians do not need another coal mine.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:33:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 22:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Darren

Last name

Baguley

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Nullo Mountain 2849

Submission

To whom it may concern.

I am writing in regard to the proposed Hawkins Rumber Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA), to determine if you will issue coal exploration licences in the Rylstone area.

I object to the issue of any new coal exploration licences on general and specific grounds.

General grounds

Given the events of this region's most recent drought and the Black Summer bushfires coupled with the release of the most recent IPCC report, I find it unbelievable that the NSW State Government is even considering releasing more areas for coal exploration and exploitation.

In the late spring of 2019, my wife and I realised our property was in the path of the Gospers Mountain fire, a fire that would join up with other fires to become the biggest mega blaze in NSW history. We had already started to prepare when fire season opened early, however, once we realised that unless we received rain, the fire would reach us, we put our lives on hold and spent the next two months ensuring our property was as prepared as it could be.

A few days before the fire I sat on my tractor. I had just finished mowing down the last of the grass in our orchard. Thanks to the regenerative agricultural practices I had painstakingly followed, we still had grass, despite being in one of the worst droughts in living memory.

I had done everything I could to prepare our property for the coming inferno. I didn't feel fear, I didn't feel dread, I just felt empty. I felt empty because my wife and I had spent the last 11 years of our life working weekends and so-called holidays developing our hazelnut orchard so that we could one day make a good living off the land we are fortunate enough to be custodians of.

I felt empty but then the fire came and we spent the next three weeks fighting the biggest mega blaze in NSW history day in day, day out. For three weeks I got by on sleeping a couple of hours at a time and when the rains finally came and put us beyond harm, my RFS yellows could have walked out the door on their own. For three weeks, we were constantly alert to the smell of smoke, the flare of fire, and the telltale column of white smoke indicating that damned fire, that fire that just would not go out, was firing up again.

During this time, I constantly heard over the radio the voices of friends, families I knew, neighbours in need as they fought the fires at the same time. It's no easy thing to hear an RFS dispatcher trying to find a crew to help a family of six who were defending their home without assistance when you know that family, when you'd fought other fires with the father, chatted to the mother in the newsagent and showed the children over a fire truck at a brigade barbecue. It's no easy thing to not go to the aid of a friend because the bush is blowing up around you in a series of small mushroom clouds and the burning ash that falls in a hellish rain is starting spot fires that threaten everything you've worked for. It's no easy thing to have to sit at a desk and remember that summer because you need to explain to some bought and paid for politician why mining more coal than we're already mining is a really, really bad idea.

Like surviving other forms of natural disaster or trauma such as combat the only people who can understand what it's like to fight a mega blaze such as Gospers Mountain are those who have done it. It's impossible for anybody else to understand it. For the people who went through this trauma hard on the heels of one of the worst droughts in living memory, the idea of opening this area is traumatising. We have already been through enough and now the NSW Government is proposing to destroy our beautiful, peaceful, usually green valley by turning it into a shit hole coal hole.

Given that the science tells us that wildfires will get worse as global average temperatures increase and burning fossil fuels such as coal are a major contributor to global warming, it is perverse to even consider opening new areas to coal exploration.

The IEA, the UN, and countless NGOs are all saying we need to leave the coal in the ground if we want to have any chance of achieving Carbon Net Zero by 2050 and it is perverse to even consider opening new areas to coal exploration.

Specific grounds

Hawkins and Rumker sit astride the Great Dividing Range and their catchments are split across the Upper Hunter and the Cudgegong River and Lawson Creek catchments which make their way into the Murray Darling system via the Macquarie.

Rylstone Dam is the water supply for the townships of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla and 21 percent of the Rylstone Dam catchment area would be affected by the Rumker area should it opened to mining, sits over, or would interrupt flows from. Downstream of Rylstone Dam is Windamere Dam, which supplies Mudgee's town water as well as irrigation water for vineyards and other farm enterprises between Rylstone and Windamere Dam.

If Rylstone Dam was contaminated or inflows greatly reduced where would these towns get their water from? As evidence by the most recent drought, emergency measures such as trucking or rail in bulk water are unsustainable in any circumstances except short-term emergencies.

While the department has suggested any mines are more likely to be underground than open cut, it does not really matter, either form of mining presents unacceptable risks to the water resources of the area. Any open cut mine would present an extremely significant and irreversible interruption of the catchment flows. Underground mining also has significant impacts on river health and water dependent ecosystems, including threatened species and endangered ecological communities.

There are rural properties, farms, horticultural properties and other small businesses that depend upon these water resources and these land uses are all sustainable long-term businesses. All these businesses are in jeopardy if mining operations demonstrably use or destroy the existing water resources - in these upper catchment areas there are no alternatives.

As mentioned above, this region was heavily impacted by the Gaspers Mountain, Kerry Ridge and Palmer's Oakey fires during the Black Summer of 2019/20. On some properties, the drought meant there was not sufficient water locally to fight the fires and water had to be trucked in from kilometres away. To jeopardise the precious water resources in these catchments for the short-term gain of an industry with no future is nothing more than a sell out of the local community.

The NSW Government is swimming against the tide when it comes to further exploitation of coal - please stop this madness, if not for us, for our children and their children.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:31:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 22:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

LINDFIELD

Submission

I grew up in Upper Hunter Valley and am still a regular visitor, so am well aware of the damaging effects of coal mining. I am also a regular visitor to the beautiful Blue Mountains and Wollemi areas, where I enjoy various outdoor activities.

I am greatly concerned by the proposal to release further areas, including Hawkins and/or Rumker, for coal exploration. Coal exploration is obviously undertaken with the intention of coal mining in future. My objections to coal mining and therefore exploration in these areas include:

- Destruction of the natural environment and its endemic flora and fauna, including critically endangered species such as Regent Honeyeater.
- Pollution and loss of surface and groundwater.
- Emission of dust, which is a serious and significantly unaddressed health issue in the Hunter Valley.
- Visual impacts, which would impact the tourism activities and potential of the areas.
- The impact on existing significant industries such as viticulture for example due to dust and loss of or increased cost of water.
- Emission of greenhouse gases - both from mining activities, fugitive emissions and downstream emissions from combustion of the coal - and the resulting climate change impacts. To be exploring for coal now, with an expectation of future mining, when we should be aiming to get to net zero emissions as soon as possible, is completely mad and unacceptable.

Furthermore, as evidenced by recent buybacks of coal exploration licenses in NSW due to extensive community concern, there is potential for the state of NSW to be liable for large sums of money should a project be blocked in future.

I urge the NSW Government not to release the Hawkins and/or Rumker areas for coal exploration.

Thank you

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:29:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 22:29

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Helen

Last name

Kvelde

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2429

Submission

It is time to stop coal mining altogether. We are in the 6th great extinction and time is running out to turn things around. We have to stop coal mining and using fossil fuels now. 2050 will be far too late. Climate emergency is here now.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:09:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 22:09

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Katie

Last name

Moore

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

North Parramatta 2151

Submission

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
 Locked Bag 502
 Parramatta NSW 2124

Katie Moore

[REDACTED]
 North Parramatta
 NSW 2151

18 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My reasons and/or how it will impact me are outlined below.

I am 39 years of age and this is my Country, I am proudly Wiradyuri. There are many issues with the planned exploration and that short term gains are being prioritised over long term losses.

I am adding my name to the below well-articulated case.

Issues with the PRIA Process

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is fundamentally flawed. The area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area, and it also states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened fauna and flora. One question is how the government can assure that any future exploration licenses would include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values", when their own exploration process couldn't get it right.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption Report, Reducing the opportunities and incentives for corruption in the state's management of coal resources 2013, included recommendations that there should be community consultation. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has been aware of the potential coal release areas in Hawkins and Rumker for a year, however they only issued notices for community consultation in June 2021.

Community consultations were advertised for 29 and 30 July 2021, yet the portal for online submissions opened two weeks before this on 14 June 2021. The only people in the region who were notified were landowners whose properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration zones. Apart from this, the only other notification provided were one-off advertisements in a few newspapers. This is not notifying the nearly 3000 residents in surrounding areas on Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabbe, Olinda and Kelgoola. Why is it that these people would not be notified of potential new coal release areas when they receive their water from the potential release areas, and the coal would be transported through these areas?

The community consultation meeting were capped at four groups of 50 people, with one of these to be held in Mudgee. How could this possibly be a real attempt to have consultation with a population of nearly 3000 people?

There is no transparency in how the Government will weight and evaluate the submissions during the PRIA process. The Government has not agreed to make the report on the PRIA outcomes publicly available prior to its submission to Cabinet. This is also contrary to the Independent Commission Against Corruption findings, which highlighted the role of public officials in providing frank and independent advice to a minister and noted that public officials continue to remain vulnerable to potential demands to change recommendations to align with a minister's wishes.

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

The Reserve Bank of Australia anticipates international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable.

In its Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW released in June 2020, the NSW Government describes one of its four actions is supporting diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phase-out of thermal coal mining

Australia exports 75 percent of its coal to Japan, South Korea and China. These countries have followed other countries in a worldwide trend and committed to move away from fossil fuels, which will result in decreased demand for coal.

This year, the G7 has committed to end public support for unabated coal generation by end of 2021.

The International Energy Agency Roadmap for the global energy sector states the world's coal will decline to just one fifth of current levels by 2040, and to one tenth by 2050.

Water

One of the greatest threats is to our region's precious water supplies. This area is rich in natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers^{10, 11}. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways.

The Rylstone Dam catchment is in the proposed exploration areas. The upper catchment of the Cudgegong River feeds into the water supplies of Rylstone Dam and Windamere Dam. The Hawkins Rumker proposed release areas threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted.

Without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture, no tourism, nothing to fight bushfires with.

Flora and Fauna

There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.

The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek¹⁶ could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cox's Creek is thoroughly unique¹⁶ and would be under threat.

Mines would transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact on the value of the amazing World Heritage area on our doorstep.

Aboriginal Heritage

There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk. We have a duty as a nation to protect these sites.

Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining and our laws are inadequate to protect these sites.

Impact on current local economy

Large areas would become coal mines. The proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas cover approximately 32,000 ha of land and would directly affect 180 landholders. There will be a loss of agricultural lands, farms would disappear or lose their water, and productive agricultural lands would be dug up or left fallow.

The people in the region have built long-term sustainable economic stability for this region. This revenue stays in the pockets of our local businesses. Businesses that have helped build the tourism industry in the region include vineyards, olive groves, horse studs, beef and sheep farms, eco-tourism, short stay accommodation, restaurants, cafes, antique shops, soft furnishings and knick-knacks for example. These businesses are incompatible with mining: tourists do not come to see coal mines.

Mines provide a flow of revenue to governments and their (mostly foreign) owners, however, the flow on to local businesses and local communities is generally not seen. The Hunter in the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas.

Mining is a specialist industry. People with the skills tend to follow the mines and very few additional local jobs are created. Like many industries, mining is becoming more automated, requiring fewer people. Over the next five years, mining is predicted to create just 0.4 percent of new jobs across all of Australia.

Just the threat of new mines being developed decimates many of the existing businesses as people stop investing or move away – even if the mine ultimately does not get approved. This has already happened in nearby Ulan, Wollar and Bylong.

The cost of living, especially housing, is often driven up to levels locals can no longer afford, as they cannot compete with the high wages miners receive.

Local towns close once the mines move on as they no longer have the income from the mines they were dependent on; and unemployment and associated issues such as crime, increase. This is the very reason strategies such as transitioning communities dependent on coal mining in NSW are required.

Social & health implications

Air, water, soil and noise pollution, do not stay within the boundaries of the coal mining sites.

The neighbouring Hunter Valley is now a pollution 'hotspot' and has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW.

There would be a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on our local and rural roads. Traffic incidents increase from mine workers travelling to and from work. The quality of our roads is already very poor and they are not suited to increased or heavy load traffic. Historically, mines in this council area have been loath to put money into fixing any traffic issues created by their presence.

Noise and vibration will dramatically increase with blasting, heavy earthmoving equipment and machinery operating in the mines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and by coal being transported out on trains and trucks running through our towns.

Trains and trucks are not covered and the coal dust and associated pollution from transporting the coal can travel for kilometres.

Mines can be associated with increased rates of alcohol and drug abuse, violence, sexual assaults, and other crimes in adjoining communities.

Health effects are already being felt as people experience anxiety and stress about the threat to their region²⁸ and economic stability.

I wish my name to be withheld from the PRIA submission site: Yes / No

Yours sincerely,

Katie Mbore

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:55:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 21:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

John

Last name

McCarthy

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Camboon 2849

Submission

We are against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration for the following reasons.

1. Climate change and carbon emissions. The world is moving away from fossil fuels. Many large companies are recognising that the ongoing use of fossil fuels is detrimental to the planet and the population. Yesterday, 17 August 2021, resource giant BHP announced it will abandon its involvement in oil and gas. This is being seen as an important move away from the use of fossil fuels. BHP is just one of many companies and businesses who are willing to look for alternatives to fossil fuels in order to protect the future of our planet and those who live on it. Coal produces almost 2.5 kg of carbon for every kg of coal burnt and an underground mine also produces methane emissions.

2. Mental wellbeing. Our local community has been through a great deal in the last few years. Personally, we have suffered through severe drought; been impacted by the Gaspers Mountain fire; suffered through a plague of grasshoppers and mice; and now we are impacted by the Covid virus. The added worry that the property we have spent 38 years developing may be affected by mining is an incredible burden.

3. Uncertainty. The uncertainty caused by this new government proposal has had a significant impact on our property management. Questions now arise over the improvements and the future development of our grazing business. Is there any point in spending money on our asset?

4. Financial impact. The exploration and possible development of mining in our backyard will have a significant and detrimental effect on property prices and will impact our future.

5. Impacts on tourism and the local community. The local community has worked hard over many years to build a successful tourism industry. Tourism has a long-term, positive impact. Mining, in comparison, is short term. No one will want to come to the area to see a coal mine.

6. Effects on local water sources. Water is the area's life blood. Springs, bores, creeks and rivers will be impacted by mining. These resources, once destroyed, will never return.

7. Indigenous heritage. There are many sites of Indigenous importance in the Hawkins Rumker area. Many of these have not been catalogued but they are respected and protected by locals. Mining will destroy these significant sites and important ancestral links will be lost.

John & Jeannette McCarthy

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:53:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 21:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Pinnacle Swamp

Submission

I am concerned about the fact this coal exploration has the potential to damage our precious water table which could lead to damaging people's bores wells.

The proposed coal exploration will create noise and air pollution.

The government is taking a short term money making coal mine into consideration which will only last a few years over agriculture , tourism.

The world is moving away from coal , so why open another mine.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:38:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 21:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2849

Submission

In relation to the Hawkins Rumker PRIA, I have concerns in the following areas:

•if only affected landowners were notified, opportunity for proper input from other community members has been lost. Areas such as water are important for those in town who may not have land directly affected. Zoom meetings to replace the onsite information sessions are inadequate; info sessions should have been delayed. The PRIA process is lacking appropriate transparency.

•WATER- as a sheep & cattle farmer with land in the proposed area any potential impact on water is of a grave concern. We cannot afford to have water impacted in any negative way, including the water table as we use bore water for stock. There are many creeks & water ways, including Rylstone town water & the Cudgegong River which could face potential environmental harm.

•AIR/NOISE Pollution: Dust/coal particulates are of a major concern, not just for human but also animal health (both agricultural stock & native animals). Our home property is not in the affected areas but the noise of vehicles can clearly be heard kms away depending on atmospheric conditions.

TOWN IMPACTS: Although mine workers often travel considerable distances to their mine work site, it could easily be expected that some new workers may want to live closer. Regional areas are already facing a shortage of affordable housing and demand for properties to rent & buy can foreseeably result in some locals being forced out of the area. In addition, increased traffic could be a problem in terms of increased movement & road infrastructure itself, as well as other services such as pre-school, health & childcare services having additional strain put on them.

IMPACTS ON TOURISM: For many years the tourism campaign 'Rylstone, naturally' ran. The area is known for its beauty, pristine locales & breathtaking vistas. Many businesses rely on the tourism these features bring, particularly on the weekends. Coal mining could potentially have a negative impact on the way the area is viewed. While some businesses may see increase in trade for mining duration, something more is needed in the long-term.

AGRICULTURE: The proposed exploration areas contain a substantial amount of farming land. In our own particular case, the loss of land would mean a fundamental change in business operations as we would no longer be able to farm the same number of cattle. The land has been in the family several generations & is critical to our business. Coal mining is such a temporary process compared to the need to have available farmland on which to produce food & fibre for the current & future generations in Australia.

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE: There are significant Aboriginal sites, including art & ceremonial sites which may be at risk. My understanding is that there are Aboriginal heritage sites on Government data bases that have not been included in the Review of Environmental Factors that has been completed.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: A number of threatened species are listed on data bases but have also been missed in the Review of Environmental Factors. This omission needs to be addressed, along with the omission of Aboriginal heritage sites.

CLIMATE CHANGE & CARBON EMISSIONS: We have entered a period where the debate about climate change & the need to change human behaviour seems to be over. It is inconceivable that plans to allow exploration of a fossil fuel is even being raised at this time. Australia are considered laggards & not living up to global expectations in this area already. It would be encouraging to see the current NSW Government take a bold stand to put the welfare of the planet & its people over the royalties it will receive (& the profits of the lobbying but redundant coal mining industry).

Many thanks for your judicious consideration in the Hawkins Rumker PRIA

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:32:53 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 21:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2611

Submission

Please just don't, tell [REDACTED] to fuck off

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:27:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 21:27

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Hornsby NSW 2077

Submission

Dear Director of Energy and Resources Policy,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is [REDACTED] and I am a young Australian writing to express my objection to the proposed coal mine development in Hawkins and Rumker.

While the proposed development has short term economic benefits, I believe that the benefits are only short term. In the long term, a coal exploration project such as this will have severe and lasting impacts on:

- Australia's climate future and international climate commitments
- Native flora and fauna
- Aboriginal culture and heritage

Firstly, the continued approval of fossil fuel sources just days after the devastating IPCC report sends strong international signals that Australia does not care about climate change nor its future. It has been widely acknowledged, by the IPCC, the International Energy Agency and by the Bank of England that fossil fuels must stay in the ground if the world is to keep global warming below very dangerous levels. By rejecting new coal developments such as this, Australia will be able to send the strong political signals in support of climate action.

Next, the development threatens almost 7,000 hectares of potentially threatened ecological communities, 22 threatened fauna species and six threatened flora species. This has been supported by NSW Lock the Gate coordinator Georgina Woods, who said that many of the species (including koalas, spotted-tailed quolls and the critically endangered regent honeyeater) are "at the brink of extinction and can't withstand any further loss of their habitat."

And finally, mining within the selected area could significantly damage structural integrity of 45 Aboriginal heritage sites. Aboriginal heritage is Australian heritage, and it is important to recognise and protect this part of our culture and history. Members of the local aboriginal community have also stated that "It just adds another layer of trauma on top of what our people have suffered if these destructive practices continue."

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission. To protect Australia's future, please do not approve this development.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:22:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 21:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Lani

Last name

Imhof

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2541

Submission

I strongly object to any new coal mining. We need to transition away from fossil fuels to stem our rapidly changing climate which is causing havoc around the world.

We need to invest in renewable energy. No more damaging coal mines.

It's time to protect the planet before profits.

Lani Imhof

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:15:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 21:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Vera

Last name

Myronenko

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

OATLANDS 2117

Submission

I am a Senior retired woman living in the Parramatta electorate Sydney NSW

I cannot express how distressed to read about the treatment of Aboriginal people especially their land and culture when they are not properly involved and their relationship to their country is ignored when planning to destroy their country by Government giving permission to outside organisations to implement destruction of country by coal exploration in the area near Mudgee.

Please DO NOT allow this destruction. Please consult fully and fairly with all Aboriginal people whose land is violated by Gov't and mining organisations still.

Vera Myronenko [REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes