

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:13:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 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

Dandry 2357

Submission

To Whom it May Concern

I grew up in Rylstone, still have family and friends in the area, and visit when I can.

I strongly object to any whiff of this area being opened up for mining. It is rich in natural beauty, productive farmland, habitat for threatened and non-threatened species alike, cultural artifacts from long and deep Indigenous roots. Tourists, birdwatchers, wine aficionados, people after peace and quiet, fantastically unique scenery, boutique shoppers, people looking for platypus - all come to explore the healthy, if sleepy, little towns east of Mudgee.

I hope our State Government has not forgotten the millions of hectares lost to fire, the billions of our native creatures lost only two and a half years ago. The region you wish to open for exploration was affected too.

Please have some respect. Let what made it through live undisturbed. Must we mine everything beautiful? Must we shatter every peaceful place?

Please say no to coal exploration in this area and as a government responsible for the future survival and direction of not only we humans, but also our voiceless and matchless wildlife, find another way forward. A less destructive way.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Coonabarabran NSW 2357

Formerly of Rylstone

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:12:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 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

Bathurst 2795

Submission

Rylstone is a historic town, dependent on agribusiness & tourism for its economy. It is part of the popular tourist trail in Central & Mid Western NSW that stretches from Sofala to Kandos, Rylstone then onto Mudgee.

Wollemi National Park, Dunn's Swamp & the Cudgegong River are natural heritage areas that are pristine environments, valued by the local community and tourists from all parts of NSW & Australia.

This beautiful part of NSW would be severely impacted by the existence of large scale coal exploration & mining, affecting tourism & agriculture.

The Hawkins & Rumker areas are surrounded by prime agricultural country that is not compatible with large scale coal mining and would be affected by air pollution & water table issues.

BHP has recently moved away from investing in coal & gas mining and plans to invest in fertiliser for agricultural purposes.

The impact of approving these areas for coal exploration would be a retrograde step, negatively impacting the natural environment, farming & tourism.

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 8:55:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 20:55

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

2074

Submission

I am writing this submission to state my concerns regarding the PRIA process in relation to the possible exploration of coal in the Hawkins and Rumker regions in NSW.

The PRIA process has been undertaken in an unprecedented time where the situation is far from ideal for both those undertaking the process and those trying to state their opinions about the topic, and yet not enough provisions were not made accordingly.

The nature of the covid restrictions meant that those who would have been able to attend in person meetings to ask questions and provide their view point were at a disadvantage if they could not join the meetings online - whether that be due to internet issues (being rural NSW) or technical know how. There was an extension of time that was given but this was not enough for the due process that was required.

The transparency of the documentation that was pivotal to the direction of the process, especially in regards to the geotechnical report was non-existent. This meant that the local community was unable to not only have a platform to question whether the report was accurate or not, but was also unable to specifically direct it's concerns.

The DPIE stated that their report would be based on the geotechnical report which outlined that the potential coal mine/s in the area would be underground mines. However without the document made available this assessment was unable to be assessed by the community as accurate. The geotechnical report was unable to be made available to the community and as such the environmental, social, financial (and other) impacts of coal in the region could have been based on wrong facts. If it turned out that open cut mines were on the agenda, the implications to the region would be different and much more serious.

In addition to these facets, it was apparent that the process itself created instability in the community, and as a result created distress. Had the process allowed for an in depth consultation with all concerned parties, including thorough in person discussions, this distress may have been somewhat eased.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 18/08/2021 8:36:01 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 20:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Annabel

Last name

Murray

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Katoomba

Submission

Attention: Director Energy and Resources Policy
 NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
 Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Director of Energy and Resources Policy,

My name is Annabel Murray and I have lived in Katoomba for 10 years after moving from Sydney in 2011 due to rising house and rental prices.

I have run the Low Carbon Living Blue Mountains climate action program for 6 years, to assist local businesses and schools to lower their carbon usage by between 14-49%. It is very disappointing for all people that I know throughout my life that this NSW and Federal Government aren't willing to switch to a carbon negative industry and economy - including developing local close the loop waste reuse and recycling systems for all business, educational and industrial sectors - at a time when we have lost so many animals lives to the 2019 -20 extreme fire disaster and we, and now our children are deeply worried about the planet, the habitus we are leaving our children to survive in. My neighbour is a Figian Indian Woman who cannot believe the spoil white supremacist system that Australian governments perpetuate, where the pockets of politicians take precedence over all human values, which creates a boring and futile world. If you need more than 80k a year to live on, you really have no idea how to have a good time, and your lack of culture and education is more evident than ever before.

I was extremely disappointed and amazed to learn of the coal exploration of the Hawkins and Rumker areas in particular, and any coal exploration in NSW or Australia.

Australia is the driest continent on Earth and we have a huge obligation to protect and use water for ecological systems, sustainable agriculture and domestic uses, for the benefit of all plants, animals and humans, rather than exploitation of this precious ecological resource for the sake of a few coal mining political dinosaur alliances that benefit an increasingly wealthy minority and ruin the earth, air and water ways. Today's coal miners say their jobs tear their hearts out, and the government has provided zero transition economic educational training pathways and economic policy for these communities to decarbonise their jobs, lives and environment. This is ridiculous and disappointing as Australia has world leading researchers in low carbon and carbon negative technologies.

I am 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 due to the following impacts:

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 ow 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.

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 sh habitat and threatened sh species.
- ☐ The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Coxs 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.
- Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area. This is despite the documentation of local 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.
- 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.
- 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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- 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 few 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 Intergovernmental 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 government policies.

ISSUES WITH THE PRIA PROCESS ITSELF:

- 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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3

It even contradicts its own strategic statement about the future".

This region is not reliant on coal.

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

Homes and livelihoods will be lost. As it is, some people are wondering if they will bother rebuilding after the res 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.
-
- 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.

Kind Regards,
 Annabel Murray
 Low Carbon Living Blue Mountains <https://lowcarbonliving-bluemountains.com.au/>

Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute <https://www.bmwhi.org/>
 UNSW Science & Ecology Unit <https://www.ecosystem.unsw.edu.au/research-projects/conservation-practice>
 Third Ave Katoomba

I agree to the above statement
 Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 8:30:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 20:30

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

3122

Submission

Allowing coal exploration in the Hawkins and Rumker area is a precursor for coal mining, and the establishment of new coal mines should not be a priority in 2021.

Climate change is the greatest threat to humanity. There is a global trend to steer away from highly polluting coal power towards renewable energy. The NSW Government has its own net zero emissions target as well as reports forecasting decreased profitability from coal as global demand drops. As such, commissioning a new coal project in the Hawkins and Rumker areas works against the NSW Government's supposed goals.

Moreover, the local environment, flora and fauna of the Hawkins and Rumker areas will be adversely affected by a coal mine. A loss of beauty and biodiversity will likely lead to reduced tourism in the area, adversely affecting the local economy.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 8:18:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 20:18

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

COPE

Submission

All i can say is what sort of world are we leaving for our kids...this is disgraceful and there must be other ways to get revenue into the system...Australia needs to look overseas where the alternative options are practiced. We need more educated people running the country. I totally oppose this decision....

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 8:13:07 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 20:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Emma

Last name

Windle

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Naarm

Submission

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

Emma Windle

[REDACTED]

St. Albans Vic 2031

16th August 2021

Acknowledgment to Country

Yiradhu marang biyambul
 Yuwindhu Emma Windl
 Ngadhu Wiradjuri Dharawal Yinna on Wonnarua ngurambaang.
 Ngadhu ngunha ngadhi Yindymarra to biyambul mudyiganggalang-bu biyambul mayimgalang to maradhalnha-bu giyira-bu.
 Ngadhu nayaarra ngindhu dharay Yindymarra-bu yanhambilanha dhagaanhabyi birrrabinabirra ngurambaang ngindhu winya.
 Mandaang guwu

Hello all.

My name is Emma Windl

I am a Wiradjuri Yinna with ties to other Nations. I am living on Wonnarua Nation as a guest.

I acknowledge each of my Ancestors and the nation I am on the Wurundjeri Nation.

I give my thanks and respects to my Ancestors – past, present and future. I welcome you to read or listen to the important topic which are discussed within the below document.

Please take a moment to acknowledge the great leadership, strength and empowering people who have come before us and have worked tirelessly toward making the present and future a better future.

Please take a moment to acknowledge and thank the Ancestors and leaders still here, who have sacrificed so much so that we have been able to survive and to heal.

Please thank Mother Earth and Country for all that she gives us and affords us every day.

Please acknowledge the commitment and life she gives us with every breath that we take.

Ensure you thank and acknowledge all she gives in your own way and in your own time for she provides you with.

I ask that you walk with respect upon mother earth and the country that you live, work, study and travel upon and through.

I ask you acknowledge all you have been afforded and the privileges you are given – such as filling your lungs with precious and clean – not to mention vital oxygen.

Always was – Always Will Be – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples lands, skies, seas, water ways and more.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the true Traditional Custodians of this land. Our contract with Gunhidhaagun shows this from the very first sunrise.

Sovereignty was never and will never be ceded

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I have only just been able to, with great difficulty I add, write this complete and utter objection I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration upon my country— Wiradyuri Country of which I am one of the Traditional Custodians. My reasons and/or how it will impact me are outlined below.

My name is Emma Windl, I am a Wiradyuri Dharawal Ynaa, with familial, cultural and kinship ties to many other nations. The reason I have so many ties to other nations is because of invasion, genocide, assimilation, and complete removal of my people from the Wiradyuri country of which my people lived upon — peacefully for all of millennia. I am living on Wurendjeri Nation currently. I am a 38-year-old Ynaa who is one of the traditional custodians and caretakers of Wiradjuri Nation (of which Sovereignty has never been and never will be ceded) and a member of the Dabee clan of which includes Ganguddy and surrounding areas. My Ancestors have been living alongside the flora, fauna and living off of Gunhi-dhaan-bu ngurambaang -bu for and since millennia/the very first sunrise.

Although I live on Wurendjeri Nation, I often go back to ngurambaang to visit family, to practice and learn culture, as well as teaching language and culture whilst I am on ngurambaang. I run cultural workshops in Kandos also when I have the opportunity. I have been going back to Country for approximately have been 34 years, as I lived on Wiradjuri country for the first 4 years of my life. As the historical records show in Kandos, Mudgee and many other areas my Dabee family has worked and lived in and around the Ganguddy area since the white people brutally and harshly invaded and decimated my Dabee Ancestors and have been ever since. My family are instrumental in creating a success of many of the stations in the area, namely Dabee Station, where it is recorded my Ancestors worked for many years.

Let me be very clear and I hope that you are reading. I am 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. This will not ever change.

Below I outline some, however not all of the issues which are of concern to myself and to my Wiradjuri people.

It is evident and quite clear that no one in your office or the government has genuinely and appropriately undertaken research and how a proposed mine or mining licence will destroy, impact and damage our sacred areas forever.

This saddens me a great deal. I believe if this were your families sacred areas, or impacted yourself and your history, culture, religion, legacy and so much more; you would most certainly be acting in a completely different manner.

I must ask; have you no conscience?

Does it not bother you that you are potentially digging up and disturbing the graves of my people — their bones, their souls/spirits?

How would you feel if this were happening to your loved ones?

Do you not have respect for another's family?

THE EFFECTS ON WATER SOURCES

- One of the greatest threats is to our region's precious water supplies.
- Mnes 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. Water cannot be brought back once it is depleted, used and abused just as you are doing. We have learnt this from the droughts we have had over the years.
- Coal mining consumes approximately 653 litres for each tonne of coal produced. Our precious and sacred water should not be used for such purposes.
- Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways. Would you be comfortable allowing yourself, your friends and family to drink the contaminated water — to shower in it? How about watering your vegetable garden and using this water to cook your food in it?
- Subsistence from exploration and mining can crack rock substrate and lower water tables. Does this bother you? Do you care you are damaging these and more — forever?
- 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. Our people drink from this, shower in this, water vegetable gardens and such — do you really believe this should be used for these purposes?
- 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. There has been and is enough of an impact already — do not make an even bigger detrimental and negative impact.
- 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? I will tell you. The farms and food producers will go into liquidation, bankruptcy and will most likely need to see up as they will not be able to afford the huge cost of carting copious amounts of water to their property on a continuous basis.
- Without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture, no tourism. With what will we fight bushfires? With no water available, the whole area burns — it is as simple as that and we lose everything. If there is no agriculture and tourism, there is no communities and that means death of yet another little community who did not ask for a mine.

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. Someone did not do their research sufficiently, when they fibbed and said there was no impact upon flora and fauna — including all the endangered species this includes and their habitats.
- Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species. Do not mess with our water ways and water systems. Leave it as is and leave my country alone. If you divert or interfere water and water ways, you are just asking for trouble. Look at the problems that have already been caused by you 'professionals' doing this elsewhere.
- 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. Does this bother you? It bothers me a great deal. We need these to allow for habitats to continue to thrive and survive.
- Mnes 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. I am positive tourists do not and have not visited the area with the intention of seeing the 2nd largest canyon to be greeted with unsightly and unpleasant views of a coal mine — to be hacking up a lungs from dust and pollution mining would cause.

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. 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.

You have taken enough of my peoples heritage, culture, legacy and sacred sites and absolutely annihilated each and every site. Is that not enough for you, that you have done this time and time and not care? You cannot obliterate our lands and sacred sites and then be all "oops, we will go fix that right up, once we have taken what we want from the ground".

No, as once it is gone, it is gone and you have taken more from us. Do you realise that you are going to be digging up the bones of my Ancestors? Does that bother you or are you too full of greed that you do not care and only see dollar signs instead of my Ancestors final resting places? Do you not care you will be disturbing their souls?

and only see social signs instead of my ancestors' initial testing process: Do you not care you will be disturbing their souls?

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. I lived in the Hunter Valley from the age of 4 years old and I can attest to the high rates of respiratory illness which were brought on by pollution from the coal mines.
- 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.
- 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. Give the mines a licence and all of the hard work of business owners and their staff are for nothing – my family members who own businesses included.

- 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. Our towns do not and will not see any revenue for the area.
- The Hunter is the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas. What happened to your commitment to lesson carbon emissions and such? Do you conveniently get amnesia when money comes to your eyes on your desk with these mining proposals?
- 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 Bulong. Do you think you could learn from the past and not do this? I know it may be difficult to admit you messed up in a major way on many fronts, however man or woman up and keep your hands off my country.
- 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. It is already tough enough for people to live, add living in a country town and everything is already more expensive re daily living. Don't make it even harder.
- 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. I bet you don't factor that into this when you are looking at giving mining licences.

QUESTION: WHY WE NEED MORE COAL?

Have you not already done enough damage to mother earth???

- NSW government's own net-zero goal – G7 summit anyone?
- 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. We are meant to be looking at ways to be sustainable and go green – did you have a lapse in memory and commitment to not only 'Australia', but the world?
- The Reserve Bank of Australia anticipates international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable – why are you looking at mining, you should be looking at renewable energy – notice the solar power grids going toward Dubbo?? That is what you do, not mining – silly sausages.
- The International Energy Agency, called for an immediate ban on new oil, coal and gas development – soooo, why are we here discussing mining in 2021?
- The G7 agreed to end government support for new coal power by end of 2021 – well if you did not realise it – and I know COVID has done a number on many of us, so let me help you out – it is August 2021 – so why in the world are you trying to okay a mine? Again, silly sausages.
- Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources – should you not be looking at ways for this – instead of ways to continually destroy our sacred lands?
- The premise supporting the release of these areas undermines and contradicts more recent government policies.
- 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 is analogous to stating drug rehabilitation is needed while introducing heroin to a community. Oh, lookee lookee here - will you look at that - 'Opening up the Hawkins and Rumker areas is diametrically opposed to the stated intent of "giving our coal reliant communities time to adapt". Someone say hypocrisy?? I do!

ISSUES WITH THE PRIA PROCESS ITSELF:

- 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 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 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 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. Well, well, well ... someone did not do their homework again ... someone is a naughty little poppet then huh. Any schoolteacher, mother or father will tell you that you must always do your research in a proper, thorough and very honest manner. Someone is a little fibber head and this person/s is in need of going to the naughty corner and having sometime out. Thinking about what they have done. We all should know lying never works out for you and you will always get found out.

• Lack of transparency - No transparent method has been provided for how the Government will weight and evaluate the submissions. You expect the people of 'Australia' to be honest and transparent, yet the government is not and does not have the same respect or hold themselves to these high standards. Naughty, naughty people.

• 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. Well, this is not a nice gesture now is it? Did someone not get the memo or lesson from their teachers, mum or dad that everyone gets a turn with the talking stick? That everyone's opinions and voices matter and should be heard? This is most disappointing to be honest. I bet some peoples mum's and dad's are disappointed in them right now – I know I and my parents are disappointed – as it is a belief long ingrained that everyone matters.

• 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. Now this, this is again quite sneaky and very naughty. That is not nice in the slightest way. You are not being nor playing fair with this consultation thing. Anyone and everyone should have the opportunity to speak and be consulted. Especially Traditional Custodians of

the Wiradjuri lands of who you are directly and negatively impacting forever. Government go on and on about being and doing better with consulting with us, yet you don't and you certainly do not give enough notice. Quite mischievous of an act if you ask me. Tsk tsk. The naughty corner needs a visit again – for many of you.

What is this nonsense about a little ad on the paper too? Come on now – that is not a nice thing to do at all. Please insert sad face here. Such mean and reckless actions right there. Hoping we would not notice. Deary, deary me – such an ill-behaved bunch you all are. Lucky the cane went out of favour long ago. My goodness, you would all be frightfully sore from getting that on your bottoms you naughty little people.

I must say, I am deeply hurt, sad and so very disappointed in you each for even thinking this would ever be acceptable. That you could ever do this soul destroying act is beyond comprehension.

Put yourself in my position – prospect that you are losing everything. Your identity, your sacred spaces and places – all that is near and dear to you, then tell me it would be okay with you – I guarantee you would be grieving and feeling as I do.

Tell me you would be okay with someone causing more trauma, more despair and digging up your Ancestors – destroying everything you hold dear and just chucking it all away for money ... I bet you would not be okay in my shoes.

Look at this as though this is your family, your culture, your memories, sacred spaces and spaces – as if this is your family being dug up and disturbed ... see how painful that contemplation is.

It is such a painful thing to comprehend that you can vote yes to destroying all that is of me. My identity, my home, my place in the world. That you can callously kill my Country and she entails because of a useless and needless, not to mention undesired mine.

Emma Windle

A Wiradjuri Dharawal Yinna who wants her ngurambaang left in peace. Her Ancestors left to rest in peace, and sacred sites, artifacts flora and fauna, mammals and water systems left alone.

Hands off my Country – she deserves better and so do Wiradjuri peoples – the Traditional Custodians of the lands, waterways, flora, fauna and habitats.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the true Traditional Custodians of this land. Our contract with Gunhi-dhagaan shows this from the very first sunrise.

Sovereignty was never and will never be ceded

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 8:01:34 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 20:01

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Jackie

Last name

Radisich

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Newtown, 2042

Submission

Thank you for allowing community consultation on this coal exploration project.

My primary concern with further coal exploration is its role in contributing to climate change.

I appreciate that the NSW Government has taken this concern into account, as noted in the Hawkins and Rumker PRIA FAQs, with its approach for transitioning to a low carbon future, while recognising "the ongoing importance of the coal industry to NSW over the next few decades".

Since that FAQ had been produced, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's has released it's Sixth Assessment Report, detailing the current science on climate change. The resoudning concern expressed for worsening climate change within our lifetimes is deeply concerning for me. The observed and predicted worsening of heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and bushfires are evident already within the Australian context. NSW residents only need to look back at the 2019-2020 bushfires to know how present and terrifying a warming world poses.

This concern for climate change is no longer a niche one, and is palpable to broader Australia. Farmers are increasingly speaking out on the effects climate change is having on their livelihood. General practionners are having to deal with the impacts of heatwaves on the young and elderly (particularly pertinent to NSW, where Penrith was the hottest place on earth Jan 2020). Investment managers in superannation funds are having to take climate change into accounts as a investment risk (as with Mark McVeigh and Rest).

I appreciate that coal mining, processing and export may represent a significant source of indirect and direct jobs for some local and regional economies. However, if COMD-19 has shown me anything, it has demonstrated how governments can make tough decisions to lockdown, for the greater good of the community, even if it means sacrificing economic activity.

I've seen State and Local Governments lead the charge on climate change, helping to implement solar/wind projects, and provide jobs in a prosperous industry. Increasing use of renewable energy in homes and in the private sectors bodes well. If the NSW Government could act in the spirit of urgency that climate change presents, and reject further coal projects, that would give me a lot more hope for the future.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 7:50:34 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 19:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Soraya

Last name

Defteros

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Newport 3015

Submission

I am in complete disagreement with the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration which implies coal digging and the destruction of significant First Nations cultural sites.

As a white person I understand my duty to stand alongside the traditional owners of the country I live upon when they request protection for their culture, land and livelihoods. The government must listen to the requests of First Nations people in this area and provide continued and guaranteed protection to their cultural sites.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 7:48:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 19:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Zoe

Last name

Figgis

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3065

Submission

18/10/21

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I am 20 years of age and have been visiting the area for 10 years.

You are welcome to draw on any of the information you like, but please remember to change the wording a bit into your own words so that they do not consider this a 'form letter' and give it a low weighting. The references used are all available on our website if you would like to get more information from them.

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

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Figgis

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 7:47:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 19:47

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

3011

Submission

Our land needs to be protected not destroyed! No matter the amount of money, it will never be able to make up for the destruction you will cause

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 7:33:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 19:33

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

2177

Submission

This is sacred land. This proposal is absolutely not on.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 7:26:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 19:26

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

3011

Submission

To whom it may concern

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. Furthermore, it shows a deep and shameful level of disrespect to the Indigenous and first owners of the land of the Hawkins and Rumker areas, interfering with tens of cultural sites and contributing to climate change.

I ask you reconsider this decision.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 7:15:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 19:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Jane

Last name

Paul

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Orange

Submission

The NSW Bird Atlassers are extremely concerned at the prospect of there being further releases of areas for coal exploration. Every new opening of areas for coal mining will have serious and devastating effects on the birds that use such areas for habitat. Threats to these habitats may include that of threatened or endangered species. Few parts of our state still contain old-growth vegetation and undisturbed vegetation, which are vital as well for other species of fauna and flora.

These areas need protection, not exploitation. In view of the fact that it is possible to produce energy by means other than the use of coal, this group challenges the wisdom of any proposal that can enable coal exploration and ensuing mining that will lead to increasing the rate of climate change, not assuage it, and will continue to destroy our environment.

Yours sincerely

Jane Paul

Conservation Officer NSW Bird Atlassers

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 7:15:52 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 19:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

locky

Last name

chong

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

o connor

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.

Why can we have nothing that is sacred? Why must you let these people take at the expense of the eco system.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 7:00:38 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 19:00

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

In my initial submission - there are more to come - I wish to point out that Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's entire PRIA process is invalid on the grounds that department did not comply with its own Act, i.e. the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act).

I have reviewed an assessment of the REF undertaken by NSW Government agencies prior to undertaking drilling operations to provide preliminary geological information. The resulting REF was used as an approval document for the Hawkins Rumker project, however, the review found there were fundamental flaws in the REF and as a result, the entire Hawkins Rumker PRIA process is invalid and should cease until a proper review can be done.

While it may seem arrogant to be reminding a government department of its obligations, the fact is that DPIE has not followed its own legislation. The REF was prepared for the Hawkins Rumker Project in 2015 by Coal and Petroleum Geoscience Resources & Energy – Maitland Department of Industry under Part 5 of the NSW EP&A Act - as are all REFs. Under the Act, proponents must 'examine and take into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment by reason of that activity'.

The minimum statutory requirements that must be considered are set out in Clause 228 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (EP&A Regulation) and in the guideline Is an EIS required? – Best Practice Guidelines for Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The department's review was limited in its scope, and only considered four aspects of the REF, namely:

1. The proposed activity
2. The assessment of impacts on water
3. The assessment of threatened flora
4. The assessment of Aboriginal heritage

The review found that the Hawkins Rumker Project REF did not "examine and take into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment by reason of that activity". It has not properly assessed the threatened flora in the area, nor the Aboriginal heritage. It does not comply with the EP&A Act and has drawn conclusions based on limited and inadequate assessments."

Specific failings include: underestimating the area of disturbance ensuing from 27 drill sites by orders of magnitude; inadequate provision for the protection of groundwater resources, inaccurate information deriving from an online database with known inadequacies rather than conducting an on the ground ecological assessment, an easily falsified claim there was no Aboriginal heritage in the project area and, yet again, failure to conduct an on the ground assessment "of the area to see if Aboriginal objects can be identified or are likely to be present below the surface."

As such, the review concluded the approval that relied on the REF is invalid, as the approval is flawed, and as such, the activities associated with it, i.e., the Hawkins Rumker PRIA, should not have proceeded and the current process for which this text is a submission for is invalid.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 6:59:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Claire

Last name

Trevena

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3011

Submission

As the proposed coal mine is located within at least 28 sacred Indigenous sites, this build can not go ahead. It is disrespectful to the Indigenous people of this land and around Australia. Protect the longest living culture in the world by leaving this site untouched.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 6:37:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 18:37

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

Olinda 2849

Submission

I object to the very idea that new coal mines are being considered in Australia. I live in the proposed area and object on the basis that I do not want to live in or near a coal town/mine, nor see this beautiful area further damaged by industry. But, more than that, I am disappointed and amazed that I need to submit any objection at all when all that you should need to consider is the IPCC report recently released. Please refer to the expert scientists and the IPCC report for all of the reasons that a new mine should not be considered for this area.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 6:29:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Sandra

Last name

Reed

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mt Nasura 6112

Submission

I am vehemently opposed to this proposed mine. We are in a climate crisis. The latest IPCC report released last week clearly states that we have entered an apocalyptic era which has been created by human activity. And apocalyptic is not an exaggeration. If the IPCC report is insufficient evidence and warnings then look at numerous others such as the CSIRO, NASA, the Climate Council reports..... There have been many warnings and reports yet government continues to ignore them to our peril. We have already experienced out of control wildfires which were immediately followed by floods and the death of several river systems. People have died. Livelihoods lost. Livestock and agriculture lost and ecosystems destroyed. It is the mandate of government and government departments to do what is best for the people, therefore it is your mandate to act aggressively on the climate crisis in order to save humanity. And yes it is that urgent and yes the science DOES confirm it. Coal (and gas and oil) exploration has to CEASE this year. Our emissions have to reduce by 75% by 2025 or there is no way that we will survive the extreme temperatures, floods, ever-increasing severe weather events, the wildfires... That clearly means an absolute NO to this proposal which should not even be up for consideration. We can clearly no longer do the same old same old. Australia is a global embarrassment in its refusal to acknowledge the FACT that fossil fuels HAVE to stay in the ground if we are to survive as a species. It is no longer criminal negligence to not tackle the climate crisis aggressively - it is murder. And it has already begun. It is today's children who will suffer the consequences. As I say it has already begun. Our media coverage of the wildfires in Greece, Turkey, California etc is (deliberately) brief and has many gaps. Even the Arctic burnt last year and NO new ice was made. The permafrost is melting. There are so many warning milestones that have been passed and we are soon to be at the point of no return. Many scientists believe it is already too late. I could bang on about the impact on ecosystems and already endangered species such as the koala who have habitats in the proposed area but you already know that you would be doing irreparable environmental damage. Australia leads the world in mammal extinctions which is a shameful status to have. We are one of the most arid places on this earth and water security is getting more and more critical yet this proposal would use and waste vast amounts of water leaving contamination in its wake. Many of our ground water systems are now both toxic and/or the water table has dropped so low that water once available for ecosystems and farmland has disappeared. Renewable energy sources have for a long time been much cheaper than fossil fuels. It is ludicrous to even consider this mine. Fossil fuels are toxic from start to finish. There are trillions of dollars spent on health care from either direct exposure or secondary exposure. There is zero justification for this mine to proceed. All fossil fuel industries have to face the reality that they have no social, ethical or moral licence to continue to deliberately murder the planet which is what they have been doing for many decades, knowing what the end result would be. It has never been a secret, just pushed aside for the sake of short term profits. It is no longer in someone else's lifetime - it is now. It is time to draw a line in the sand and put a blanket refusal on EVERY fossil fuel project in favour of the many alternatives.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 6:19:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 18:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Cathy

Last name

Gill

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Sydney

Submission

My name is Cathy Gill and I am resident of Sydney, however I am deeply concerned about this proposal as the area of the proposed exploration is very important to me and I would say all residents of NSW. Those of us who live in the city depend on country areas to remain pristine and undamaged as part of our shared heritage. Foremost in my mind is that I think it is way beyond time that the wishes of our First Nations Traditional Owners should have their concerns and custodianship respected.

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

There are significant Health and social effects on nearby communities of coal mining that have been well documented. Our Environment Minister Matt Kean MLC has taken a strong stand for the environment and expanding or creating new coal mines contradicts his promises to the populace and his and our vision for a clean environmental path ahead.

Finally, there is a 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 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. 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. This is a failure of responsibility to all stakeholders so a new fair transparent process must be put in place and no approval be made through this flawed process.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 6:17:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 18:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Milica

Last name

Andrew-Gavazov

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Duffy, 2611

Submission

Dear NSW Government,

My name is Milica and I am 11 years old. As a society we need to move forward from fossil fuels and by doing this you would be backtracking on all the progress we have made.

Many young people like me have their futures risked because of all of the coal and mining that you are supporting and I would like for you to reconsider your decision to allow coal exploration to go ahead.

Regards, Milica

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 6:15:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

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

3122

Submission

This land has been cultivated by the Wurundjeri people over 60 thousand years. Our planet is in crisis and we cannot afford to dig up this Earth any longer. I am a young Victorian and I am worried for my generation's future. Help us in this climate crisis. Please do not allow the coal exploration to happen.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 5:48:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 17:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Gedda

Last name

Fortey

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Lyneham ACT 2602

Submission

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
 Locked Bag 502
 Parramatta NSW 212
 18 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My reasons outlined below.

The consultation process was flawed with limited opportunity to submit a response and limited community consultation. Consultation meetings were capped at 4 meetings with a maximum of 50 people. The meetings were only advertised once in a few newspapers. However, On-line submissions were opened two weeks before these meetings and affected landowners were notified of this process. This process has excluded those communities that will be affected by the Licence, while favouring the views of land owners that have a financial interest in granting the Licence.

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. Which is highly contested by

Both environment and Aboriginal groups

This area is rich in natural springs and bores. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. Mining would lead to waterways being 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 unique and would be under threat.

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.

Local Aboriginal People state there are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites that are at risk. The inadequacy of independent archaeological reports around Aboriginal cultural sites is a national shame. Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining and our laws are inadequate to protect these sites. We have a duty to ensure this does not continue. Therefore, the licence should not be issued until a proper independent report is compiled in conjunction with the agreement and involvement of the local Aboriginal.

The current use of the land is sustainable, labour intensive and provides opportunity for expanding agricultural export industries. Coal mining is a capital intensive industry with relatively low employment; it's an extraction industry that is on the way out with an ever decreasing global demand. It is a major contributor to the climate crisis and connected to poor health outcomes and environmental damage. It is for these reasons I am against the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration initiative.

Yours sincerely,
 Gedda Fortey

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 5:17:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 17:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

dave

Last name

johnston

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

canberra

Submission

I, Dave Johnston, as Chair of The Australian Indigenous Archaeologists' Association (AIAA) submit this preliminary submission totally rejecting this proposal to develop the Hawkins and Rumker (NSW) areas for coal exploration.

The Indigenous heritage values (Wiradjuri) have not adequately been assessed documented or realised, nor have the Indigenous custodians (the Wiradjuri, First Nations Peoples) and community been consulted adequately.

We will not allow the NSW Government to go down the same path that the Western Australian Government has - resulting in the destruction of Juukan Gorge and showing blatant racist blatant attitude to the rights of the local Indigenous Custodians.

The AIAA, Australia's leading independent, Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Body, will welcome the opportunity to submit further detailed representations on this proposed project, pertaining to:

- 1) Urgently required Indigenous Heritage Site Assessments and Indigenous Heritage Values Assessments; and
- 2) Advice around vitally needed local Indigenous Community consultations regarding this project and its impacts on the Wiradjuri community and country.

Proponents and the NSW Government be warned..., Australia's Aboriginal Communities' will not tolerate another Juukan Gorge situation. It is time to slow down the process and consult properly.

AIAA is happy to provide general advice on best practice for Indigenous Cultural Heritage Consultations (Wiradjuri First Nation Peoples in this case) and minimum standard Indigenous Cultural Heritage (Social Significance) assessments relating to this proposal if requested.

Yours in Culture!

Dave Johnston
 Chair
 Australian Indigenous Archaeologists' Association (AIAA)

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 5:17:52 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 17:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Annie

Last name

Nielsen

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Winston Hills

Submission

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

Annie Nielsen

Winston Hills 2153

18 August, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration for the reasons outlined below.

Issues with the PRIA Process

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened fauna and flora. How can the government assure the public that any future exploration licenses would include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values", when they haven't been able to 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.

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 will 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. This is due to the massive effects on the planet of continuing to release Greenhouse Gas Emissions. If people weren't convinced the AR6 report from the IPCC released last Monday should convince all governments to not approve coal exploration anywhere in NSW or the rest of Australia.

Water

One of the greatest threats is to the 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. 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.

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.

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.

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 local and rural roads. Traffic incidents increase from mine workers travelling to and from work. The quality of the roads is already very poor and they are not suited to increased or heavy load traffic.

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, being very harmful to the health of the local residents.

Yours sincerely,
Annie Nielsen

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 5:03:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 17:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Georgina

Last name

Pollard

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2848

Submission

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

Georgina Pollard

[REDACTED] Kandos

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 49 years of age and have been living in the Kandos for 9 years.

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: No

Yours sincerely,

Georgina Pollard

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 5:00:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 17:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Belinda

Last name

Stokes

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Harrison, ACT, 2914

Submission

Dear PRIA,

I would like to register my objection to the opening of the Hawkins/Rumker area to coal exploration. There are many reasons to object but I would like to focus on the two most important to me: personal connection and environmental responsibility.

First my personal history with the area. My parents moved us from Sydney to Rylstone as I was starting primary school, to live on a small farm that has been in Mum's family for several generations. Our place has a mix of paddocks and bush, backed by a reserve. My sister and I had a wonderful time running wild all over this beautiful land. We grew up playing hide and seek in the trees, scrambling over rocks and taking cover in small caves. As we grew Dad began to teach us about the birds and plants and animals. We learnt their names, as well as how they interacted, and fit into the whole environment. I loved all of it. I even learnt to appreciate the wonder in the snakes that I was terrified of.

My whole life has been shaped by the privilege of growing up in this region. There is no place I feel calmer, more peaceful, or even more alive, than the bush around home. There is a rock outcrop near our place that we would scramble up to on weekends. It provides a full 360 degree panorama of the area. The feeling of sitting up there, listening to the birds in the trees below, watching butterflies hillingtopping around you, native bees buzzing nearby, a wedgetail eagle circling above. The air feels alive and clean. There is so much to see, you could stay up there forever. The area is a peaceful mix of farms and rugged bush. How could you even contemplate destroying it? Because that's what opening up to coal exploration would do.

Ferntree Gully Reserve is just up the road from our place, and with this submission area. Early on Dad became a member of the trust formed to take care of the reserve and help the public to appreciate this amazing place. Throughout my childhood I spent many many hours out there, sometimes for walks and picnics and gatherings, but also taking part in the volunteer work to look after the reserve. So much time, effort and love has gone into maintaining this place, which is visited not just by locals, but from people all over the country. Part of the maintenance over the years was checking on the visitor book, and we thoroughly enjoyed looking through the comments and seeing how far away people had travelled to enjoy our own little pocket of paradise. How rude to threaten to take that away for the sake of coal.

Our extended family still lives in Sydney, and we became a place for them to retreat to. During school holidays and every few Christmasses, our cousins would drive up for a visit, and we got to share our love of the bush with them. I think this area is such a gem, in that it has such wonderful natural environments to explore and enjoy, just a quick trip from Australia's largest city. It's an invaluable resource for people to escape the city and experience a connection to nature. We are certainly not the only family in the area that hosts family and friends from the city. Not to mention the amazing GangaddyDunns Swamp campground that is adjacent to this proposal, which is visited by people from far and wide.

Opening this area to coal exploration will irreparably damage this wonderful resource.

This region instilled in me a deep love and appreciation for nature and led me to go on and study Environmental Science. Which leads me to my second main reason.
 Environmental responsibility.

It is abundantly clear to anyone who has done even the smallest amount of study in the area of environmental science, that coal mining is a practice that should have already been phased out. So how on earth did this process of opening up new areas for exploration even happen? Coal is not viable either environmentally or economically, really the onus should be on anyone who thinks this is a good idea, to provide sound scientific arguments as to why it should go ahead. Then it would never have gotten this far in the first place.

There are many different environmental reasons to object to this proposal, however I know other people have provided extensive submissions covering those and I would just like to touch on water and climate.

Water: The Hawkins/Rumker area in the proposal is situated at the very top of a very important water catchment, the Murray Darling basin. What happens here will affect everything downstream, and there is no question that coal mining with negatively affect the water systems in Hawkins Rumker, both directly and indirectly. Australia is a water scarce country, the Murray Darling Basin is already under enormous pressure, and they think it's ok to permanently damage one of the few healthy edges of the basin that are left?

Climate: with the amount of solid research that exists on the massive negative effect of coal on our climate, I am flabbergasted that this project is even being considered. I have taken part in the marches for climate action, followed the wonderful work that Greta Thunburg is doing and prompting around the world, and seen the groups of teenagers taking governments to court over lack of action on climate change. How can this possibly go ahead, with the mountains of evidence that it will irreparably damage our environment, and make the earth less habitable for this and all future generations?

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:59:07 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:59

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Robyn

Last name

Bird

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Tamworth 2340

Submission

I oppose the proposed release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration.

I am a retired locum pharmacist and spent most of my working life in the Upper Hunter and North West areas of New South Wales. Since retirement I have spent time farm sitting in Victoria and in the Liverpool Plains , Lower Hunter and New England regions of New South Wales .

Water is our most precious resource and will become more scarce in the future because of our changing climate. Droughts will become more frequent , of longer duration and will last longer. This has been made evident in the 6th IPPC report which was released this month . The project area is in the EAU (Eastern Australia) section of the report. The NSW Draft Regional Water Strategy which was released in March this year has modelling which illustrates the future scarcity of water.

Coal mining uses 653 litres of water for each tonne of coal produced. This area can not loose this amount of water . The Rylstone Dam catchment is in the proposed exploration area . Coal exploration in this area would drastically reduce the Rylstone Dam's intake of water. The threat of contamination of this water by coal extraction can only be stopped by disallowing coal mining in this area.

Climate Change is already wreaking havoc around the world. This year there have been wildfires in Canada, Europe and USA and extreme floods in areas of Germany which have never seen floods before. And our dreadful summer of 2019/2020. The effects of Climate Change are killing people.

If the world has any chance of maintaining a temperature of 1.5 degrees above that in the Industrial Era there must be no new coal , oil or gas developments in Australia according to Professor Will Steffan of the Climate Council of Australia. This is consistent with the latest IPPC Report.

This mine exploration should not be approved,

Yours sincerely

Robyn Bird

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:52:33 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Thomas

Last name

Crowley

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

ABBOTSFORD

Submission

FUCK COAL

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:48:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Margaret

Last name

Potts

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Wentworth Falls, NSW, 2782

Submission

I am a retired GP living in the Blue Mountains, and I regularly visit the Rylstone Mudgee region. Our environment with its flora and fauna are important to me, both for personal recreation, and for the importance that their preservation plays in the future of Australia for our children and the future of our planet. This is without question the way we can modify climate change and its catastrophic effects.

I am opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. Exploration is the precursor to coal mining, and it is imperative that this be stopped now as part of our contribution to prevent further temperature rises on the planet.

There are no good reasons why coal exploration and possible mines be developed. NSW Government has a net-zero goal. Decreased royalties from thermal coal are forecast to fall, both by NSW's 2021 Intergenerational report and the Reserve Bank of Australia. The International Energy Agency has called for an immediate ban on new oil, coal and gas development. The world wide trend is towards sustainable energy sources.

Local economy will not benefit from new coal mines in the area. The people of the region have created and built a sustainable long-term economy with the revenue staying with the local businesses. The area attracts tourism with cafes, restaurant and other shops, vineyards, horse studs, tourist accommodation, and shops. Much of the revenue from a mine is not kept in the area; some goes as revenue to the government, and if the mine is foreign much will go overseas.

The proposed coal release areas would affect over 100 landholders, with loss of productive agricultural lands, potential loss of water to the farms.

The potential benefit of increased employment with coal is not high as miners are specialized and there is much automation in mines, and hence fewer workers.

Other very important effects of mining include many other aspects of society and the environment.

Our Indigenous people have a number of Aboriginal heritage sites in the area, and destruction of these has major cultural effects. And it has been well shown in Australia that significant sites have been damaged by mining, and our laws are ineffective in protecting these important places.

- pollution of water, soil and air, and the addition of noise pollution:

all have marked effects on health and wellbeing of the residents in the area. As has been shown by the highest rates in NSW of respiratory and cardiac illnesses in the Hunter Valley. Coal trucks and rail freight transport coal without any covers, and this then affects more areas that these travel through.

water is important in the area. Underground aquifers can be cracked and drained by mining, and rivers and dams, such as the Rylstone Dam have catchment in the proposed exploration areas. With contaminated water, farm stock and the biodiversity of the waterways are affected.

I strongly believe that exploration licences should not be granted at this time when we need urgently to reduce production of fossil fuel to reduce further climate change. Additionally coal mining has many local effects on health, wellbeing, rivers, flora and fauna.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:47:53 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Hilary

Last name

Crawford

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone 2849

Submission

I live in Rylstone and am a landholder in the nearby Capertee Valley where I manage the land to increase the biodiversity of the landscape. I have had two plantings done to restore habitat for the critically endangered regent honeyeater and other woodland birds (now organised by BirdLife Australia) and am improving the ground cover to protect the soil and increase the diversity of plant and animal life. About one third of my landholding is protected under an agreement with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. I chose to live in Rylstone because it is an attractive small town with a friendly community surrounded by beautiful countryside. Coal mining in this area would destroy both.

I strongly oppose the Hawkins Rumker area being opened up to coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and should be prevented for the reasons given below.

1 Destruction of the landscape and negative impact on biodiversity

The opening up of the area to coal mining will have a negative impact on biodiversity and destroy the beautiful landscape. The area is home to many endangered flora and fauna species including the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, the endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll, the vulnerable Powerful Owl and the Yellow-bellied Glider. A number of declining woodland birds also inhabit the area including the Scarlet Robin, the Diamond Firetail and the Speckled Warbler (Wickers). Koalas (listed as vulnerable to extinction under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016) also inhabit this area. The Black Summer Fires of 2019-2020 caused a severe decline in Koala numbers in NSW so it is important that any remaining Koala habitat be preserved.

Threatened flora species in the release areas include the endangered *Pultenaea* sp. Olinda, the vulnerable Evans Grevillea (*Grevillea evansiana*), Rylstone Bell (*Leionema sympetalum*) and Creswick Apple Box (*Eucalyptus corticosa*) (Wickers).

There are areas of grassy box woodland in the release areas. This has been classified as an endangered ecological community under the Australian Government's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

2 Loss of water resources

A serious impact of coal mining exploration and coal mining is the loss of water resources. Exploratory drilling can fracture and drain underground aquifers. The water once lost cannot be recovered. Mining also consumes huge quantities of water. Each tonne of coal produced consumes 653 litres (Oerton 2020). In a dry continent such as Australia, this use of water is unsustainable. Moreover, it threatens local farmers' access to water. Without adequate water, many local agricultural enterprises will find it difficult to survive. This would have a negative impact on the country's future food security.

3 Impact on indigenous cultural heritage

There are a significant number of indigenous cultural heritage sites in the area although many have not been officially documented. In the Hawkins Rumker area these include rock shelters, many of which contain rock art or artefacts. Several grinding grooves have also been located (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)).

In addition, changes to the landscape caused by mining operations will adversely affect Traditional Pathways or Songlines. These are an important part of cultural heritage and need to be preserved.

4 Social and health implications

The threat of coal exploration and mining creates uncertainty in the lives of the local community. Landholders whose properties are affected may have to live for many years with this uncertainty, causing stress and mental health issues, as happened in the nearby Bylong Valley. Other local people and businesses may decide to leave town, leading to the decline of the community (eg Bylong, Ulan and Wollar).

The establishment of new mines often divides the community: those in favour, who often need the work, and those who are against it. It also brings in workers from outside the area who drive up housing costs.

Noise pollution from the mines can cause loss of sleep, leading to poor physical and mental health, while air pollution caused by mining can lead to respiratory and cardiac conditions, as happened in the Upper Hunter area.

The destruction of the landscape caused by coal mining can lead to solastalgia, a form of psychological distress caused by destruction of the landscape (Albrecht). Albrecht, an environmental philosopher at the University of Newcastle, noticed this distress in residents of the Upper Hunter region who were deeply concerned about the effects of nearby open cut coal mining.

5 Negative impact on the local economy

The negative impact of new coal mines on the local economy would be substantial. Many local businesses are incompatible with mining: eco-tourism, short-stay accommodation, vineyards, cafes and restaurants. Mining areas do not attract visitors.

The area also affects 180 landholders. There would be a loss of agricultural productivity, many farms would lose their water and farms would disappear, as happened in the Bylong Valley.

While the government would benefit from royalties and the mining companies would make handsome short term profits, the local community is unlikely to see much financial benefit. The companies will maven, leaving the landscape destroyed and the water resources depleted. The surviving residents will be left to live with the consequences.

6 Need to transition from fossil fuels

According to the latest IPCC report, if our planet is to continue to support life, it is necessary for all countries to transition away from coal and other fossil fuels. Antioio Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN, calls the latest IPCC climate report 'Code Red for Humanity'. 'This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels before they destroy our planet ... Countries should also end all new fossil fuel exploration and production, and shift fossil fuel subsidies into renewable energy' (Secretary-General's statement on the IPCC Report , 9 August 2021).

References

- Wickers, Jane. Western Coalfield Strategic Release Mapping and Analysis. Earthscapes, May 2021
Overton, Ian. Aren't we in a drought? The Conversation. 4 May 2020
Albrecht, Glenn. 'Solastagia': a new concept in health and identity. PAN: Philosophy, Activism, Nature. No.3, 2005

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:47:33 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
GREG

Last name
MARKS

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Curtin 2605

Submission

I wish to make a brief submission, based on my expertise and knowledge in Economics and International Law. I am opposed to the proposal.

From an economic perspective, further investment in coal extraction is a short term only prospect. In the longer term it is clear that the world is moving away from fossil fuels. Given the increase in catastrophic weather related events, and numerous changes to ecological systems, this movement is likely to accelerate. Coal mines are likely to stranded assets. Funds may not be available for mine rehabilitation.

From an international law perspective, the world is rapidly moving towards an international norm of climate abatement and emissions reduction. To approve increased coal production in this climate may lower our international reputation as a good international citizen.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:47:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:47

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

2122

Submission

I oppose the proposal to open Hawkins and Rumker for coal exploration on the grounds of climate change. The scientific research tells us that we urgently need to shut down the fossil fuel industry in order to prevent the most catastrophic climate change scenarios from playing out. Opening up new areas for coal exploration is going in the wrong direction and incompatible with the project of protecting as much life as possible from the impacts of climate change.

Note that attribution studies linking climate change directly to deaths (e.g from heatwaves) are becoming increasingly sophisticated. For example, this paper in Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-021-01049-y>. There are also studies that look at the connection between fossil fuels being burnt and deaths from increased global warming.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:46:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:46

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Brooke

Last name

Arblaster

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Flemington

Submission

I am writing with urgency to the NSW government to to say that I strongly oppose the decision to open the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration.

My main expression of concern with this plan lies with the responsibility to protect the fragile ecosystems within the landscape and to respect the wants and needs of traditional land owners. I am currently studying as a horticulturalist in Victoria, but I have lived in NSW for years before hand and understand the richness of nature in the region which needs to be protected.

Coal exploration is a precursor to coal mines, a practice which has already devastated much of the Australian landscape and has destroyed countless sacred sites for First nations.

Not only is Australia already founded on stolen land, but to further desecrate and damage that land, especially when these sacred sites uphold and strengthen local communities, is an insult. As a nation, we have seen countless times, energy companies manipulating traditional owners into giving up their land for coal exploration, only to have that land and the sacred sites that exist on it, be destroyed. On top of this, the environmental impacts of coal mines are devastating to local ecosystems, with waterway poisoning and land clearing being a major issue.

Lastly, I would like to bring up the G7 summit goal of ending the support of new coal mines by the end of 2021. In light of recent reports indicating the severe urgency for climate action, granting permission for further coal exploration would be an incredible disservice to a country that will be terribly effected by climate change. All action, including the disapproval of decisions such as this, is necessary.

I hope that this letter has expresses the grave concern that myself and many others have with this project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brooke Arblaster

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:48:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Kellie

Last name

Higgins

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bentleigh East 3165

Submission

Dear Madam/Sir,

I object to the release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration. Governments, at this time, should be putting more effort into exploring renewable energy alternatives than continuing the mining of a resource which, when used, harms our environment.

This area is only 30kms away Mudgee - a beautiful, fertile area which would be adversely affected by any mining as the mining areas in Queensland and Western Australia show.

Sincerely,
Kellie Higgins

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:50:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Imogen

Last name

Ziras

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3078

Submission

LEAVE INDIGENOUS LAND ALONE

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 18/08/2021 4:41:05 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Julie

Last name

Lyford

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2422

Submission

To whom it may concern

Dear Director of Energy and Resources policy

my name is Julie Lyford and I live in the beautiful Gloucester valley.

It was here that a 20 year fight against coal and coal seam gas industry proposals was fought - to the detriment of the community as a whole even though we stopped both proposals.

The sheer weight of emotion and threat to your community, homes, farms and livelihoods, as well as the knowledge that we are living in a global climate emergency, is extremely destructive to the well-being and cohesion of a community like Rylestone and the region.

The Gloucester/Manning Valley upheaval with AGL's proposed gasfield and the Rocky Hill coal mine proposal were appalling situations that our community had to deal with - enough! To continue to propose new coalfields and mining applications and release of more of our precious waterways and farmland when we know the harms, locally, nationally and globally, is unconscionable and possibly unlawful in the future. Ecocide as a litigation measure is starting to gain momentum.

I fully support the communities in the Rylestone region in opposing this area to be released as a zone for mining extraction.

THE EFFECTS ON WATER SOURCES

- One of the greatest threats is to the 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?
- 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. (See Social Impacts statement in Rocky Hill - GRL vs State Govt judgement)

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. 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.
- ☐ 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.

- 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. * (NB we had significant loss of community especially in the farming areas affected by the Rocky Hill proposal)
- 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 government policies. □.

ISSUES WITH THE PRIA PROCESS ITSELF:

- 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 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 Cudjegong 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.

Finally, The Rocky Hill coal mine proposal court case highlighted the social impacts that mining would cause - this area is similar to the Gloucester situation. The severity of those impacts would be a grave injustice. Secondly, the burning of coal downstream - Scope 3 emissions - was also a major factor in the rejection of the mine.

I realise this is not a mine proposal as yet - however the impacts on the community right now are as if it were - why does the NSW State

Government continue to inflict the fear and uncertainty onto our communities when they know that coal and fossil fuels will be redundant and costly as opposed to renewable energy?

Why do you continue to put communities through the angst, division and destruction of their way of life?

Why is this even being proposed?

Yours sincerely

Julie Lyford OAM
Former Chair Groundswell Gloucester

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:39:02 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Jack

Last name

Watkins

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Tamworth 2340

Submission

I object to the proposal for both environmental and economic reasons. Australia should not be exploring for coal at a time when we need to drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Climate science is extremely clear on this point. New coal projects are also economically unviable. The coal industry will soon be dismantled as the world moves to no/low emissions energy technologies.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:41:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Julia

Last name

Ogris

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3196

Submission

As mother of two young daughters I strongly object to any further coal exploration. This is in line with last weeks IPCC recommendations.

We have a duty to keep this beautiful planet inhabitable for the generations to come.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:27:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:27

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

Thornleigh 2120

Submission

I oppose the mine for the below reasons

Coal mines operate above recommended noise levels, all day, everyday

Traffic from trucks will increase and coal trains will run through our town.

The dust and particulate matter from the mine and trucks/trains travel for kilometres.

Pollution is inevitable e.g the Hunter Valley is now one of the most polluted areas in Australia.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:24:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:24

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Fiorina

Last name

Parisi

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

NORTH MELBOURNE

Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. 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. There are also 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.

Coal mining must be phased out of Australia and further exploration will only prove detrimental to our health, environment, economy and society.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:23:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Hugh

Last name

Gould

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bathurst 2795

Submission

I cannot believe that in this time when the coal industry is either in decline or about to go into decline, that the State Government would consider releasing these areas to exploration. Just by doing this communities get divided, individuals are put under stress from the unknown possibilities that come from coal mining, and for what; by the time any further mining gets approval the world will have moved on in this planet endangering industry. Even if a mine does get a license it will be at a time when the market returns will be minimal compared to the cost to the community. This puts the likelihood of environmental protections under great strain. We have seen many examples of this poor mine management after they go into caretaker mode. I ask you to make a sensible and compassionate decision to not send these areas into a release mode.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:19:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:19

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

Thornleigh

Submission

Coal exploration and mining, disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways.

Springs and bores can disappear through mining, drilling and digging activities.

The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong water is town's water supply, and this flows into Windemere dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong.

Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bush fires with.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:18:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:18

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

Thornbury 3071

Submission

I am opposed to the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration. It is of paramount importance that we preserve Aboriginal cultural and ceremonial sites and even if not mined directly, these can still be damaged with subsidence. Not only must we protect and preserve these sacred sites but the effects of coal exploration has a deep impact on many other areas of life, agriculture and the climate and these should not be taken lightly. Coal explorations destroy and contaminate our waterways and also use extraordinarily high volumes of water, water which is better suited to the communities, agriculture and environment. Coal mines are one of the biggest contributing factors towards climate change which is already having devastating impacts on the planet. Considering the world is going towards renewable energy, it is pointless to waste money towards coal fired power stations and old technology that only further damages the environment, when those resources can be used towards renewable energy. I urge you to consider these factors and the lasting impacts they have on our land and people.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:15:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Chad

Last name

Harris

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

St Kilda

Submission

FUCK COAL

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:14:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:14

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Billy

Last name

Fogarty

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Annerley 4103

Submission

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

Billy Fogarty

[REDACTED] Annerley

18/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My reasons are outlined below.

I am 21 years of age, and although I don't live in the area, I have loved ones who will be negatively affected by the coal exploration.

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 notifications 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 meetings 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 weigh 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. 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. We as a country can not continue to destroy Aboriginal sites and history. This has gone on for too long. The only way to make active change within our climate, is to consult the Indigenous Elders who live on country. We must protect them, and their history and culture.

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 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: No

Yours sincerely,
Billy Fogarty

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:08:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:08

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

Thornleigh

Submission

The government have not informed the community properly and there is no transparency in how the submissions will be evaluated.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 18/08/2021 4:05:53 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:05

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

Petersham 2049

Submission

Dear Director, Energy and Resources Policy
 Department,

I write to express my opposition to the release of this area for coal mine exploration. I write as a Sydney resident who has regularly visited the surrounding areas as a tourist and keen bush walker, who cares about the direct and indirect benefits of our amazing natural heritage.

I respectfully request that the Department recommend against the release of this area for coal mining exploration. I base this on the following:

1. Climate Change

Consistent with, and following the recent release of the IPCC's sixth assessment, there is now overwhelming evidence and material in support of the proposition that there should be No new coal mines if there is to be any real hope or chance of keeping the rise in temperature below either average 1.5 C or 2 C levels. There is overwhelming scientific evidence that the use of fossil fuels (and deforestation) - both of which would flow from the release of the area to coal mine exploration - is the driver in the current rise of temperatures on land and water. Australia is considered to be the most vulnerable, developed country to climate change, in circumstances where our land temperature has already risen by 1.4 C since 1910. The release of this land for coal mining exploration is not, with respect, in either local, state or national interest. There would also be an additional, and unfortunate irony in releasing this land for coal mining exploration, considering that the majority of the adjoining world heritage Blue Mountain & Wollemi areas were burnt during the 2019/20 summer in the context of record high temperatures, and lack of rainfall, driven by climate change.

2. There is more social and economic value in protecting this area from deforestation and coal mining, and indeed converting it to national park, than the alternative of deforestation and mining. The economic value lies in converting this area to national park or protected areas that can be visited by tourists, and be the subject of sustainable eco-tourism.

3. I understand that the Greater Blue Mountains/ Wollemi world heritage area has no buffer zones, so that there is a risk of coal mines being built right up to its borders of a globally significant UNESCO park, which is one of "the jewels in the crown" of Australia's national parks and tourism.

I understand that some of this area, including Coricudgy State Forest, are currently being assessed by the Australian Heritage Council to placement on the National Heritage List as a step towards including them in the World Heritage Area itself. Areas at risk of coal mining like Coricudgy State Forest are of World Heritage value. With respect it would be a flawed and short sighted decision to instead deforest and mine this area.

4. Coal mines could potentially drain or negatively impact swamps such as Ganguddy Dunns swamp. The catchment area for Wollemi Creek could also be destroyed, polluted or exposed to coal mining run off and pollution. These waterways and swamps and the surrounding forest covered by these areas, should be protected not deforested and mined, particularly following the 2019/20 fires and the increasing risks to endangered (and other) fauna and flora in these areas from a combination of threats, including and exacerbated by climate change.

I respectfully urge the Department to recommend the cancellation of these coal mining leases, and to instead recommend the preservation of these areas through the extension of national parks or other protection.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 4:01:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:01

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

keith

Last name

lethlean

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

WOOLLOOMOOLOO, NSW, 2011

Submission

hopefully attached

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:54:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Noris

Last name

Ariza

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3178

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.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:55:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Tessa

Last name

Rainbird

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Tamworth 2340

Submission

I strongly oppose the proposal. I make this submission one week after the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report, which stated, in no uncertain terms, that the world must cease mining and using fossil fuels urgently in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees and ensure a habitable planet for our children's future. It flies in the face of morality and reason to approve new coal exploration, at a time when it is imperative (and inevitable) that existing fossil fuel projects be decommissioned in the transition to renewable energy. Not only is the proposal unthinkable from an environmental standpoint, but it also risks the health and wellbeing of nearby communities. The health impacts of coal mining and use are well established. Further, it is clear that the world economy is shifting rapidly away from fossil fuels, with South Korea, China and Japan all having committed to ambitious net zero targets (and South Korea having recently taken the further step of announcing it will end funding of overseas coal plants). In other words, we are set to lose Australia's biggest fossil fuel consumers. New coal projects will result in stranded assets, disruption and job losses to the local communities which come to rely on them. NSW is a state rich in renewable resources. The only reasonable path forward is to invest in renewable projects which produce cheap energy, create jobs, and preserve a liveable environment. I make this submission as an Australian taxpayer, resident of regional NSW and parent.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:48:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Thomas

Last name

John

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3016

Submission

To whom it may concern,

It is blindingly obvious that releasing land for further coal exploration is not only short sighted but also unethical. Under the sheer weight of climate science Australia needs to be looking past the short term profits of coal mining and realising that the effects of continuing to burn fossil fuels is becoming catastrophic for the balance of ecosystems and weather systems across the globe.

Please do not approve the release the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration.

Thank you.

Thomas.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:48:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Peter

Last name

Lamb

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Fairy Meadow

Submission

There is a climate emergency happening. You have only to glance at the latest IPCC Report to be shocked into that realisation, There is no sense in Australia's present situation to give serious consideration to this proposed lease. There is therefore no justification for this project to proceed. Please reject it.

Yours sincerely

Peter Lamb

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:32:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Luciana

Last name

Smink

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Breakfast Creek NSW 2849

Submission

Thank you for accepting my submission.

I strongly object to the proposed release of the Hawkins-Rumker area for coal exploration and ask that this proposal not go ahead.

Whilst the impacts of coal exploration activities are under assessment here, this process is under way only as a first step towards actual coal mining in the area. It is otherwise a meaningless exercise. So in assessing the impact of this proposal, the impact of actual mining activity **MUST** be taken into consideration. When an assessment is made for a new block of flats, it is not just the hole in the ground that is taken into account. It's the impact of the size of the eventual building, its infrastructure needs and its shadow.

Our place

Our property, Long Gully, is situated on Pyangle Road, Breakfast Creek inside the Hawkins area and thus directly affected by this proposal.

It consists of 1000 acres of bushland and old farmland and is a conservation property, with most of the land subject to conservation agreements with both State and Federal government. Almost the entire property (95%) has been the subject of a Conservation Agreement the NSW government's Department of Environment Climate Change and Water since 2011. This agreement (currently administered by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust of NSW) was signed in 2011 and is in place in perpetuity. A large area is also the subject of a conservation agreement with the federal government's Department of Environment as part of the Environmental Stewardship Programme for Box Gum Grassy Woodland. The conservation covenants were put in place to ensure that NO further interference/disturbance (such as farming, logging, agriculture, construction etc) or any other activity that will negatively impact the natural environment takes place on this land so as to allow it to return to its original state. Needless to say coal mining exploration on our land would be incompatible with these objectives.

One of the reasons for preserving these critically endangered woodland remnants is that they provide habitat to endangered and vulnerable species of flora and fauna. We have personal sightings/hearings of Koalas, Quolls, Gang Gang Cockatoos, Powerful Owls as well as Barking Owls on our land. We have healthy populations of Wombats, Echidnas, Possums, Redneck Wallabies, Swamp Wallabies and Eastern Grey Kangaroos, not to mention the many bird, insect and lizard species. The land consists of the natural type of environment for Regent Honeyeater habitat. There are also stands of Slaty Box on our land.

There is evidence of indigenous occupation on the property, caves and grinding stones bearing witness to Wiradjuri heritage.

Our home is a unique, off-grid, large adobe (mud brick) and timber structure, built entirely by hand by local craftspeople. This is an unusual and irreplaceable asset.

Also on the property (outside the conservation area) are a beautiful hand built adobe and timber cottage and two small roundhouses, which we are currently adapting for low impact off-grid eco holiday accommodation. We have recently invested in solar energy panels and storage system to make this happen. We are aiming to have this available to people who are looking for an affordable place to experience the incredible natural beauty and peace of this land and its superb dark night skies. Obviously, any mining exploration activities or eventual mining activities would make this untenable.

Our property, being covered in perpetuity by a conservation agreement with the NSW government (as by its own assessment it consists of critically endangered landscape) is simply incompatible with any mining exploration or mining activities.

Therefore, should this land be released for exploration licences, there is no possibility for any eventual mining whilst we own the land. No amount of compensation would justify us, as guardians of this land, to sell this property to a mining company, and we will not do so.

The area

Apart from our own property coming under direct threat, its flora and fauna are part of the surrounding land and cannot be seen independently. Opening any part of our area for mining would severely impact the health of our land. (For instance, it is part of a Koala corridor.)

Water

The impact of any mining in our area on our surface water and groundwater is of enormous concern. During the recent drought the water table fell dramatically and much flora perished. The animals on our land were affected and we have seen a decline in wombat population, which is now slowly recovering. Any mining operations would take huge amounts of the precious water resources in our area. Our own property with its endangered flora and vulnerable fauna, our neighbours who rely on water for their crops and livestock, cannot afford any loss of water. There is already a big problem with the proposed water usage for the Bowden's Silver mine, also located in our catchment. The businesses in our area are all reliant on the precious water supply.

Other impacts

the magnificent night sky in our dark valley which is important to us would be under threat from the light pollution emanating from a coal mining operation. Currently no artificial light penetrates into Long Gully, and the superb night sky is a major attraction. Noise and air pollution from mining activity as well as hugely increased infrastructure and transport activity in our quiet and clean landscape would

badly impact animals and humans.

This area is known and loved for its rural peace and beauty. Any mining exploration, mining and related transport activities would irretrievably damage this land.

Our community

There is uncertainty, anxiety, anger and sadness in the community. After the prolonged drought, fires, and whilst also dealing with the ongoing Covid situation, many are at the very end of their resilience. We have farm crops, livestock, orchards, olive and wine growers, many have been there for many generations.

Farmers who spent their whole life working on the land now under threat, local Wiradjuri people for whom it is yet again a threat to their heritage, local people who lovingly and voluntarily manage precious nature reserves in the area such as Femtree Gully, the cost to people's mental health and wellbeing is already skyrocketing.

The mental and physical health and financial security of people in our community must not, cannot, be the price paid for possible economic (and political) advantage to the NSW government and eventually to a company's shareholders.

Economic considerations

The SOLE consideration in favour of this proposal seems to be the perceived economic gain and related to that, job growth. I submit that the economic viability of new coal mines in the area is questionable at least. The demand for thermal coal worldwide is in decline and likely to continue to decline as the main countries importing our thermal coal are decreasing, not increasing their reliance on coal.

Japan in July 2020 tightened its criteria for backing coal-powered projects, with government officials saying financial and other support would only be given to countries that are making efforts to reduce carbon emissions, and to those that must have coal-fired generation due to financial reasons. The stricter criteria are included in a new government strategy for the five years from 2021. The state-run lender has no immediate plans to finance any new coal-fired power projects.

Japanese financial institutions and energy companies continue to move away from supporting coal-fired power generation, as the country's leadership reiterates what it says is an "unwavering resolve to decarbonize." Several of the country's investment banks and other financial institutions are no longer willing to continue support of coal projects, and energy major Mitsubishi is pulling out of the \$2 billion, 2-GW coal-fired Vinh Tan 3 power plant project in Vietnam, marking its first exit from a coal project. Mitsui & Co. has plans to sell its stake in Paiton Energy, an independent power producer in Indonesia that operates coal-fired plants. Japanese trading house Itochu plans to sell all its stakes in thermal coal mining by mid-2024. The Sojitz Group, one of Japan's leading trading houses, plans a complete withdrawal from thermal coal, oil, and coking coal projects. It said it has a target to reduce its stakes in thermal coal projects by more than half by 2025, and to zero by 2030, after originally planning to halve its stakes in the thermal coal sector by 2030. Sojitz already divested its stake in the Mbolarben coal mine near Mudgee NSW.

Japanese joint venture Kansai Electric Power Co. and Marubeni Corp. has scrapped plans for a coal-fired power plant, leaving the country with no new construction on the horizon as companies drop the dirty fuel amid tighter emissions rules and strong growth outlook for renewables. It decided not to move forward with a 1.3 gigawatt coal power project that was slated to begin operations in 2024. The firms decided to cancel the project due to the government's tighter environmental rules and banks curbing financing for carbon-intensive projects, the Nikkei reported. The companies are considering building a cleaner biomass facility instead.

Japan has no plans for additional new plants, according to BloombergNEF.

A 1.2 gigawatt coal project was cancelled as electricity demand was expected to remain flat, while renewable energy expands. Japan won't build any new coal plants due to "lowering power demand, tighter environmental regulations and additional costs to comply with 'efficient' and 'clean' coal projects," Olympe Mattei, an analyst at BloombergNEF, said. The cancellation comes after Japan said it would reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46% by 2030 compared with 2013, strengthening a previous commitment under the Paris Agreement. Tokyo decided last year to shut about 100 inefficient coal-fired power units by 2030, while Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga pledged for the nation to become carbon-neutral by 2050.

According to a Queensland treasury report, as part of the last Five-Year Plan, the Chinese government planned to

- reduce growth in energy consumption;
- accelerate the substitution from coal towards non-fossil and natural energy;
- move away from the traditional energy-intensive industries towards innovative and green industries;
- introduce distributed and localised energy supply systems; and
- encourage and strengthen international energy cooperation.

Importantly, some targets set out in the Plan had already been largely achieved by the end of 2017. For example, coal fired power generation capacity has already fallen to 55.2% of total installed capacity in 2017 (compared with the target of 55% by 2020).

Coal fired power generation efficiency in China has also improved.

The treasury report concludes that these developments highlight the likelihood that China's demand for thermal coal for power generation is likely to decline over coming decades.

The U.S.-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis has said more than 130 large banks and insurance companies worldwide have placed restrictions on coal-related investments.

In the March 2021 Resources and Energy quarterly the Australian Government's prediction for Australia's thermal coal export values is that they are forecast to fall from \$20 billion in 2019–20 to \$14 billion in 2020–21. However, earnings are expected to increase back to \$15 billion (in real terms)

by 2025-26. So in total a decrease of \$5 billion.

So the only argument in favour of this proposal, that of economic benefit, is most likely not a realistic one. Existing coal export is meeting current demand. For that reason the earlier planned expansion of the Newcastle Port coal export terminal was scrapped as not viable. With demand decreasing economic gain is not likely to eventuate.

Therefore job growth is also not likely as the decreasing demand for thermal coal would simply mean that - should these new coal mines go ahead - existing coal mines in NSW would have to reduce output, which would result in a shift of the workforce, not an expansion.

In the meantime opening up the Hawkins-Rumker areas for coal exploration licences would damage the thriving tourism ventures in the Rylstone and Kandos areas, leading to job losses in existing businesses. Mining itself would endanger the viability of our farms, wineries and olive growers, as they rely on our precious water resource.

Climate crisis

According to the recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), globally, warming has now reached about 1.1C since industrialisation. In Australia, warming has reached 1.4C. United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres said the report is a "code red for humanity". "The alarm bells are deafening and the evidence is irrefutable: Greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk. This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet."

By ignoring the very clear warnings from hundreds of scientists and actively allowing for new mining of fossil fuels, the NSW government could be seen to be culpable of exacerbating the current climate crisis. Already courts are deciding in favour of young people who claim that the government / minister in charge by their decisions are to a degree responsible for the destruction of their future world.

It is abundantly clear that increased fossil fuel mining can only lead to an increase of extreme weather events, fires, droughts and floods. The cost of these are astronomical. In addition, in consideration of the gravity of the crisis, economic retaliation may soon be in place for those countries such as Australia which do not take sufficient action in remediation this enormous threat. Given current emissions and those of already approved projects in NSW, opening new areas for coal mining would make it increasingly impossible for the NSW government to meet even its own current emissions targets.

In weighing the benefits versus the negative impact and risks of this proposal, I ask that the committee and minister Barilaro put the interests and health of our environment, climate and our local people above any perceived monetary gain for a few. In my opinion, the negative impacts of this proposal far outweigh its possible (and questionable) benefit.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Lucy Smink

Long Gully

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:26:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:26

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

Kambah, Canberra 2902

Submission

I am fundamentally opposed to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I am [REDACTED] years old, and the [REDACTED] I also write on his behalf, and on behalf of [REDACTED] future children.

Coal exploration in this area should not go ahead because it has the potential to have devastating impacts on:

The health of residents due to air, soil, water and noise pollution.
 The livelihood of farmers and small business owners.
 Water security, affecting the catchments of many towns and communities.
 Threatened flora and fauna, including riparian meadows and swamp grasslands.
 Significant aboriginal art and ceremonial sites.

Additionally, the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration should not be approved because the extraction of coal in this area will be opposing efforts to reduce global CO2 emissions to mitigate the current and rapidly escalating climate crisis. Last year alone we witnessed it first-hand in the Wollemi, part of the very region you mean to "explore", during the devastating fires of 2019-2021 – and across the east coast of Australia.

I wholeheartedly implore you to stop this potential mining business, to listen to our voices and to stand up for the people of this beautiful country. Only working together we will ensure this land remains livable for the future generations.

Yours sincerely

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 18/08/2021 3:24:16 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:24

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Bruce

Last name

Stevenson

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Armidale, 2350

Submission

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Dear recipients of this submission,

I live in regional NSW and am somewhat horrified that at this time, when governments around the world are promising no new coal/gas mining, you are assessing a request to explore for coal deposits. The only rational purpose for that request would then be to open up a new coal mine, which in turn then contributes additional carbon into the world's atmosphere, at a time of climate change.

In extracting fossil fuels (coal & gas) from Australia we are also responsible for the eventual burning of those fuels, which releases additional carbon into the world's atmosphere. The atmosphere that we all share, to which all life is optimally adapted. To deny culpability of the carbon emissions is equivalent to denying the culpability of a drug dealer when it comes to the final consequences of the drugs they sell. Humans have to overcome their addiction to fossil fuels, and that begins by stopping the source of supply.

In this submission I am requesting that the Hawkins Rumker area not be opened for coal exploration. Coal mining is the inevitable goal of successful coal exploration, and so it makes sense to stop exploration in order to stop subsequent mining and the inevitable damage to our environment. I list some of the problems associated with exploration and mining, below.

Water

Damage to underground water sources through exploratory drilling can result in water loss and contamination. Water is arguably one of the most precious resources we have in this country. The available water in the Hawkins Rumker area is already used for a number of human activities (e.g., Rylstone Dam and towns through to Mudgee). Any subsequent mining would then require a large amount of this water. Can the exploration applicants provide a convincing argument that there is more water in this area than would ever be required? Was this the case in the 2019 drought? Any loss of water would also cause significant harm to fauna and flora species.

Aboriginal heritage sites

Exploration and mining could unwittingly damage any Aboriginal heritage sites. Apart from being an historical group of humans with value in their own right, the Aboriginal people provide us with the strongest historical 'telescope' with which to look back on a consistent human culture of arguably 60,000 years. All too often we have seen the damage that mining can do to heritage sites across Australia. Such events are sometimes followed by a plaintive 'sorry'. But what good is that as new ventures are initiated with the same lack of initial sensitivity, or concern?

Direct physical impact of industrial activity

Who should cover the impacts of increased industrial activity associated with exploration and mining; e.g., traffic, noise, pollution, extraction? How does one honestly compensate for such problems to be endured by those who live in the Hawkins Rumker area? If financial compensation, how much will this be a drain on the public purse? The only valid means to 'compensate' those living in the area, apart from transporting them to a parallel universe with no mining, is not to initiate exploration and mining in the first place. Many of us who live in rural/regional Australia do so because we value a combination of natural fauna/flora and agricultural activities. Mining is not part of this. We do not want industrial mining.

Remediation

If there were to be mining, who would remediate the area 'back to how it was'? Is this even possible? I would ask the exploration applicant to name one mining venture in Australia where this has been successfully achieved.

Benefit to local community?

How would the mining activities benefit the 180 landholders in the Hawkins Rumker coal area? A very few might get nonskilled jobs (not sustainable; I daresay there aren't that many specialized miners currently in the region just waiting for a mine to open up). The majority of current residents would simply end up with a range of social, environmental and economic problems. I am sure that you would be sufficiently informed to know what these are, including negative ongoing impact on the current local economy... while those who live elsewhere (overseas?) will profit through their mining shares. But even for those who profit through financial investment there may be a negative impact, as more people turn away from coal they may find themselves with a stranded asset in a few years' time.

The bigger picture

Why is it that there are still some who don't understand the relationship between coal and climate change? Or is it the case that they really don't care, as long as they make their short-term profit? In many areas we are increasingly told to 'follow the science', which is good as it is the best tool that we have for making complex decisions. The science is very clear, as many recent scientific reports show. Please leave the coal in the ground and give future generations of life as good a climate as we can; i.e., the one we have all been adapted to. The only opposition to following the science is short-term self-interest; otherwise known as greed. We can rise above this.

I would have thought the decision that needs to be made for the best long-term outcome is reasonably obvious, but if it is still not clear, take oneself forward 30 years. What might the Hawkins Rumker area look like in 2051? What might the world look like? What would have been the wisest decision to make back in 2021?

Any personal or social profit made from a future coalmine will arguably be overshadowed by the financial and social costs of significant climate change resulting from yet another new coalmine.

Thankyou,
Bruce Stevenson (Armidale, NSW).

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:22:35 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Samantha

Last name

Madell

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Kandos 2848

Submission

I strongly oppose the release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration and mining, and I would like to add my voice in support of the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community group, and their PRIA submissions, published at <https://rylstonecfc.com/home/rrcfc-pria-response/>

My mother's family moved to this region in the 1840s, in a successful search for a better life than that offered by famine-era Ireland. This is my home.

I am a community care worker in Kandos, which means I have the privilege of spending quality time with many community members aged in their 80s and 90s. I have spent very many hours listening to the life stories of my clients, and a clear pattern has emerged: people speak with enormous fondness about their memories of time spent in nature with loved ones - camping, fishing, cycling, and picnicking with their friends and families around this region. Many of the most vivid memories revolve around the enjoyment of bio-diverse waterways with "good fishing".

I have only ever heard elderly people talk about mining in relation to industrial injuries and diseases - often horrific, life-ending injuries that have scarred families for generations, as well as chronic and/or life-ending illnesses that typically leave men fighting for breath for years. I have never heard any person - old or young, within or outside the industry - talk about mining with joy.

Mining fossil fuels is an unsustainable path with a very, very dead end. The average Hunter Valley mine has a mine life of less than 30 years. The multi-generational employment that many people dream of is just that - a dream. We need to work towards a sustainable future, NOW. New coal mines do not offer a sustainable future.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:18:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Marie

Last name

Flood

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Alexandria

Submission

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on Hawkins and Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am strongly against the proposed Hawkins and Rumker coal explorations for the following reasons:

Exploration and mining for coal would be against the public interest, particularly in light of reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which has in the last couple of weeks given what could be a final warning that urgent action is required to save us from climate catastrophe. I am inclined to listen to 234 scientists from 66 countries and I believe that we should be devoting our time and energy to finding replacements for fossil fuels for domestic use and for export. The good thing about the IPCC report is that there is some reassurance that with immediate action temperature rises beyond safe levels can be avoided.

PRIA Process

The government's Hawkins Rumker REF is disputed by local communities. There should be a suitable time frame for proper research and consultation by members of the community familiar with the issues under consideration, as well as environmental and other experts.

Water

My greatest concern is the impact of both exploration and mining for coal has on water supplies, including bores and springs. In today's context, when we know it is only a matter of time till the next big drought, we need to be doing whatever we can to protect all water sources rather than entrusting them to mining corporations. Over and over again in this state we have witnessed the damage coal miners do to water supplies which cannot be replaced. Other industries do not co-exist with coal mining and if water supplies are damaged we risk food security and other critical agricultural production.

Aboriginal Rights

The Aboriginal heritage sites in the area can only be protected by blocking coal mining. The rights of Aboriginal people are not reflected in the laws or the processes in place, which focus on particular sites. It is in the interest of the whole community to listen to Aboriginal people and learn from their custodianship of country over many centuries.

Impact on the local economy and communities

The area functions well economically with impressive tourism, vineyards, horse studs and a wide range of farming interests. These industries should be allowed to grow and prosper, which they won't do if mining is allowed to move in and damage water, land and air. Not to mention the noise and visual impacts which would make the surrounding areas unattractive and less unproductive. Jobs in the area would be likely to fall because of damage to other job-rich industries.

Flora and Fauna

If allowed to proceed coal mining threatens already endangered flora and fauna, and interference in waterways would damage fish habitat.

No more sacrifice zones

We need positive development opportunities in our rural communities. The government has committed to the development of renewable energy industries and are establishing zones where it will be encouraged. This should be happening more widely, rather than sentencing some areas to be sacrifice zones for fossil fuel industries. Creating more coal mining horror shows is completely unnecessary and against the public interest.

Please advise the intergovernmental panel not to open up the Hawkins and Rumker areas to coal exploration and mining.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Flood

[REDACTED]

ALEXANDRIA 2015
 18 August 2021

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:07:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:07

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Glenn

Last name

Loughrey

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Glenn Iris

Submission

This submission is a short submission as I only found out about this yesterday and I haven't had time to gather supporting documentation.

I am a Wiradjuri person raised at Ulan who has experienced the destruction and degradation of sacred cultural sites, many of which we (and others) had no opportunity to protect. Only through the intervention of several individuals and groups was the Dripping Wall (the Drip) on the Goulburn River protected and saved. I am aware of other sites that were decimated. I also know directly of the impact on waterways consigning what has once had a prolific grey eel population no longer exists as changing the waterways failed.

I object to this and similar developments which disrupt rivers, the water table, the natural flow of the land, and that impacts directly on the habitat of indigenous flora and fauna.

A major concern is the flow of water to Duns Swamp in particular which is not only a popular tourist destination but important to fish, bird, and animal life in the area. Any disruption to the flow of water will degrade environment therein. Aboriginal people understand water has having a perfect memory - it will always want to and find a way to return to where it always was.

While this is not my particular country it is the country of Wiradjuri and I want to ensure the destruction which has occurred at the Ulan, Wilpinjong, and Moolarben sites are not repeated on the sacred sites here.

It is vital to understand that country is our mother and that all country is sacred, regardless of whether it holds what is called sacred sites. All country contains the ancestor/creator spirit in each and every element of ground, tree, grass, bird, drop of water, or animal. Any damage done to one area cuts through the connection to the country and disrupts the life of the spirit in that place. This includes what is called Songlines.

Elders speak of mining by saying do not dig us up. Why? Because we are born under a tree and live our life above the ground out of the wisdom and trauma held in it in the lives and experiences of those who die under the tree and took knowledge and trauma with them. We will do the same. Digging up the layers of wisdom and knowledge is akin to tearing large swathes of pages out of a people's sacred text and destroying them forever.

As we also carry country in our body because we are born out of it, any such damage continues the genocide of people and culture. Mining carves a great chasm across the hearts and lives of local people. Not being able to walk country, the key to gaining traditional knowledge, means that we are further deprived of our culture and heritage.

For further information read my book: "On Being Blackfella's Young Fella - Is Being Aboriginal Enough".

I do not expect anything I have said above will change the literalist minds of those who make these decisions yet land use, in all its forms must reflect the mind of the first people because that is what you say you will do when you do an acknowledgement of country, and that is a legally binding commitment you are required to keep, otherwise you will not be welcomed here.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:02:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:02

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 2849

Submission

The areas concerned contain the Bylong Valley Way through the Bylong Valley.

This beautiful ancient valley is an important food bowl now and even more so in the future as current food areas disappear under the urban sprawl.

It is an ancient beautiful valley, currently an important tourist area and will be even more so in the future as infrastructure is improved.

Any desecration of this valley by mining, particularly by coal, which everybody seems to be intent on ceasing to use, would be desecration of the highest order.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 2:44:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:44

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

Collingwood 3066

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.

Coal exploration and mining will disturb and destroy waterways, and will impact on the Cudgegong waterways that supply water to the town.

Threatening the communities water supply will impact on agriculture, tourism, sustaining the environment and preventing/ fighting bushfires. The

coal exploration will also put significant Aboriginal art and ceremonial sites at risk, and has not been effectively approved by the community.

Additionally, we're in a climate crisis and further endorsing coal exploration and mining will not help our nation reach our Paris agreement goals.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 2:44:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:44

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Anthony

Last name

Hull

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

coogee 2034

Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am opposed to the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration.

I am a medical specialist and a member for Doctors For The Environment.

I am too aware of the health implications of the mining and burning of coal wrt the air pollution and it's massive effects on health, including our young.

The effects of fossil fuels on Climate Change are another major issue affecting our population's health - with the social and economic costs and weight on an already stressed healthcare system.

It is imperative this exploration be blocked.

Kind Regards,

Dr. Anthony Hull

MBBS, FANZCA

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 2:36:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

peter

Last name

Alway

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Gladesville 1675

Submission

in the forward to a book called Big Coal Ian Dunlop writes=

"Australia is teetering the brink of the greatest strategic blundering in its history. If planned expansion of the coal industry proceeds, Australia will find itself beautifully equipped for a world which no longer exists, with extensive stranded assets in mines, ports, and railways as key trading partners like China and India rapidly abandon a high-carbon future in favour of low-carbon alternatives."

The above quote was written in 2013. With the publication of the IPCC report on climate change last week the risk the risk of stranded assets, unremediated mine sites, segregated agriculture lands and waterways, both above and below the surface, is even more so.

Coal mines with their dirt, dust and the enormous quantities of water used and despoiled makes them incompatible with modern farming and environmental needs.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 2:28:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:28

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

3031

Submission

Please

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 2:25:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:24

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

4067

Submission

See the uploaded document for requests.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 2:18:32 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:18

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

Carlton North

Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

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.

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. My friend and university peer who has grown up in the area is very upset about the proposed works to her home and believes there was not sufficient consultation with community and scientists to approve the plans.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 2:18:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:18

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

Carlton North

Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

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.

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. My friend and university peer who has grown up in the area is very upset about the proposed works to her home and believes there was not sufficient consultation with community and scientists to approve the plans.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 2:17:32 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Molly

Last name

Mechen

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Essendon 3040

Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration for the inconceivable reason of the Aboriginal heritage site which coincides with the location of the new development. This is sacred land for the indigenous Australians and this particular site holds significance with ceremonial ritual and art culture that has existed for years before us. Not only this but the tourism sector will suffer under this new exploration - the town and the tight community that will suffer through this, have spent years building up small businesses and this will destroy that hard work. As if we are not destroying the ozone layer enough, coal mining will 2.43kg of carbon per kg of coal burned. As an activist for climate change, this proposal is deeply disheartening and feels like a step backwards for Australia lower emissions scheme.

I hope this letter finds you well and encourages you to reflect on the bigger picture of how this coal mine will affect us all.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 2:10:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Rebecca

Last name

Guilfoyle

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone

Submission

Subject Draft: Concerns with Proposed coal mines in the Rylstone area.

18th July 2021

Dear Planning Industry and Environment and to whom it may concern,

We are extremely concerned about the potential coal exploration in the Rylstone areas. We are against this proposal.

Our family have been farming in the scenic, tourist attracting area for generations. We are extremely concerned about our agriculture production. Mining should not occur where the risk to agriculture is too great. Mining will destroy our community.

We believe water is a big issue of concern, the Cudgegong River and Cox's Creek run straight through our property which then flow into the headwaters of the Rylstone weir and down stream to lake Windamere. Water is too valuable for agriculture and for our towns, coal exploration will contaminate and destroy our water ways and put too much pressure on our system. We are already struggling with water to irrigate, let alone more pressure from a coal mine. Our much needed Springs and bores could also dry up. In my opinion the risk is too great.

This proposed exploration of coal around Rylstone presents similar to Bylong. Bylong was once a thriving little community and has been destroyed in every way. We would hate to see this happen to Rylstone. We worry, that once all the work has been done for a mine. The mine may not be what was expected and we are left with a wiped out town and nothing achieved or left for the future. It would also be a shame to see our towns with uncertainty for people, resulting in people leaving and no longer investing in the region. We as farmers rely on all the services in Rylstone.

We find it hard to believe it would be appropriate to put a noisy and polluted mine so close to our charming Rylstone village, beautiful national parks and our historic blue mountains. Rylstone has worked really hard to build a thriving tourist industry it would be a great shame to destroy this.

The world is moving away from coal. Australia must encourage innovation and renewables. Our farms and food will sustain us for ever and a lot longer than a coal mine, possibly owned by foreign investors who have no understanding for our region. There is no future in new coal and definitely future in Agriculture.

Yours Sincerely,
 Rebecca Guilfoyle

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 2:03:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Rupert

Last name

Macgregor

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

DEAKIN ACT 2600

Submission

I am making this Submission to declare my total opposition to the proposal that the Hawkins Rumker area be opened for coal exploration.

The self-evident purpose and intention of such a declaration would be the enabling and encouragement of actual coal mining extraction operations in the area – something which requires to be stopped and totally precluded here and now.

From no perspective could the actual undertaking of such mining be justified; thus, in that case, then the enabling even of the preliminary exploration processes would be entirely without purpose; a counter-productive exercise in futility.

The manifold arguments against enabling such exploratory activities, and even more against enabling actual mining, are crystal clear and starkly self-evident at this point of time; and can be summarily run through.

1. Global Heating, Climate Change and the existential need to transition as a matter of urgency from all fossil fuel energy sources into clean renewables.

Both the science and the already clearly evident risks and mounting climate damage of the effects of greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels, have both become clearly and starkly apparent over the past decades.

There is international agreement that the need for action is urgent, and commitment to work globally to limit the increase in global temperatures and transition to net zero emissions

Thus, the agreed science conclusion is that, to have any real chance of holding global heating within livable levels, there should from this point be NO further exploratory or exploitative or extraction activities in respect of any fossil fuel resources – whether those resources be coal, oil or gas.

That authoritative advice is further confirmed and reinforced by the release in the past few days of the most recent update research on the climate by the Independent Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

2. Coal Industry Expansion rapidly becoming uneconomic in an overcrowded field of competing producers and progressively falling international demand.

There are already vast numbers of identified coal reserves identified around Australia for possible exploitation, in addition to those already operational and in production.

However, we have already reached the point where the development and exploitation of renewable sources of energy is significantly cheaper than of coal or any other polluting fossil fuel sources – and this price advantage of renewables will rapidly increase further, to the point where further mining projects will be unable to raise the finance essentially required.

Similarly, in the face of already falling demand around the world as other countries also move towards decarbonization of their economies and industries, existing coal production centres around Australia will be in an increasingly fierce competition with each other, with fewer customers and declining prices. Increasing numbers of such present operations will be forced out and closing down, unlikely ever to be re-opened; stranded assets of zero worth.

Thus, again, it would be increasingly more improbable that any coal reserves that might be identified in Hawkins Rumker areas could ever raise the essential finances either for their initial establishment, or to achieve any sort of ongoing viability.

So, if it becomes ever more certain that, in the old expression, any such coal mine would be pretty much "either a Blue Duck or a Dead Duck" – what is the point of encouraging or enabling the disruptions and incidental damages of the preliminary exploration?

If, however, actual mining operations were to be undertaken in Hawkins Rumker, the negative pressures and devastation would be extreme, ongoing and irremediable.

• Aboriginal Heritage

Available information indicates that there are significant numbers of Aboriginal heritage sites in the areas, including art and ceremonial sites that would be at risk – including numbers of known sites that have not yet been officially documented.

Across the country, countless significant sites have already been destroyed by mining [that of Gukan Gorge simply the most appalling and egregious] and clearly our laws and their operation are inadequate to protect these sites.

• Environmental Destruction

The progressive and mounting degradation of our environment is increasingly of local and national concern, as documented in the recent national review (Samuel Committee) on the operation of the environment legislation, and the steadily proceeding Senate Inquiry into Australia's Faunal Extinction Crisis. whose final Report is due later this year.

The Hawkins Rumker areas are home to a great many endangered flora and fauna species and threatened ecological areas which could be lost entirely – NSW Bionet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council IGA.

Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, with losses of fish habitat and enhanced pressures on already threatened fish species. The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek could suffer considerable damage or loss; the Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in Cox's Creek would face severe threat.

Open cut and underground mines can cause water contamination, and disrupt the diversity in waterways.

So many beautiful areas would be degraded into an industrial desolation.

• Water

Water is our nation's and our region's life-blood.

Mines have a significant negative impact on the water resources of their local areas – even exploratory drilling can damage and drain underground aquifers. There is a decrease in supply and flows in the area's rivers and creeks.

The Rylstone Dam is in the proposed exploration areas; the upper catchment of the Cudgegong River feeds into the water supplies of both the Rylstone and Windamere Dams. There are implications for the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charabong and Clandulla.

Once the water is gone, it is lost forever

On this point, it should be stressed that this region recently emerged from a long drought. So how shall we all fare in a future drought if there is a coal mine affecting the supplies and flows or so much of our vital water resources?

• Societal and Population Health Implications

It is essential that this is considered in the context of the Hunter Valley being already extensively subject to well-established pollution effects – for example, it has some of the highest rates of respiratory and cardiac conditions in New South Wales.

Air, water and soil and noise pollution spread widely and indiscriminately beyond actual mining sites.

For a start, noise and vibration will dramatically increase, from initial clearing and establishment and onwards through the mine's operations; with blasting, earth-moving equipment, vehicular and heavy machinery operations through the day and beyond.

Traffic noise and volumes (and associated air pollution) will increase, with heavy vehicles and coal transports by rail and road

Air quality would reduce significantly from the clearing and establishment phase and diminish progressively further during operation.

Large areas would be affected by the establishment, development and operations of any resulting coal mines – preliminary indications indicate up to 200 landholders would be directly affected.

There would be significant loss of agricultural lands - farms would disappear or lose their water and viable operation; productive agricultural lands would be lost forever.

This summarization of arguments against this proposal could, of course, be indefinitely continued; all tending to the same irrefutable conclusion:

The self-evident purpose and intention of such a proposal that the Hawker Rumker area be opened for coal exploration, would be the enabling and encouragement of actual coal mining extraction operations in the area – something which requires to be stopped and totally precluded here and now.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the issues which I have sought to present in this Submission.

With best wishes

Rupert Macgregor

18th August 2021

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 18/08/2021 2:03:04 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:03

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

3121

Submission

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW2124

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 have been visiting the area for years.

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.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 18/08/2021 1:59:01 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:24

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]

, Cooma, NSW, 2630

My name is [REDACTED] and my Husband [REDACTED] and children [REDACTED] are Descendants of the Dabee Wradjuri 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 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 my husband's family 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 Wradjuri 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 Wradjuri 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 Wradjuri 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 Wradjuri 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

can supply water. Mining operations can have serious impacts on the Country and Country people. The area is already 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 ask that Traditional Custodians (such as my husband and children) 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: 18/08/2021 1:54:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

ciara

Last name

kirby

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3056

Submission

do not allow this to happen- THIS IS stolen indigenous land

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:52:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Harriet

Last name

Loneragan

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2849

Submission

I am a permanent resident of the Rylstone Aerodrom Airpark which is on Cox's Creek Road, Rylstone.

I totally reject this proposal for all of the social, environmental and economic reasons.

Purely on a social level - how could a coal mine be socially beneficial to an area? People would be dislodged from their properties and those who are left have to deal with degradation of the environment and water. We live in a beautiful, pristine environment, free of noise and pollution. We have a quiet and beautiful community. A new coal mine would severely disrupt the community - many people would flee the area and instead FIFO personnel would be brought in to operate the machinery and the mine. Although it is touted as being good for the economy by employing people it is well known that most of the time the locals who are untrained are not given the jobs, but instead FIFO personnel are used.

Environmentally there are no positives that come from a coal mine. Increased heavy trucking and machinery, explosives, air pollution, water degradation, wildlife obliteration would completely destroy this area. This is an ancient and beautiful land that once destroyed can never be "put back together again".

Economically it is very difficult to see the upside here. The small businesses that exist in the Rylstone, Kandos area cater to tourists and locals and would not thrive, or even survive once the tourist trade dried up.

There is absolutely no need for any more new coal mines to be released. The world is very rapidly turning to renewables and coal mining is waning throughout the world. Why not use the coal which is still available in the old mines rather than spending time and money on "assessing" new areas??? It makes no sense.

Our government needs to take a strong stance against this ludicrous, wasteful, wrong-headed direction into more coal-mining exploration.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:46:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:46

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

CARLTON

Submission

I am from Victoria and am 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.

With the latest IPCC report, it is clear that fossil fuels must be left in the ground and coal exploration stopped.

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.

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.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:34:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Derek

Last name

Craig

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

MARRICKVILLE

Submission

I would like to object to the proposal to open up these areas to coal mining.

I find the protection of our natural heritage and river systems to offer more potential long-term benefits than the short-term gains that mining this area would generative.

As such I would like to see a detailed opportunity cost analysis of this proposal, with scenarios that accurately reflect the likely future demand and price for any resources extracted factored in.

I would also like to understand the potential risks to rivers and underground water tables that any exploration could create.

Thanks,
Derek Craig

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:28:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:28

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

2257

Submission

I object to the establishment and expansion of new coal mines in NSW.

I have read the International Panel on Climate Change report (IPCC) just released last week and I am terrified of the consequences of releasing additional carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere which will undoubtedly be the long term result if coal mining proceeds in this area.

Coal mining is an industry in its death throes. We are facing an existential threat in the form of human induced climate change and the only sane and rational response is to stop the use of fossil fuels, particularly coal and gas.

We should take heed of the fact that the International Energy Agency itself has requested a ban on new fossil fuel developments.

In Europe, the G7 nations have called for a ban on new coal projects.

The time has passed for new green field coal projects. We should rather be setting up job transition schemes for those coal mining areas already in operation.

The time has passed for the setting up of new coal mines at a time of already changing climate that will further threaten water supplies in local catchments. The water contamination resulting from coal mining is well documented in many existing coal mines.

The drop down in bores is in many cases is irreversible over any meaningful time frame.

The 'make good' arrangements within the conditions of consent of many coal mines relating to aquifers are sadly not nearly good enough.

We await our next drought, now to be exacerbated by climate change already in play, with trepidation. A new water intensive and heavily polluting coal mine is environmental and economical lunacy.

There is no social licence for new coal mines in NSW. The Independent Planning Commission is increasingly rejecting coal mine proposals taking into account the negative social and environmental impacts resulting from new green field coal mines.

I am strongly against the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration. This is an opening for coal mining. It should be stopped now!

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:22:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Chris

Last name

Nadolny

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Armidale

Submission

I am writing as a retired Ecologist, who has been concerned about the impacts of climate change for over 30 years. We are now certain that climate change, mainly resulting from burning of fossil fuels, is already causing extreme weather and rising sea levels (see the recently released IPCC Report). Climate change is almost certain to intensify if we continue to burn fossil fuels at current rates. From this perspective, we will need to keep coal reserves that we already know about in the ground, so we should not allow development of new coal fields.

At best, the granting of an exploration licence will result in the development of a new coal field, which will become a stranded asset as the use of coal is phased out, at worst it will result in a coal mine that will contribute to impacts on humanity and the environment caused by climate change. Therefore I object to the granting of the licence.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:07:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:07

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

Medlow Bath

Submission

To Whom it May Concern,

Most Australians, including myself are extremely concerned by the impacts of fossil fuels on our climate and the environment. Further exploration is just a self destructive exercise that will only serve to cause much greater damage than any possible benefit that could be gained.

Given the evidence globally of the environmental, human and economic cost of climate change, it is just foolhardy to further explore options that have a clear negative impact on all Australians. Most of us do not benefit from the potential financial gain of fossil fuel mining but we subsidize it and must bear all the negative impacts of both the destruction of our very important natural environment and the resulting global warming.

We have the 12th largest Co2 emissions per capita in the world. As such a rich and privileged nation we should be setting an example to the rest of the world in reducing these emissions not looking for ways to increase them.

When considering these fossil fuels as a resource to be taken advantage of there is always a failure to also consider the overall cost not only to all Australians but the world. There is also a failure to recognize the great importance of our natural resources. These are valuable, finite, irreplaceable resources that are greatly valued by Australians. They can no longer bear exploitation and now as a matter of urgency require protecting and preserving.

Please do not go ahead with this proposal.

regards

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:03:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:03

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

Maroubra

Submission

A very strong NO to the Hawkins-Rumker coal release area plan

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:03:15 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Christopher

Last name

Hughes

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Kyneton

Submission

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
 Locked Bag 502
 Parramatta NSW 212
 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.

The consultation process was flawed with limited opportunity to submit a response with limited community consultation. Consultation were meetings capped at 4 meetings with a maximum of 50 people. The meetings had a one off advertisements in a few newspapers. However, On-line submissions were opened two weeks before these meetings and affected landowners were notified of this process. This process has excluded those communities that will be affected by the Licence adequate time and notice to be able to make a submission on the effectiveness of the granting of the licence on them, while favouring the views of land owners that have a financial interest in the granting of the licence.

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. Which is highly contested by

Both environment and Aboriginal groups

This area is rich in natural springs and bores. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. Mining would lead to 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 unique and would be under threat.

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.

Local Aboriginal People state there are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk. The inadequacy of independent archaeological reports around Aboriginal cultural sites is a national shame. Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining and our laws are inadequate to protect these sites. We have a duty to ensure this does not continue. Therefore, the licence should not be issued until a proper independent report is compiled in conjunction with the agreement and involvement of the local Aboriginal.

The current use of the land is sustainable, labour intensive and provides opportunity for expanding agricultural export industries. Coal mining is a low employing, extraction industry that is on the way out with an ever decreasing global demand. It is a major contributor to the climate crisis and connected to poor health outcomes and environmental damage. It is for these reasons we are against the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration initiative

Yours sincerely,
 Chris Hughes
 Convener of the First Nations Concerns Committee
 of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 12:44:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 12:44

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Pete

Last name

Dowson

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Centennial Park

Submission

I object to the Hawkins Rumker release in its entirety.

I have a deep personal connection with this area, through family history, through professional work, through close relationships and through time spent in residence - both past and in future.

I consider the threat of coal expansion into these areas an outrageous intimidation on the behalf of the NSW Government and the NSW Planning Department.

I find the NSW mining and resources policy and process unfairly stacked towards the private benefit of a few stakeholders, and grossly misrepresentative towards the many negative social and environmental impacts and burdens imposed by extractive industries.

I note that the recent report by NSW ICAC Operation Eclipse into the regulation of lobbying, access and influence in NSW, has found that the current framework and policy for Lobbying of Government Officials (LOGO) is grossly inadequate to manage corruptive influences.

I trust that recent corruption rulings regarding coal leases by previous NSW Ministers and associates are widened and carried forward more vigorously.

I fully support future investigations into how the fossil fuel lobby has adversely influenced the administrative bodies of NSW, to the detriment of public interest.

I welcome resolute community opposition to the Hawkins Rumker release plans.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 12:41:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 12:41

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

Bathurst 2795

Submission

Having recently walked in the Ferntree Gully area north of Rylstone, it is difficult to understand how investigation of coal mining possibilities can even be considered.

This is a beautiful area within designated protected nature reserves containing significant remnants of rainforest, as well as having extremely significant indigenous history and importance.

The drilling process alone is very destructive to the soil structure, and has great impact on the water table and aquifers.

Please take notice of the concerns of the community as well as the warnings from the environmental and conservation experts.

There will be major social, environmental and economic impact from any preliminary investigation alone, let alone if the mining leases are improved in the long term.

I ask that this proposal to release the Hawkins and Rumker areas be considered very very carefully - there is no going back from the destruction of the landscape.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 12:41:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 12:41

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

Carnegie, 3163

Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My reasons and impacts are outlined below.

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

Additionally, 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.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 12:19:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 12:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Fiona

Last name

Vaughan

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2780

Submission

Please do not release the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration. These areas are rich with natural and cultural values and should be preserved. (Please see points below.)

This is also the wrong time for commencing new coal exploration, given the proven science about the links between coal and climate warming. This is the time for developing renewable energy solutions to the Earth's climate crisis. Please see the latest IPCC report for the proven negative effects of burning coal and gas on climate - some of these effects are already happening.

- There are at least 26 significant Wiradjuri sites including rock shelters with painted or engraved art, camp sites and grinding grooves.
- At least 2/3rds of this area is covered in native vegetation.
- The area contains valuable waterways which are fragile to disturbance.
- It includes headwater streams of the Cudgegong River in good condition, which flows into other rivers and must be kept in good condition.
- The Rumker release area runs along 33km of the border of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Coal exploration and mining in this area may jeopardise the World Heritage status of the GBMMHA.
- 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 'black summer' bushfires. 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 oldgrowth elements to survive.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:54:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

David

Last name

Mallard

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Orange 2800

Submission

As a resident of the Central West and a person concerned about the impacts and risks of climate change for the future health and wellbeing of global society and the environment, I am writing to object to the proposal for opening the door to new coal exploration in this region.

Coal produces 2.42kg of carbon per kg of coal burnt. An underground mine also produces methane emissions.

The world is moving away from coal – Australia must encourage innovation and renewables. The premise supporting the release of these areas undermines and contradicts NSW government policies, including its stated net-zero emissions goal.

Communities in our region have worked very hard to build a thriving tourism industry. Tourism has sustained, long-term impact; mining is short term. Many of our local businesses are incompatible with mining, and the landscape may change irreversibly if it is mined.

The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are also at risk from this proposal. The upper Cudgegong waterways provide town water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong. Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bushfires with.

There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are also at risk from this proposal. 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.

Due to all of the concerns outlined above, 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.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:43:55 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:43

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Agnese

Last name

Perri

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3065

Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. This coal expansion is extraordinarily harmful on a variety of fronts. Globally there is an understanding that coal is incredibly damaging to the environment, this year the G7 has committed to end public support for unabated coal generation by end of 2021. The expansion also covers an area with a variety of Aboriginal sites, 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. Let's not make these mistakes again. Not to mention the public health and safety concerns, impact on water biodiversity and water contamination.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 18/08/2021 11:38:05 AM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:38

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

4226

Submission

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW

Date

18/7/21

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 have been living in / visiting the area for multiple years.

You are welcome to draw on any of the information you like, but please remember to change the wording a bit into your own words so that they do not consider this a 'form letter' and give it a low weighting. The references used are all available on our website if you would like to get more information from them.

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.

Thanks very much

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 18/08/2021 11:32:59 AM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:32

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

Bowraville NSW 2449

Submission

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW 2124

[REDACTED]

NSW 2449

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.

Most importantly this proposal, if successful, poses a threat of irreversible harm of intergenerational equity, contributing to the destruction of quality of life for future generations and infants alive today, as a direct result of the contribution any fossil fuel usage from these sources may contribute to climate change.

Further The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act) for the map area below list Matters of National Environmental Significance for which action cannot be taken without the approval of the Federal Environment Minister. This link below provides access to the Earth Scapes Consulting Pty Ltd May 2021 Western Coalfields Strategic Release Mapping and Analysis Document.

https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/7317/attachments/original/1623889487/Western_Coalfields_Earthscapes_ReportV3.pdf?1623889487

I request you to open this document and read its Executive Summary page 4, detailing document contents (reproduced here).

"Executive Summary

"The Hawkins, Rumker and Ganguddy-Kelgoola strategic release areas are located in the Central Tablelands region of New South Wales. The areas total 60,369 Ha in area.

The area is in the Sydney Basin bioregion and is in the Wollemi subregion.

The release areas are located in an intact landscape with very significant remnant vegetation, with analysis showing that native vegetation covers 84% of the total area.

103 Km of the coal release areas border the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The tenure of the areas includes State Forest, Crown Land and other tenure – almost 50% of the areas are comprised of State Forest and Crown Land with the remaining areas private tenures. There is no National Park Estate in the study area.

The dominant landuses are grazing and native forestry production.

There are 45 recorded aboriginal heritage sites and an additional 13 sites that are Restricted and location data not supplied in the proposed coal release areas.

There are 36 water bores are located in the study area. There are 121 Km of stream channel in good condition and 118 Km of stream channel classed as a high level of fragility.

There are 1,854 Ha of Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems (GDEs) mapped in the proposed coal release areas.

There are 6,634 Ha of potential Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs), 22 threatened fauna species and 6 threatened flora species occur in the Hawkins, Rumker and Ganguddy-Kelgoola strategic release areas.

Some of the key species recorded include the Koala, the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and the endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll, along with four plant species endemic to the Rylstone/western Wollemi area.

Areas of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) are located in the Rumker strategic release area.

There are 215.2 hectares of the coalfield release areas mapped as alluvial areas by the groundwater productivity layer. The proposed coal release areas contain a number of surface and groundwater sharing plan areas".

Map of Department of Agriculture Protected Matters Search Tool for Matters of National Environmental Significance. Your Upload file does not allow the map to be transferred. It covers part of the proposed exploration area bordering the western edge of the Wollemi National Park

Table 1: Matters of National Environmental Significance for this map related Rylstone area. Your upload does not allow detail transfer so I will hand write it.

World Heritage Properties: 1

World Heritage places: 1

Wetlands of National Importance: 5

Listed Threatened Species: 42

Listed Migratory Species: 12

Further, we are at a major turning point on climate change for all of humanity. At the UN, 31st of October till the 12th of November 2021, Global Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland; there will be a huge push for every nation on Earth to adopt zero greenhouse gas net emissions by 2050 or earlier. This will leave your proposed coal mine as a stranded asset for which you now have the opportunity of saving your precious coal mine development funds, if you open your eyes. The writing is on the wall so to speak.

On the 11th of October till the 24th October 2021 the United Nations (UN) global summit on Biodiversity loss in Kunming, China; at which the importance of protecting existing ecosystems will be stressed. Biodiversity loss is currently putting human survival as a species at risk. This is not an emotional statement but a scientific fact .

It would be much better, therefore not to disturb any ecosystems within the proposed exploration area.

I strongly recommend blocking the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment from going ahead.

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

Yours sincerely,

██████████

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:28:41 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:28

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Chloe

Last name

Watfern

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Maroubra 2035

Submission

I am fundamentally opposed to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I am 31 years old, and the mother of two small children - four and a half and 18 months old. I also write on their behalf, and on behalf of their children.

Coal exploration in this area should not go ahead for more reasons than I can count on my two hands.

It has the potential to have devastating impacts on:

1. The health of residents due to air, soil, water and noise pollution
2. The livelihood of farmers and small business owners
3. Water security, affecting the catchments of many towns and communities
4. Threatened flora and fauna, including riparian meadows and swamp grasslands
5. Significant aboriginal art and ceremonial sites

But perhaps the most pressing reason the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration should not go ahead is because the extraction of coal from this area will directly contradict efforts to reduce global CO2 emissions in time to avert an escalating climate crisis. A climate crisis that is already here: we witnessed it first-hand in the Wollemi, part of the very region you mean to "explore", during the devastating fires of 2019-2021 – and across the east coast of Australia.

Allowing new coal exploration is completely at odds with the aims of, and even negates, the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan, as outlined in the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework.

Finally, this is an economically frivolous endeavor, not only for the local economy of the region, but also because the market for coal, both within Australia and internationally, is projected to decline as countries commit to more ambitious emissions reduction targets.

I implore you, on behalf of my children, on behalf of my children's children, to leave the coal in the ground. I want to be able to continue to explore that beautiful country with my family, wandering riparian meadows beside clear rivers, and know that my government has stood up for our future.

Yours sincerely,

Chloe Watfern

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

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:26:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:26

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Amy

Last name

Hume

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Carlton 3056

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.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:14:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:14

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Jillian

Last name

Salz

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Leura 2780

Submission

I strongly oppose the exploration for coal in this area. From the just released IPCC report, it is evident that we should not use fossil fuels. Nor do we need to use them. there are plenty of better alternatives for the health of our planet.

Nothing should be mined which will adversely affect the diminishing koala population.

I ask the government to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,
Jillian Salz

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:06:15 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Flick

Last name

(one name only)

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

St Kilda

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 countless reasons for this being unethical and dangerous - as I'm sure many other submissions will outline. This proposed activity is reprehensible and must be stopped.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:49:17 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 10:49

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Chris

Last name

Nolan

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Windsor, 3181

Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

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. As someone who group up in the Hunter and have seen first hand its effects on the health of my neighbours and family, I am firmly opposed to this new proposed site.

Yours sincerely,

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:00:03 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 10:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Christopher

Last name

Dubrow

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

3073

Submission

To whom it may concern.

I was upset to learn about these proposed mines on a number of grounds.

For many years my family and friends have regularly gone camping in this region at or around Dunns Swamp / Ganguddy and it would be unthinkable to have this beautiful area damaged in any way by coal mining.

Second, the recently released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sixth report on climate change contains stark warnings from the world's top expertise in this area of science. The report shows that climate change is 'widespread, rapid and intensifying'. The report also shows why the primary mitigation strategy is to end the use of fossil fuels, particularly coal.

To ignore this report in the face of such overwhelming evidence that the world's climate is in imminent danger of spiralling out of control, is a profoundly short-sighted and dangerous thing to do. The only rational response is for both the NSW and Federal governments to cease all new coal mining, and look towards winding up existing mines.

Opening new coal mines is exactly the wrong direction.

Chris Dubrow

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:21:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 10:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Lynette

Last name

Scott

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

MOSMAN

Submission

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

Ms Lynette Scott

[REDACTED]

MOSMAN NSW 2088

Date: 17 August 2021

Submission against the proposed Hawkins Rumker Regional Coal Exploration

My voice would like to add to those who are against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

As a tourist, with friends stayed in short stay accommodation in Rylstone last October, travelled to many towns in this beautiful area, tasted the local produce, drank the fine wines at meal time, made purchases of souvenirs including products made from local olives.

The topography of the Central Tablelands region of NSW is absolutely beautiful, with valleys, mountains, swamps, and learnt of the meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek, the Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the centre of Cox's Creek.

There are 28 listed Wiradjuri aboriginal sites, diverse flora and fauna, magnificent species of trees, and in some cases the wildlife contains endangered species to be found in the bush land.

When I ate at the Rylstone Hotel in the Lady Bushranger Bistro, learnt of the history of Jessie Hickman, a bushranger, who would roam the Kandos/Rylstone bush land to hide out from authorities.

There is a wide range of attractions for the tourist, differing types of accommodation including eco tourism, with fine food and dining, using produce and wine locally sourced.

My submission is against:

1. Loss of agricultural land, possible degradation as a result. 180 farms listed for land takeover, in the area estimated as 32,000 ha of land and livelihood taken away
2. Water supply to towns Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; and to Mudgee may be affected by the Rylstone Dam Catchment
3. Coal transport through Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabbe, Olinda and Kelgoola may cause problems.

4. Tourism industry loss because of the land used for mining
5. Townspeople may move away to seek employment elsewhere
6. Flora and fauna affected by loss of habitat and bushland

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

Yours sincerely,

Lynette Scott

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:19:18 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 10:19

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

Clifton Hill

Submission

I submit that this exploration should not go ahead for the following two reasons:

- The mining and use of coal as a key energy source within Australia should be reduced, and eventually stopped, due to the impact on climate. This is not a renewable energy source and continues to demonstrate Australia's blinkered approach to recognising and mitigating climate change
- The proposed land is the site of multiple indigenous sacred sites and continuing depletion of these sites across Australia for mining demonstrates the Governments lack of commitment to valuing our First Nations history, and therefore all of Australias history.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:17:26 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 10:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Peter

Last name

Horsburgh

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Clifton Hill

Submission

Surely we are over Coal Exploration

Surely we have seen the devastation of exploration in Aboriginal Cultural sites

Is nobody understanding where the vast majority of the Australian nation sit on these 2 issues

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:58:25 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 09:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Nena

Last name

Hicks

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Nowendoc 2354

Submission

I oppose any new coal mining because:-

- 1) it will make it harder for Australia to reduce emissions of CO2 by 2030;
- 2) it will be detrimental to water-catchment systems in the Hawkins and Rumker areas;
- 3) it will have a deleterious affect on native vegetation and biodiversity and
- 4) it will increase land use conflict in an area currently focused on sustainable agricultural and tourism industries.

New South Wales needs to show leadership in this area. If new coal mining goes ahead, more pressure is put on other sectors to reduce their emissions - and this at a time when the world is moving to renewable energy! The science is undeniable as the IPCC report highlights. A continuation of coal mining is to deny the science and ignore the concerns of voters who are looking for real, impactful climate action.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 9:45:33 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 09:45

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

Berkeley, CA, 94707

Submission

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I'm from Scotland originally where I grew up in a mining town, the grandson of a coal miner, and mine rescue volunteer. The miners I knew were the stereotypical hard working individuals, strong of body and heart. One by one they died of illnesses and injuries from their time working in and around the coal industry. At this point all the mines in my childhood area have been closed yet the scars remain. Scars of the land, scars of the people, scars of the environment. While the coal industry may have improved it's safety record it remains a fundamentally poisonous piece of technology that humanity is in the midst of growing out of. I have never seen an area with coal infrastructure that has not had a detrimental affect of the local wildlife, population, tourism, and environment. There's a reason the world is moving on.

I first visited Australia in 2006, to visit friends of the family and they pointed me towards the Blue Mountains and Wollemi National Park. Since then every time I come to Australia, despite the expanse and diversity it has to offer I always find myself in the area of Rylestone, Mudgee, Nullo. It keeps me coming back. The gorgeous views, the crystal clear water, the amazing wildlife! It's why I was so shocked to hear that there was even a consideration of opening this beautiful pristine area up for coal exploration.

We live in an age when the world is rallying around the call to save our environment. When the world is both on fire from Siberia, to the US, to Greece, and at the same time seeing unprecedented flooding. The IPCC report has painted a stark reality, yet we're here discussing more coal?

Australia has made international and domestic commitments on climate change. Which it is not currently on target to meet. Yet, we're here discussing coal?

Please don't make this area just another piece of land stripped of all that makes it special in the name of a last cash grab of a bygone era of energy production that is no longer cost effective.

Yours sincerely, a tourist hoping there will be something to return for.

I agree to the above statement

Yes