

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 9:23:13 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 09:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Will

**Last name**

Cannon

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2577

**Submission**

There are enough coal mines in Australia. No need to destroy the valuable and pristine agricultural land around Rylstone. The town has grown since 2013 that I have known it because people like it as it is . No coal mine so close to this area please.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 9:40:35 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 09:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Phoebe

#### Last name

Coyne

#### I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

## Info

#### Email

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Stanmore

#### Submission

Dear DPIE-  
 RE Hawkins Rumker areas PRIA

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.

Are you fucking kidding? On the tail of:

- outcomes of IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report,
- The hottest July recorded on record globally- July 2021
- Justice Mordecai Bromberg's finding of Environment Minister's Duty of Care- in relation to Federal Minister Ley in Relation to Whitehaven Coal's Proposal in Gunnedah (similarly within New South Wales)
- Pressure from British, American and other compatriots globally to remediate our global national "losership" status, and mitigate by taking decisive action on the end of fossil fuels and coal extraction to decisively respond to Climate Change Seriously
- Summer Fires in June, July, August Syria, Turkey, Canada, France, Greece, The US,
- catastrophic Floods in July and August 2021 Western Europe, Africa, Asia
- New South Wales ongoing anthropocentric and ecological recovery from Extreme weather events Bushfires Summer 2019/2020; flooding March 2021
- Earth Overshoot Day receding to 29 July 2021
- Antarctica reaching record High Temperature 18.3 deg Celcius

The conservative COALition Governments of the State of New South Wales and Federal 46th Parliament of Australia seem to think that we are in a renaissance period of the early 19th Century in relation to Burning the last hours of Ancient Sunlight available as a Mining Resource in Australia AT MASSIVE NON-FINANCIAL ECONOMIC SUBSIDY, born, and unauthorised by taxpayers at a rate of \$19686 A MINUTE. There IS NO ECONOMIC CASE for the net cost of mining, production, and the subsequent ecological Loss and Damage mitigation from a globally Warming Climate.

The New South Wales Government NEEDS TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY NOW, like the UK and Scottish Governments have done already, and actually responsively adapt policy to reflect the implications of living through any more unbearably burning Australian summer Bushfire seasons.

This proposition for Coal exploration is beyond a fucking joke, and at national fossil fuel subsidies calculated at \$19686 a minute by Australian taxpayers, is beyond economically feasible, and is highly economically irrational.

New South Wales Government NEEDS TO DECLARE THE END OF FOSSIL FUEL, OIL AND GAS MINING, INVESTMENT, INVESTIGATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMMEDIATELY.

THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING, and reputationally, Australia is already the Global Climate loser. At this rate of catastrophic overt, state sanctioned climate and ecological destruction, it will only take 10-15 years for the International Criminal Court to ratify Ecocide as a Crime. NSW Environment Minister Matt Kean has ACTUALLY had some marginally reasonable and proactive statements to make about Environmental Protection. The ICC can subsequently and retrospectively take Ministers Ley, Howard, Abbott, Berejiklian, Morrison, and the whole host of overt Climate and Ecological vandals for ecocide crimes. Their time will come.

Phoebe Coyne  
 Stanmore NSW 2048

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 9:38:16 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 09:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Wendy

**Last name**

Carruthers

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Hallidays Point NSW 2430

**Submission**

I'm submitting this as a personal objection. As a person who has passed that area many times on my way to Mudgee to visit family, there is no other place on earth as beautiful and rich as this area, full of breathtaking scenery, wonderful Australian wildlife and precious indigenous culture. This area and other areas in Australia should be left alone, we don't need another coal mine, we are learning, I hope, from our mistakes, and start introducing more renewable energy. Our children and their children need to be left with so much more than this!

Please, please stop this downward spiral of money grabbing destruction of our beautiful Australia. Climate change is very real and is happening to all of us right now! You have the power to stop this destruction and save us all, please stop them and start to build a better future for all of us, so we can get back to what we were so privileged to have before.

Thank you for your time and effort in this matter and please choose the right way forward for us all, and not just for the money hungry grabbing selfish minority.

Regards

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 8:22:16 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

AM

**Last name**

george

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2133

**Submission**

To whom it may concern:

I realise the sixth IPCC report was released after this submission was opened. I hope the assessment panel for this submission will give the IPCC report the weight it deserves and therefore abandon any idea of further coal exploration.

Secondly, without the permission of the Wiradyuri people whose land will be impacted by such exploration, nothing should proceed.

Sincerely

AM George

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 8:16:42 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Sara

**Last name**

Craig

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Marrickville 2204

**Submission**

I feel that the opening of any new coal mines in our state is totally irresponsible and I am deeply worried that the state government would even consider this . The recently released 6th IPCC report illustrates the climate emergency that is facing my children, my community and ALL mankind. Renewables are the future and make economic sense. Why are we one of the few rich nations in the world still extracting coal?

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 7:53:44 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 07:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Kundabung 2441

**Submission**

Attention;Director Energy and Resources Policy,

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a frequent visitor to the Rylstone District and I was shocked to recently learn that mining exploration is proposed in this area of natural beauty ,agricultural importance and Aboriginal Cultural significance.

During the recent 2019/2020 bushfires,the NSW Govt spent an incredible sum of money to protect the RARE and ENDANGERED WOLLOM PINES,and through these heroic actions the trees were spared from certain anihilation,yet now mining exploration is proposed right next to The Wollomi National Park.WTF.

This is beaurocratic bungling at it's best!!!!

The economy of the township of Rylstone is highly dependant on Tourism and Agriculture.

In my opinion ANY mining operation in the close proximity to the town and the afore mentioned National park would be EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL.

With our planet now warming at an ALARMING RATE,and many RESPONSIBLE

nations getting out of the fossil fuel industries ,not only for climatic reasons,but also economic,it really seems absurd that our govts still want to go down that road!! Only this week BHP has announced that it will not be further investing in fossil fuels but turning its attention to FOOD PRODUCTION.

There is a lot at stake here,the environment,quality of human life in Rylstone,and the future of our planet,so as I see it there is NO REASON for mining to be considered in Rylstone.

Kind regards ,

[REDACTED]

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 7:15:56 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

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**

2902

**Submission**

I, and [REDACTED] are deeply opposed to this project.

I used to work directly in the coal mining industry and strongly believe and know this is only a short term gain for a limited few, with devastating long term impacts to our people, country and globe.

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

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.

This needs to be considered holistically. Please hear the voices of the people.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 7:14:25 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 07:14

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Oonagh

**Last name**

Lynzaat-Reid

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2602

**Submission**

Please refer to most recent IPCC report for reasons against developing a new coal mine.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 7:14:06 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 07:14

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Richard

#### Last name

Swain

#### I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

2630

#### Submission

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Prepared by: ☐ Richard Swain Traditional Custodian Dabee Wiradjuri Country

[REDACTED] Numeralla, NSW 2630

August 2021

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

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

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

There are currently 28 publicly listed Aboriginal cultural sites in the proposed Hawkins and Rumker release areas<sup>7</sup>, six in the Hawkins area and 22 in the Rumker area. It should be noted that this is a gross underestimation of the number of sites in the area. Many further Significant Sites have been identified and Artefacts found, these are in the process of being provided to AHIMS.

#### INTRODUCTION

Yindymarra is a key way of being for the Wiradjuri peoples, to respect and honour everything. Yindymarra is interconnected with identity, belonging, culture, spirituality, language, law and kinship<sup>10</sup>.

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

#### INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

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

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

#### INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CULTURAL SITES

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

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

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

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

#### CONTINUED EROSION OF CULTURAL SITES

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

They not only map travel routes, but talk of the Creation events, the connectedness between places, and the ceremonies associated with those places<sup>12</sup>. When land routes are blocked or changed, the Songlines are broken.

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

#### DESECRATION OF ANCESTRAL RESTING GROUNDS

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

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

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

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

#### DAMAGE TO COUNTRY AND WATER

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

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



CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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

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

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 7:08:37 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Holly

#### Last name

Preston

#### I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

2627

#### Submission

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

Holly Preston

[REDACTED]  
 Jindabyne NSW 2627

18/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 39 years of age and have been living in / visiting the area for 39 years. My family have a long history in the area, particularly Mudgee and Kandos. I am disappointed to know of the possibility for exploration of mining in the area. Partly due to climate considerations but also the damage this will cause to aboriginal sites, the landscape and the local community.

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 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.

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'

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<sup>10, 11</sup>. 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 Creek<sup>16</sup> could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cox's Creek is thoroughly unique<sup>16</sup> 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 region<sup>28</sup> and economic stability.

Yours sincerely,  
Holly Preston

**I agree to the above statement**  
Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 4:49:54 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 04:49

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]@m

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

96123

**Submission**

Hello Director of Energy and Resources Policy,

I have been visiting the Rylstone area for several years now.

If coal mining were allowed in the area, I would no longer visit. My primary reason for travelling is the pristine natural beauty of the area as well as the peace and quiet that's possible to experience and enjoy there.

I am concerned about the myriad impacts of coal mining on the region. More specifically, I am opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration and believe it needs to be stopped now.

In addition to all of the other manifest dangers of mining, there are significant risks to the local economy.

1. Given the threats to water, it is likely that the future of farming could be compromised and productive agricultural lands jeopardized. In the area I visit, the farmland is ubiquitous and beautiful. I would hate to see that landscape unnecessarily marred.

2. Tourism is the engine that supports a number of local businesses, particularly the restaurants that I enjoy every time I visit. As I have already stated, mining could devastate local tourism. I have no interest in visiting a mining town and I doubt others would either.

Though the government has made assurances that measures would be put in place to protect local resources, its own report on the Hawkins Rumker region was inaccurate (misstating that there were no Aboriginal objects in the area and that there was no fauna threatened by the exploratory proposal). What reason do we have to believe that any further protections for the region are being taken as seriously as they should be? With so much potential for loss and no future in coal, as has been made obvious worldwide (c.f. the G7 agreement to end government support for new coal power by the end of this year and the International Energy Agency's call for an immediate ban on new oil, coal, and gas development) and even in forecasts from Australia's own Reserve Bank, it simply makes no sense to continue along this path.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 1:45:13 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 01:45

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**

Waterford

**Submission**

This is unnecessary. In a time when you can turn on the news and see at least three natural disasters on an international level it is unthinkable that those who witness the destruction would seek to further it. This is after almost the whole east coast of Australia was on fire prior to Covid and without enough recovery funds or infrastructure in place there are still those recovering from its fallout.

The environmental cost and the consequent negative health impacts would severely impact quality of life. Exacerbating the conditions in which fire can thrive leads to increased health care costs in terms of asthma and treatments for smoke inhalation, further burdening an already under resourced health care system.

Money would be better spent on solutions to global heating and mitigation of its effects. The short term economic benefit for a limited number of people does not warrant the desecration of land. Especially when it causes more long term harm to health, environment and economy.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 1:20:36 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Ann

**Last name**

Finegan

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2037 and 2848

**Submission**

To the NSW Department of Planning and Environment,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposal to release the Hawkins and Rumker areas, located about 30 km east of Mudgee NSW, for coal exploration.

Given the recent report of the IPCC the world needs less fossil fuels, not more. On these grounds alone more coal exploration should not go ahead, and certainly not in a region already suffering the ravages of coal mining of the nearby Hunter Valley and, even closer, the endless expansions of coal mines around Mudgee and Bylong, not to mention around Lithgow, the Capertee Valley, and Clandulla.

This region has suffered enough from coal mining, and further mines will discourage the recently expanding tourism industry and those moving into the area for a lifestyle change. Ganguddy-Dunns Swamp, the Capertee Valley and Gardens of Stone are increasingly popular tourist destinations and regions of outstanding natural beauty and natural capital (home of the Wollemi pine).

I strongly urge you instead to support initiatives like the wind farm at nearby Crudine Ridge, not far from Kandos and Rylstone, and to promote supplementary battery storage for the local grid, and complementary solar farms.

Best regards,

Ann Finegan

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:01:12 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 23:01

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Peter

**Last name**

Simmons

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Bathurst 2795

**Submission**

We escape with our children to walk in the Hawkins Rumker wilderness. It's beautiful and important and should be protected from all forms of development.

With all that we know about coal and alternative energy sources in 2021, the thought of mining for coal and is worse than absurd.

Protect this wilderness for our children and their children.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 12:20:33 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 00:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Stephen

**Last name**

Langford

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Paddington

**Submission**

Just stop the coal mining exploration.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:39:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 23:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Hans-Josef

**Last name**

Mauve

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Surry Hills 2010

**Submission**

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

Hans-Josef Mauve

[REDACTED]

Surry Hills NSW 2010

Surry Hills, 17th of August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Dear Sirs,  
 I am opposing the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

There are several reasons for my opposition:

- Issues with the process

The REF that the Government prepared is flawed. It ignores Aboriginal sacred places in the area, and threatened fauna and flora. Furthermore notices for community consultation were only issued recently, which doesn't provide enough time for the community to form their own independent opinion. About this complex proposal.

- International tendency to move away from coal

Many countries have made the decision to move in the future away from coal as energy source. Therefore the need for coal will decline, and there is no need to establish new coal mining. Even the NSW Government has plans to support the phasing out of thermal coal mining.

- Protection of water

The area has many natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining will most likely have significant impacts on the water resources in this area.

- Protection of Flora and Fauna

The area contains a huge amount of endangered flora and fauna species which could be lost. Waterways would most likely be disturbed / destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.

- Protection of Aboriginal Heritage

The area contains a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites, which would be put on risk. Australia has a national duty to protect these sites.

- Impact on local economy

The planned mining activities would convert huge areas to coal mines. This will result in the loss of agricultural lands. Mines provide revenue to governments and their (mostly foreign) owners, but the flow of money to local businesses and local communities is generally minimal or not existent.

Best regards,  
 Hans-Josef Mauve

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:19:29 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 23:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Maxine

#### Last name

Palmerson

#### I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Kensington, 3031

#### Submission

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

Maxine Palmerson

[REDACTED] Kensington, VIC 3031

17/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 21 years of age and have been visiting the area for at least 15 years.

#### Issues with the PRIA Process

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is fundamentally flawed. It does not accurately represent the Hawkins Rumker area, and it also states there are no declared Aboriginal places or known Aboriginal objects in the area, and no threatened flora and fauna. 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, recommended 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, but 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 those people who own land within the boundaries of the exploration zones. Apart from this, the only other notifications provided were one-off advertisements in a couple of newspapers. This is not notifying the nearly 3000 residents in surrounding areas on Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabbe, Olinda and Kelgoola. Why would these people 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 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, clear 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 helping to diversify coal-reliant regional economies in order to assist with the phasing out of thermal coal mining.

75% of Australia's coal is exported to Japan, South Korea and China. These countries have followed others 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 this poses 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 and 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.

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

#### Flora and Fauna

Many endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities 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 fish habitats and threatens fish species being lost.

The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek<sup>16</sup> could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Coss Creek is thoroughly unique<sup>16</sup> and would be under threat.

Mines would transform our beautiful area into an ugly, 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.

The loss of these sites is a loss of culture and ongoing history and this would be devastating.

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, in fact they generally avoid them. The local economy would suffer greatly when the area can no longer boast its natural beauty or resources.

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. How can we expect to be rebuilding our economy after the devastating impact of the pandemic, if our money isn't even staying in the country.

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 are abandoned once the mines move on as they no longer have the income from the mines they were dependent on; and unemployment rises, along with its associated issues such as crime. 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 region<sup>28</sup> and economic stability.

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

Yours sincerely, Maxine Palmerson

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:31:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 23:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Amy

**Last name**

Fairall

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

0810

**Submission**

To whom it may concern,

I vehemently object this coal mining lease going ahead for a multitude of reasons, not least for the fact that any new coal or gas exploration at this time in our history is horrendously irresponsible for the future of the planet.

The area of the proposed mine lease borders over 100km of World Heritage-listed Wollemi National Park, home to the prehistoric and protected Wollemi Pine. In the bushfires of 2019/20, we came so incredibly close to losing this precious species. A possible mine close by to the national park has huge potential to damage the habitat of the Wollemi Pine, putting it at unnecessary risk.

A recent survey of these possible lease areas found 28 threatened species call this area home, including the Spotted tailed quoll and Regent honeyeater. There are also dozens of Aboriginal heritage sites in the area that stand to possibly be lost.

Finally the proposed areas for these leases take in gravel roads that form part of the Blue Mountains 1000 biking trail, which is currently under construction, and would become a major tourist drawcard to the area, which could supply more sustainable jobs.

Please consider the greater environmental, social, and cultural impacts of opening up these areas to be mined. As far as I can see there are no benefits that come from this.

Sincerely,

Amy Fairall

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:07:18 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 23:07

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Rani

**Last name**

Brown

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2795

**Submission**

I strongly object to this proposal.

The negative impacts to biodiversity from forest loss and coal mining would be catastrophic to the ecosystems and environmental values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (Wollemi Section).

"Ganguddy-Kelgoola" is one of the proposed coal leases bordering the Wollemi National Park and Wildmess Area and covers a nationally significant area of forest in Coricudgy State Forest.

The forest is home to nationally listed threatened species, including the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, endangered Glossy Black-Cockatoo and the endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll.

Ganguddy-Kelgoola coal exploration area includes the catchment for Wollemi Creek, the Cudgegong river, Widden Brook, and Coricudgy and Blackwater creeks. The Cudgegong River catchment, which includes Rollen Creek montane peat swamp, has rare, unique plants and sphagnum bogs. These ancient, pristine creeks and rivers that contain unique sandstone pagodas, gorges and mountain tops would be exposed to toxic runoff from coal mining, coal dust pollution and destroyed by open cut mining.

The potential coal leases also surround Ganguddy-Dunns Swamp, a significant site to the Aboriginal peoples. New coal mines could cause Dunn's swamp to lose significant amounts of ground water and potentially be polluted from coal mining toxic spillages.

With the local wildlife and biodiversity devastated by 2019-2020 Gospers Mountain mega fire, it's critically important that we protect our wild places and native animals from coal mining expansion.

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (Wollemi) has no buffer zones and is at risk of these coal mines being constructed right up to its borders – an unacceptable risk to this globally significant UNESCO park.

As Australia faces severe climate change impacts and biodiversity losses from deforestation, it cannot afford to mine and deforest these eight state forests. All these eight proposed coal mines should be added to the National Park Estate to protect pristine catchments and high biodiversity landscapes for an environmentally sustainable future.

I respectfully request that this proposal does not go ahead.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:21:35 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 23:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Maxwell

**Last name**

Seppelt

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2151

**Submission**

I am opposing coal exploration in the Hawkins Rumker area. I have friends and family in this area, and I fear the impact that coal exploration (which could lead to coal mining) would have on local water sources, wildlife, and the environment as a whole, and the resultant impact it would have on the mental and physical health of my loved ones. I hate it dude.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:13:59 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 23:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Ethan

**Last name**

Rutledge

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Melbourne

**Submission**

I am against the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration as it is a precursor to coal mining and directly impacts aboriginal communities. This coal exploration is a blatant disregard to the cultural significance of the land and to those who have been maintaining and caring for said land.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 10:57:20 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 22:57

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**

3018

**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.

As a young high school student, you are creating a hostile environment that I have to survive in while you leave the dirt behind you. You are destroying Australian history- there are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk. These sites have a deep personal history to the land and people you intend to bulldoze, ruining generations of connection. In conjunction you are also damaging Native wildlife, local economy and water sources.

This exploration is diabolical.

Please, please, stop this.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 10:53:41 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 22:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Kati

**Last name**

Watson

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Bronte 2024

**Submission**

I am a mother, grandmother and artist. I am writing for my children, grandchildren and future generations. I have a strong connection with the Mudgee area. I am deeply concerned about the plan to open the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration. The natural amenity of this area is a precious resource. So much of the land near Mudgee has been damaged by coal mining and the Goulburn River in particular has been impacted by nearby mining at Ulan. In this time of climate change marked by catastrophic fires, droughts and floods it seems unconscionable to consider something that would further damage our precious environment both locally and globally. The short term economic gains from potential coal mining are nothing compared to the already occurring economic damage wrought by climate change. The recent IPCC report indicates that we must urgently curb our greenhouse gas production if we are to avoid imminent climate disaster and unpredictable tipping points. It is a crime against humanity and nature to continue to explore ways of extracting more coal from our country. Please do not release the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 10:06:52 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 22:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Laine

**Last name**

Scarpinato

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Cooma 2630

**Submission**

This land belongs to my family and I do not believe that any form of coal exploration or mining should go ahead on or around this land. It is sensitive with pristine waters and has a lot of traditional sites and artefacts and has deep connections to its traditional owners.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 10:46:50 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 22:45

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Jess

#### Last name

Lu

#### I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Flemington

#### Submission

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

Jessica Lu  
 Flemington, 3031

17/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

The government ensured that any future exploration licenses would include: "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values". This is simply incorrect. While it states there is no Aboriginal flora or fauna, or sections of importance, it is actually an area that is incredibly rich in art and ceremonial sites.

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. This runs against the ICAC (Independent Commission Against Corruption) Report's recommendations of community consultancy, as the plan is already in full swing.

The coal mine would undoubtedly affect the surrounding areas, however only the landowners in the exploration zones were notified a whole two weeks prior to the proposed consultations, not allowing preparation, notice or surrounding communities to understand the ramifications before going ahead.

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?

My main concerns, amongst others are as follows:

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

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.

Not only is the coal mine a terrible idea economically, it will only worsen the effects of the Australian bushfires, like the ones we saw at the end of 2019/beginning of 2020.

The destroyed waterways would lead to impacts on the local and precious Flora and Fauna. Irreversible damage to a naturally beautiful site.

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.

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 this region have created a system that is economically sustainable; a circuit of money fed rightfully back into the community. No tourist wants to see a coal mine. Why destroy a trade that brings in Australia well over 50 billion dollars.

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. Making local towns close and businesses suffer.

I wish my name to be withheld from the PRIA submission site: Yes / No  
Yours sincerely,  
Jess Lu

**I agree to the above statement**  
Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 6:16:11 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 18:16

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**

NORTH ARM COVE

**Submission**

Please don't take more land away from agriculture for coal. Make sustainable businesses not extractive short term industries. There are also heritage sites in the area that are important to look after to fully understand and learn from our history.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 6:13:23 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 18:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Laura

**Last name**

McInnes

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2042

**Submission**

I am a regular tourist of this region, and have close personal ties to this area. I am extremely troubled by the affect that this proposal will have on not only the tourism industry in this area but the pristine beauty it offers. To undertake mining so close to wilderness areas is likely to affect the scenery and wildlife. The permanent and irrevocable damage that this development poses to the natural wonder of this scenery is not worth any potential short term gain. Mining developments have not been seen to have long term beneficial impacts on local economies like Rylestone given the finite nature of natural resources. Once mining has moved on from the area - we are left with the immense loss of beauty.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 6:11:29 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 18:11

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**

Bandar Seri Begawan

**Submission**

No more coal mines, it will destroy the environment and natural habitat of the wildlife and animals.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:56:33 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 17:56

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**

2329

**Submission**

I firmly disagree with the proposed Hawkins Rumker exploration of my Ancestors land as a proud Wiradjuri man, and if you start coal mining on my ancestors land it would impact on the wild life, water supply and sacred sites which are extremely important to me.

And this why I strongly disagree.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:46:16 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

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**

2565

**Submission**

I am vehemently opposed to the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration. Under the conditions of the climate catastrophe, opening up more coal mining opportunities is an insult to future generations. There is an immediate need to move away from coal mining and coal powered energy production. By allowing for new coal exploration, you are sending the message that Australia does not intend to invest in renewable energy, in achieving lower emissions, and does not intend to contribute to the fight against radical and irreversible climate change.

Coal exploration does not benefit communities in the long-term. Mines will have a significant negative impact on the water resources of a local area; Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have the potential to destroy biodiversity in waterways. Furthermore, if the water is being used in coal mines, what will happen to the community during drought?

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

Mines will also impact on First Nations country and culture. In a country already doing the bare minimum to protect the oldest living cultures on earth, how can further degradation be justified?

This proposal is antithetical to the longevity of Australia's natural ecosystems, and fundamentally irresponsible in terms of economic viability, environmental protection, and community benefit.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:46:07 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

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**

2329

**Submission**

I do not agree with this proposal.

This is the wrong thing to do to the land in this area and my families sacred Aboriginal land and sites there.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:44:23 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Claire

**Last name**

Wood

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Pascoe Vale South 3044

**Submission**

I am so disappointed to hear about this planned coal exploration. First of all, given the most recent IPCC report, we cannot afford to keep funding the coal industry. As is stated in the report, the shift to renewables away from fossil fuels needs to be made immediately - all living beings and ecosystems are at great risk. Aside from the climate emergency, coal exploration and mining is hugely destructive to the environment - contaminating water sources, putting creeks further at risk and implementing irreversible landscape changes. All of this will be greatly detrimental to the citizens of the region and their regional economy, especially for the tourism industry which so many rely on. Finally, it is horrendous that Aboriginal sacred sites are being threatened with destruction by this project. It is embarrassing to continue seeing the government prioritise mines and money over the culture, history and spirituality of our First Nations people. I call on the NSW government to not go ahead with these plans for all of these incredibly important reasons.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:44:19 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Joanne

**Last name**

King

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2780

**Submission**

Why are we searching for coal, in this era of climate change? It's a major step backwards. Money spent searching for a finite source of energy, could be better spent on research for alternative energy sources, and climate change research. The spotted tailed quoll has been declining for many years due to habitat loss, and both open cut and underground coal mining has major impacts on habitats. As an apex predator, the quoll has an intrinsic role to play in ecosystem balance.

The regent honeyeater is a critically endangered species found at this site. It is commonly considered a flagship species within its range, with the efforts going into its conservation having positive effects on many other species that share its habitat.

There will be a huge cultural loss with the large number of aboriginal sites found within this range, yet another huge step backwards. The damage to Ganguddy alone will be a travesty. Swamp ecosystems are at risk throughout the country, and swamps are places of enormous biodiversity.

The damage of coal mining will be irreversible, yet this government continues to take backward steps in the battle against climate change.

Searching for new coal sources is practically criminal

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:31:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Kate Take a minute to give a for yeehaw Ganguddy-Dunn's Swamp! We can't visit right now, but they still want to dig for coal down just the road from it. Community Submissions close in two days, and can take as little as two minutes. We can't visit but we ca

**Last name**

Connor

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2304

**Submission**

I visited Ganguddy-Dunn's Swamp for the first time this year and was struck by this ancient place. I have camped in many national parks around Australia and believe this to be one of the most beautiful. The only thing I wanted to think about while I was there was all of the feet that have walked on this land for thousands of years as it just feels like such a special place. I never really get this feeling when I go to places but I was quite overwhelmed.

Please protect this place I would be horrified to think that the impact of mining would change this area. Believe this area needs to be protected and I would love for people to be able to learn more about this place and understand the landforms and it's history.

Do not allow mining exploration in this area.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:30:29 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

## Name

#### First name

Melissa

#### Last name

Gray

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

2830

#### Submission

Healthy Rivers Dubbo

[REDACTED]

Dubbo NSW 2830

[REDACTED]

ABN 11 988 241 202

17th August 2021

Submission

Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Healthy Rivers Dubbo (HRD) is a grass roots community network dedicated to providing a strong voice for our local rivers, aquifers and wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin for the benefit of wildlife, plants and people. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and acknowledge that this land was never ceded.

HRD is strongly opposed to the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration.

Water:

The 2017-2019 drought was the most severe on record. The area almost ran out of available surface water supplies. Ninety towns in regional NSW were at risk of evacuation.

The coal industry uses about 383 billion litres of fresh water every year, which is enough for 5.2 million people.

There is no extra surface water available for an expansion of very thirsty coal mines. We need to protect our water sources for the environment, First Nations rights to water and town water supplies.

Climate change is already having a big impact on inflows into water courses. The NSW Draft Regional Water Strategy for the Macquarie

Castlereagh catchment explained we could see a reduction in inflows by 50% under modelled climate change scenarios by 2070.

Groundwater reserves are already being over extracted, with a recent report from the Natural Resources Access Regulator finding one-tenth of groundwater users are in breach of their licence conditions.

Coal mining poses an additional risk to our 'unseen' groundwater sources. Mining has the potential to fracture the rock substrate and lower water tables.

Once the bed of a creek or stream is fractured the surface water is lost to that environment forever.

The risk to water supplies from contamination is unacceptable.

Climate Change:

NSW has a target of becoming net-zero by cutting emissions by 35% from 2005 levels. New coal mines would negate the government's own targets.

Coal is dead as a power source. We don't need or want new coal mines. We want renewable energy using minerals that are responsibly and environmentally soundly sourced.

The NSW government should be injecting resources into improving the lithium recycling process, not being stubborn and mining for more low value, unwanted coal.

The G7 has agreed to end government support for new coal power by the end of 2021. Do not dig up anymore.

Melissa Gray

Convenor

Healthy Rivers Dubbo

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:27:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 17:27

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**

3220

**Submission**

I have been a regular tourist of this region in the past and have close personal ties to this area. I am extremely troubled by the affect that this proposal will have on not only the tourism industry in this area, but also the agriculture. I would visit this region often and the benefit of the area is it's stunning natural beauty. Should the natural beauty of the area be jeopardised, tourists such as myself will no longer choose to visit the area. This will have a drastic impact on the economic benefits of wealthy tourists spending at local hospitality and accommodation venues. Although outside of Mudgee, many like myself prefer the more regional accomodation options available in the proposed area. This will not only impact the local area, but the reduction in potential tourists could have significant flow on affects to neighbouring areas like the Blue Mountains and orange, where tourists will opt for more scenic regional areas closer to the coast instead.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:24:03 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 17:24

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**

Hunters Hill 2110

**Submission**

To the NSW department of planning, industry and environment,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of NSW and the future economic and environmental health of our country.

I would like to make it known that I am opposed to the release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas of NSW for coal exploration.

In light of the recent report released by the IPCC, as well as international declarations aiming to decrease net carbon emissions by 2050, I think

that using this land for coal exploration is an economically and environmentally unfavourable idea.

Due to the shift if the global market from coal powered energy to renewable energy sources, I am concerned that this plan would nit be of economic benefit to Australia.

Also, the most recent IPCC report (2021) states that continuing CO2 emissions (which occurs through burning coal) will continue to compound the effects of climate change, with 'extreme events with low likelihood in past ... will become more frequent, and there will be a higher likelihood that events with increased intensities, durations and/or spatial extents unprecedented in the observational record will occur (high confidence).'

Due to both the lack of economically viable reason, and the potential destruction that the use of coal will bring to the environment, I am in opposition of this plan.

Kind regards

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:21:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Olszewski

**Last name**

Kasia

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Katoomba 2780

**Submission**

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

Kasia Olszewski

[REDACTED]

Katoomba 2780

17 of August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am 47 years of age and have been visiting the area for 20 years.

I am absolutely opposed to the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. It is a precursor to mining and this must not happen under any circumstances.

There is no future in coal.

There is a worldwide movement away from coal power.

The G7 agreed to end government support from new coal power by the end of 2021. The International Energy Agency has called for a ban on new oil, coal and gas development. In its Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW released in June 2020, the NSW Government describes one of its four actions as assisting with the phase out of thermal coal mining. So why this? It doesn't make sense.

One of the greatest threats is to the regions precious water supply. The region recently came out of a long draught. Mines have 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 it is gone it is gone forever.

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.

Any coal exploration must be stopped right now.

Yours sincerely,

Kasia Olszewski

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:19:30 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

Annabella

**Last name**

Pojer

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Wollongong 2500

**Submission**

I am horrified by the prospect of more mines given the go ahead !

Lands rich with indigenous heritage, caves and rock paintings, native vegetation, waterways, the river systems in the MurrayDarling and Goulburn catchments that flow into the Hunter , Greater Blue Mountains world heritage areas and the impact of 8 possible mining sites and the disturbance to natural springs , creek flow , native wildlife , koalas , Quolls and more that are already impacted by the 19/20 fires .

Can we really allow more devastation to happen ? I SAY NO... My plea is to please ♦♦♦♦ Stop ♦♦♦♦ before it's too late for hind sight !

Save these areas for future generations Now ....

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 5:05:16 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 17:05

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

Rosie

**Last name**

Brodie

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2843

**Submission**

To whom it may concern,

This is my grandmother's community this mine will affect. It will degrade the land, pollute the water and contribute to our already staggering emissions. The most recent IPCC report, released only days ago, evidences why we cannot be building any more coal mines let alone ones that will impact upon sacred Wiradjuri sites. We are already experiencing 1.5 degrees of warming, heatwaves, bushfires and drought have ravaged Rylstone in the past year. These are unprecedented events due to climate change. Building this mine jeopardises the health of future generations. The government has a duty of care for its people, this mine will abolish that. The community stands in opposition to the project, no amount of meagre job offerings is worth the environmental and cultural damage this mine will inflict. We say no.

Firm regards,  
 Rosie Brodie

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 4:57:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 16:57

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Mary Ellen

**Last name**

Burke

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Lilyfield 2040

**Submission**

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

Mary Ellen Burke

[REDACTED]  
 Lilyfield NSW 2040

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 have been visiting this area regularly over the past 30 years to visit friends, enjoy the wonderful environment and to participate in growing vegetables as well as running beehives. This is a rich and diverse area full of Aboriginal historical sites and implements. I am most concerned about the way the proposed exploration and mining will damage and lead to more losses of aboriginal sites and our heritage. The reports on the environmental impact do not even acknowledge the existence of well know sites. The mining industry has a long history of ignoring local information and destroying irreplaceable heritage.

I'm also very concerned about the impact of exploration and mining on the water in the area. Once it has been contaminated and or damaged there is no retrieval. .Water is crucial to our survival and the ongoing use of the land. Do not let the exploration proceed. We Cant afford the loss

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 4:50:09 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 16:50

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**

2329

**Submission**

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

This would have a huge negative impact on the land and specifically my families sacred Aboriginal Sites within the proposed area for exploration.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 4:50:04 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 16:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Jan

**Last name**

O'Leary

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Springwood, 2777

**Submission**

Submission opposing the release of Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration.

I recently learned of this proposal and felt compelled to make a submission as I know the area fairly well as I live in the Blue Mountains and it has been a favourite spot for short holidays by my husband and myself.

This part of the world is enjoyed by many visitors already but its natural beauty has much more value in its potential as a significant tourist destination than in its value ultimately as a coal mine, particularly as it is clear the future of coal will be very short-lived.

The Rumker area runs along part of the border of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. This pristine area cannot accommodate any more mining on its borders. Mining in the area is already a concern for the World Heritage Commission. The World Heritage listing will be placed in even greater threat should this proposal gain approval.

Native vegetation covers most of the area under consideration, waterways run through the area which is also home to several threatened animal species, some of which rely on old growth forests to survive. I once saw a koala in the area. If any koalas still exist there, they and other fauna in the forest must be protected. Given the destruction wrought by the recent fires, every acre of native vegetation must now be preserved.

There have also been recorded many sites of important Aboriginal heritage value in the area, including rock art. These sites are of importance to the Wiradjuri people and mining is not an acceptable activity in or around these sites.

Needless to say local communities are opposed to coal mining in their area. Their views should be respected as they have to live with the destruction caused by mining and will forever have to live with the aftermath when mining companies pack up and leave - possibly sooner rather than later given recent Treasury forecasts of weaker prospects for thermal coal exports and a continuing contraction in the NSW coal industry.

Particularly considering the long term prospects for coal I would strongly recommend that this project be rejected and as much of the natural environment that survives in the area be protected for future generations.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 4:31:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 16:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

John

**Last name**

Crichton

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Portland 2847

**Submission**

Coal mining in the 2020's

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.

Of paramount importance, global warming is a fact, We have ignored the warnings for years, there is now no time to lose. Burning coal has to stop. There is no future in coal if mankind has a future.

Other, in comparison, trivial reasons follow.

Mining will destroy extensive land areas and the water supply for agriculture and domestic use.

Pollution and negative health impacts can be avoided

Wildlife and habitat will be destroyed. Extinction is a series of small cuts.

Coal must be transported. The global market is shrinking. It would require infrastructure and transport for no purpose.

Alternative employment will be available for example, in solar and wind energy and improving electricity supply.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 4:21:40 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 16:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Steve

**Last name**

Gero

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Mount Victoria NSW 2786

**Submission**

I would like to strongly oppose the release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration.

My primary reason is that now is very, very clearly not the time for new coal developments. Anybody who has read the most recent IPCC climate report would understand this. Our climate is in crisis, and any new fossil fuel developments will only make the future more harsh for us and our children. If we are to have any hope of keeping the climate within 1.5 degrees of warming, we must leave these coal deposits in the ground. Having already had to pack my two young children in haste and flee from bushfire once, I don't wish to face bigger, fiercer and more common bushfires in the future. New coal developments now will only make fires, floods and droughts more intense and frequent - this is a fact that is not even debatable anymore. In light of this I suspect it would be criminally negligible to approve new coal developments. Please reject this proposal.

If you need further reasons than this, the release of this land will also have negative impacts on the water resources of the region. In a dry continent such as ours, using water for coal mines is not appropriate.

These coal developments will have negative impact on agriculture, biodiversity, tourism, community health and house prices of the area.

Coal has served us well, but its time has passed. Let us look to the future. Please reject this proposed release of land.

Sincerely,

Steve Gero

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 4:18:09 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 16:18

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Alex

**Last name**

Reynolds

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2016

**Submission**

I strongly oppose the Hawkins and Rumker area being used for coal exploration. The areas should be protected and preserved.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 4:17:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 16:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Roger

#### Last name

Graham

#### I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Waterloo, Sydney, 2017

#### Submission

Roger Graham

[REDACTED]

Waterloo 2017

17th 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 they will impact me are outlined below.

Having worked at a large overseas mine, and therefore, witnessing firsthand the environmental damage caused by mining, it can not be countenanced that any further coal mining development is acceptable. The following areas are of particular concern, and as a satisfactory resolution to these concerns is not possible, I am requesting that the approval of this proposal be refused

#### 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 was 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 a 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.

The 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 as 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 moving away from fossil fuels, which will result in decreased demand for coal.

This year, the G7 has committed to ending 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<sup>10, 11</sup>. 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 Creek<sup>16</sup> could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cox's Creek are thoroughly unique;<sup>16</sup> and would be under threat.

Mines would transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact 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 the 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 mineworkers 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 region<sup>28</sup> and economic stability.

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

Yours sincerely,  
Roger Graham

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 4:07:59 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 16:07

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Robert

**Last name**

McLaughlin

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Orange

**Submission**

Why would anyone with half a brain be considering another coal mine at this time? You do realise we are in a climate and extinction crisis? Just saying for the sake my Grandchildren and future generations.

I my twenty years experience in dealing with the NSW Planning Department it is nothing more than a tool of the fossil fuel industry.

Sincerely,

Robert McLaughlin

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 3:44:37 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 15:44

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**

Davidson 2085

**Submission**

The science is in. New coal mines would cause irreversible harm to the human race. Stop the stupidity. Respect the wishes of the traditional owners of the land.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 3:39:19 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 15:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Pip

**Last name**

Ardler

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Caringbah South 2229

**Submission**

That this is even up for consideration only goes to show how little value the NSW and Australian Governments place on the environment, the mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing of its people and future generations and on the First Nations peoples who's unceded lands coal mining devastates. Given the recent release of the IPCC report, that the prospect of more coal mining is up for discussion is ludicrous. We need urgent climate actions now we need to be working with First Nations peoples in order to protect and preserve our environments, not actively destroying it. The Government has a crucial decision to make that will direct the future of this country. I urge this assessment to be rejected, the Wiradjuri people listened to and respected, and instead, investment made into the sustainable future of this land. Climate action will bring about economic, physical, social and spiritual prosperity. Australia is a bountiful and well-equipped country for climate action: with wind, solar power and hydro power plentiful. With proper investment and leadership, we have the potential to grow a large, sustainable and low-carbon economy. We don't need more coal.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 3:37:38 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 15:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Peter

#### Last name

Cox

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

## Info

#### Email

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

2848

#### Submission

[REDACTED] Deputy Secretary, Planning and Assessment  
 [REDACTED] Coordinator-General, Environment, Energy and Science  
 [REDACTED] Secretary  
 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
 Locked Bag 502  
 Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to object to and oppose the NSW Government's plan to release new regions surrounding the Wollemi Wilderness and associated forested areas around the Wollemi for Coal Mining exploration and leases. In particular, I vehemently oppose the first 2 areas to be assessed under the Strategic Release Framework for Coal and Petroleum Exploration proposal being those designated as the Hawker and Rumker Areas to the North East of Rylstone.

I have a legitimate and vested interest in objecting to this problematic proposal as I am a business owner running a short-term rental accommodation business for tourists in Kandos. People come to stay at our accommodation to enjoy the outstanding natural assets of the region including the unspoilt and pristine environment of the Wollemi wilderness and its surrounds, the beautiful landscapes, the rich and rare fauna and flora of the region (293 threatened and endangered species), the clean air, the extensive wineries and other agricultural assets. Visitors love to partake in the outstanding outdoors recreation our region offers, all at low cost, including fishing, canoeing, cycling, bushwalking, off-road touring and camping. Finally, tourists are attracted by the assets that the transitioning economy deliver, in particular, the rich tapestry of arts communities and indigenous (Dabee/ Wiradjuri) heritage that the region supports.

This area is presently undergoing an economic transformation following closure of mining in the region more than a decade past and that transformation is oriented to the future economies of tourism, associated services, new and traditional agriculture and through placing an economic value on the environment.

The economic transformation has begun and what we do NOT need is coal mining interrupting our economic growth and spoiling our natural assets. We do not need to vandalise our local areas burgeoning economy by transferring our economic growth from small businesses and agriculture to large coal miners such as Centennial Coal (owned by the Thai multinational, Banpu) or other Asian (most likely Chinese or Indian) multinational coal miners. It is galling that you propose to transfer economic opportunities from Australians to overseas businesses. What a sell out!!

People will not want to come stay at our short term rental in order to be blighted by views of ugly open cut coal mines, nor to breathe in dusty winds blowing of mining earthworks, coal stockpiles and overused roads. They don't want to dodge large coal trucks or have endless coal trains shunting up and down our isolated, pristine and beautiful valleys. Coal mining uses a lot of water (635 litres for each tonne of coal produced) which ends up being polluted. Centennial Coal, the nearby miner, already has a poor environmental record with multiple instances of discharges of contaminated water into the Cox's River and other streams. We don't want the multiple health and environmental problems the Hunter Valley has been suffering due to coal mining. The process of exploration and drilling itself may cause cracking to sandstone substrates and lead to leakage of water from streams and swamps causing environmental degradation and habitat loss. Riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast creek could be lost along with the swamp grasslands and sphagnum moss bogs of Cox's creek. We have just come out of the second severe drought of the past 20 years and the upper Cudgegong River survived as an intact environment as the water supply is relatively undisturbed. Apart from the environment, the river guarantees town water to Mudgee and regional towns such as Kandos and Rylstone. If the state Government hands our water over to the coal miners we can't expect any further water security during the inevitable and worsening droughts projected for the coming decades.

Furthermore, Coal has had its day and is an industry of the past. Just as no-one builds steam trains anymore, no one will be using coal in the near future for most applications excepting steel making. There are plenty of coal mines already in production providing high quality coking coal for steel. As a NSW citizen who takes responsibility for my children's future, my community's future and our environment seriously, I will not support mining that contributes to man-made climate change. As far as I understand, this proposal is not even consistent with the NSW governments own goals for net zero carbon emissions and the NSW Government is well aware, from the 2021 Intergenerational Report they commissioned, that income from thermal coal royalties is declining as the demand for thermal coal is rapidly decreasing.

On that note, I can assure you that, although the Berejiklian Government has done a mostly impressive job in handling COVID-19 and in running our economy, I will not vote for her party and will definitely not vote for any Nationals candidate (who no longer even represent local farmers) due to this reckless assault being proposed.

That is a guarantee- you have lost my vote and anyone else's I can persuade due to your insistence on going down this coal path.

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 3:29:40 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 15:29

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**

Lawson

**Submission**

I am concerned of the environment and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage impacts of the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 3:25:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:05

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Paul

**Last name**

Tuttlebee

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

[REDACTED] Hervey Bay, Qld. 4655

**Submission**

Sirs,

I make this submission for many reasons: the environment, damage to farming land, water resources, indigenous land rights, noise pollution, but more than all of these, we as a species can no longer continue to destroy our planet. This is not a planet with infinite resources and we have to realise this, and try to repair the damage we have caused.

Thank you  
Yours truly

Paul Tuttlebee

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 3:19:43 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 15:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Susanne

**Last name**

Gannon

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Lawson 2783

**Submission**

There is no need for further coal exploration in the region, particularly near such a vulnerable and carefully balanced environment as Dunn's swamp. This is one of the few examples we have of successful rehabilitation of previous mining works that has led to a complex eco-habitat that is sustainable and also has recreational importance to the NSW community. The region has been seriously damaged by the 2020 fires and needs to be treasured and rehabilitated, not threatened with further destruction.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 3:04:12 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 15:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Alexander

#### Last name

Jorgensen-Hull

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mount Wilson 2786

#### 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. Environmental assessment also identified almost 7,000 hectares of potentially threatened ecological communities, 22 threatened fauna species and six threatened flora species. The negative impacts to biodiversity from forest loss and coal mining would be catastrophic to the ecosystems and environmental values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (Wollemi Section).

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 waterways are our town's water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong.

The Cudgegong River catchment, which includes Rollen Creek montane peat swamp, has rare, unique plants and sphagnum bogs. These ancient, pristine creeks and rivers that contain unique sandstone pagodas, gorges and mountain tops would be exposed to toxic runoff from coal mining, coal dust pollution and destroyed by open cut mining.

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

- Farms would be lost with up to ~ 32,700 ha of land becoming coal mines.

- Our farms and food will sustain us for much longer than a coal mine.

- Significant Wiradjuri Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk. - Even if not mined directly, these can be damaged with subsidence.

Exploring for coal alongside the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park and the pristine Wollemi does not make any sense, economically, socially or in the interests of the local community. Even the Government's the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW (Strategic Statement) acknowledges that the NSW economy is an economy in transition towards alternative forms of energy. Opening new areas for exploration is short term political pork barrelling for big business at its worst.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 2:54:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 14:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Jules

**Last name**

Rankin

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Strathfield 2135

**Submission**

To whom it may concern,

I am strongly against the release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration. This is informed by my understanding that we need to move away from coal production for a multitude of environmental, economic and moral reasons.

Regards,

Jules

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 2:47:06 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 14:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Gay

**Last name**

Curtis

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Caringbah South

**Submission**

In light of the release of the IPCC Report, it is ludicrous that the NSW Government would even consider whether to release the Hawkins and Rumker areas, for coal exploration.

The recent IPCC report is alarming, we are at a tipping point. Climate change is accelerating faster than previously thought. This is the decisive decade: we need urgent climate action now. We must all act now and especially politicians who represent us.

Our emissions reduction target for 2030 is far weaker than our strategic allies, and we risk missing out on the jobs and economic benefits that climate action will bring.

Australia is one of the sunniest and windiest countries in the world, with the right skills and expertise to create tens of thousands of jobs in a low carbon economy. I am urging the NSW Government to listen to the science and develop a NSW whole-of-economy plan to triple Australia's climate efforts. We must get our greenhouse gas emissions down by 75% in the next ten years.

If the Government is really engaging with and listening to First Nations Peoples, you would learn that the custodians and caretakers of this land where the Hawkins and Rumker areas exist, that the business of coal doesn't make any sense. No community is better off socially, economically, physically nor spiritually when it comes to coal!

Please I urge you with the IPCC report now out, to quite coal and to move to 100% renewables by 2030!

You must find your courage.

Do this for younger generations and for the sake of all humanity. This is an emergency.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 2:38:20 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 14:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Molly

**Last name**

Farquharson

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Mount Eliza 3930

**Submission**

Stop investing in dead technology. Invest in renewable energy. Invest in the sustainable future for the residents in the area.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 2:34:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 14:34

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**

2008

**Submission**

Dear Honourable State Government members,

I am writing to you as a NSW resident and voter, distressed at the proposal issued to release the Hawkins and Rumker regions for coal exploration.

Coal is dead. It is a thing of the past. It is not profitable without governmental subsidies, it ruins the land, water, flora and fauna all around it, and most of all, contributes to the accelerating climate crisis we are facing NOW.

Please take a stance and set an example of how progressive, innovative and forward thinking the NSW government can be. Do not approve further coal exploration in these regions or ANY regions.

I ask you as an Australian voter and concerned citizen of planet earth to focus your resources and time in promoting renewable energy, reforestation and wildlife rehabilitation programs to preserve our beautiful sunburnt country. No more coal. No more oil.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 2:28:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 14:28

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Jorie

**Last name**

Ryan

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Mudgee

**Submission**

I am totally opposed to this exploration, not only because I live close to the area . Ganguddy/Dunns Swamp is a beautiful are with cathedral rock walls and bushland which provides habitat for various species and leisure opportunities for humans. There is also the wider issue that coal is old technology and we have plenty of opportunities to mine the areas already being mined while the world transfers to cleaner technologies.  
Jorie Ryan

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 2:20:32 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 14:20

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**

2134

**Submission**

It is irresponsible for the government to consider approving these explorations given the state of climate change across the world.

In the response to submissions, please outline the impact that this development will have on climate change and climate policy in the country, and how it aligns with the goal of reaching net Zero by 2050

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 2:13:48 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 14:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Ruth

**Last name**

Bacchus

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Peel

**Submission**

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.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 2:06:16 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 14:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Caroline

**Last name**

Shepherd

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

MARRICKVILLE

**Submission**

To whom it may concern,

I am an Australian citizen, a NSW resident, and a mother, who vehemently opposes the proposal to create a coal mine in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

I have two beautiful children, and nothing is more important to me than protecting their health and their future. Coal is a dirty, polluting and finite resource, and its use has greatly contributed to the climate emergency already affecting my children and all Australians. The devastating fires that swept through parts of NSW only 18 months ago, and which we will probably face this coming Summer, were a direct result of our warming climate. I am calling on the NSW Government to ensure it does not contribute further to the climate change endangering NSW residents.

In particular, it is essential that the Government totally abandons any plans for a coal mine in the Hawkins and Rumker areas., which are abundant with Aboriginal cultural significance and threatened species of flora and fauna.

There are at least 45 ancient Aboriginal heritage sites in the region, including priceless rock art and grinding grooves. The NSW Government must learn from the public outcry that followed the destruction of the Juukan Gorge, and not carry out similar destruction of important and sacred Aboriginal heritage sites in Central West NSW.

As identified by the environmental assessment, this project would also threaten 7,000 hectares of ecological communities, and the bordering 100 kilometres of Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The project could be devastating for 22 species of threatened fauna, including Koalas, Spotted-Tailed Quolls and the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater. The ecological assessment identified a further six species of flora that would be affected by this terrible project.

As a mother and as a voter, I urge you to comprehensively reject any proposal of building this coal mine, and ask this Government to commit to ameliorating the effects of climate change on NSW residents and our children.

Sincerely,  
 Caroline Shepherd.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 1:47:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 13:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Heidi

**Last name**

Annand

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Orange, 2800

**Submission**

Don't want to spoil this beautiful area.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 1:47:46 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 13:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Sophie

**Last name**

Strykowski

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2049

**Submission**

NO COAL/PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN HAWKINS AND RUMKER. NOT NOW NOT EVER.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 1:41:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 13:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Norman

**Last name**

Sage

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Lorn NSW 2320

**Submission**

I oppose this proposed release of land for coal exploration.

Surely the only reason for coal exploration is to somehow justify coal extraction. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has stated there should be no new coal or gas fired power plants built. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advises a dramatic cut in CO2 emissions is essential to avoid catastrophic climate change. A majority of Australians want real action on reducing our impact on climate change.

Australia already has ample coal mines to supply current and expected demand well into the future for both thermal and coking coal. There appears to be no demonstrated need for further exploration for coal and without that need, the application should be refused.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 1:24:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 13:24

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Mary

**Last name**

Wilkinson

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Wattle Park 3128

**Submission**

I am opposed to this project because the latest IPCC report has made it clear that we must not have any new fossil fuel developments. Global warming is the crisis we are foisting on our kids and grandkids.

I am also opposed to this project because it is offensive to the local Indigenous people. They were here first.

The NSW government has a poor record on environmental matters. It's time to say NO to the corporates who seek short-term profits and crow about "jobs" but ignore the long-term, irreparable damage that will result. It's time to support new ways of job creation, for example renewable energy projects and indigenous tourism. We have a fascinating, unique country and we need to protect it and promote its tourism potential.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:52:24 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Margaret

**Last name**

Carey

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Laurieton

**Submission**

I do not believe these areas should be opened up to coal mining for the following key reasons

Impact on Water - coal mining depletes key water sources and is a major contaminant

Aboriginal Heritage - the proposed mining would impact a number of key aboriginal heritage sites

Climate Change - with the IPCC report barely a week old, now is not the time to engage in damaging fossil fuel extraction

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:49:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:49

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**

2785

**Submission**

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of the upper Blue Mountains and I am strongly opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. This could lead to more coal mining, which must be prevented. Not only would the process of coal exploration be severely damaging to the proposed areas, but the coal mining it could potentially lead to directly contradicts the NSW government's net-zero goal. The international demand for our coal (for which the majority is mined) is already falling dramatically with anticipations for it to continue doing so as renewables become more viable. It is absolutely economically and environmentally unviable to continue efforts into coal mining.

As a Blue Mountains resident who frequents these surrounding areas I treasure our environments, and I believe we are responsible for protecting the habitat that provides for the native flora and fauna, many of which are already threatened and endangered species. Coal exploration will cause direct damage to unique habitats, and destroy vital water resources in the local areas. We know that exploratory drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers, and coal mining to have immense negative impacts by the high usage of water and the contamination that occurs in the waterways. I am highly concerned for the impact this would have on flora and fauna, as well as the undeniable threats it poses to the water supplies for the towns reliant on the Rylstone Dam and Windamere Dam. We have already been seeing our rural communities starved of water over the past seasons, and the strain they have been under particularly in the fire seasons. Our regions are not reliant on coal, and the industry does not provide the high numbers of employment it promises to our communities.

I am also highly concerned for the impacts it would have on the Aboriginal heritage sites within these areas. Aboriginal peoples across Australia have already suffered the losses of countless sites at the hands of mining efforts and as colonists on their traditional lands we are responsible for protecting what remains. Although existing in local Wiradjuri knowledge, many of these sites are not officially documented, which puts them at higher risk of being exploited for the lands on which they happen to be. This is no excuse to pretend that they do not exist. Culture lost is irreversibly lost.

In light of the multiple crises we are all under, please consider the negative impacts this will have on a range of communities.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:49:02 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:49

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**

Hawkins Rumker Proposed Coal Mining Exploration

Submission against the the proposed exploration

This submission is in relation to the inadequacies of the PRIA process.

Any process of community consultation cannot be perfect. There are players in the system like fossil fuel industry/lobby groups such as the Minerals Council, who have lobbying strength with government. Put simply they have time and money to spend in a way that the local community and the ordinary voter like me does not. This means their access to decision-makers at the political level is orders of magnitude greater than ordinary voters or local self-funded community groups. This is an important starting point in the creation of any meaningful system of community consultation, and a reality check.

With this as the context, there are some glaring deficiencies in the PRIA process to highlight:

1. The community does not have access to the actual decision-makers. The decision-maker in this process is ultimately the Minister and Cabinet. The PRIA process is just one input into the Advisory Body which will then input into the Minister which will then input into Cabinet. It is inconceivable that fossil fuel lobby groups and players do not have access to members of government in a way that the ordinary voter does not. It is an acceptable part of our democracy that business which has a key role to play in the economy will be heard by Ministers and government. By contrast, the role of the community via the PRIA process is so far removed from the decision-maker as to make it meaningless. The Advisory body could easily ignore or not accept the PRIA report, and then the Minister could easily not accept the Advisory Body's advice. No Minister or member of Government has attended any of the zoom consultations as far as I know. Community groups need a seat at the table with Ministers and Cabinet so as to exercise the same influence as industry and be heard directly by the decision-maker.

2. The report to be created by the DPIE through the PRIA process will rely not just on community input, but also on expert input such as geotechnical work carried out by a third parties. This key technical work is not available to the community as part of the PRIA process. Therefore there is no opportunity for the community to interrogate or comment on this information prior to it being considered and relied upon by the DPIE. The community has a direct interest in these matters and from my attendance of a PRIA zoom call it is clear there is substantial expertise in the community that wants input at this level. This process is not transparent.

3. The report that will be created by the DPIE through the PRIA process for delivery to the Advisory Board will, I understand, not be made public. This and the previous point are glaring omissions. This is not a transparent process. The community is directly affected by the proposal to explore mining in this region. The failure to put the information before them that will make up the final PRIA report means community is in effect not part of the process, which goes contrary to the intent of the ICAC which recommended a transparent process be instituted.

4. Community consultation is only available at this very early stage. Should exploration be approved, then there is no other stage of community consultation including at the stages of exploration licences being granted, or planning approval being given for the building of a mine. This deficiency is serious. The DPIE staff who were present during my attendance of one of the PRIA zoom calls stated that one of the challenges of producing a report for the Advisory Board is that there is no particular proposal for an exploration licence or planning permission for a mine before the DPIE. Indeed, this is an admission that the timing of this process is insufficient and likely to be tokenistic only. Real consultation would include a round of community consultation not just at this stage but at all critical stages including the issuing of exploration licences and planning permission for the building of a mine.

Apart from these glaring omissions it was heart-breaking to hear from members of the local community indicate how this proposal by government, which does not end at the end of community consultation, has caused stress and anxiety. Many people's livelihoods and futures are at stake. This appears to have been wrongly understood by the DPIE team as indicative of the need to complete the PRIA consultation process quickly. This in my view is a misunderstanding of what was being said by members of the community. The uncertainty does not end once community consultation closes, the uncertainty continues, and should the decision be made to open the area for exploration, then the uncertainty will continue for many years.

Having spent much of my career working in the field of administrative law, I am disheartened by the failure of Government to create a process that actually puts the main stakeholder - the community - first. The law has a rich history of enforcing government decision-makers to abide by rules of natural justice and procedural fairness to ensure parties who may be adversely affected by a government decision are given the opportunity to contribute, comment and be heard at all vital stages. I strongly encourage the NSW Government to revisit this process and create a more robust framework to put communities first.

Importantly, the above is not a criticism of the hard work being done by the DPIE group charged with carrying out this PRIA process. They are working within the bounds of a policy and consultation framework created by government. You, however, do have an opportunity and I would say mandate from the community to make strong recommendations directly to the Minister (not merely to the Advisory Board) on the failure of this process and provide recommendations on how this process must be improved and expanded radically in the future.

Yours sincerely

**I agree to the above statement**



Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:45:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:45

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Ann

**Last name**

Porter

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Bexley

**Submission**

I cannot understand why any person would agree to the opening of new coalmines in nsw and specifically in the area which you have suggested. According to the last information on climate change we are headed for a disastrous result from the past actions. No one in control seems to realise the building effects of humanities action, so, I strongly reject any more development of coalmines and want the government to put their efforts into developing much more use of wind, water and collection of solar to mitigate the effects of burning coal in our country.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:45:13 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:45

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

David

**Last name**

Guilfoyle

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Rylstone

**Submission**

To whom it may concern

I believe that exploration and mine development in the Rylstone area will have

a huge negative impact on the community and environment, you don't need to go far from our area to see what the impacts of ruining a community by buying a lot of the landholders out( Good luck to them!!) but it is the ones that are left behind that suffer and then closing down the local store and then the mine being stalled as it wasn't conducted or looked into environmentally properly or otherwise. The Bylong valley is ruined because of the greed of thoughtless foreign investors who could not care less about our communities.

During the drought from 2017 -2020 we had insufficient water coming from Dunns swamp down the Cudgegong river it got to the point that it was unusable for both stock and domestic use, and prior to the drought when the rain was well below average the river stopped flowing from September on wards this had a major impact on the flora and fauna that come with a river.

how is the river and our ground water supposed to maintain a healthy standard when it is very scarce at the best of times. As a farmer in the Rylstone district this will impact our business in a very negative way the mine will replace 100 plus years of farming in the area for a mine that will only probably last 10-20yrs

we are forth generation Farmers with children who want to continue farming in this prestige area which has great tourism as well,

We need to use the resource to its full potential were it already exists meaning Ulan etc... not create a new problem for our future generations

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:35:35 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Eric

**Last name**

Ranson

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Forster

**Submission**

Why would we risk the environment for possible coal mines?

Possible outcomes;

1) No environmental damage, no new revenue (I am happy to show NSW treasury how to create a \$1bn pa value adding income stream by helping people find housing... but who cares if the lobbyist isn't getting paid?);

2) No economic case for new mines + some damage; or

3) Coal mines and environmental impact. As if the world needs more coal mines. This may benefit someone but will cause a loss of value overall. (probably reducing another Australian coal producer's value.)

More coal makes no sense. Let them search for Diamonds or gold if you have to.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:34:13 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

Julie

**Last name**

Bailey

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

ABBOTSFORD

**Submission**

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Why are we considering a new coal exploration?

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.

The proposal itself does not even provide an accurate map of the Hawkins Rumker area. It states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened fauna and flora.

There is no indication of the damage to the the Rylstone Dam catchment which is in the proposed exploration areas.

There is no reason for this project to be approved.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:11:43 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Annette

**Last name**

Schneider

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Burra Creek, 2620

**Submission**

I object to this new coal development. It will affect global climate and will make Australia a worse place to live. This is against IPCC guidelines and will be fought strenuously.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:19:39 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Emma

**Last name**

Wise

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2780

**Submission**

Dear NSW Government,

I oppose opening up the Hawkins Rumker area for coal exploration. Coal exploration leads to coal mining and I believe we should be phasing out coal mining and instead we should be establishing sustainable renewable energy projects. This country could be leading the world in renewable energy, why aren't we?

Emma

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:24:41 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:24

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Helene

**Last name**

Zampetakis

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

5048

**Submission**

I am writing to voice my opposition to the opening of mining leases for exploration in Central West NSW, Hawkins and Rumker.

I am concerned about the potential for degradation to the natural environment. In particular, the region's water resources would be impacted - coal consumes 653lt of water for each tonne of coal produced.

With catastrophic consequences of climate change looming, we need to be moving away from coal mining. The NSW Government itself has a net zero goal.

I have been a frequent visitor to this region for its beauty. This region is now considered a pollution hotspot due to mining. Please help to curtail further damage to the region.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:00:59 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Gunilla

**Last name**

Burrowes

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2300

**Submission**

This is crazy. Let us move away from coal and get into renewable energy. That is where we need to spend our money, expertise and innovations. There is no need now to destroy any more land for coal. We need to focus more on keeping natural habitats and clean waterways. I absolutely object to this proposal.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 12:00:48 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

jason

#### Last name

connor

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

adamstown heights 2289

#### Submission

Hi my name is jason connor , i live in adamstown heights . I am a Indigenous man born in orange i spent alot of time in the mudgee and rylstone area over my years on earth . As an Indigenous man i feel very connected to mother earth , it hurts me and mother earth what coal mining does to hurt us and the planet . I am oppose to this proposal based on the following -

#### THE EFFECTS ON WATER SOURCES

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

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

#### THE EFFECTS ON NATIVE ANIMALS AND PLANTS:

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

#### THE EFFECTS ON ABORIGINAL HERITAGE:

- ☐ There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk.
- ☐ Many of these are not yet officially documented. 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.

#### 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.

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.

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.

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 Gangaddy-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.

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

thank you for your time please think about the damage your causing to mother earth

I agree to the above statement

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:45:29 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:45

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Bill

**Last name**

Holzinger

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2333

**Submission**

It is ridiculous, if not downright criminal, to open up more areas for coal mining in this time of global heating, particularly after the recent release of the latest IPCC report. Has this government gone mad?

I oppose releasing more land for coal mine development.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:42:25 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:42

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Ken

**Last name**

Graham

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Rydalmere

**Submission**

In light of the release last week of the latest IPCC 'Code Red' report, it is unbelievable and unconcionable that the NSW government is even contemplating opening up any part of NSW for more coal exploration and extraction.

Locally, coal mining can only have adverse environmental, ecological and social impacts on the Hawkins and Rumkins areas.

Most importantly however, is the question: does the NSW Governmmnt have such little respect for current and future young Australians that it is even considering new exploration for fossil fuel?

The new 2021 IPCC report is quite explicit that climatically the planet is very close to irreversable tipping points which, with continued burning of fossil fuels, will result in catastrophic climate outcomes.

Australians deserve better than Governments that only respond to their short-term electoral cycles. We need leadership that recognises the irrefutable science behind the climate warnings, and also recognises and respects the wellbeing of future generations and the planet as a whole.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:40:18 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Remy

**Last name**

Shergill

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Richmond

**Submission**

We cannot afford to have one more gram of coal dug up. It is a prospect which threatens my health and wellbeing, and the future of my family and community.

Wiradjuri Traditional Owners have said they don't not want this coal mine on their land. It will denigrate social cohesion and undermine First Nations' right to protect their Country.

It is an absolute farce to allow coal exploration in a time that coal is becoming less popular and more dangerous.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:35:31 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Mara

**Last name**

Schwerdtfeger

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Darlington

**Submission**

I am writing to stress my opposition to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. This exploration is a precursor to coal mining which is a practice that must be stopped immediately for the sake of our planet. Mudgee is an area that is important to me with friends living and working on properties that I am lucky to visit often. The actions of the Hawkins Rumker exploration will impact them and the land in irreversible and devastating ways by creating air, water, soil and noise pollution. The impacts on the ecosystem will not only affect those living there but also the animal and plant life, many of which are already endangered. The specific threat to water is greatly concerning for fish populations as well as water supply for the region.

Please consider the research from professionals into the effects of coal exploration and mining before taking further action.

Mara

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:33:16 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Darren

**Last name**

Burrowes

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2300

**Submission**

Coal mining and fossil fuels are nearing their sunset. Please do not open any new coal mines and especially please do not impact these beautiful areas bordering national parks and precious water catchments.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:32:25 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Robert

#### Last name

Rosen

#### I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Coogee 2034

#### Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration for the following reasons:

Issue

How it affects or concerns me

Lack of consultation

- The Government has not informed the community properly.
- There is no transparency in how the Government will evaluate the submissions.

Loss of our water

- 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 waterways are our town's 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.

Air & noise pollution

- Coal mines operate at above normal recommended noise levels all day every day.
- Traffic from trucks will increase and coal trains will run through our towns.
- The dust and particulate matter from the mine and trucks/trains travels for kilometres.
- Pollution is inevitable, e.g. the Hunter valley is now one of the most polluted areas in Australia

Impacts on our tourism

- Our community has 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; tourists do not come to see coal mines.

- The landscape may change irreversibly if it is mined

Aboriginal heritage

- Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk. - Even if not mined directly, these can be damaged with subsidence.

Town life

- The threat of coal exploration and mining creates uncertainty for people. This results in people leaving, people no longer investing in the region, and towns declining as people lose their jobs. Bylong is the perfect example.

- Very few if any jobs are created by new mines. Properties and associated infrastructure are built for miners by their own people, not locals

- Locals struggle to compete with high wages of miners which drives up housing and other costs.

Agriculture

- Farms would be lost with up to ~32,700 ha of land becoming coal mines. - Our farms and food will sustain us for much longer than a coal mine.

Climate change and carbon emissions

- 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

I have not made any political donations in the last two years

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:27:26 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:27

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Jennifer

**Last name**

Rae

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Gundaroo

**Submission**

This is a beautiful region near Rylstone that runs alongside the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and includes important waterways, koala and woodland bird habitat and Aboriginal heritage.

An estimated 910 million tonnes of coal is located beneath the Hawkins-Rumker area. If this coal is mined and burnt, it is an absolute climate bomb! It simply must stay safely underground.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:20:57 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:20

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**

2034

**Submission**

I think this area needs to remain a candidate for a World heritage site and in this day and age of climate change it is appalling to think the damage that might be done by more unnecessary coal mining. Especially considering the impacts of climate change already being experienced around the world. Please do not wreak further damage to this pristine area of the world. For the sake of our future generations please keep it from mining.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:20:52 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Sian

**Last name**

Duffin

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Terrigal, 2260

**Submission**

With respect, I am astounded that we are still seeking to open up more opportunities for fossil fuel exploration. The recent IPCC report states, with a level of certainty and urgency not expressed before, that we must act now to slow down and eventually reverse global heating which is inextricably linked to our fossil-fuel led economy. This means that we must de-carbonise immediately and phase out existing coal mining and electricity generation and certainly not entertain new fossil fuel investment.

In addition, this undermines the excellent work that the NSW Environment Minister Matt Kean has been doing on developing clean energy hubs, making me wonder if our state government is actually on the same page as this is sending mixed messages.

While the impacts on global warming are an extreme concern, I am also alarmed by the damage that will be done directly to the environment on the edge of Wollemi National Park, especially as we are recovering from the devastating fires less than 2 years ago. Please consider the impact on our biodiversity whose loss, nationally, is among the worst in the world. Remember that our fauna do not recognise the boundaries of the NP and this development will certainly negatively impact their survival.

Let's be leaders in NSW and show the way to a clean future that respects our natural environment. Thank you for your consideration.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:10:22 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Cat

**Last name**

Evans

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2783

**Submission**

Proposed Mining of the Hawkins and Rumker areas, in part or wholly is preposterous and an abomination! To allow this sort of practice of raping these ancient areas simply for monetary gain makes me ashamed to be Australian. As a Community member I demand that NO such explorations take place!

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:09:05 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:09

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**

96123

**Submission**

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW2124

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

To whom it may concern,

Please do not allow coal mining in the Rylstone region including the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration, for many reasons which I will explain. My name is [REDACTED] I am [REDACTED] years old and work remotely for a San Francisco tech company. I have visited the Rylstone area many times during my trips to Australia and absolutely love this area. During my time in university studying [REDACTED] at the University of Texas in Austin, Australia was often an example of pioneers in environmental efforts and having incredible and unique species, landscapes and climates. I have a great love for Australia and this region and greatly appreciate your time and consideration to review my submissions.

Each submission will describe my concerns in one of the following areas:

1. The personal impact of coal mining in the area for me and Australia's responsibility and leadership in climate change
2. Pollution (water, air, noise)
3. Negative Community and Wildlife Impact

**Impacts on Wildlife:**

One of the things I look forward to the most when in the Rylstone area is catching glimpses of the majestic Lyrebird and hearing their magnificent songs. As well as the joys of seeing the Wombats, Roos and Echidnas roaming the land. Mining in the area will impact these creatures as well as the many endangered plants and animals that could result in losing those species completely. Mining in the area is a huge threat to the habitat of the flora and fauna in the area which can have far reaching effects that are even more greatly compounded by the effects of climate change.

**Negative Community Impact:**

Considering the impacts of coal mining on the potential loss of wildlife, the failure to support changes that will mitigate the speed of climate change, and the pollution of water, air and noise... who would want to live in this area if there is mining, let alone who would want to visit the area? It is heartbreaking to think that friends and their neighbors would be driven out of their homes or lose the things they love about their home. All of these factors can destroy a community and that, on top of everything else is why it is simply not worth considering mining here.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:08:13 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:08

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**

96123

**Submission**

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW2124

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

To whom it may concern,

Please do not allow coal mining in the Rylstone region including the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration, for many reasons which I will explain. My name is [REDACTED], I am [REDACTED] years old and work remotely for a San Francisco tech company. I have visited the Rylstone area many times during my trips to Australia and absolutely love this area. During my time in university studying [REDACTED] at the University of Texas in Austin, Australia was often an example of pioneers in environmental efforts and having incredible and unique species, landscapes and climates. I have a great love for Australia and this region and greatly appreciate your time and consideration to review my submissions.

Each submission will describe my concerns in one of the following areas:

1. The personal impact of coal mining in the area for me and Australia's responsibility and leadership in climate change
2. Pollution (water, air, noise)
3. Negative Community and Wildlife Impact

**Water Pollution:**

While studying Hydrology as part of my degree, we reviewed countless case studies of how mining could completely destroy a community by poisoning the water supply. Considering the droughts and other impacts of climate change, we should be extremely careful to protect water for ourselves and the environment that supports us. The Rylstone area has many natural springs and ponds which are at risk as well as the underground aquifers that supply them. Drilling could have irreversible impacts on the water in this area, both from draining the aquifers and from contaminating the water quality. Water is the basis of life; we cannot afford to lose it. Especially when we will need it to fight fires in the area and grow food. And again, it will not just affect this area, but the surrounding areas that are fed by the water supply such as Mudgee, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla.

**Air Pollution:**

Coal mining releases harmful air pollutants that can be lethal. It produces Nitrogen dioxide which reacts with sunlight to form ozone, which we know Australia does not need more of. Coal mining also produces methane which is a huge driver of greenhouse gases that is accelerating climate change. There is also the particulate matter that spreads over the land and kills wildlife and pollutes the water. We already have uncontrollable fires in the area that create toxic air, so there should not be any addition to air pollution that is within our control such as allowing mining in the area. I cannot imagine being in this area and not having the pristine air to breathe deeply during the long hikes I take.

**Noise Pollution:**

The noise levels associated with all stages of coal mining are extremely high. This again will have negative impacts for people and wildlife. It is another reason that would drive wildlife away and in the absence of wildlife, landscapes change in ways we won't be able to predict. Noise pollution is another huge factor that would make me lose interest in this area because one of the things I cherish is the fullness of nature sounds - the birds, the wind in the giant Eucalyptus trees - and absence of human made sounds.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 17/08/2021 11:07:13 AM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Cc: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:07

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

96123

Submission

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW2124

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

To whom it may concern,

Please do not allow coal mining in the Rylstone region including the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration, for many reasons which I will explain. My name is Ellen, I am 30 years old and work remotely for a San Francisco tech company. I have visited the Rylstone area many times during my trips to Australia and absolutely love this area. During my time in university studying Geography and Biology at the University of Texas in Austin, Australia was often an example of pioneers in environmental efforts and having incredible and unique species, landscapes and climates. I have a great love for Australia and this region and greatly appreciate your time and consideration to review my submissions.

Each submission will describe my concerns in one of the following areas:

1. The personal impact of coal mining in the area for me and Australia's responsibility and leadership in climate change
2. Pollution (water, air, noise)
3. Negative Community and Wildlife Impact

The personal impact of coal mining in the area for me:

I try to make it to Australia each year to visit friends and enjoy the unique landscapes and places. From a stop at my favorite beach, Shelly beach, to the incredible drive through the Blue Mountains, I love stopping along the drive to the Rylstone area to shop at local stores and see the special lookouts. If there is mining in this area, I will not be visiting anymore. I will not support the degradation of a pristine area with unique wildlife and Aboriginal art and ceremonial sites. There are other fantastic countries I will support and have friends meet there. This area will lose the money I spend if there is mining. It is heartbreaking that mining is even being considered.

Australia's responsibility and leadership in climate change:

Living in Northern California where the Dixie fire (currently the 2nd largest fire in California history AND still growing) is filling the air with toxic smoke, wiping out communities and burning natural treasures like Lassen National Park, it is all too clear how much climate change is rapidly changing the world we live in. And further how absolutely critical it is that we as people join forces to drastically create change to mitigate the destruction by reducing our carbon footprint and thinking ahead.

In the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW the Government describes one of its four actions as supporting diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phase-out of thermal coal mining. And the Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 is the foundation for NSW's action on climate change and goal to reach net zero emissions by 2050. Considering these goals and actions in addition to the fact that Australia exports 75% of its coal to countries who are also following this worldwide trend and commitment to move away from fossil fuels and thus coal, it does not make sense to move in a direction of mining more or in new locations. Especially when 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. Even if the NSW government wants to try to squeeze out more money from coal in the next decades, the costs of environmental degradation cannot be reversed or purchased back.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 11:02:20 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:02

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**

2050

**Submission**

Coal is not needed in the country's transition to a low carbon economy, it is not even needed for the transitionary period when other fuels such as natural gas are in circulation. In order to meet our Paris Agreements, and alongside many other countries, the banning of new or exploratory coal fields should be ruled.

It's a shame that Australia feels the need to keep reliance on coal and other fossil fuels when the country could be a renewable powerhouse.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 10:55:28 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 10:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Zachary

**Last name**

Picker

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

marrickville

**Submission**

Hi,

I'm writing to oppose the release of these areas for coal exploration. Firstly, the lands are rich with indigenous heritage. I have been on many bushwalks with an Aboriginal friend of mine through these areas, looking for art and sites to document. It is readily clear to me that only a small fraction of such sites are actually documented and there are presumably many more—the least we can do is care after these areas. Secondly, we have a duty to preserve what remains of the fragile forest and river ecological systems in our state. Where I live, the local river (the Cooks river) is the second most polluted river in Australia. As the climate crisis worsens, increasing bushfire severity and harsher summers will already stress these important natural habitats around Sydney and NSW. There is no need to stress them further, especially for an industry which is on its dying breath as renewable investment only increases. (Of course, there is also no reason why a country, which is party to the Paris Accords, should actively be investing in more coal in the future, when we are already nowhere near reaching our carbon goals).

regards

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 10:54:08 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 10:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Richard

**Last name**

Ranson

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Black Springs, 2787

**Submission**

Dear sirs,

I wish to object in the strongest terms to the release of this area for coal mining exploration and development.

The lockdown has shown how greatly appreciated and valuable these natural and relatively undisturbed precincts are to all citizens. What a shame to risk destroying this for such a short term activity with such a limited future as coal mining.

The recent bushfires and threats to native endangered species only increase the foolish short term thinking that plagues our government's pandering to old money. Think of the future, and save this area from mining!

Yours faithfully,

Richard Ranson

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 10:46:33 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 10:46

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Melinda

**Last name**

Loe

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Fishermans Paradise 2539

**Submission**

I strongly oppose this exploration going ahead for the following reasons

1. Climate change

Earlier this month, a United Nations report by the world's leading climate scientists issued a code-red for humanity. Releasing further land for coal exploration at this point is irresponsible. This is a time for lowering emissions, not seeking ways to increase them.

2. Always was, always will be Wiradjuri land

The exploration is against the wishes of traditional custodians, and puts at risk and/or will destroy over 45 Aboriginal heritage sites. We need to learn from the terrible destruction caused by other exploration and mining sites in Australia, that have been condemned internationally and caused incredible loss and trauma for Indigenous people.

3. Threat to natural environment - 28 threatened species have been identified in areas proposed for coal exploration. The environmental assessment identified almost 7,000 hectares of potentially threatened ecological communities, 22 threatened fauna species and six threatened flora species. Fauna at risk includes koalas, spotted-tailed quolls and the critically endangered regent honeyeater.

4. Economically unviable

a. It is very clear that tariffs will be imposed on coal in the not too distant future - even if future Australian governments don't do so, other countries will. Imposition of tariffs needs to be factored into economic assessment of the project.

b. Loss of potential eco-tourism ventures in this area, and threat to tourism in the Mudgee region, which in 2020 was ranked among the top 10 emerging destinations in the world according to travel website, TripAdvisor.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 10:32:52 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 10:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Jan

**Last name**

Marshall

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Bilgola Plateau

**Submission**

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

Coal exploration and mining disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways.

Mining uses large volumes of water, without water there is no agriculture, wildlife, environment or water to fight bushfires.

Pollution and noise and dust is inevitable, causing harm and distress to humans and wildlife.

There will be considerable risk to Aboriginal Heritage sites.

Farm land will be lost, with Australia's increasing population food is needed to sustain us.

Because of climate change the world is moving away from coal. Australia must also move away from Coal.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 10:23:20 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 10:23

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**

Eleebana2282

**Submission**

The important ecosystem of the area needs to be protected. It is against all environmental recommendations to consider new coal exploration. No more valuable land should be destroyed. We have to invest in a future away from coal for our future generations.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

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

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Rick

**Last name**

Madigan

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Wentworth Falls 2782

**Submission**

My name is Rick Madigan and I live in the Blue Mountains. I am a father of 3 and grandfather of 2.

I love nature and am very familiar with the Rylstone / Dunns Swamp and Gardens of Stone area. My biggest concern is that, having bought up my kids to appreciate and experience the environment, our current generation are busy wrecking it - so that their future quality of life will be one fraught with anxiety and fear and their natural antidote – nature – will be completely diminished.

On this basis I am writing to you to state my total opposition to opening up the Hawkins Rumker area for coal exploration. This must be stopped now.

This proposal is inconsistent with our commitment to the Paris Agreement, and it comes at a time when there is a global trend to move from fossil fuels to sustainable energy sources: the IEA has suggested an immediate ban on new oil, coal and gas development; the G7 has confirmed their countries will end all government support for new coal power at the end of this year, and most telling is the recent UN assessment that the latest IPCC "state of the environment" report signifies a code red for humanity.

I am left stunned that no-one in government appears to be seeing all of this writing on the wall..... despite it being writ in bold, capital letters!

We know that despite the many initial promises and commitments of the coal companies, the net outcome for local farming regions is negative in the long term – there are issues around indigenous heritage, its life-giving water, its flora and fauna and the communities themselves -which become fractured and suffer both social and health issues.

Please look at the long term picture and say no to this proposal

Thank you

Rick Madigan

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 10:00:19 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 10:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Rosemary

**Last name**

Jackson

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Leichhardt, NSW, 2040

**Submission**

I am a retired senior who, in pre Covid times, has travelled widely in many parts of this amazing country and I am totally opposed to the creation of more mining areas.

There are no scientific reasons I can put forward - I guess there will be many of those to consider. I find it quite bewildering that there is a plan, being considered, to open more coal mining, in times when even greedy banks are withholding their funding for such ventures.

The IPCC report, released in the recent days, clearly explained the dire situation we have brought about.

Land use, flora, fauna, water in the area, are all special and irrecoverable, once mines sweep through for some years, removing polluting fossil fuels for the financial profit of a few.

PLEASE do not permit this atrocity to be perpetrated. Surely some renewable energy projects could be created to employ similar number of locals.

Rosemary Jackson

Leichhardt, NSW

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes