

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 9:56:18 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 09:56

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

**Name**

**First name**

Felicity

**Last name**

Kitson

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Centennial Park

**Submission**

To allow coal mining right next to Wollemi National Park, home to the Wollemi Pine and other endangered species, is just madness.

This will have a devastating impact on this important landscape, which is part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and protects vital river catchments.

It just beggars belief that the NSW government could still be approving these climate-wrecking fossil fuel projects. The IPCC report has told us unequivocally that we need to get to net zero emission by 2030 to avoid 'hell on earth'.

Please, stop selling off our nature and our chance of a liveable future to the fossil fuel industry. Someone in government, listen to scientists, the community and your conscience. This insane project must NOT be allowed to go ahead.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 9:42:11 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 09:42

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Mayav

**Last name**

Madon

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Killara, NSW

**Submission**

The latest IPCC report clearly states the world cannot afford new fossil fuel mining if we want to protect the planet. Why does the NSW Govt consider doing more coal exploration is appropriate at this time?

First we dig coal, destroy the local environment, then we get more bushfires and floods then we spend money to recover from them.

Eventually demand for coal will run out and then we will spend money to get the coal miners new jobs and remediate the mines, because the coal companies will go bust by then.

This sounds like the definition on madness.

Why not make that area a renewable energy zone instead ?

Thank you,  
 Mayav...

Mayav Madon

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 9:38:46 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 09:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Indra

**Last name**

Esguerra

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

O'Connor ACT, 2602

**Submission**

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

I am a regular visitor to Ganguddy - it has been a favourite camping, swimming, walking and kayaking site for me and my family for many years (pre bushfires and COVID). The area is unique, and very attractive to visit. Wollemi National Park is full of delightful areas to walk in, explore, or just take in the general scenery.

Opening up the area for coal exploration is clearly a precursor to coal mining. I don't support the exploration proposal, and I don't believe that it would be a positive addition to the area or the local community. Interstate visitors like me come to the area for its beauty, not to see mining impacts.

Indra Esguerra and family

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 9:52:27 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 09:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Lorna

**Last name**

Nelson

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2780

**Submission**

Please do not release this beautiful and ancient land for coal and other exploration. Fossil fuels are being scaled back and ended, and once destroyed or altered in anyway, the land and its irreplaceable scenery will be lost.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 9:37:07 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 09:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Jon

**Last name**

Nielsen

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Rivett 2611

**Submission**

In the light of the recent IPCC report and having regard to the effects of catastrophic climate change on Australia, it is utter madness to even consider further coal mining in this region, state, or country. I strongly oppose any further coal exploration. I suggest that any scientifically literate person with any regard for the future of humanity would feel likewise. Any person in favour of coal is, at this point, wilfully ignorant or actively hostile to life on Earth.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 9:35:44 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 09:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Ken

#### Last name

Wilson

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

No

## Info

#### Email

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Newtown 2042

#### Submission

Dear Director Energy and Resources Policy  
 NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

I am a concerned individual who visits and invests in Rylstone to Mudgee area.  
 I am opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped now.  
 My reasons are set out below.

#### 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.  
 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?

#### THE EFFECT 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 Cows Creek is thoroughly unique and would be under threat.  
 Mines would transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact on the value of the amazing World Heritage area on our doorstep.

#### THE EFFECT 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 EFFECT 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.

WHY DO WE NEED MORE COAL IN A CLIMATE EMERGENCY CAUSED BY RISING CO2 LEVELS FROM BURNING FOSSIL FUELS:

New mines are opposite to 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 Ganguddy-Kelgoola areas are instrumental to the health of the Cudgegong River and all that relies on it downstream. This is unlikely to be addressed in a 'preliminary' assessment. The Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors prepared by the Government is fundamentally flawed. The geographical area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area, and it also states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened fauna and flora. 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.

Regards  
Ken Wilson  
Dr Ken Wilson

I agree to the above statement

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 9:30:05 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 09:30

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Claire

**Last name**

Albrecht

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Tighes Hill 2297

**Submission**

Please. Coal mining is NOT the future, and these lands do not belong to you. The traditional owners must retain custodianship of these lands and continue to respect and maintain them in ways that you seem incapable of.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 9:22:06 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 09:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Jessica

**Last name**

Lumbroso

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2780

**Submission**

No more coal it's our children's future we want clean water, hanging swamps and clean air STOP destroying and jeopardising our habitat, biodiversity, clean water, air quality. Dunn's Swamp Cabot be comprised and neither can our Co2 contribution, if the government stoped subsidising for coal it would not be financially viable. The longer we keep mining for coal a planet will not be viable ! Please don't approve this project.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 9:20:28 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 09:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Michael

**Last name**

Manefield

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Eleebana

**Submission**

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

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 8:58:39 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Karen

**Last name**

Ginnane

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

3056

**Submission**

Fossil fuels are directly connected to increasing CO2 emissions and a warming climate. The impact on the environment is catastrophic and is going to become more so. The way forward is to step away from coal and fossil fuels and towards green energy. This is supported by the latest IPCC report, among many others.

Fossil fuels are the energy of the past and Australia is lagging behind the rest of the world in pursuing further exploration for coal in areas of ecological and cultural significance. We need to be preserving such areas, not mining them. Please do not allow this exploration to go ahead.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 8:58:02 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

BROOME

**Submission**

Earlier this month, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate by the world's leading climate scientists issued a code-red for humanity. Releasing further land for coal exploration at this point would be a grossly irresponsible move.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 8:50:51 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

rachel

**Last name**

swain

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Wallan

**Submission**

This is sacred Wiradjuri Land. It should not be mined and destroyed for profit. This land should be protected and preserved for future generations. We need to take our land rights seriously and not just as token acknowledgements at the beginning of meetings. We need to look into the future and not into how much money we can make into destroying land. We cannot undo the damage to the land once it has been done. We need to look at living as one with the land. We need to look at our children and what we are leaving them. Not just a bank balance. Our children need trees, grass, the water ways. They need our land. They do not need destruction and stripping of coal out of that land. We need to protect our earth for future generations. We need to think about our children.

Do not coal mine. It is a mistake. One that can never be taken back.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 8:37:04 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2260

**Submission**

Although I do not live in the area, as a citizen of NSW, I am opposed to any more massive coal mining.

The adverse effects on the quality of the air, the effect on water and wildlife and potential indigenous sites is to great to ignore.

Please for the sake of the planet and for the future of our children and grandchildren, do not allow this mine to be approved. Thank you.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 8:23:55 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Sonya

**Last name**

Engelen

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2515

**Submission**

No! Australia needs to respect future generations and reject this proposal.

We should not be pursuing the mining of fossil fuels but, rather, looking for innovative ways to meet our global commitments and reduce the pollutants we release into the environment.

I find it insane that this has even been proposed and must wonder at the powers behind it and the access they have to government for lobbying.

No. No.

Sonya

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 8:21:12 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2849

**Submission**

I would like submit a concern in relation to transparency. You state in the Strategic Framework Release that you aim to deliver to greater transparency which I don't believe was completely forthcoming. You were asked by many people within the zoom calls to share the report provided to the advisory body - Resource Assessment prepared by the Geological Survey of NSW. Which you replied was not available for public viewing. This step one in the process. Where The Advisory Body based there decision on this report - which is a decision that affect our lives and livelihoods So unless this report is hiding information that they don't want us to see wouldn't it be the right thing to share the information that the decision was based on. The decision that can destroy the community (indigenous and non-indigenous )as well as individuals landholders. It smells like a cover up- outside interest don't want us to see it. Where is the transparency. Why aren't we able to see it?

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 8:20:53 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Duncan

**Last name**

Dey

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Main Arm 2482

**Submission**

I am a Civil Engineer with over fifty years specialising in water cycle studies, especially flood hydrology. I object to exploring for more coal mining, including this proposal near Rylstone.

At the global level, Australia needs to cease expanding coal and in fact do the opposite - shut it down. By considering this proposal, the proponents and the state are putting future generations in peril. Please stop!

At a local level, please recognise that coal mining has massive negative impacts on water, especially groundwater. Here in NSW we have successfully ruined many areas, usually by drying them out but also by increasing flooding. Our soils no longer store water as moisture and our forests no longer shade the ground.

The specific impacts of mining and of coal mining in particular are well known. They are completely avoidable by using renewable energy instead.

Experience shows that coal mining including washing contaminates surface water. Storage of such water is dangerous, especially during storms and flooding.

Excavation and underground tunnels ruins subterranean waterways, usually by draining them and sometimes by blocking them. They also become contaminated.

Mining uses huge quantities of water removing it from the natural water cycle. Rylstone is a beautiful area and depletion of its waterways for such an unnecessary activity as coal mining is not warranted.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 8:19:18 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Abigail

**Last name**

Humphreys

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Blacktown 2148

**Submission**

I object to any coal exploration and new development anywhere in NSW and especially in this beautiful area near Mudgee.  
I lived at Katoomba for 25 years and we would frequently go to Mudgee to visit family. It is a thriving community.

I object on many grounds, we are in a climate catastrophe and urgently must transition away from fossil fuels if we have any chance to mitigate the impact. The recent IPCC report could not be clearer, I don't know why we are even having this discussion???

This is a beautiful area that has huge significance to the Traditional Owners who do not consent. Australian treatment and lack of respect for Traditional Owners has since the brutal colonisation has been one of get out of the way of the money, this is another example.

We must not continue on our dependence on fossil fuels.

Do not approve this application.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 8:12:31 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

William

**Last name**

Magowan

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Katoomba 2780

**Submission**

Coal is not our future, and Dunn's Swamp is a vital, critical ecosystem that is already impacted by developments and transportation developments. I do not believe opening more areas up to coal exploration will make meaningful and / or long term work. Please consider my statement as staunch opposition to the proposal. At a time of accelerating extinction rates, every dead tree with a hollow counts to the survival of our native birds and marsupials.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 7:54:19 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 07:54

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**

Clandulla 2848

#### Submission

I own property in the nearby Clandulla area and I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. The reasons for my opposition are as follows:

Environment: water

We have seen multiple instances of coal mines ruining local water supplies. Even exploration drilling can have destructive effects on aquifers and springs. Nearby in the Gardens of Stone there have been swamps and soaks destroyed and they can never be repaired. They are gone forever. A lot of the destruction has impacts far beyond the site where the damage is directly inflicted, affecting groundwater supply and quality for all other land users for miles around.

Environment: habitat

Mining poses a threat to local flora and fauna through direct destruction, and through the wider disturbance by generated dust, noise and vibration. There are whole ecological habitats which would be under threat. These communities of plants and animals are part of our pristine environment which attracts tourists and employs many local people. The nearby Capertee Valley is one of the top bird watching destinations in the world (yes, in the world!), generating employment for guides, B&B's, restaurants and cafes throughout the area. There are many small niche eco tourism ventures that will be destroyed once our environment is compromised.

Coal has a limited future

Thermal coal is steadily being replaced worldwide by alternative sources of energy like solar, wind and hydro. Demand for coal will continue to fall as countries change their energy mix as a response to the increasingly clear evidence of climate change as well as economic factors. The rate of penetration of solar in the Australian market has surprised the experts as consumers are enthusiastically pushing well ahead of policy makers and the industry is left scrambling to put a brake on solar generation due to their lack of foresight, even their gold plating of the energy grid has proved to be incompetent.

We need to be supporting our regional economies not by expanding thermal coal exploration but by assisting with the expansion of alternative industries that have a future, not investing in what are destined to become stranded assets.

Social and community impacts

The disturbance generated by mining spreads far and wide outside an actual mine. We have seen these effects documented in the Hunter where a massive increase in harmful dust pollution has impacted people directly where lung and heart condition cases are now way above the Australian average.

Noise and vibration also affect people's health. Perhaps not as directly measured as lung disease rates but the effect is there in social and community issues related to stress and anxiety, such as drug and alcohol abuse, and violence.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 7:41:57 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 07:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Tlaloc

#### Last name

Tokuda

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

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Paddington 2021

#### Submission

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

From: Tlaloc Tokuda 15/8/21

[REDACTED] Paddington NSW 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 76 years old and have been visiting the area since 83'. I also lectured at UNSW from 86'-96' on the Environment under Dr Ted Trainer.

#### Issues with the PRIA Process

This report is terrible and the process is worse. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has known of the potential coal release areas in Hawkins and Rumker for a year, however they only issued notices for community consultation in June 2021.

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.

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 who 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.

COP 21 and 26 (Glasgow) or United Nations Climate Change Conference (Australia being the pariah of Paris and clings to its pariah status by identifying more coal projects. This is the weakest part of their proposal, No academic rigor of the adverse effects of their proposal! No mention of the impact climate change will have on future generations. Already we have seen the bush fires of 2019-20, the floods, droughts and high temperatures.

This proposal like all others coal proposals will need to address the class action suit brought by students. The Australian Federal Court has ruled that Environment Minister Sussan Ley has a legal duty not to cause harm to young people of Australia by exacerbating climate change when approving coal mining projects. This proposal needs to go back to the drawing board to address the following adverse effects. This is the area the proposal is at its weakest - measuring the Aboriginal, legal, ecological, economical, environmental, physiological and sustainable issues of the project.

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

Yours sincerely,  
 Tlaloc Tokuda

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 7:37:04 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 07:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

## Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Dulwich Hill 2203

#### Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to oppose, in the strongest possible terms, the opening of the Hawkins-Rumker area for coal exploration.

Firstly and foremost, the site contains more than 40 Aboriginal heritage sites that will be at risk of damage or destruction if the coal exploration goes ahead, let alone if a coal mine opens. The importance of the sites to the traditional owners of the land, let alone to Australian history and heritage, cannot be overstated. It is morally reprehensible to work against the wishes of the people whose land is at stake here.

Second, the area contains 7000 hectares of threatened ecological communities, including twenty-two threatened fauna species and six threatened flora species. These must not be put under the environmental pressure that will come from either coal exploration or the introduction of coal mining.

Finally, the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report gives a stark and bleak view of our future if we continue the production and reliance on coal. To add to that destruction by seeking more coal to burn, further shortening the horizons of our shared future, is vindictive and unjust. The NSW Government's own strategic release framework recognises that coal has a "finite lifespan as an energy source." Instead, sustainable energy options should be sought instead.

I once again urge the government to not proceed with coal exploration in the Hawkins-Rumker area.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 7:09:25 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 07:09

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**

2785

**Submission**

I am deeply saddened by the proposal of a coal mine near ganguddy as the impact on environment would be massive, this is a sacred area to many many people.

This is not acceptable!

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 6:59:40 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 06:59

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Amy

**Last name**

St Lawrence

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Blackheath 2785

**Submission**

I strongly oppose any kind of exploration for or mining for coal or other materials in the proposed release areas. If this ludicrous plan was allowed to proceed, the environmental impacts on waterways, fauna and flora would be dire. The destruction of Wiradjuri sites and cultural landscape would be devastating and must not be permitted. The social and economic impacts stemming from the loss of tourism to the area would be detrimental to the community. Even aside from all of these direct impacts, it is insane to perpetuate the mining and burning of coal in light of the disastrous climate future outlined in latest IPCC Report and in the midst of an already changing climate. Please, put the community and environment of the Mudgee region first and ban coal exploration in the area.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 6:21:59 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 06:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

ANITA

#### Last name

HEISS

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

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

4101

#### Submission

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

Dr Anita Heiss

[REDACTED]  
 South Brisbane QLD 4010

16 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I write vehemently opposed to I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

My reasons, concerns, issues and/or how it will impact me are outlined below.

Concerns about the PRIA Process starts with flawed community consultation 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.

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

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

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

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

- The Reserve Bank of Australia anticipates international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable.
- In its Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW released in June 2020, the NSW Government describes one of its four actions is supporting diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phase-out of thermal coal mining
- Australia exports 75 percent of its coal to Japan, South Korea and China. These countries have followed other countries in a worldwide trend and committed to move away from fossil fuels, which will result in decreased demand for coal.
- This year, the G7 has committed to end public support for unabated coal generation by end of 2021.
- The International Energy Agency Roadmap for the global energy sector states the world's coal will decline to just one fifth of current levels by 2040, and to one tenth by 2050.

Water

One of the greatest threats is to our region's precious water supplies. This area is rich in natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining can

have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers<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 Coss 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 in the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas.

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

Health effects are already being felt as people experience anxiety and stress about the threat to their region<sup>28</sup> and economic stability.

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

Yours sincerely,

PROF ANITA HEISS

I agree to the above statement

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 4:11:04 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 04:11

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**

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.

Yet another impact of mining concerns Aboriginal heritage sites, which are already vulnerable because they remain officially undocumented, even though local knowledge and other official records point to their existence. Similar sites elsewhere in Australia have already been destroyed. For example, the blasting of the Juukan Gorge sites in Western Pilbara. The effacement of the unique past of this region would be easy to overlook, but it is morally bankrupt, especially when seen in light of the lack of any future for the coal industry and NSW's own goal to reach zero net emissions by 2050.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 1:40:42 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 01:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Maroubra 2035

#### Submission

I am a regular visitor to the area for over 10 years. It is a place where I can escape to nature and visit friends. When I first heard from friends of the proposal to open the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration, I was in disbelief. Anyone who has ever visited this (or any adjoining areas in the region) would have no intention of exploiting it for the sake of some cheap, dirty fuel.

I am strongly opposed to the opening up of the Hawkins Rumker area for coal exploration.

I hope that you will be completely honest about this - this is a precursor to coal mining. If you grant a decision in favour of coal exploration, you decide in favour of coal mining. End of story. You personally sign a death sentence to the Hawkins Rumker and adjoining areas.

In making this decision, put yourself in the position of a local or visitor to this natural area. If this was YOUR town, would you want:

- The forced removal of neighbours, co-workers, your friends or family?
- For those who stay, would you wish them an increase in detrimental health impacts such as lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory problems, kidney disease?
- To witness the destruction of the local environment through air pollution, water contamination, chemical pollution, dust pollution and the irreversible loss of animals?
- A complete stop to any form of tourism to the area?

Because that is simply what coal mining in this area will do. These are the very real concerns if you open the area up for coal exploration. This is not a remote part of Australia where there are no residents to impact, no nature to destroy, no animals to misplace. This is a long-established community and natural habitat.

The government has a serious responsibility to the people of the area and to the environment. The consequences of coal exploration will be long-term and far-reaching. And irreversible.

The area will not be able to recover from a decision to open the Hawkins Rumker area for coal exploration. Subsequent governments will not be able to fix this.

Don't sell local communities for the sake of cheap, dirty fuels. The residents deserve more. They deserve a future that is supported, not destroyed, by the government. They deserve a healthy life for themselves, their families, their community and the nature that supports and provides enjoyment to their lives. Take that away and it will destroy the livelihood of the residents and anyone who visits this great area.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17/08/2021 1:19:05 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 01:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

Richard

**Last name**

Parncutt

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

No

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Hawthorn Vic 3122

**Submission**

There is little need to write a submission in this case. It has been well known for decades that all coal mining must stop. There can be no doubt, therefore, that this proposal will be rejected.

Given the near certainty with which global warming will cause millions and perhaps billions of future deaths, coal mining has become comparable with mass-manslaughter, as explained in detail in the following peer-reviewed open-access journal article:  
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02323/full>

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 11:50:18 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 23:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]a

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

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2754

**Submission**

I'm an aboriginal man and I know the extreme negative impact that coal mining has on waterways, groundwater, land subsidence and Country in general. I also know that when burnt, coal is directly causing worse bushfires and heat waves around this continent. To meet the Paris targets you lot set yourselves, you will all have to stop building coal mines and power stations. Other places are doing it and you'll have nowhere to sell your coal to. Cut this project now before it grows into a true disaster - our natural places are all we have left.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 11:15:52 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 23:15

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**

2120

**Submission**

I am strongly against the proposed release of the Rumker and Hawkins areas for mining exploration. These regions hold significant value, from agricultural, biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural and regional tourism perspectives. Mining exploration in these areas threatens to undermine these values, and the livelihoods, prosperity and property prices of thousands of community members living across the region.

Use of fossil fuel powered energy is driving our planet to the brink of climate collapse. As the world moves towards this realisation, it seems both cynical and irresponsible to threaten this special region with the pall of mining, and all the social and environmental harm it can bring, knowing that the days of fossil fuel extraction and use are numbered.

I therefore urge PRIA to consider these impacts when weighing up the risks and benefits of this proposal.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 16/08/2021 10:46:23 PM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Cc: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 22:46

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

carolyn

#### Last name

ienna

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

No

## Info

#### Email

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Glebe

#### Submission

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

I am 58 years of age and have been visiting the area for decades years. My mother lives on country.

#### 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 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 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 the trend is to move to sustainable energy sources. Why can't we be more like Germany who leads the way in this.

#### Water

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

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

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

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

#### Flora and Fauna

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

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

The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek 16 could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cox's Creek is thoroughly unique 16 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.

As a first nations woman myself i am concerned. This is my country(Wiradjuri) we are talking about and over the whole continent this is a trend to mine everything/anything. This disconnects us from our sacred land.

#### Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

Health effects are already being felt as people experience anxiety and stress about the threat to their region<sup>28</sup> and economic stability.

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 10:39:46 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 22:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Keith

**Last name**

Brister

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Blackheath 2785

**Submission**

I am a retiree living in the Blue Mountains.

I am most concerned about the impact of Climate Change on our existence and note that the IEA has recently stated that there should be no new fossil fuel development.

It is therefore clearly inappropriate to consider releasing new areas for coal exploration and I insist that this should not be done.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 10:21:23 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 22:21

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**

2783

**Submission**

It's against all logic and social and economic duty to consider this new coal exploration. Coal is dirty and harmful to humans, it's better left in the ground. The emissions from burning coal contribute to CO2 in turn, warming up the earth, sea and all life forms. If you have any sense we should be transitioning to renewables, like solar and wind power. It's not too late to stop this horrendous pit swallowing up our land, flora, fauna and shameful waste of resources.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 10:06:11 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 22:06

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**

lindfield 2070

**Submission**

I have been associated with this area for many years.

I am extremely concerned and opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened up for coal mining.

These mines would have a **NEGATIVE IMPACT** on the water resources of the local area. Once this water is gone it is **LOST** forever.

Mines would make our beautiful area into an ugly industrialised landscape and negatively impact on our amazing wildlife and beautiful flora and fauna which would be lost forever.

Waterways would be destroyed and lead to loss of fish habitat.

This can **NOT** go ahead, it would be a travesty.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 9:58:41 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 21:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Rylstone 2849

**Submission**

I object to the release of any more of our country for mining purposes. I feel that the long term effects of the destruction of our environment will be far more hazardous than the value of the short term gain.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 9:57:32 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 21:57

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Gael

#### Last name

Kennedy

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

No

## Info

#### Email

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Harolds Cross 2622

#### Submission

I am a 69 year-old farmer with a cattle property in the Southern Tablelands region of NSW. I am committed to the benefits of regenerative farming and see the maintenance of viable farmland as a high priority for our long-term health, local economies and an important contributor to long-term food security.

I am also a regular visitor to the Kandos/Rylstone area, and extremely concerned therefore about the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I do not support this and cannot understand why the Government is considering coal leases at all, given climate change and the commitment of many countries worldwide to phase out their reliance on thermal coal.

It is my understanding that most Australian coal is exported to China, Japan and South Korea, who have all made commitments to move from fossil fuels, so a mining industry in the Hawkins/Rumker region will most likely be in decline before it even begins. Why even start this process given the long-term prospects of coal mining?

Given the current situation of impending global catastrophic weather conditions due to sluggish action by governments, it seems irresponsible for the NSW government to be making this proposal. Only last week the UN IPCC reports warned that "Global greenhouse gas emissions must peak in the next four years, coal and gas-fired power plants must close in the next decade and lifestyle and behavioural changes will be needed to avoid climate breakdown" according to The Guardian.

Surely the NSW government should be moving forward to support the growth of renewable energy not taking a backwards step to developing more coal mining.

The Kandos/Rylstone area is beautiful with many hectares of productive farmland, and a rich biodiverse flora and fauna. I am concerned that the impact of coal mining in the area would have a detrimental impact on this.

My understanding is that the proposed Hawkins/Rumker coal release area covers approximately 32,000 ha of land and is home to around 180 landholders. If coal is mined in this region there will be a significant loss of agricultural lands, water would be affected, and the impact could lead to the decline of farms, causing them to close and overall productive agricultural lands to be lost or left fallow.

I am concerned that it could affect the local water supply too, to the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla, as well as Mudgee possibly. Open cut and underground coal mines have the potential to cause water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in water ways.

I am familiar with the impact of mining in my local region in the small town of Captains Flat, where many hectares of farmland were rendered unusable as a result of pollution from the mines following unexpected flooding from heavy rain events in 1939 and 1942. To this day this rich farming land is unusable, despite attempts at remediation through government funded initiatives, and the area has high levels of lead affecting the health of local children, amongst others.

Pollution does not stay within the boundaries of the coal mining areas themselves. The Hunter Valley is now a pollution 'hotspot' with a population with some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in the State.

To reiterate, I cannot understand why the NSW Government is considering leases for coal exploration. It makes no sense given the current situation of climate change and the known impact of the burning of coal, long-term decline in thermal coal, and the potential impact mining may have on the district's farmland, water supply, and health and well-being of local communities.

I do not support this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Gael Kennedy

Blackwood Hill Farm, Harolds Cross

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 9:41:27 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 21:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2655

**Submission**

I am a proud Abiriginal woman that has spent alot of time in this part of Wradjuri country, it is very powerful country, beautiful country.

This area is sacred and should not be drilled let alone mined.

The water that springs from these mountains supports the life of the surrounding towns.

Supports countless species of plants and animals. Some of these animals are sacred too and have dreamtime stories and songlines intertwined with them in the landscape and its people and people from other tribes.

You cannot continue to traumatise the Aboriginal community by giving away and destroying their sacred places and sites.

It is entrenched in our people to respect and honour our family our country our culture and ancient sites.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 9:38:46 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 21:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Sasha

**Last name**

Fleming

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2032

**Submission**

Hi,

I am personally dismayed that our country can be considering more coal mines. Half the world is on fire, or experiencing extreme heatwaves, while other parts experience extreme floods. All because of fossil fuels. The recent IPCC report warned we must make dramatic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in the next 10 years or risk catastrophe. I am terrified for my children, and for the planet. Australia is the largest exporter of natural gas and coal - we are the drug dealers selling "ice" to the poor. We must stop - for the sake of our children and the planet. Please reject this project on the grounds it would cause extreme damage to our planet. Which it will. No amount of money can justify such a crime.

Sincerely,  
Sasha Fleming

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 9:36:41 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 21:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Mitchell

**Last name**

Johns

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Rosemeadow

**Submission**

Why on earth with climate change the way it is would we allow for further coal extraction? There are better ways to pump up the economy. Let's not take a backwards step.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 9:24:21 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 21:24

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Zachary

**Last name**

Joseph-Wood

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Bulli, 2516

**Submission**

I'm concerned about this project. At a time of rapid decline in coal production and exportation and necessity to divert before coal becomes a major stranded asset, why are we building new areas for exploration. Putting aside the environmental and social concerns, surely the slim demand for new coal resources doesn't justify its development, particularly when major coal plants across the country have been operating below normal levels for a consistent period of time, indicating the shift away. I desperately urge those it may concern to reevaluate this development, and put the environment and the long-term benefit of the community first.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 9:22:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 21:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

### Name

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

### Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Parkdale

**Submission**

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW 2124

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Parkdale VIC 3195

16/08/21

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am [REDACTED] years of age and have been living in Melbourne, Wurundjeri country all my life. I value Aboriginal sacred sites, and I believe that the Australian government is not doing enough to protect these sites. We can build and build, but we can never bring back places that you choose to destroy.

Issues with the PRIA Process:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and to one tenth by 2050.

Water:

One of the greatest threats is to our region's precious water supplies. This area is rich in natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers<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 Cops 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.

Please put culture and environment over 'profit'.

With kindness,



**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 9:04:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 21:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Tiffany

**Last name**

Wong

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

4101

**Submission**

As the first part of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report was released this month, the evidence states that "Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5)." The proposed mines will exacerbate the effects of climate change through indirect emissions (scope 3). Furthermore, the proposed mines are bordering UNESCO parks and state forests which will affect the species through pollution, land clearing, etc. The long-term effects of the mine are uncertain but will certainly not positively affect the nearby habitats.

The proposed mines should not go forward as it is environmentally detrimental. If you want Australia to be a leading country in the environment and have sustainable development, fossil fuels are not the way.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 9:04:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 21:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2500

**Submission**

In light of worsening climate change and a global shift towards renewable industries, pursuing coal exploration and extraction is counter productive, backwards and only going to be economically, socially and environmentally unsustainable in the long run. As a young person, I am scared for my future when coal exploration licences continue to be handed out. I object to this proposal strongly, alongside many other objectors. There is no place for more coal mining in the Hawkins, so do not even begin to allow or suggest it.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 8:46:02 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:43

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Patricia

#### Last name

Donoghue

#### 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

Patricia Donoghue

[REDACTED]

Katoomba 2780

16th August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 56 years of age and have been visiting and camping in the area for many years.

#### Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,  
 Patricia Donoghue

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 8:32:21 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Wollstonecraft 2065

**Submission**

I am opposed to opening these new areas for coal exploration because coal is a fossil fuel and releasing the land for exploration is a significant step towards building new coal mines and burning more fossil fuels. I am highly concerned about climate change and wish the government would take drastic actions towards using renewable energy sources. This is the opposite. If the government keeps approving new sites for coal exploration and coal mining, it's approving more fossil fuel consumption. By blocking new exploration, existing mines will eventually run out of (economically viable) coal and force a faster switch to renewable energy sources.

In 2019, 2020, and 2021 I have seen the world burn in record-breaking fires caused by drier, hotter weather. As a [REDACTED] year old facing a future full of natural disasters, change away from coal and other fossil fuels cannot come fast enough. I ask my government to stop releasing more land for coal mining.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 8:28:32 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:28

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

**Name**

**First name**

jane

**Last name**

morgan

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Hamilton

**Submission**

Dear Sir/Madam

As a GP and member of Doctors for the Environment Australia ,I object to the release of the Hawkins and Rumker regions for exploration for coal mining.

The IPCC have just released the most dire report on the desperate state of our planet's environment due to human impact and have confirmed this is due to human consumption of fossil fuels leading to global warming and climate change, causing increased frequency of climate events. including prolonged drought,flooding and bushfires; loss of biodiversity and animal habitat ;alteration in rainfall which threatens food production and an increase in vector borne diseases.

To consider any new fossil fuel projects in a country that is so blessed with solar and wind for a sustainable energy supply and to act in defiance of a report compiled by the largest group of world leading climate experts is rash to say the least.Morally reprehensible also comes to mind.

To say nothing of the disrespect it shows to our First Nations People whose original rights to this land are not being addressed, and who have never ceded sovereignty.

Our organisation has multiple evidence based documents to support what I have written.I wish to quote the NSW Rocky Hill Case which was rejected on the grounds of its impact on climate and people: " not now, not ever" is the right time to invest in new coal mining ventures.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jane Morgan

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 8:25:09 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:25

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Nigel

#### Last name

Rice

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

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mt Nasura

#### Submission

We are already in a climate crisis that has indisputably been caused by human activity, especially since the industrial revolution. The effects of mining and burning fossil fuels has been known about and warned about for many decades yet those in power have continued to ignore the science and we are now paying the price with extreme temperatures, floods, droughts, increasingly severe weather events, out of control wildfires, rising seas, acidic oceans..... We are on a path to human annihilation if we do not heed the warnings and act now! The latest IPCC report pulls no punches. Fossil fuel exploration has to stop this year if humanity is to survive. This proposal should not even be on the table. There should be too much to say than that (the survival of humanity - the species that least deserves to survive) however there are a raft of other reasons that underpin why this project MUST NOT go ahead. Climate change WILL kill many more people than Covid ever could and bring much more misery along the way.

The survival of ecosystems and species. Australia leads the world in mammal extinctions. Shame on us! The area in question includes one of the few remaining areas where koalas live - an iconic Australian species that has been driven to the brink of extinction.

Mining undermines our water security as well as food security. Humans cannot live without water. We are one of the most arid countries in the world and we cannot afford to waste our precious water on mining which not only depletes the resource from for humans, plants and animals but also from agriculture. The water used in mining is contaminated and kills. It destroys ecosystems including trees which are one of our few defences against climate change. The Amazon is no longer the lungs of the earth as it now emits more carbon dioxide than it produces oxygen. Trees filter water, soil and air and we cannot survive without them. They provide food and habitat for many species not just humans.

The politicians, bureaucracies and companies today are the ones that determine if humanity lives or dies - literally. We have run out of time to act. The doomsday clock has never been closer to midnight than it is right now.

There are so many alternatives to fossil fuels coal that are already much more economical and provide for many more employment opportunities. There is no social, ethical or moral license to approve this mine.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 8:24:13 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:24

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

R

**Last name**

Buchanan

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2046

**Submission**

This news is appalling, given the news last week about how close we are to total devastation - the gods of coal must not be allowed to mine here, or anywhere!!!!

Robbie Buchanan

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 8:23:48 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Ruth

**Last name**

Carruthers

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Yetman

**Submission**

I am against any new coal fired power plants being developed in NSW. The proposal to mine vast amounts of coal in the beautiful, pristine, Hawkins and Rumker areas is both outrageous and ludicrous. The time of profiting from this extremely dangerous energy source is over. We cannot adequately lower our greenhouse gas emissions while this sort of behaviour continues. Please, instead, switch to exploring only renewable resources which will not damage our planet for future generations. The detrimental effects of climate change are already occurring but we still have time to change course. We can do this! Leave coal in the ground.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 8:23:09 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Kerry

#### Last name

Nettle

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

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

2780

#### Submission

I am opposed to the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped now. I oppose it because of the negative impact on water, native animals and plants, Aboriginal heritage and on the local community's social, health and economic wellbeing. I also have concerns with the consultation process.

I visit Ganguddy-Dunn Swamp campground in Wollemi National Park several times a year. I organise large groups of people, especially children to also visit this area several times a year. This area is very near the proposed coal exploration area. The people I organise to visit this area always love the experience and come back year after year. When I visit, I enjoy seeing the nationally-endangered Spotted-tailed quoll and the Gang Gang cockatoos that rely on an intact local ecological community.

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

The coal exploration area contains high value waterways, covering over 63km of creeks in good or moderate stream condition, which are fragile to disturbance. It includes headwater streams of the Cudgegong River in good condition, which is part of the Macquarie River catchment in the Murray Darling, and the upper catchments of the Goulburn River, which flows into the Hunter and thence to the coast.

The Rumker release area runs along 33km of the border of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Concern has already been raised at the World Heritage Centre and IUCN about the potential impacts of eight mining operations on the boundaries of the site.

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? Coal mining consumes approximately 653 litres for each tonne of coal produced. Even exploratory drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers. Subsidence from exploration and mining can crack rock substrate and lower water tables

The coal exploration areas are lands rich in Wiradjuri heritage. Publicly available data reveal 26 separately recorded sites including rock shelters with painted or engraved art, camp sites and grinding grooves.

The area is part of a very intact landscape with almost two-thirds of it covered in native vegetation and more than 10% known or potential threatened ecological communities.

As mentioned previously, air, water, soil and noise pollution, do not stay within the boundaries of the coal mining sites. The Hunter Valley is now considered a pollution 'hotspot'. It has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW. Air quality would be reduced due to coal dust from blasting, mining and transporting coal. Mines would transform the local area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact the mental wellbeing of the local population. Socioeconomic divides form, as locals are often unable to compete with the high wages of miners who drive up housing and other costs. 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 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. 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. The noise will impact on locals, tourists and animals.

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.

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 increase. This is the very reason strategies such as transitioning communities dependent on coal mining in NSW are required.

I love the local native animals.

There are several records of koalas in the Hawkins area. A scientific study undertaken by BioLink found that 71% of koala populations had been lost in fire-affected areas of NSW after the catastrophic 2019/2020 bushfires.

Other important species recorded in Hawkins-Rumker include the critically endangered recent honeysuckle and the nationally-endangered spotted-

tailed quoll, which is reliant on large, intact habitats with old growth elements to survive. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

I understand that NSW has a goal of net zero emissions as part of looking after our people and planet. This proposal does not help us achieve this goal.

I have problems with the consultation process.

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. DPIE has said the PRIA will be a desktop assessment. However, there is limited data for the area, so conclusions may be drawn without sufficient detail available. The depth of assessment does not sufficiently address issues that would come to light with a full Environmental Impact Statement. Water is likely to be a huge issue as the Hawkins Rumker Ganguddy-Kelgoola areas are instrumental to the health of the Cudgegong River and all that relies on it downstream. This is unlikely to be addressed in a 'preliminary' assessment.

The Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors prepared by the Government is fundamentally flawed. The geographical area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area, and it also states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened flora and fauna. I understand that 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.

I understand that 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. The area most directly impacted by this proposal has poor internet connectivity and contains many people that are not familiar with using the internet. Expected participation dropped rapidly with the move to online meetings.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 8:07:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:07

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Jillian

**Last name**

Pattinson

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Springdale Heights 2641

**Submission**

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

Jillian Pattinson

[REDACTED]  
 Springdale Heights  
 NSW 2641

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

It is obvious to anyone that we need to stop using fossil fuels as soon as possible. Carbon capture and storage is easy. Just leave it in the ground. With the climate changing as it is, with the increase in frequency and severity of major adverse climate events, planning to dig up more coal is criminal. It further increases the risks to humanity and all living creatures.

There are numerous other reasons that this exploration should not go ahead, but besides this they pale into insignificance.

Please think this through properly. Don't go ahead with it.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jillian Pattinson

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 8:06:19 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:06

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**

BINDA

**Submission**

I am a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. As a student I worked in the Rylstone area and I know how important underground water sources are to local farmers. Coal exploration and mining places these water sources under threat.

As a [REDACTED] I know that the records for the last 50 years shows that temperatures have already lifted more than 1.5 degrees. As a [REDACTED] I know that livestock will suffer heat stress with increasing global warming. Farming will become impossible if temperatures increase by 3 degrees. How will we feed the world then?

Mining more coal is lunacy.

Stop it now and go renewable.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 8:04:59 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Klaus

**Last name**

Weber

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

ARANDA

**Submission**

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

Klaus Weber

[REDACTED]

ACT 2614

16/8/2021

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 should not need to repeat here what will or should be well known to the reader. We are in a climate emergency and we are facing climate disaster. The climate crisis is already affecting almost all of us, including in rich nations – but much more so in poorer ones. The facts are clear – we must act with urgency.

Eliminating coal is the lowest hanging fruit in the fight against climate change. We have the technologies to generate electricity cheaply, cleanly and safely – wind and solar, with battery and hydro storage. We can do this everywhere in the world. There is simply no argument to continue to develop new coal fields. Coal does not alleviate poverty overseas – it exacerbates it. It is not cheap – it is expensive. Coal leads to massive health problems from air pollution. The extraction of coal is environmentally extremely damaging.

Given the fact that the world is on the edge of irreversible climate disaster – we are approach tipping points at breakneck speed – to even consider opening up new coal fields is nothing short of criminally insane. It is to be inured to the large-scale climate change – induced suffering we are seeing play out with sickening regularity – the droughts, wildfires, heatwaves, floods, the loss of lives and livelihoods.

If you proceed with this proposal, you are hammering another nail in the coffin that is the future of our younger people. This is unconscionable. You do not have the right to do this.

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

Klaus Weber  
 Professor of Engineering

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 7:51:47 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 19:51

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**

2444

**Submission**

This is a personal plea for some commonsense regarding supporting expanded coal mining in NSW. This proposal is absurd in the face of the accelerating climate change and the world wide drive to renewable energy.

Australia faces trade and political ostracism from the developed world for its failure to act on an acceptable emissions reduction target.

We are going to be best known for environmental destruction, leading the developed world in native species extinction, deforestation and habitat destruction.

There needs to be consideration given to the effects of this proposal on local communities with the prevalence of dust diseases in coal mining communities, effects on groundwater security and local farming activity.

I can see few positives for the people of NSW and Australia in this proposal and I hope that a stand can be taken against expanding a dying industry.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 7:38:11 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 19:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Bullaburra 2784

**Submission**

I am strongly opposed to the proposed exploration for coal mining in the Hawkins Rumker area for many reasons. I have spent time working in this area as a linesman during my apprenticeship and like taking my kids to Danguddy-Dunn's Swamp, a very popular spot for camping , canoeing and bushwalking.

Coal mining in surrounding ares has already had a great impact on water quality and ecosystems , the exploration drilling can drain aquifers and cause permanent damage to natural ground water systems. The springs feed creeks and rivers that flow into the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments.

The Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors also states that there are no known aboriginal objects or declared aboriginal places in the area, I believe this is a blatant lie, not just a disturbing oversight.

There is also a lack of proper community consultation with no transparency in how the government will evaluate the submissions.

Lets put coal mining in our past and protect our water , agriculture and wilderness for the future.

[REDACTED]

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 7:32:38 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 19:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Sarah

**Last name**

Dillane

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Katoomba 2780

**Submission**

Can I just say how astonished I am that this even being considered? This government has stated clearly that moving away from coal is necessary and will happen. I could talk about the beauty of the area, the farming, the local entrepreneurial economy, the water needs, the heritage - but I don't think we should even have to look at that.

Please act for your children, nieces and nephews and go no further with this.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 7:13:13 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 19:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Andrew

**Last name**

Lamond

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Annandale 2038

**Submission**

I wrote the attached letter but realised that the post probably won't make it in time.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 6:57:27 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 18:57

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**

2320

#### Submission

I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration. My concerns centre on the environmental affects of this. There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

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

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

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

The world is movin h away from fossil fuels and to propose a new mine now shows lack of awareness and vision.

[REDACTED]

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 6:57:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 18:57

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**

2120

**Submission**

I am aghast that you would consider opening up new coal mines in this beautiful part of the country.

Coal has no long term economic future, and it's lifetime should not be supported in any manner.

We should only commit to the existing coal mines, not new ones, and even the existing ones should be phased out.

The damage to the planet caused by burning coal is now clearly evident, not just a thing to affect the future.

Apart from the environmental concern caused by carbon pollution, which is of itself sufficient reason to stop coal exploration and stop opening up new mines, the area proposed has water, aboriginal artefacts, and natural environments which would all be directly adversely affected by coal mining.

Congestion on rail links is another unsatisfactory outcome of any new mine in that region.

Please do not allow coal exploration in this region (or any region).

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 6:46:16 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Joseph

**Last name**

Earl

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2100

**Submission**

I cannot believe that the government is even contemplating releasing more areas for coal exploration when the latest IPCC report has made it clear that if humans are to survive on this planet we cannot afford any new fossil fuel mines!

Has anyone in our government read the report?

The best case scenario now indicates warming of between 1.5 and 2 degrees C is locked in. If we continue to open new mines we will exceed 2 degrees of warming and that initiates tipping points where temperature can spiral out of control.

We followed the science for Corona virus and out performed the world. Why can we not follow the science on climate change.

Stop this madness now!

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 6:37:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 18:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Geoffrey

#### Last name

Mell

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

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Lithgow 2790

#### Submission

I'm OPPOSED to the proposal for the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. There's no need for more coal developments.

Compelling scientific evidence I see indicates that crossing the +1.5°C global mean warming threshold (relative to Holocene Epoch pre-industrial age) is now inevitable, and will likely occur before 2030, irrespective of any action humanity takes globally to reduce emissions in the interim. Breaching the Paris upper +2°C warming limit is now likely, before 2050, even with actions more ambitious than the current Paris commitments. On our current greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions trajectory, +3°C is likely early-to-midway through the second half of this century, and +4 and possibly +5°C before 2100.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently published online:

"In terms of CO2 equivalents, the atmosphere in 2020 contained 504 ppm, of which 412 is CO2 alone. The rest comes from other gases."

Levels of the GHG carbon dioxide (CO2) eclipsed 420 parts per million (ppm) for the first time in human history this year, measured and recorded at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii.

The paleo-historical evidentiary record indicates the so-called Mid-Pliocene period was 3 to 4 million years ago, where the atmospheric CO2 levels were in the range of 400 to 450 ppm, global mean temperatures were in the range +2 to +3°C (relative to Holocene Epoch pre-industrial age), and sea levels were in the range 10 to 22 metres higher than now.

Risks of simultaneous crop failure in multiple 'breadbasket' regions of the world increase disproportionately between +1.5 and 2.0°C, so surpassing the +1.5°C threshold will represent an exponentially increasing threat to global food security, and geopolitical stability.

After warming exceeds +2°C, the melting of the Antarctic ice sheet becomes essentially unstoppable, posing huge challenges for coastal adaptation efforts.

If humanity cannot get its GHG emissions rapidly reduced, then it's inevitable progressively more parts of the world will become uninhabitable before 2070, with one to three billion people projected to be left outside the climate conditions that have served humanity well over the past 6,000 years. Absent climate mitigation or migration, a substantial part of humanity will be exposed to mean annual temperatures warmer than nearly anywhere today.

+3°C of warming is described in the scientific literature as being catastrophic, and +4°C is likely to be incompatible with the maintenance of human civilisation. Three to five degrees is clearly an existential threat to human civilisation, the damages for humanity are essentially beyond calculation, and therefore must be avoided whatever it costs.

There is no carbon budget remaining for a safe climate for humanity. Three stages are now required for humanity to mitigate the climate emergency:

1. A deep and rapid decarbonisation of civilisation as soon as possible;
2. "Negative emissions" or atmospheric carbon drawdown, at large-scale to get CO2 levels safely back to well below 350 ppm;
3. Maintain arctic summer sea ice cover.

Australia faces potentially insurmountable challenges to its cities, ecosystems, industries and food and health systems if global mean warming approaches the +3°C threshold or more.

On 18 May 2021, an International Energy Agency (IEA) press release included:

"...from today, no investment in new fossil fuel supply projects, and no further final investment decisions for new unabated coal plants."

On 9 Feb 2021, the world's leading researchers on wholesale energy transitions, some who have been researching for almost two decades the realisation of a complex and secure energy supply with 100% renewable energy, have summarised the findings of their research in a 10-point declaration. The Joint Declaration of the Global 100% RE Strategy Group includes:

"2. A transformation to 100% RE can occur faster than current expectations: the power sector can transform by 2030 and the other sectors soon thereafter. With political will, a transformation of the global energy sector by 2030-35 appears to be possible!"

Despite the NSW Government's stated goal to reach net zero emissions by 2050, various NSW state entities continue to encourage and approve additional new and extensions of existing fossil fuel projects, and investigate the release of new areas in NSW for coal exploration and underground mining. I'd suggest these actions mock the government's hollow aspirations.

For humanity to have any chance of maintaining civilisation as we know it, compelling scientific evidence indicates all coal and fossil methane/ethane/propane gas extraction and use that contribute to further GHG emissions must be rapidly curtailed and eliminated by 2030. Therefore, there is no requirement for opening the Hawkins and Rumker (or any other) areas for new coal exploration.

I urge you to REFUSE the proposal to open the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration. It contributes to increasing the risk of civilisation collapse later this century.

In conclusion, I draw your attentions to some quotes from Professor H.J. Schellnhuber:

- a. "Political reality must be grounded in physical reality or it's completely useless."  
b. "If we don't solve the climate crisis, we can forget about the rest."

What legacy do you wish to leave your descendants and future generations?

Geoff Mell

References:

1. Table 1 in: <https://doi.org/10.5194/esd-12-253-2021>
2. <https://gml.noaa.gov/aggi/>
3. See animation of the Keeling Curve & ice core atmospheric CO2 concentration data in the 0:0:59 duration YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UJsB4HseJs>
4. See/hear from time interval 0:24:51 through to 0:26:45 in the YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QK2XLeGmHtE>
5. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agry.2019.05.010>
6. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/guest-post-overshooting-2c-risks-rapid-and-unstoppable-sea-level-rise-from-antarctica>
7. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1910114117>
8. See/hear from time interval 0:00:36 through to 0:02:24 in the YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvT-6PZOyPE>
9. <https://vimeo.com/527806796>
10. <https://www.science.org.au/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/risks-australia-warmer-world>
11. <https://www.iea.org/news/pathway-to-critical-and-formidable-goal-of-net-zero-emissions-by-2050-is-narrow-but-brings-huge-benefits-according-to-iea-special-report>
12. <https://global100restrategygroup.org/>
13. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/climate-change/net-zero-plan>
14. <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Preliminary-Regional-Issues-Assessment/Consultation-and-feedback>
15. <https://johnmenadue.com/the-net-zero-illusion/>
16. <http://www.ipsnews.net/2009/10/climate-change-four-degrees-of-devastation/>
17. <https://horizon-magazine.eu/article/i-would-people-panic-top-scientist-unveils-equation-showing-world-climate-emergency.html>

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 16/08/2021 6:34:57 PM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Cc: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 18:34

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

Gundy 2337

Submission

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW 2124

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

I am [REDACTED] years of age and have property in the Upper Hunter. As such I have to regularly drive through the devastation that is the Lower Hunter coal belt. Given the recent IPCC report on the dire climate crisis facing humanity which is largely driven by burning of fossil fuels it is unconscionable that the NSW government is even considering such a proposal.

My objection hinges on the following 7 critical areas of concern.

Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

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

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

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

Water

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

...is lost forever.

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

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

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

#### Flora and Fauna

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

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

The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek<sup>16</sup> could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cops 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 in the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas.

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

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

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

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

#### Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

Health effects are already being felt as people experience anxiety and stress about the threat to their region<sup>28</sup> and economic stability.

Yours sincerely,

**I agree to the above statement**  
Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 6:16:43 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Chris

**Last name**

Beal

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Louth

**Submission**

Keep coal in the ground or we will have no planet left to live on

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 6:12:59 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 18:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Amy

#### Last name

Bell

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

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

KATOOMBA

#### Submission

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

#### Amy Bell

[REDACTED]  
 Katoomba NSW 2780

16.8.2021

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 42 years of age and have been living in and visiting Dunn's Swamp (Ganguddy) and surrounds since 1997. Our children are Wiradjuri heritage and camping on country is part of maintaining the culture connection. It is a place for our family and friends to connect and grow, and we look forward to visiting again after the lockdown. The bushfires and covid have interfered with our visits, and after all the distress of the last 2 years, to lose this treasure and important feature in our lives would be devastating.

There is so little hope left for our children, and to do this will bring the reality of their fears into their immediate world. It is bad enough watching the world being destroyed at the expense of the children, but for them to lose the small hope they have is heartbreaking.

You are probably fully aware of the below evidence which further informs that this activity should be denied, and all similar activities never approved.

#### 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.

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

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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.

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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.

Don't let the future be lost to profit for a small few.

Yours sincerely,  
Amy Bell  
(and children)

**I agree to the above statement**  
Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:59:38 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 17:59

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

Timothy

**Last name**

Clifford

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

No

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Glebe 2037

**Submission**

Good day,

I am a concerned Australian who opposes any and all additional coal exploration and mining within our beautiful country.

The science on the negative environmental effects of coal is indisputable. For future generations of Australians to have any chance at living in a country anywhere near as hospitable as what we currently have, fossil fuels need to be kept in the ground.

I am sure you're already well aware the negative impact coal exploration and mining have on the environment, our (very scarce) sources of fresh water and nearby communities. The health and longevity of these far outweigh the short term financial rewards of coal.

Please think of your children and grandchildren who will one day be looking back and asking why we were even considering projects such as this, in the face of a fast environment.

Many thanks,  
 Timothy Clifford

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:57:16 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

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**

2786

**Submission**

I have considerable environmental and social concerns about opening up this area for coal exploration. Given the recent IPCC report, we should be divesting of coal as an urgent priority. These areas are also important social and recreational areas, presenting opportunities to locals and tourists for enjoyment of and education about our natural environment.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:50:13 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Nathaniel

**Last name**

Newman

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2519

**Submission**

I would like to see some action on climate change but all I seem to see is new mines being opened up. I would like to hear of some innovative technologies but all I hear is "clean coal". I would like to feel as if the majority of Australians who believe in climate change and want decisive action are being represented, but whenever I turn on the news I just feel let down, again. I'm almost past being disappointed, I'm hardly shocked or surprised that this government is trying to pass through a new coal mine. The corruption and conflict of interest between government and industry is disgusting and motives have become so in favour of personal interest rather than public that you hardly deserve to be called a government anymore.

But to this mine in particular, look at the region you are wishing to excavate, during a time that is proposed as another mass extinction, you want to consider building an unnecessary mine in a region bordering a national park. What a legacy for this government and the region of Rylstone if this goes ahead. The community doesn't want this mine and the world doesn't want our coal. Put the money where it belongs, investing in a better future, not cementing us in a worse.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:45:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 17:45

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

PAUL

**Last name**

HANNAH

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

KATOOMBA

**Submission**

Please. Just read the IPCC report and ditch this dangerous and reckless proposal.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:43:31 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 17:43

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

John

**Last name**

Philpott

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Coogee 2034

**Submission**

To whom it may concern

I am opposed to the Hawkins Rimmer area being open for coal exploration as the head of the United Nations said we must stop immediately or production of fossil fuels if we want to save the planet.

Regards

John Philpott.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:36:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 17:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Peter

#### Last name

Prineas

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

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Darlington NSW 2008

#### Submission

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

Monday 16 August 2021.

Dear Director,

Submission on the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I wish to state my opposition to the opening to coal exploration of the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas covering about 32,000 hectares of land. My reasons are outlined below. I am not a local resident but I have visited the area a number of times since the 1970s, beginning with my involvement in a public campaign to reserve the nearby Wollemi National Park.

#### 1. Faulty PRIA Process

Community consultations for this proposal were not adequately publicised. They were advertised for 29 and 30 July 2021, yet the portal for online submissions opened on 14 June 2021, only two weeks before. Only landowners whose properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration zones were directly notified. The only other notices were a few advertisements in newspapers. Residents in surrounding areas at Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabbe, Olinda and Kelgoola were not notified even though 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. This is not an adequate consultation.

There is a lack of transparency in the PRIA process for the evaluation of submissions. The Government has not agreed to make the report on the PRIA outcomes publicly available prior to its submission to Cabinet. This is contrary to an Independent Commission Against Corruption finding which stressed the important role of public officials in providing frank and independent advice to a minister and their vulnerability to pressure to change their recommendations to align with a minister's wishes where transparency is lacking.

#### 2. The proposal is contrary to a world wide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

The subject proposal is a preliminary step to coal mining. This is at a time when opening of new coal mines should not be approved by the government in the interests of avoiding dangerous climate change precipitated by CO2 build-up in the atmosphere

The Reserve Bank of Australia, among other authorities, expects international thermal coal demand to decline as renewable electricity generation increases in capacity.

The NSW government has stated its commitment to supporting diversification of coal-reliant regional economies as thermal coal mining is phased out.

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. It may be expected that Australian coal and gas exports will experience an increasingly unfavourable economic environment as many countries impose punitive tariffs, taxes and other disincentives on the trade in fossil fuels.

#### 3. Water

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.

#### 4. Flora and Fauna

NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. Waterways would be disturbed and this could lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.

#### 5. Aboriginal Heritage

There are Aboriginal heritage sites within the affected areas, including art and ceremonial sites. These sites have been ignored so far. They should be protected.

6. Impact on local economy

If the proposal leads to coal mining a significant loss of agricultural production may result. Also, a substantial local tourism industry will be adversely affected. Tourism in the region is centred on vineyards, olive groves, horse studs, beef and sheep farms, eco-tourism, short stay accommodation, restaurants, cafes, antique shops. These activities are incompatible with coal mining.

Coal 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 adversely affects existing business operations as people stop investing or move away. This has already happened in nearby Ulan, Wollar and Bylong.

7. 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' with high respiratory and cardiac illness.

I wish my name to be shown in the PRIA submission site.

Yours sincerely,  
Peter Prineas  
Darlington NSW 2008.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:34:52 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 17:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Mark

**Last name**

Sanguhl

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2203

**Submission**

Hi

Why do we need coal.

Investor in a future for the planet.

Thanks

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:33:46 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 17:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Paul

**Last name**

Osborn

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Wingham 2429

**Submission**

I am strongly opposed to the opening up of the Hawkins-Rumker area for coal exploration. The recently released IPCC report (#6) makes it clear that we must start reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases immediately, and rapidly. Even this will not be enough; we must also begin drawing carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere if we are to have any hope of staying below 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming. We are on a trajectory that will see an unlivable planet in the near future if we do not act now.

Even without the effects on climate change, I would oppose this because I have often been to this area and have found it to be a beautiful part of our magnificent country and any mining here would seriously affect its natural beauty, as well as its abundant wildlife. This area is prime habitat for the endangered Regent Honeyeater as well as other woodland species. I implore you, don't even consider this proposal.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:09:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 17:09

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Pete

**Last name**

Bellew

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Lismore 2480

**Submission**

Another climate wrecking, water guzzling, air polluting, cancerous coal mine planned for our beautiful country. Please keep your filthy money, ideas and investments for your alternative planet. DO NOT DESTROY OURS. We are human beings, part of the great mother nature embedded in this earth along with all other life. Find Planet B and go and live there. Eat your coal and drink your toxic pollutants.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:08:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

Adam

**Last name**

Bartley

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

No

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Surry Hills NSW

**Submission**

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ Blindly ignorant; purposely consciously ignoring historic destruction and permanent loss of Heritage sites, endangered Fauna and Flora. ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

This has to be stopped before it is too late

. Sovereignty has never been ceded.

Digging deeper into the dark ages for Non-renewable sustenance and energy will have unreconcilable costs for the present and for future generations.

The world will call this country to account.

The unsustainable 'Market' will not exist in the very near future.

First Nations have already been subject to the failings replicated all over the Country.

This has to stop now.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 5:03:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 17:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

[REDACTED]

#### Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Camberwell 3124

#### Submission

I am opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped now because of the following reasons:

#### 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 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

mining is becoming more economically viable, opening up new areas for coal mining in the Hawkesbury region, which is a significant threat to the environment 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.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 4:52:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 16:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Denise

#### Last name

BELL

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

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Willoughby 2068

#### Submission

I am joining the many people who are against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

There is no future in establishing any new coal mines in Australia and it is vital that our government heed the warnings in the recent IPCC report. There are so many reasons why this proposal shouldn't go ahead. I can't believe that any experts you consult in making your decision would not know them, unless your only consultation is with the mining industry or others with a vested interest.

Coal mining in this region would cause:

- damage to our waterways and our native animals and plants
- further air pollution and the consequent risks to residents' health
- risks to first nation's heritage sites, including art and ceremonial sites
- disruption to the community caused by the infrastructure, management of extracting and transporting the coal, influx of transient workers
- disruption to other well established industries eg thriving tourism – people don't come to see coal mines/coal trucks
- adverse effects to approximately 180 landholders and agricultural land

Profits won't come to the region and the only other apparent benefit ever cited for mining is jobs, but few additional local jobs will be created as mining is more and more automated and reliant on people with specialist skills.

- Only two per cent of NSW government revenue comes from coal royalties – the other 98 per cent comes from other sources.
- Only five per cent of Hunter Valley jobs are in the coal industry – in other words, 95 per cent of Hunter workers do not work in the coal industry.

And then there's the climate! Australian business, banks, the rest of the world is moving away from coal and we will be left with a dinosaur – or stranded assets in more modern terms.

- Declining demand globally, including from Japan and Korea, is forecast according to the NSW government's 2021 Intergenerational report
- Reserve Bank anticipates demand to decline
- World movement is away from coal:
  - o The G7 agreed to end government support for new coal power by end of 2021
  - o The International Energy Agency has called for an immediate ban
  - o Relentlessly, sometimes despite governments, cities and countries across the globe are moving to renewable energy sources

Your own strategic statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW refers to a need for coal to give our "coal-reliant communities time to adapt".

Firstly, this area is not reliant on coal. More importantly, haven't you had enough time to "adapt"? We have had the signs for the need to halt coal mining for decades. Future generations should not have to pay the price for governments that failed to heed the science and plan.

Denise Bell

PS. Have you read the IPCC report?

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 4:46:31 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 16:46

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Tina Marie

**Last name**

Sheil

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

LEURA

**Submission**

Ganguddy-Dunn's Swamp is a place tranquility and beauty and is enjoyed by many many people who regularly visit (whether to camp or on day trips).

This area holds a special place in my family's heart.

Please do not let it be destroyed by mining.

Thank you for listening.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 4:38:37 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 16:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Brian

**Last name**

Croker

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

GLENORIE

**Submission**

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment dated 16th August 2021.

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

I have read all the material contained in this proposal, for & against the project, & I wish to present my sincere objection to this proposal, under the broad heading; NOT IN MY BACKYARD. I heartily concur with all those who would be affected detrimentally, whom I regard as my neighbors, with whom I love & stand in solidarity therewith. You have a duty of care to do no harm, I thank you for a favorable outcome, in terminating this proposal forthwith.

Brian Croker Glenorie SYDNEY 2157.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 4:37:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 16:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Is

#### Last name

Guillemin

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

No

## Info

#### Email

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Lawson, NSW

#### Submission

Dear Minister,

I am extremely concerned that your government seem to even consider the exploration and development of coal mines anywhere in Australia in 2021! But even more appalled when I see which areas are considered. After the fires, the government! Forested landscapes bordering a World Heritage Area are in peril because of a government who should protect them.. They are threatened as part of the NSW government's 2020 Coal Strategy. I am writing to ask you to cancel the development of coal exploration and mining in the eight areas identified by the NSW coal strategy.

The impacts to biodiversity would be irreversible. "Ganguddy-Kelgoola" is one of the proposed coal leases bordering the Wollemi National Park and Wilderness Area and covers a precious area of bush known as Coricudgy state forest, incredibly precious to First Nations as well as the inhabitants of the Wollemi and Blue Mountains. 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. Some of the targeted area is at the top of the catchment for Wollemi Creek, one of the most important wild rivers zones in the state. These ancient rivers, flowing through deep gorges would be exposed to toxic run-off from coal mining. The Wollemi Wilderness Area is also home to the Wollemi Pine, a species that has survived 60 million years. The potential coal leases also surround Ganguddy-Dunns Swamp, a significant site to the local Aboriginal peoples. The biggest equivalent bushfire of all time started only 20kms from here at Gosper's Mountain. With the local wildlife and biodiversity devastated by fire, it's now more important than ever we protect our wild places and native animals from coal expansion.

The Greater Blue mountains World Heritage Area has no buffer zones and thus is at risk of these coal mines being constructed right up to its doorstep—an unacceptable risk to these globally significant places that are unlike anywhere else on Earth.

Some of the sites identified for coal mines including Corricudgy State Forest are currently being assessed by the Australian Heritage Commission as part of a process to inscribe them on the National Heritage List as a step towards including them in the World Heritage Area itself. These areas at risk are objectively of World Heritage Value and should be treated as such.

Australia does not need more coal resources as renewables are displacing the need for coal fired power. Coal is the most significant single contribution to the climate crisis. We are already experiencing more extreme weather events directly caused by a warming world due to burning fossil fuels. Burning more fossil fuels is only going to make the climate crisis worse with more unprecedented storms, floods, droughts, heatwaves and fires. The 19/20 catastrophic bushfires witnessed the loss of over 1 billion native animals and 6 million hectares of some of the most biodiverse forests in the world. Without urgent action, the situation will get exponentially worse—especially for our most vulnerable communities. For a safe, liveable climate, we need to keep fossil fuels in the ground. For clean air, clean water and a safe future we need a just transition away from coal. This will bring us closer to the clean and abundant energy future all Australians deserve.

Please intervene now to cancel the development of coal exploration and mining in the eight areas identified by the NSW coal strategy—before our world heritage is auctioned off.

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 4:27:18 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 16:27

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Christine

**Last name**

Mfsud

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Springwood 2776

**Submission**

At the outset, let me say I am opposed to any new coal mining operation. The recent IPCC report strengthens my resolve. Governments need to hear this call and not be giving green lights to new fossil fuel proposals. We have so much potential in our State to invest in renewables.

In relation to this specific proposal I have several concerns.

The area is one of great beauty and the area surrounding it attracts tourists. I know of at least two families who are hoping to set up tourist accommodation on their properties. Coal mining is not compatible with small scale tourism. It very much favours big business over small grass roots enterprises.

The area also has significance for Aboriginal people, being the location of several sites of cultural importance for the original custodians of these lands.

I am concerned about the visual impact on an area of great natural beauty and the potential negative effects on groundwater.

The citizens of NSW have gone through enough in recent times, both in our cities and rural areas. While coal mining might provide short term jobs, it exacerbates climate change and damages an area of natural beauty.

Thankyou  
 Christine Mfsud

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 4:20:44 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 16:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Michael

**Last name**

Streatfeild

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

West Hoxton 2171

**Submission**

I am a retired NSW police officer. I am a father of four and grandfather of two. I oppose the release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for new coal exploration. I am fearful of the accelerating impacts of climate change and the future we are leaving for our children. I am worried not only about the environmental consequences but the economic consequences of not embracing a clean energy future. The recent IPCC report on climate change has confirmed my fears.

I have been very pleased to hear of new renewable energy initiatives proposed by the NSW Environment Minister, Matt Kean. For the NSW Government to now open up the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration flies in the face of the new initiatives and the NSW Government's commitment to zero emissions by 2050. Even the International Energy Agency has realised the damage of continued burning of fossil fuels, calling for an immediate ban on new oil, coal and gas development. As the IPCC report states, we need to urgently transition away from burning fossil fuels so I cannot understand why the NSW Government wishes to encourage new coal mining operations.

I urge the NSW Government to act in the interests of the public of NSW and cease canvassing coal exploration in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 16/08/2021 4:17:25 PM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Cc: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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

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

Springwood, NSW 2777

Submission

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW 2124

[REDACTED]

Springwood NSW 2777

16th August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am 59 years of age and have been living visiting the area for 27 years. I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My reasons are outlined below.

#### Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

The community consultation 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 a consultation with a population of nearly 3000 people?

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

Worldwide trend is 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 could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cox's Creek are thoroughly unique 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 neighboring 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 traveling to and from work. The quality of our roads is already very poor and they are not suited to increase 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 kilometers.

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.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 4:15:50 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 16:15

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**

2000

**Submission**

To whom it should concern,

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

Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

The community consultation 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 and independent advice to a minister and noted that public officials continue to remain vulnerable to potential demands to change recommendations to align with a minister's wishes.

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

Water

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

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

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

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



## Flora and Fauna

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

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

The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek<sup>16</sup> could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cops 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 Bulong.

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.

This is plain wrong, I implore you to see reason.

Please do the right thing, don't be another pig at the trough style of decision maker.

Best,



**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 4:15:23 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 16:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Nadia

**Last name**

Warne

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2039

**Submission**

am opposed to coal exploration in the Hawkins Rumker area.

We do not need more environmental destruction caused by mining and more climate destroying coal.

The process causes irreversible damage to precious water aquifers, and negatively effects local native animal and plant eco systems .

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 4:06:04 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 16:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Kirsty

**Last name**

Edwards

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Blackheath

**Submission**

The area of Rylstone holds true value and beauty for the community. Around Dunns Swamp bushfires raged only a couple of years ago and the unique environment and animals are still in a long recovery. Any mining will further devastate this pristine and community loved land.

No to mining in Rylstone and surrounds.

Kirsty Edwards

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 4:03:12 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 16:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Kevin

#### Last name

O'Rourke

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

No

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

GLENBROOK

#### Submission

Endorsing the construction of a Coal Mne makes zero economic or environmental sense in Australia:

1. does not need more coal -  
[https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/pubs/rp/rp0809/09rp09](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp0809/09rp09) ,
2. will be significantly affected by climate change at todays levels without increasing the use of coal chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgldefindmkaj/viewer.html?  
pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ipcc.ch%2Fsite%2Fassets%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F02%2FWGIIAR5-Chap25\_FINAL.pdf&clen=5333719&chunk=true
3. is a laggard globally on reduction of the carbon footprint to avert climate disaster and is at the top of the per capita emissions league table

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgldefindmkaj/viewer.html?  
pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ipcc.ch%2Fsite%2Fassets%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F02%2FWGIIAR5-Chap25\_FINAL.pdf&clen=5333719&chunk=trueand

4. has the highest renewable potential base-load potential per capita of any continent. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgldefindmkaj/viewer.html?  
pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ipcc.ch%2Fsite%2Fassets%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F02%2FWGIIAR5-Chap25\_FINAL.pdf&clen=5333719&chunk=true

The destruction of the Bylong Valley will benefit nobody in the community and lead to long term ecological ruin.

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:55:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Andy

**Last name**

Telfer

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

EAST CORRIMAL (NSW) 2518

**Submission**

Please don't build this coal mine.

This would be a stupid and dangerous idea on the basis that the planet is on a trajectory of heating up at an alarming rate because of fossil fuels, which already is and will continue to get far more catastrophic... The new IPCC report has warned us... why invest in more coal mines? As a 24 year-old I find this deeply insulting to those of us who will be experiencing the damage of future catastrophic climatic events.

We need smart investment for the future of our economy which is deeply grounded in an inhabitable planet, running water, healthy soils and land to farm. Expanding coal into this region in 2021 is a nothing short of a joke, where is the social, economical and environmental reasoning behind this investment? Where is the justice to the future generations in this investment? Where is the justice for the local Wiradjuri people?

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:53:56 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

Dan

**Last name**

Stroede

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

No

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

3204

**Submission**

To who it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about the planned coal mine in the Hawkins and Rumker area (or any other area for that matter). It's so important that we as humans do the right thing to this planet. A coal mine is a step in the wrong direction. It causes a lot of danger and damage. And do you really want to be part of this? Please consider the following points of concerns about this protect:

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

I really hope that you can make the right decision for nature, animals and humankind. We need to work to repair the planet that humans have abused for so many years and now we are in a very serious crisis. Every action from now is a make or break move. I beg of you to be on the right side of history and make the planet again. It can be so simple.

Thanks for your time.

Best regards

Dan Stroede

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:47:40 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2074

#### Submission

I am writing this submission in firm opposition to the proposed exploration for coal in the Hawkins and Rumker regions. I am a NSW resident who visits the region but am writing this submission as someone who is concerned about the environmental impact of coal on the people and habitat of the area.

The environmental impact of coal locally would be devastating for this region including, but by no means limited to, its impact on water and the health of the residents and local flora and fauna.

The environmental impact further afield is not something that can be ignored either. With the IPCC report out last week giving a very grim picture on the global environment in regards to climate change, this proposal to explore for more coal is incomprehensible and embarrassing to NSW and Australia.

Water in regional NSW is life. With the increased effects of climate change increasing droughts and fires, all water supplies that are in the region are required for the residents and potential risks that these disasters bring. The thought that the government would think it is ok to take these resources for a project that is not wanted by the local, regional, national or international communities is reprehensible.

Waterways are ecosystems that take time to cultivate. Once contaminated/damaged, the flow on effects to the whole ecosystem are compromised which then have down stream effects to additional regions and communities.

Coal not only consumes water but contaminates it as well, not to mention the damage it can cause to underground aquifers through exploratory drilling. Water is not in endless supply, once it is gone, there is no bringing it back.

The effects of water not only impacts humans in the region but also the flora and fauna, which of course have their own ecosystems. The introduction of coal to these systems is disastrous. The pollution of coal, the physical devastation of habitats above and below ground means a complete destruction for this level of life. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA, the government would not threaten the lives and homes of people, and yet they are willing to consider threatening the life and homes of our environment by considering this exploration of coal.

The effects on human health can not be ignored either. The

Hunter Valley region has some of the highest rates for hospital admissions for both respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW (Respiratory and cardiovascular diseases

and cancer among residents in the Hunter New England Area Health Service, NSW Department of Health).

Pollution effects different people in different ways but should in no way be ignored as a serious consequence of coal. Coal mining not only produced pollution through the production itself, but also through the heavy traffic that it creates, whether that is via rail or road.

Another area of health that needs to be considered is that of mental health. This PRIA process itself, let alone the potential exploration for coal has already had an impact on the mental health of the local community.

The benefits do not outweigh the risks in this situation.

The NSW Government has a responsibility to the health and well-being of the people and the environment of this region, exploration of coal violates this responsibility.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:45:26 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:45

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**

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.

Yet another documented set of effects that mining could have on the region concerns native animals and plants. There are a number of endangered species as well as other ecological features which could be compromised. Personally, when visiting the area, the fact that I am able to see plants and animals that are not widely found elsewhere is special. I am not interested in visiting an industrialized area that willfully compromises its precious natural habitats.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:44:06 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

### Name

#### First name

Mignon

#### Last name

Bonwick OAM

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

No

### Info

#### Email

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

2106

#### Submission

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

Mignon Elizabeth Bonwick

[REDACTED]  
 Newport 2106

Date: 16th August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 70 years of age and have been visiting the area for the past 10 years. I find this area to be refreshing after the confinement of metropolitan Sydney. Each year we visit and stay with friends at Rylstone. I have always treasured these times and enjoyed exploring the area.

I believe the Hawkins Rumker REF that has been prepared by Government to be a flawed document. It is stated that there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area and no threatened flora and fauna. I don't believe that to be correct. I also understand that that the area does not even correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area. It would seem the Government's exploration process is indeed flawed and has not got this right.

Community Consultation was not even offered until June 2021 and then many people in local towns received nothing. The people in the surrounding towns would not know about the potential new coal release areas and yet they receive their water from the potential release areas. This is very concerning and would seem quite underhand.

Over the past 10 years at least, we have been made aware of the Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources. This year, the G7 has committed to end public support for unabated coal generation by end of 2021.

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.

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. So why is this happening? I do know that Adani has struggled for support from so many international insurance companies. No one will insure them at this stage. Believe me people do NOT want these polluting mines in their backyard.

Coal mines need water and this particular area is rich with bores and natural springs. It has shown that the impact of a mine and exploration has a significant impact on water resources. Drilling can crack and drain the aquifers as it has in several areas of NSW. It can cause water contamination as it has in the Tamworth area. This has a huge impact on an area and can destroy whole towns.

Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species, let alone the flora and fauna. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. This is of huge concern. I have seen the unsightly, industrialised area in the Hunter. It is quite a scary landscape. Absolutely huge. Mines near this beautiful World Heritage area would definitely negatively impact this amazing area. Tourism would disappear.

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. Again this will impact on the tourism industry and the local economy. Agriculture will be lost, farms disappear. And again another industry destroyed.

I know as a tourist I certainly don't go to areas to see huge open mines. Rylstone for instance I have watched grow over the years. It has so much character. I have also noticed more cars visiting the area over the past 5 years (prior to Covid) 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 etc. These businesses are incompatible with mining. Tourists do not come to see coal mines! We certainly





From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 16/08/2021 3:43:25 PM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Cc: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:43

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Lisa

#### Last name

Knight

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

No

## Info

#### Email

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

ALSTONVALE

#### Submission

##### 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?

##### 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.

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:40:34 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Simon

**Last name**

Croker

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Centennial Park 2021

**Submission**

It is nonsensical to be considering this area for coal exploration in light of the recent IPCC report.

Australia's total annual emissions are currently around 528 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. If fully mined, this new coal area would release four times that amount — 2.2 billion tonnes.

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 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.'

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:40:20 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Roy

**Last name**

Bishop

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Chippendale

**Submission**

I am opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped now. This proposal threatens water supply, local environments plants and wildlife. It threatens First Nations heritage and cultural sites, which have not even been assessed in the EIS.

NSW has a net zero plan that this project will undermine. Further the latest IPCC identifies that we must stop further fossil fuel use if we are to stabilise global warming and prevent climate collapse. This project threatens the future of everyone on the planet and should be refused outright.

Please refuse this proposal and stop it being considered any further.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:33:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Mguel

**Last name**

Heatwole

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Annandale, 2038

**Submission**

Coal mining unconscionably pollutes our environment with toxic chemicals that threaten our groundwater, and it leads to carbon dioxide emissions that trigger catastrophic climate change, with the release of methane capable of exterminating oxygen-reliant species across the planet, including ourselves. Every effort should be made to hold this destructive activity in check.

Catastrophic climate change represents a far graver threat to Australia than it has ever faced. It dwarfs the armies of Imperial Japan in World War II. It is therefore time for heroic action to face the problem, and the best way to do so is to support alternative energy which creates jobs and better health for our citizens.

So it's time to stop helping the fossil fuel industry. Metaphorically speaking, it is time to stop the Menzies government from selling pig iron to Japan. Let's make some strong and positive investment in clean renewable energy!

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:30:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:30

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

2777

**Submission**

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

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:28:30 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:28

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Adam

**Last name**

Nelson

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Katoomba 2780

**Submission**

Please do not open up the Rylstone district to new coal mines.  
Coal mining will destroy rivers and creeks that so many people love and visit.  
It will also accelerate the greenhouse effect and therefore imperil the future of life and civilisation on planet Earth.  
Stop this madness now stop!

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:00:33 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:00

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**

2478

**Submission**

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW 2124

[REDACTED]

Ballina NSW 2478

16 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins-Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

Global move away from coal

To place my objection in context, the recent IPCC report and declaration of a Code Red for climate is an urgent warning to developed nations like ours that we should not be approving any sort of large-scale development, like coal mines, now or in the future. This is an irresponsible act that will contribute to increasing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, whether it is consumed in Australia or overseas.

That is why developed economies around the world, such as the United States, United Kingdom and the European community are moving towards more environmentally sustainable methods of generating power. This year, the G7 has committed to end public support for unabated coal generation by end of 2021.

Australia exports 75 per cent of its coal to Japan, South Korea and China. These countries have followed other countries in this worldwide trend and committed to move away from fossil fuels, which will result in decreased demand for coal. Recognising this move away from coal, 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 Reserve Bank of Australia has also recognized the movement away from thermal coal and anticipates demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable.

At a policy level in NSW, this proposal appears to contradict the government's Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW released in June 2020, where one of its four actions is supporting diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phase-out of thermal coal mining.

Water

I work in the water and agricultural sectors and have a great awareness of threats to water that climate change presents. The area where the exploration has been approved is rich in natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek 16 could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cox's Creek is thoroughly unique 16 and would be under threat.

Mines would transform this beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact on the value of the amazing World Heritage area so close to Australia's biggest urban area, Sydney.

#### Aboriginal heritage

For too long have governments ignored the important Aboriginal heritage values of an area when approving development e.g., Juukan Gorge in WA. 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.

#### 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.

#### Social and health implications

Air, water, soil and noise pollution, do not stay within the boundaries of the coal mining sites. The neighbouring Hunter Valley is now a pollution 'hotspot' and has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW.

There would be a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on local and rural roads. Traffic incidents increase from mine workers travelling to and from work. The quality of the area's 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 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 and economic stability.

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

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:02:39 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:02

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

Jolieske

#### Last name

Lips

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

No

## Info

#### Email

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

Clandulla

#### Submission

I oppose the opening up of the Hawkins/Rumker areas for coal exploration.

It beggars belief that the NSW Government is still thinking about opening up greenfield coalmining – or isn't the Dept of Planning aware of the Government's 2050 net zero emissions target? Digging up more coal to burn to add more carbon to the atmosphere will work against this target.

We are already one fifth into the 21st century and despite warnings from scientists, our governments will not take climate change seriously. However other people are. The International Energy Agency's, "World Energy Outlook", predicts that by 2030, global coal demand under the Stated Policies Scenario is 9% lower than anticipated pre-COVID and 17% lower under the Sustainable Development Scenario, as well as being lower in absolute terms, (IEA2020). NSW Treasury's latest Inter-Generational Report has NSW coal volumes under the most optimistic "Higher Global Coal Demand" scenario lower than current volumes by no later than about 2040, by about 2030 for its "Reference Case" and as already having peaked under the "Lower Global Coal Demand" scenario, in which NSW coal production is predicted to cease by 2042. There are currently enough coal mines approved and operating in NSW to meet projected demand for the next thirty years.

Opening up the Hawkins and Rumker areas contradicts the Government's own strategic statement about the future of coal and is diametrically opposed to the stated intent of "giving our coal reliant communities time to adapt". This region is not reliant on coal. As others have stated: this reasoning is analogous to stating drug rehabilitation is needed while introducing heroin to a community! We already have a good, resilient, varied economy in our immediate region. Introducing coal mining will not strengthen our local economy but only harm it. I know of someone already putting their new venture on hold because of the PRIA and just down the road our community has witnessed the destruction, while even still in exploration phase, of the once vibrant Bylong community - with finally the store there now closed.

Climate issues aside there are other compelling reasons why these areas should NOT be opened up for coal exploration:

- Negative impact on the community – even just floating the idea has already caused much stress to hundreds of people (180 affected landholders plus their families plus many in the towns) and we are still struggling to recover from the 2019 fires;
- Negative impact on water resources (see other submissions for the technical details which I will not repeat here);
- Negative impacts on Aboriginal Heritage – there are lots of sites in this area which many locals know about but despite the documented official records the Dept chose to ignore the presence of these in their 2015 Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors. This mistake must not be repeated;
- Negative impact on and loss of biodiversity;
- Negative effect on the local economy not to mention the high likelihood that the coal mines in the proposed release area would end up uneconomic (see above re reduced demand of coal) and be abandoned. The community and NSW taxpayer would then have to pay for the clean-up and remediation of these stranded assets.

In the interests of brevity, I have not given detailed arguments and references to back up my statements as I know other organisations are doing that. No need to repeat it all. You have the information.

Our community implores you to abandon coal exploration. While we understand selling exploration licences raises revenue as does royalties on coal, we now live in a fast changing world where new technologies and modalities of living should present new sources of revenue to a creatively thinking government.

Please do not open the Hawkins/Rumker areas for coal exploration.

#### I agree to the above statement

Yes



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:15:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:14

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

## Name

#### First name

[REDACTED]

#### Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

## Info

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Suburb/Town & Postcode

SILVERWATER

#### Submission

I live in Lake Macquarie LGA and am a regular visitor to the Rylstone/ Mudgee Area. I believe that now is the time to protect our natural resources. Tomorrow is too late.

OUR STATE IS ALREADY TOO SHORT OF WATER.

I am opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped now. Haven't we learned lessons from History? See what happened in the Snowy River to Murray River area.

#### THE EFFECTS ON WATER SOURCES

- One of the greatest threats is to our region's precious water supplies. The recent drought we had a few years back on the Eastern Coast showed us how debilitating it is further west. When the earth is brown – your spirit is brown too – we need water and we need green.
  - 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?
- [www.rylstonecfc.com](http://www.rylstonecfc.com) [www.facebook.com/rylstonecfc](https://www.facebook.com/rylstonecfc) [www.twitter.com/NoCoalRylstone](https://www.twitter.com/NoCoalRylstone) 2
- 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. [www.rylstonecfc.com](http://www.rylstonecfc.com) [www.facebook.com/rylstonecfc](https://www.facebook.com/rylstonecfc) [www.twitter.com/NoCoalRylstone](https://www.twitter.com/NoCoalRylstone) 3
  - 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. <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/seeing-through-the-dust-coal-in-the-hunter-valley-economy/>

• 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

mining is increasing, more substantially, requiring better prospect areas and resources, thereby making it more difficult to find new areas 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

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

These are a very few of the issues concerning us. Be a Statesperson- step up to the plate and make decisions which enable and benefit the local community.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/08/2021 3:21:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Cesidio

**Last name**

Parissi

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Lawson, 2783

**Submission**

Director Energy and Resources Policy  
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,

Dear Sir/Ms,

I am very concerned at the possibility that the Hawkins and Rumker lots near Mudgee will be open to exploration for coal.

1. This must not go ahead, especially due to the recent findings of the IPPC. Coal must be left in the ground if we are to survive well on this planet.  
2. That these original Wiradjuri lands will be opened up to mining if the approvals go ahead is a further insult to the travesties that have been visited on the people, and culture, and cultural heritage of the Wiradjuri people. There are over 20 known sites of Aboriginal cultural value on this land - they must not be endangered by this proposal.

3. The values of the beautiful land, waters, and biodiversity of the area must be placed over the value of dirty coal and the CO2 pollution that it will create. Even if it was only the preservation of Koala habitat to be taken into account, then this approval must not go ahead.

No to this proposal for dirty coal mining.

Yours sincerely,

Cesidio Parissi, PhD.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes