

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 4:04:08 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 16:02

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Carol

Last name

Ray

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Scone 2337 NSW

Submission file

[submission.docx](#)

Submission

submission uploaded

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW 2124

Carol Ray
[REDACTED]

SCONE 2337 NSW

17th August 2021

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 me are outlined below.

I am 71 years of age and have been visiting the area for 50 years.

The PRIA Process Issues

The Government prepared REF The Hawkins Rumker that is fundamentally flawed. . One question how the government can assure that any future exploration licenses would include "*strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values*" when their **own exploration process** couldn't get it right. 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 fauna

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**. 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

NO notifying of a potential new coal release to nearly 3000 residents live in surrounding areas of 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?
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.

A consultation, really ! How could this possibly be a real attempt with a population of nearly 3000 people? When the community consultation meetings were capped at four groups of 50 people, with one of these to be held in Mudgee.

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 Government has **not agreed** to make the report on the PRIA outcomes **publicly available** prior to its submission to Cabinet----WHY not?

There is no transparency in how the Government will weight and evaluate the submissions during the PRIA process.

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

The Hawkins Rumker proposed release areas in 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. threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted.
Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species

Flora and Fauna

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

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.

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 for future generations to study their heritage. Our laws are inadequate to protect these sites and significant sites have already been destroyed by mining.

Impact on current local economy

32,000 ha of land and would directly affect 180 landholders. Large areas would become coal mines by the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas. 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 and a huge scar on this beautiful land forever.

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.

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. 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.

These businesses are incompatible with mining: **tourists do not come to see coal mines.**

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.

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.

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. Miners do live in a mining area but travel hours living in another area.

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

Health & Social Implications

Health effects are already being felt as people experience anxiety and stress about the threat to their region and economic stability. Mines can be associated with increased rates of alcohol and drug abuse, violence, sexual assaults, and other crimes in adjoining communities.

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

Vibration and Noise 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.

The quality of our roads is already very poor and they are not suited to increased or heavy load traffic.

Historically, mines in a council area have been loath to put money into fixing any traffic issues created by mine traffic, including heavy vehicles on our local and rural roads. Traffic incidents increase from mine workers travelling to and from work.

I wish my name to be not withheld from the PRIA submission site:

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Carol Ray

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 3:44:32 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [wollemi-submission-aug.doc.docx](#)

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Frances

Last name

Fagan

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Wingham 2429. NSW

Submission file

[wollemi-submission-aug.doc.docx](#)

Submission

I am objecting to the proposal on Climate Change , environmental and financial grounds....See document above>

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW 2124

Ms Frances Fagan
[REDACTED]

Wingham 2429 NSW

17 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am a retired clinical psychologist and keen bushwalker and nature lover. I am also very aware of the release last week of the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This report contains dire warnings to us all about our Climate and Ecological Emergency. There has also been a leaked part of the IPCC's report reported in the Guardian, which was to be released in March 2022.

This leaked document says that global greenhouse emissions must peak in the next 4 years if we are to keep temperature rises below 1.5 degrees C. It reaffirms the need to halve emissions in the next decade, and says no new fossil fuel development can take place if the world is to stay within 1.5 degrees of heating.

Our TV news coverage at present is enough to convince most people that the Climate Emergency is already happening. We see catastrophic fires in Southern Europe, Russia, Canada and the Western U.S., and Brazil, and major flooding in China, Japan and Western Europe.

Another issue I have with coal exploration is to do with water. Mining always seems to require large quantities of water. As Australia is the world's driest continent, I believe we should cherish our water as a precious commodity, while we still have it. Contamination of water or draining of aquifers would be problematic for local communities, and also for livelihoods of locals, and for animals and vegetation.

Another important problem with the current coal exploration proposal is that most of our trading partners are moving towards renewable energy, and the demand for Australia's thermal coal is declining. A new coal mine in the area would be a destructive way of creating a stranded asset.

If the IPCC guidelines are to be taken seriously, the above coal exploration should not go ahead. The IPCC report summarises the evidence. I believe the future viability of our planet is of utmost importance.

Yours Sincerely
Frances Fagan.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 2:38:34 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkins-rumker-objection.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 14:37

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

Coogee 2034

Submission file

[hawkins-rumker-objection.docx](#)

Submission

My letter of objection is attached as a word document.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

[REDACTED]
Coogee
NSW 2034

August 17, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

For more than 30 years, I have co-owned a property at [REDACTED] Ilford, near Bradleys Head, just south of the area proposed for exploration.

In the more than 30 years we have had the property we have witnessed a drop in the water table, the disappearance of wildlife, severe drought conditions and dying bush, not too mention the scarring of the surrounding landscapes from open cut mining and exploration ventures. It beggars belief that coal mining can still be considered a viable proposition with the Earth warming and the dire warnings from the latest IPCC report. I object to the proposal on the grounds listed 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 Creek¹⁶ could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cocks Creek is thoroughly unique¹⁶ and would be under threat.

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

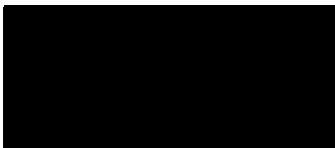
There would be a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on our local and rural roads. Traffic incidents increase from mine workers travelling to and from work. The quality of our roads is already very poor and they are not suited to increased or heavy load traffic. Historically, mines in this council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

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

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

Please withhold my name from the PRIA submission site.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 2:22:58 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [preliminary-refional-issues-assessment-hawkins-rumker-submission-aug-2021.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 14:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Angela

Last name

Burrows

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Suburb/Town & Postcode

North Sydney

Submission file

[preliminary-refional-issues-assessment-hawkins-rumker-submission-aug-2021.docx](#)

Submission

I am a mother of four and grandmother of ten and very concerned to protect them and future generations from the current climate crisis being caused by human activity and especially coal and other fossil fuel mining and burning.

I therefore object to this release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas, located about 30 km east of Mudgee NSW, for coal exploration.

See also File attached.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Submission against Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

I am distressed and angry to see the NSW State government considering this exploration application for yet another coal mine. This proposition flies in the face of the scientific evidence and advice that carbon emissions must be halted if we have any chance of curbing the Climate emergency threatening both Australia and the world.

The recent IPCC report released Aug 2021 was described by UN Secretary General as:

**'code red for humanity',"The alarm bells are deafening and the evidence is irrefutable: Greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk," he said."This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet.*

"The viability of our societies depends on leaders from government, business and civil society uniting behind policies, actions and investments that will limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius."

NSW state government must take notice and halt ALL further fossil fuel development in the state. Fossil fuels must be kept in the ground. This mining exploration must be refused. Coal is the most destructive single contributor to the climate crisis.

Whilst paramount this is not the only objection I have to this mining exploration proposal. Briefly they are as follows:

1. NSW does not need any more coal, we have more than enough renewable energy options which do not cause climate damage and more cost effective.
2. We need forests and vegetation as they act as both heat sinks and carbon dioxide absorbers. They protect the land from extremes. Forests and national parks must be protected and safeguarded not exploited.
3. Forests and vegetated land provide habitat for wildlife and biodiversity and agriculture provides essential food.
4. Destruction of beautiful landscape diminishes the growing economic value of tourism.
5. Coal mining is invasive, destroys land, communities, creates dust, noise and light pollution, and poor air quality together with serious cardiac and respiratory health problems adding to government costs for health services
6. Mining destroys local and rural countryside and makes ugly scars on the landscape. Insufficient remediation is undertaken leaving a toxic legacy for future generations.

7. Increasing traffic movements created noise pollution
8. With increasing mechanisation and robots the economic and jobs value of coal mining is no longer an excuse for destroying the land in this way.
9. Destruction of forests threatens water supplies, coal mining uses a lot of precious water, detonation for coal causes cracking of rocks and leads to subsidence, damages aquifers, lowers water tables and exacerbates droughts..
10. Coal mining causes pollution of water, and damages biodiversity in water ways, drains valuable swamps essential for water catchment filtering and purification.
11. There are significant Aboriginal heritage sites in the exploration area which must be documented and preserved not disregarded and wantonly destroyed.

This project must be rejected without further waste of public funds. No more fossil fuel projects should be accepted. We have only this one planet. Government and public service time and energy must be focused on transitioning communities away from fossils fuel jobs and supporting and encouraging alternatives.

Angela Burrows



North Sydney 2060

17-08-21

*[The IPCC has released the most comprehensive climate change report ever. Here's what you need to know - ABC News](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 12:59:36 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-hawkins-runker-coal.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Christine

Last name

Underhill

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bronte

Submission file

[submission-hawkins-runker-coal.docx](#)

Submission

Director Energy and Resource Policy,

[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW2124

Dr Christine Underhill

[REDACTED]

Bronte

NSW 2024

17th 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.

The IPCC report released on Monday has frightening warnings about the future for people on this planet. I am a concerned 60 year old Australian who has been visiting this stunning area for the last 30 years. The IPCC report clearly indicates that no new coal mines should occur anywhere in the world and yet the current NSW and Australian Government are letting this happen. I fear for the lives of all our grandchildren. What a terrible legacy to give them!

Global trend to move to renewable energy

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

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

Water/Aquifers

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

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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.

Wildlife

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 Reedys Creek and Breakfast Creek 16 could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of

The riparian meadows along McCoy Creek and Broadland Creek would be lost. The Swamp Grasslands and Sphagnum bog in the central part of Cox's Creek is thoroughly unique¹⁶ and would be under threat.

Concerns with the PRIA Process

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is profoundly flawed. The area does not correctly correspond to 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 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.

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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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,
Dr Christine Underhill

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW 2124

Dr Christine Underhill
[REDACTED]

Bronte
NSW 2024

17th 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.

The IPCC report released on Monday has frightening warnings about the future for people on this planet. I am concerned 60 year old Australian who has been visiting this stunning area for the last 30 years. The IPCC report clearly indicates that no new coal mines should occur anywhere in the world and yet the current NSW and Australian Government are letting this happen. I fear for the lives of all our grandchildren. What a terrible legacy to give them!

Global trend to move to renewable energy

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/Aquifers

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.

Wildlife

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

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

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

Concerns with the PRIA Process

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is profoundly flawed. The area does not correctly correspond to 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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Christine Underhill

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 12:05:13 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-against-proposed-coal-exploration-in-rylestone.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Murray

Last name

Williams

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Corryong, 3707

Submission file

[submission-against-proposed-coal-exploration-in-rylestone.docx](#)

Submission

Please see attached docx file.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Director Energy and Resource Policy,

[REDACTED],
Parramatta, NSW, 2150.

Murray Williams

[REDACTED] Corryong, Vic, 3707

17 August, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins/Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration project.

I am a retired school teacher and, for a number of years, took a great many students from suburban Chatswood in Sydney to this area to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. These were students who had very little experience of such a beautiful rural and natural area. They hiked, navigated, camped and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They appreciated the natural beauty of the area and the pristine wilderness of the Wollomai National Park. They interacted with farmers and the local community and learnt a little about primary production and the importance of caring for such a wonderful part of the country.

Coal exploration inevitably leads to coal production and that, I believe, will be damaging to the local community and environment and not in the best interests of the state or the country.

My reasons for opposing this project are as follows:

1. The potential impact on the natural environment is obvious. Coal mining leaves a scar on the landscape that cannot be repatriated: look at Singleton as an example. This proposal covers more than 30,000ha and impacts a great many landowners. Underground and open cut mining impacts local water supplies: both in terms of quality and quantity. There are a great many natural springs and aquifers in the area and the Rylestone Dam catchment is in the proposed exploration area, meaning this project will threaten the water supplies of local communities like Rylestone and Kandos. A study in 2017, commissioned by the state government, pointed to the impact of coal mining in the Illawarra on the Sydney water catchment. It found substantial cracking and bulging in the ground above a mine that increased the permeability, and loss of surface water, by a factor of up to one

thousand. There can be no confidence that a coal mine in the Rylestone area wont have the same impact.

2. The Rylestone area is becoming an increasingly important tourist destination. People travel there for the natural beauty, the peace and quiet, camping at Dunns Swamp, the Wollomi National Park, eco-tourism, the wineries and cafes, the B&Bs, and so on. This brings significant income and prosperity to the area. Coal mining is clearly incompatible with any of these activities and will only serve to increase noise, congestion and air pollution, and generally reduce the social amenity of local communities.
3. Coal mines do not contribute greatly to local economies. Coal mining relies on a specialised workforce and is increasingly mechanized. These specialist workers go where the coal mines are, meaning very little increase in employment for local people and pressure on housing availability in the area. Coal mining profits go to the owners (who dont live there) and to government revenue. The employees work there during their shifts and return to their places of residence (often on the coast) afterward.
4. Most importantly, at a time when the world is facing a climate change crisis, and there is no longer any rational doubt that the production and use of fossil fuels is the major driver of global warming, why are we even contemplating opening more coal mines? The world is moving away from developing fossil fuels and rapidly expanding renewable energy options. Large organisations are moving away from investing in oil, coal, and gas and financial institutions are much more reluctant to finance such exploration. The IPCC recently released a very dire report on the state of global warming and called on countries to cease developing new coal mines and oil and gas fields. In its Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW, released in June 2020, the NSW Government said it is supporting the diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phasing out of thermal coal mining. Any move to facilitate the development of a new mine in the Rylestone area is environmentally and socially irresponsible and flies in the face of scientific knowledge and world opinion.

I urge you to consider my submission and reject this coal exploration proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Murray Williams

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 12:10:53 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-hawkins-rumker-proposed-coal-mine.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 12:09

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Ross

Last name

Stewart

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Giralang

Submission file

[submission-hawkins-rumker-proposed-coal-mine.docx](#)

Submission

I oppose the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal mine.

Document attached.

Ross Stewart

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW 2124

Ross Stewart
[REDACTED]

GIRALANG ACT 2617

16 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

Time to move from coal, oil, gas and nuclear to alternative technologies and strategies

Coal is full of hideous chemicals and particles that seriously damage the environment for hundreds of miles around mining areas. It's time to stop doing this and look at both alternative energy options and lifestyle options. We can do much better on the energy conservation front than we do now. If we can slow down global warming that will save some cooling energy too.

Water

Uncontrolled pollutants from the mine will make water in the area undrinkable and dangerous. There is no way the mining company can control the release of poisons.

Occupational Health and Safety

Mining is fantastically dangerous. Recent history proves mining companies cut corners and ignore health and safety of their staff.

Flora and Fauna

There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. I am most concerned that this region is important habitat for both the Regent Honeyeater and the Hooded Robin.

Aboriginal Community

You only have to look at the pitiful attempts by Rio Tinto to say sorry for destroying artwork in Western Australia to see how much miners care about first nations people. Miners are alienated from the land. It is there for exploitation only – they do not care. If they did, they would leave it alone. The region they are seeking to dig up is the land of both creators of the world and powerful evil that needs to stay where it is, safely asleep in the ground.

Local economy

A lot of local landholders will be impacted negatively by this mine if it is approved. There will be a loss of farmlands and productivity. The region has a significant honey industry and this will be seriously impacted by the loss of forests.

Mines would transform this land into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact on the value of the amazing World Heritage area nearby. The region has long-term sustainable economic stability already. Why change what is already working? The mining will contribute almost nothing to the economy of the area. It will create an economic drain on the area.

Final point -do not approve this mine.

My name can be published on the website.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Stewart

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 11:54:18 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [inbound4851213306576397973.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:51

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Lucy

Last name

Gray

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Windang 2528

Submission file

[inbound4851213306576397973.docx](#)

Submission

Environmental impact; this is my objection to the Hawkins rumker proposal

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Prepared by:

Lucy Gray Traditional Custodian Dabee Wiradjuri Country

[REDACTED], Windang, NSW, 2528

August 2021

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

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

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

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

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

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CULTURAL SITES

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED EROSION OF CULTURAL SITES

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

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

DESECRATION OF ANCESTRAL RESTING GROUNDS

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

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

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

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

DAMAGE TO COUNTRY AND WATER

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

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

CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 11:50:19 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [mine-submission-jade-miskle.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 11:49

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Jade

Last name

Miskle

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

RYLSTONE

Submission file

[mine-submission-jade-miskle.docx](#)

Submission

See attached submission - I DO NOT CONSENT to the release of this land for Coal Exploration

I agree to the above statement

Yes

I am a young mother to an 18-month-old little boy & it is my responsibility to do everything I can to ensure a safe future for him and his generation.

I ask myself everyday what the future will look like for him, what can I do now to ensure there is a future for him.

I live on a small farming property just outside Rylstone, where my family has the luxury of space and fresh air, a place where I can teach my son about the environment, growing food for us to eat and caring for our animals.

This very farm is land that our government would like to release for Coal exploration, our home to become a Mine, our community to have a mine on its doorstep. This is not the future I want for my family or community.

Our town is under the false pretences that a coal mine will boost the economy of our community. Right now, in the midst of a pandemic I drive into the neighbouring community of Mudgee where multiple coal mines are still operating and I do not see local business in the town flourishing, instead they are struggling to keep their doors open. The operation of the coal mine has not changed instead the thing that is missing is the tourism. Without the tourism industry our small towns simply cannot thrive. Tourism does not come at a cost to our environment. The introduction of another coal mine will not mean our town will flourish. It will mean a lot of our local farming families will be displaced and must move on.

Farming families have been the backbone of our community for generations & right now need our support more than ever, so they do not lose their homes.

Does our Australian Government really believe that making money from another coal mine is more important than the future of our farming communities and their homes?

We have a moral duty to protect our environment against the climate emergency we now face. We must teach our children to defend and protect the environment against further destruction.

Our Australian government is already drastically behind the rest of the world in relation to helping fight the climate crisis, by allowing the release of this land not only will you destroy the livelihood & homes of many local families they will also be contributing to the CODE RED climate crisis we are facing.

Lets me apart of the solution not the problem, I WILL NOT CONSENT to the release of this land for Coal exploration.

Regards

Jade Miskle

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 10:58:09 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-for-the-hawkins-rumker-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 10:57

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Richard

Last name

Miller

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Maryland

Submission file

[submission-for-the-hawkins-rumker-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment.docx](#)

Submission

Please see attached document for my personal submission. Thank you.

Richard Miller

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Thank you for allowing me to make a submission regarding the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration and potential mining.

My name is Richard Miller. I live in the Hunter region of NSW and I'm writing on my family's behalf—I have two young daughters—and to speak up for the millions of NSW residents who are deeply concerned about the potential for new coal mines in western NSW.

I am opposed to the proposed exploration for the following reasons.

Coal's disastrous contribution to a heating planet.

Put simply, if we are to avert the worst effects of climate change and a heating planet, we can't afford to dig up more coal. The most recent IPCC report found that Australia has already warmed by around 1.4 degrees from pre-industrial levels—and coal is the number one contributor.

The consequences of this heating are all around us: record heatwaves, droughts, bushfires and floods. With every tonne of coal dug up, the effects will only become worse. That should be enough reason for this new exploration proposal to be knocked on the head. Our livelihoods and wellbeing depend on us stopping fossil fuels. It's not a question of some nebulous impact occurring decades in the future. These are real-life impacts that are occurring right now.

The Federal Court recently ruled that the Federal Environment Minister has a duty of care to account for the impact of coal on future generations when deciding on new mines. I understand that this is not a federal matter, but the principle stands. Politicians and decision makers like you, and every day citizens like me, all have a duty of care to our children and the next generations. That makes new coal indefensible from an ethical viewpoint.

Besides, NSW has a net-zero target and has committed to rapidly moving away from coal and gas—so why would we open up more land for coal mines? It's illogical and self-defeating.

International (and domestic) markets are moving away from coal.

Our biggest coal markets and consumers—South Korea, Japan, even China—are actively moving away from coal and building out new sources of renewable energy, according to the International Energy Agency. NSW (and other Australian states and territories) are in a rapid transition from old (fossil-fuel) technology to new (renewable) technology to meet our power needs, so there is no domestic market for new coal, either.

This declining demand means that no new coal mines are required. The expense and damage caused by opening up the Hawkins-Rumker area would be for nothing. New mines, new coal, will quickly become stranded assets or at the least suffer massive write-downs.

The Hawkins-Rumker area will be irreversibly damaged by new mines.

Local Indigenous communities, farmers and citizens are all opposed to this exploration, based on the very reasonable conclusion that exploring for coal will damage their local environment. Koalas and many species of endangered birds also stand to be badly affected or even wiped out entirely.

Coal has a catastrophic impact on water supplies; it is an incredibly thirsty business. Mining in the area will pollute and destabilise aquifers and leave an already drought-prone region even more vulnerable to the rising risk of water shortage. The flow on effects—rivers dying, towns suffering, fiercer and more widespread bushfires—all make this decision a straightforward one: leave the coal in the ground. Care for the local environment. Put people's wellbeing and the natural world before coal miners' profits.

Conclusion.

I am just one person; I don't have a lot of power to influence this process. Yet I feel I must speak up and express my view as a citizen.

You are charged with making good decisions for the people of NSW and I hope and pray that you will be open to hearing the concerns of people like me, recognising the reality of the rapidly changing world we all face, and making the right decision to nip this exploration in the bud.

Your decision to stop this exploration before it begins will benefit local communities and ecosystems, save water, protect native animals and plants, and save the NSW taxpayer a *lot* of money. There is no good reason to pursue any new mine in the area; and dozens of reasons to decide to keep the coal in the ground and the Hawkins-Rumker area untouched.

Thank you for your time in considering my submission in this matter,

Richard Miller

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 10:38:26 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [mine-submission-rylstone--jo-miskle.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 10:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Joanne

Last name

Miskle

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone

Submission file

[mine-submission-rylstone--jo-miskle.docx](#)

Submission

Submission attached against the coal project

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Definition Of War –

Armed conflict between different countries or different groups within a country.

Definition of Warred –

Small States warred against each other.

Definition of War Clouds –

A threatening situation of instability or against each other.

These definitions are all examples our Australian Government is using its power and political strength on small country communities. The Australian Government aggressively dominating its power and controlling the landowners.

As we have previously watched what the Australian Government has done this very act to the Bylong community, Slowly the community forms a side. The War begins in the community. The majority who are in favour for these mines to go ahead are residential people not land holders, there property is not a threat to be bulldozed over or be made move on, these people are blindsided or ignorant or even persuaded by money. People who tick the boxes that are in favour of mines are under the Sumption that our community it will grow and benefit, little do they know that mines nearby still have vacancies and unable to fill the job sector. So why do we need more dirt disintegrated and farming land destroyed.

The Bylong landowners' spirits were broken as they drove out the front gates for the last time, watching the large chains with padlocks go on their gates, waiting for the heavy mining force to come in and destroy their lives by foreign owned companies. This community once had their own fire brigade, there was a local shop that supplied food and fuel and other essentials, there was a school for the Bylong children which employed a schoolteacher, a bus run and this community had raised thousands of dollars for local charities but now all that remains is the ruminants of a community that was once there & for what a coal mine that has never been able to get of the ground and a path of corruption left in its place.

The Australian Government is trying implement a tax of \$1.60 per kg on cattle raised on pasture but will not apply this tax to feedlots. Eventually once all farming and agriculture land is swallowed up by mining, we will eventually see a short chain food supply.

The Australian farming families brings 75 billion dollars to the Australian economy, but the ignorance of our government will be destroying our food supply and contributing to the greenhouse gas emissions through the mining sector, as we are seeing in front of our eyes the devastation of floods and bush fires all over the world as the planet is heating up. The disrespect that our politicians show towards the highly intelligent David Edinburgh and his warnings to the Australian Government is appalling.

Our Beautiful town RYLSTONE is heritage listed. This town does not need to see a mine develop on its doorstep.

This is my home, where I have raised my children and now my grandchildren, please do not destroy our beautiful community & our homes, we DO NOT need any more coal mines here.

Regards

Jo Miskle

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 10:23:40 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [pria-response.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 10:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

peter

Last name

swain

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

kandos 2848

Submission file

[pria-response.docx](#)

Submission

Attached is my response to the Hawkins Rumker PRIA

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Prepared by:

Peter Swain Traditional Custodian Dabee Wiradjuri Country

[REDACTED] Kandos NSW 2848

August 2021

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

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

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

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

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

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CULTURAL SITES

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED EROSION OF CULTURAL SITES

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

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

DESECRATION OF ANCESTRAL RESTING GROUNDS

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

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

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

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

DAMAGE TO COUNTRY AND WATER

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

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

CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 8:35:31 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-template-for-public-final.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 20:29

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Faulconbridge 2776

Submission file

[submission-template-for-public-final.docx](#)

Submission

Please, no more coal mines. This would be a disaster as we have lost do much habitat already for the precious flora and fauna of this area
We need to try to stop global warming and move to renewable energy if future generations of humans are to survive.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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



Faulconbridge 2776

18 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 59 years of age and have been visiting this beautiful part of the world for 40 years.

I am horrified that yet another coal mine is proposed in this area.

The rest of the world is planning for coal free energy production and moving towards the renewable energy future that we need to ensure this planet remains habitable for humanity.

This landscape is precious and when it is gone it is gone forever along with the wildlife that inhabits it.

We have lost so much habitat for our rare flora and fauna, especially after the recent devastating bushfires.

We need to preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

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

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

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

Water

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

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 10:14:28 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox <[REDACTED]>
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-to-the-rumker-hawkins-coal-release-proposal.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 10:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Nicholas

Last name

Ranson

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2515

Submission file

[submission-to-the-rumker-hawkins-coal-release-proposal.docx](#)

Submission

See attachment, which contains references.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Submission to the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Dear NSW state government,

I have been an NSW resident for my entire life. When travelling overseas I find that it is the NSW landscape, in its unparalleled flora and unique fauna, that defines my pride for where I live. And so, I simply cannot believe that, with the International Energy Agency renouncing coal¹ and many countries already abandoning it², our state government would risk such natural assets in the pursuit of the short-term gains of coal mining.

With much of my family living in Newcastle, we have had many jaunts into the Wollemi national park that the proposed Rumker and Hawkins release sites border. On the lucky occasions we spotted Koalas snoozing in the tree-tops or were delighted by the concert of indigenous birdsong there. Many of these local animals are already endangered, with the Regent honeyeater so close to extinction that it is in the heartbreaking process of forgetting its own song³. Not only do these animals live within the proposed regions, but it is almost inevitable that the environmental damage caused by coal mines spills over into the regions surrounding it⁴. These proposals therefore represent too great a risk for the Wollemi national park itself and the Cudgegong and Goulburn rivers, both important suppliers of significant water catchments areas.

I was so impressed with our state government at their decision to buy and convert the Narriearra station as a national park. I became hopeful that this represented a new leaf in the Liberal government's understanding of the natural world we live in. With climate change on the rampage and with Australia having one of the worst records for animal extinction rates⁵, we cannot trade new national park areas for the destruction of others. I, nor my family, will vote for a government that supports such action. I implore you to not release these crucial areas, and instead to preserve one of the foundations of our pride in our state.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Ranson.

¹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-05-20/international-energy-agency-report-shift-gas-coal-government/100150296>

² <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/20-countries-phasing-out-goal-un-cop23/>

³ <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2021/03/the-regent-honeyeater-is-forgetting-its-song-as-the-species-dies-out/>

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_effects_of_mining

⁵ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-19/fact-check-does-australia-have-one-of-the-highest-extinction/6691026>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 10:11:17 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submissionhawkinsrumkinsr.docx](#)

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Sarah

Last name

Redshaw

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Katoomba

Submission file

[submissionhawkinsrumkinsr.docx](#)

Submission

AS per attached

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Director Energy and Resource Policy,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Parramatta NSW 2124

Sarah Redshaw
[REDACTED]

Katoomba 2780 NSW

17/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 63 years of age and have been visiting the area for many years. I live in the World Heritage Blue Mountains. I am aware of and have great appreciation for the delicate and fragile ecological environment we are surrounded by. This includes adjacent areas such as Gardens of Stone and out to Ryleston.

WE CANNOT KEEP DESTROYING OUR ENVIRONMENT unless we just want to see the planet burn and become unlivable for every living thing in the future. It is madness to continue to mine fossil fuels to be burnt thus increasing global warming and destroying more local environment. This is not tenable no matter how much profit can be made in a declining market for coal.

In light of the urgent need to reduce fossil fuel mining and burning as highlighted in the recent IPCC report I beg you to leave the Hawkins Rumker region intact to help give us a chance for a healthier planet not one that is further destroyed for short term profit.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Redshaw

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

Issues with the PRIA Process

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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.

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 9:05:53 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-for-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 09:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Emily

Last name

Hynes

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Anglesea 3230

Submission file

[submission-for-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

Submission

x

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Director Energy and Resource Policy,

Parramatta NSW 2124

Dr Emily Hynes

Anglesea
3230

17th August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am strongly opposed to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration for a number of reasons.

The world is moving on from coal, so why invest in something where there is no demand?

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.

No destruction of ecosystems

Mining poses a key threat to the persistence of a number of endangered species and ecological communities. 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 Coxs Creek is thoroughly unique. and would be under threat.

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

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.

Aboriginal Heritage

We need to preserve aboriginal heritage sites which represent the longest continuous culture in the world.

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.

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 region²⁸ and economic stability.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Emily Hynes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17/08/2021 5:53:55 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-template-for-public-final.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 17/08/2021 - 05:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Cat

Last name

Wright

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Randwick

Submission file

[submission-template-for-public-final.docx](#)

Submission

Attached.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Cat Clare Wright
[REDACTED]
Randwick 2031
NSW

17/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 52 years of age and have been living the area for 10 years.

Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

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

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

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Cat Wright

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 11:50:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-template-for-public-final.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 23:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
 pascalle

Last name
 dujardin

I would like my submission to remain confidential
 No

Info

Email
 [REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
 bamarang

Submission file
[submission-template-for-public-final.docx](#)

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

Pascale Dujardin
 [REDACTED]
 Bamarang
 NSW 2540
 17/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration This submission explains my opposition and reasoning against the the Harkins Rumker coal exploration.

I am a regular visitor to Rylstone and surrounding areas and am attracted by its diversity of flora and fauna clean waterways and spectacular scenery.

I was shocked when I last visited this area in July 2021 to find that this unique area was under threat from coal exploration. When I investigated further talking to the local residents of this area many were not informed of this proposal for coal exploration and those that were aware were not consulted until the month before in June 2021. Further to investigations I learnt that the Department of Planning Industry and Environment had been aware of the potential coal release areas in Harkins and Rumker for a year prior with no community consultations until June 2021. Formal notifications were only provided to landowners whom properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration areas. No consultations were given to the 3000 residents whom would be adversely effected by the new coal proposal by increase in heavy traffic, degraded water and air quality as well as environmental degradation. This goes against The Independent Commission Against Corruption Report 2013 to reduce the opportunities and incentives for Corruption in the states management of coal resources which included community consultation.

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 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 process couldn't get it right. I have hike through many of these area deemed for exploration and have seen many aboriginal artifacts including canoe trees and tools. All of Australia's native flora and fauna are threatened with our diminishing native forest and threat from climate change. The exploration of coal in this area will further add to many more extinctions of our unique biodiversity. 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 Cows Creek is thoroughly unique 16 and would be under threat. One of the greatest threats is to this region's precious water supplies. This area is rich in natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever. Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways.

The Rylstone Dam catchment is in the proposed exploration areas. The upper catchment of the Cudgegong River feeds into the water supplies of Rylstone Dam and Windamere Dam. The Hawkins Rumker proposed release areas threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted. Without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture, no tourism.

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

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

Australia's total annual emissions are currently around 320 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. If fully mined, this new coal area would release four times that amount — 2.2 billion tonnes.

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

It does not make economic, environmental or climatic sense to continue with coal exploration. Many countries are moving away from polluting fossil fuels which will decrease the 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

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.

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.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Pascale Dujardin

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Pascale Dujardin
145 Bamarang Road
Bamarang
NSW 2540
17/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. This submission explains my opposition and reasoning against the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I am a regular visitor to Rylstone and surrounding areas and am attracted by its diversity of flora and fauna, clean waterways and spectacular scenery.

I was shocked when I last visited this area in July 2021 to find that this unique area was under threat from coal exploration.

When I investigated further talking to the local residents of this area many were not informed of this proposal for coal exploration and those that were aware were not consulted until the month before in June 2021. Further to investigations I learnt that the Department of Planning Industry and Environment had been aware of the potential coal release areas in Hawkins and Rumker for a year prior with no community consultations until June 2021. Formal notifications were only provided to landowners whose properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration areas. No consultations were given to the 3000 residents who would be adversely affected by the new coal proposal by increase in heavy traffic, degraded water and air quality as well as environmental degradation.

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I have hiked through many of these areas deemed for exploration and have seen many Aboriginal artifacts including canoe trees and tools. All of Australia's native flora and fauna are threatened with our diminishing native forest and threat from climate change. The exploration of coal in this area will further add to many more extinctions of our unique flora and fauna. There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Pascale Dujardin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 10:37:45 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [rystone_coal_submission-ruth-bruce-west_final.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 22:35

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

2065

Submission file

[rystone_coal_submission-ruth-bruce-west_final.docx](#)

Submission


Please see attached file.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

16 August 2021


Wollstonecraft NSW 2065

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.

We am 79 and 77 years of age and have been visiting this area for 57 years. We enjoy the peace of this area and enjoy returning frequently.

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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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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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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.

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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.

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

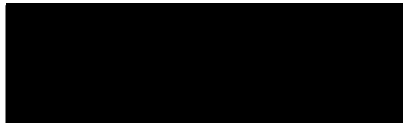
Trains and trucks are not covered and the coal dust and associated pollution from transporting the coal can travel for kilometres.

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

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

We wish our names to be withheld from the PRIA submission site.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the first individual.A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the second individual.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 10:26:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [mrh-letter-to-director-energy-and-resource-policy.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 22:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Merril

Last name

Hillis

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Katoomba 2780

Submission file

[mrh-letter-to-director-energy-and-resource-policy.docx](#)

Submission

Dear Director,

Having heard about the Hawkins-Rumker areas being opened up for coal exploration I want to express my opposition. I live in the Blue Mountains and have visited these areas. As a visitor I am drawn to the natural beauty of this area. Ganguddy is a place with beautiful and remarkable natural features. The range of birds, animals, rock features and aboriginal markings are amazing. I saw my first Rakali here, swimming in the water. The Cudgegong river here is significant as it forms the Rylstone Dam. One of the greatest threats we have is our water supplies. Coal mines have significant effects on the water resources of a local area. Even exploratory drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers. Water supply decreases, is lost and gone forever, not to mention the contamination and subsidence. 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 Windemere Dam. The proposed release areas threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Candulla. Even Mudgee could be negatively impacted. We can't afford to reduce any amount of water to these villages and towns, knowing how droughts and bush fires are becoming more and more common.

Mines would change these beautiful areas into unsightly, ugly messes with dust and dirt and noise impacting on the World Heritage area that is right next door. I have lived in the Hunter region and I know how unsightly and destructive the coal mines there have been. Health issues increase around mines, especially respiratory and cardiac conditions. Air quality would be severely impacted.

Traffic and traffic noise is not acceptable on small country roads and tourist routes around the area.

I am loathe to see any of this area destroyed and I haven't even mentioned all the aboriginal significant locations, the farms and the economy of the local people.

Why do we need more coal? The premise supporting the release of these areas undermines and contradicts with more recent government policies. The world is trending to sustainable energy sources. This is where we need to be heading, not with polluting coal.

Please, please, please, do not let this advance any further. Our health, the health of our land, our country, and planet demand that this be stopped, now.

Yours Faithfully,

Merril Hillis

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Merril R. Hillis

Katoomba NSW 2780

**Submission concerning the Hawkins Rumker
Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment**

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M R Hillis

Merril Hillis

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 9:19:41 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-ranuka-tandan.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 21:18

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Ranuka

Last name
Tandan

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Darlington 2008

Submission file
[submission-ranuka-tandan.docx](#)

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

Ranuka Tandan
[REDACTED]
Darlington 2008

August 16, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am strongly against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I grew up in the Blue Mountains, have friends in Rylstone and have been visiting the area for many years. As someone who has grown up in the outdoors, I appreciate the beautiful region for all that it is and brings NSW.

At a time when Australia needs to be moving away from fossil fuels and focusing on clean energy and keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees, allowing more coal exploration seems delusional, and based on nothing more than economic benefit for a few at the expense of a safe world and future for the many.

Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

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

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

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

Water

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

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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Thank you for reading this submission, and considering the future of this community and our planet.

Yours sincerely,
Ranuka Tandan

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Ranuka Tandan

Darlington 2008

August 16, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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Thank you for reading this submission, and considering the future of this community and our planet.

Yours sincerely,

Ranuka Tandan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 8:09:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkins-rumker-area-coal-exploration-proposal.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 20:02

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Christine

Last name

Carmichael

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Lawson

Submission file

[hawkins-rumker-area-coal-exploration-proposal.docx](#)

Submission

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the proposed coal exploration of the Hawkins Rumker area for environmental, social and economic reasons. I would like the local Aboriginal people to be equal part of the decision making on this proposal as they cared for this land for over 60,000 years.

Please find my reasons attached.

Regards

Christine Carmichael

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Hawkins Rumker area coal exploration proposal.

I was born in the Rylstone/Kandos area and my family moved to Mudgee when I was 10 years old. My sister still lives there. Furthermore, I have lived in the Blue Mountains for the last 40 years and believe this proposed possibility of coal mining will have many negative impacts. I have been a volunteer bushcare worker for 25 years and a member of the Landcare run Streamwatch volunteer program for 15 years. As a member of these groups and working under the supervision of a Blue Mountains Council officer I am shocked and dismayed at the government's intention to even consider coal exploration in the Hawkins Rumker area and will outline my reasons below.

Firstly, the Hawkins Rumker area has many important environmental values that need to be addressed before going down this path. There are a number of endangered and threatened species of flora and fauna, 293 have been recorded. Australia is rapidly losing many of its species and it is time to stop, especially in the face of the climate change extreme events that have been taking place here and globally. The recent IPCC Report should be taken seriously by the federal and NSW governments and no further coal mining commenced.

According to the Western Coalfields Earthscape Report (V3) the area totals 60,369 Ha "with analysis showing that native vegetation covers 84% of the total area". This requires a deep consideration of the potential negative impacts on native vegetation and wildlife. According to this report of concern are the "Koala, the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and the endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll, along with four plant species endemic to the Rylstone/western Wollemi area". This is an area that has suffered severe drought and is on the edge of the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park, which in 2019/2020 suffered an extreme fire event which killed many native animals, including koalas. The Gospers Mountain fire also impacted much of the native vegetation, some of which has not recovered.

Furthermore, given "there are 1,854 Ha of Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems (GDEs)" mapped in the proposed release area it is essential to recognise the negative impact of coal exploration and mining on water resources. According to the Western Coalfields report: "There are 36 water bores located in the study area. There are 121 Km of stream channel in good condition and 118 Km of stream channel classed as a high level of fragility". Exploration for coal involves drilling that impacts aquifers through cracking and draining them and thus decreasing water that feeds creeks and rivers. Coal mines release toxic waste which contaminates these waterways and impacts fish and biodiversity in general.

Secondly, the impacts will affect local farmers who have suffered years of drought with 32,700 ha of land in this proposal directly affecting 180 landholders. I know some very conscientious farmers in the area who have had to sell and move on due to the impact of drought. Many more will lose their livelihoods if this proposal goes ahead due to the destruction of waterways. This will have ongoing social implications for the whole area, which is based on agriculture.

Thirdly, the economic impacts will filter through the Central West where businesses rely on agriculture to supply food to their local people, to those involved in the tourist industry, including vineyards, and to those businesses dependent on visitors to the regions. Mining in the area has already driven prices up for housing. I know this through my sister in Mudgee

who has found that rentals are not only hard to find but are becoming more and more expensive. The cost of living has increased due to the high wages of mine workers.

However, this area has established a viable and sustainable local economy which also values eco-tourism. For example, many people visit Gunguddy-Dunn's Swamp which is on the Cudgegong River in Wollemi National Park.

Finally, one of the most important issues is the Aboriginal Heritage of the area. The Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors indicates there are no known Aboriginal sites or objects in the area yet adequate studies have not been done. I have visited this beautiful site and know that there are rock drawings and objects that have not been acknowledged despite official records and local indigenous knowledge. In a time when the federal government is aiming to acknowledge previous historical wrongdoing to the Aboriginal people of our country, it is an insult to consider this project when many significant sites have been destroyed in other parts of Australia already. The legal system and government inaction has failed the heritage of the first people of Australia who cared for this land for over 60,000 years.

Sincerely,
Christine Carmichael

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 7:37:21 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [olinda-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 19:35

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 file

[olinda-submission.docx](#)

Submission

Non-Indigenous people have shown their willingness to destroy their own heritage based on economic growth, greed, and obsession to dominate nature, in this case by allowing mines to destroy the fabric of community, wiping out towns completely by mining or even dam construction which erased the town of Cudgegong as history has shown.

Now we see a proposal to do it again, with both the agricultural and indigenous heritage of our region. When it comes to indigenous heritage, it's not just the individual sites or artefacts, but the fabric of their community that is destroyed.

Aboriginal Heritage

The non-indigenous people are able travel from one place to another - to meet family member and move from meeting places to eating places. We have designed and built all the infrastructure that enables us to travel all over the country. We would find the idea of destroying a town, a cemetery, a favourite fishing hole, a library, or a church for a coal mine totally unacceptable. When it comes to the indigenous people it seems okay to destroy their places. Maybe it is our lack of understanding. For the indigenous people, it's not just about the sites of importance but the larger area; including the song lines, the trails, the stories, and teachings along the journey to the cooler summer shelters, the warmer winter shelters, to hunting grounds and the long-distance travel for ceremony. After 60,000 years of living on country the NSW government is considering the destruction of another large area of indigenous life which will only further displace this community, increasing the trauma they are suffering.

In engaging a consultant to prepare a report

on our farm with the relevant searches, we find that this report [see PDF below], indicates that Aboriginal sites and artefacts are not applicable. If we step through the National Park gate on our boundary, with the same landscape and terrain, reports indicate that sites and artefacts exist. It seems that no one has, or intends, to take a comprehensive look or engage local aboriginal historians to adequately investigate this, as it won't suit the agenda. Therefore, when mining or exploration reports are completed, based on historical data, the indigenous evidence won't exist as too the "non-existence" of endangered flora, fauna and fungi.

I recently walked with three ladies of the local Wiradjuri people only for couple of hours on our farm, which was originally their land, where we discovered artefacts. I learnt how to look for them and we found numerous shelters. I witnessed from a distance a smoke ceremony, that the ladies performed, I was present when they were asking permission from the spirit of the tree to remove a branch to be used in the ceremony and was shown how they used trees for shaping boomerangs. They also expressed an interest in using a small bit of land for a sandy dance area for the ladies of our region. The more I connect with local indigenous people, I realise that they have walked and lived on all the land. There is no area untouched. It's all, very important to them. As a non-indigenous population, we need to understand, that with over 60,000yrs of occupation and 3000 generations of families, that they have most likely walked every square metre of this land and that they have lived, died and buried their people, all through our landscape.

Colonial Heritage

The Olinda community hall is part of my heritage and my families meeting place

My name is [REDACTED] and I am sixth generation; my family ancestry going back 200yrs in the Rylstone/Olinda/Kelgoola area – Those families being, the Sheridan and Dewey families. The Olinda Community Hall was founded and paid for by three farming families the Sheridan, Morrison, and Eames in 1903 in the village of Tawinbang on the banks of the Cudgegong River which has served the communities of Olinda, Cox Creek, Nullo Mountain, Kelgoola and Cox Crown for over 110 years. It has provided a place for celebrations: weddings, Christmas events, local clubs gatherings, association meetings, social gatherings, tennis competition and more. Recently it has been a place of recovery and mental health support for all victims of the black summer bushfire 2019-2020. The current community have invested huge amounts of time over many months to successfully attain Bush fire recovery funding to hold community lead social recovery programs put back into to help with this community overcome the traumas, to develop community resilience, preparedness and provide space and occasion, to talk and share stories. Also the bushfire funding, delivered by the federal government, immediately after the fire is being used to renovate the hall, that our community can be supported for another 100 years.

By moving forward with this proposal and allowing for coal mine exploration to continue in the Hawkins and Rumker areas you will fracture this community forever, as we have witnessed in our neighbouring Bylong community. If the proposed area of Ganguddy is allowed to proceed it will be gone forever. All the family's history will be erased. All the trust placed on the descendants to maintain and foster the community spirit will be lost.

The disastrous social impact of the past drought and bushfire and now the proposal of a coal mine is affecting the mental health of the community. With the example of the Bylong valley right on our doorstep, where the whole community has almost been erased and the historical local Bylong shop finally gone (pushed out by the mining company). Now the lands sit, wasting, creating another huge problem, that is, the lack of maintenance and natural grazing of the grassland by enough herbivores (sheep, cattle, and native species) to keep the fuel load under control. For a tree to regenerate and grow it drops its leaves but for grassland to regenerate it is required to be grazed (in our backyard we mow our lawn to achieve this) by large numbers of herbivores. If not grazed, it will oxidise and die, and be replaced with a woody type of vegetation, increasing the areas of bare ground making the microclimate hotter and dryer. This leads us down the path of increased catastrophic bushfires.

Bylong - What a disgraceful result

People need to reflect on the idea that if it was your own home, town or village that was to be bulldozed, because of this insatiable need for money and growth, you would be very upset and angry and would most likely fight against it, and expect the government to stop allowing it to happen

We can't and should not allow another massive area of indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage and natural beauty to be destroyed

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Non-Indigenous people have shown their willingness to destroy their own heritage based on economic growth, greed, and obsession to dominate nature, in this case by allowing mines to destroy the fabric of community, wiping out towns completely by mining or even dam construction which erased the town of Cudgegong as history has shown.

Now we see a proposal to do it again, with both the agricultural and indigenous heritage of our region. When it comes to indigenous heritage, it's not just the individual sites or artefacts, but the fabric of their community that is destroyed.

Aboriginal Heritage

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Dedication plaque
Olinda Hall



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VERIFICATION STATEMENT



**CONSULTING
& ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

LAND & PROPERTY INFORMATION BASED ON THE CURRENT NSW GOVERNMENT SPATIAL DATA RESOURCES.
THE VERIFICATION STATEMENT PROVIDES LAND AND PROPERTY INFORMATION WITH COMMENT

Page | 1

To whom it may concern,
28 May 2021

This report advocates landholders, and primary producers use a verification statement when discussing their property. A complete verification statement includes a map, property information and definitions. The Statement can be used for further investigation, obtaining costs for damages that may occur, providing consultants briefs, and all correspondence & notifications.

Property information for [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Olinda 2849 NSW		
Lot	Section	DP
14	-	755775
47	-	755775
67	-	755444
17	-	755775
60	-	755444
13	-	755775
61	-	755444
41	-	755775
12	-	755444
16	-	755444
13	-	755444

Property attributes potentially affected by future resource exploration and mining

BIODIVERSITY		Actionable
<i>Vegetation</i>	✓ 98.12% is native vegetation from 16 Plant Community Types (PCT); a list of PCTs is available upon request	✓
<i>Threatened fauna</i>	▪ Little Eagle (<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>), Gang-gang Cockatoo (<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>)	✓
<i>Threatened flora</i>	▪ Evans Grevillea (<i>Grevillea evansiana</i>)	
<i>Threatened communities</i>	▪ Not applied in government mapping	✓
<i>EPI Terrestrial Biodiversity</i>	▪ Applicable to 67% of property	
CULTURAL HERITAGE		
<i>Aboriginal sites and artefacts</i>	▪ Not applicable	
<i>Native Title Register</i>	▪ Warrabinga-Wiradjuri (Lodged: 31/08/2018; Status: active; Representative: Blackshield Lawyers; Claim ID: NSD857/2017)	✓
GEOGRAPHIC AND TOPOGRAPHIC CONSTRAINTS		

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 5:47:35 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkins-rumker-coal-release-area.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 17:46

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Christina

Last name

Smith

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Balmain NSW 2041

Submission file

[hawkins-rumker-coal-release-area.docx](#)

Submission

I have uploaded the submission above.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Christina Smith Elliott St Balmain 2041

I am writing to you to indicate my opposition to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration for the reasons which I will outline below. I am opposed to this area being opened for coal exploration as it is a precursor to coal mining which I am opposed to due to the effects it is having on our climate. We have just received dire warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which was written by a team of over 200 scientists around the globe. They have provided a terrifying catalogue of how climate change is now affecting every continent and ocean on earth. Human activity responsible for nearly all the increase in in global average temperatures and this is now accelerating. It is very clear that to add further coal mines into this scenario would be catastrophic. If there is agreement for exploration which could mean mines eventually the effect on land holders will be immense in areas of tourism and farming. Local businesses such as restaurants and cafes will be impacted. In addition the money from mines tend to move overseas rather than be useful to the local or larger Australian community.

I have been a regular visitor to the central tablelands particularly Mudgee over many years and know it as a beautiful area that attracts many tourists and is full of endangered native animals and plants. I am aware that mines have significant negative impacts on areas in which they are situated. Mines transform areas and move them from beautiful to ugly areas which would affect the World Heritage nearby. Also one of the main threats of mines is the effect they have on water aquifers as they have significant impacts through drilling as they can cause cracks which then drain out water. This means it will affect the water available to towns such as Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla. There has been a recent drought and there will be more due to climate change and so any constraints or changes on water availability and purity will be threatening to the community. There are aboriginal sites in the area and most of these have not been officially documented. Many have already been destroyed and we cannot allow this type of vandalism to continue.

Pollution is a difficulty and it will increase the rates of respiratory and cardiac problems which are already some of the highest in the state. The transport of coal will be going on 24 hours per day and will often be in open trucks and train carriages. Mental health issues will increase and as within many mining areas there will be socio economic divisions due to wages to miners although I am aware that automation will lead to less jobs being available. The development of renewables is preferable and would provide more employment.

I urge you to reject this new coal exploration release.

Christina Smith

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 3:39:49 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-for-the-hawkins-rumker-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment.txt](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:38

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
 Oatlands 2117

Submission file
[submission-for-the-hawkins-rumker-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment.txt](#)

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Oatlands NSW 2117 Australia

Date 16/8/21

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. Reasons on how it will impact me are outlined below.

I am 45 years of age and have been visiting the area for 12 years.

1. There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species also endangered ecological communities which could be lost.
2. Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.
3. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Coks Creek is very unique and would be under threat.
4. Mines transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and impact the amazing World Heritage area on our doorstep.
5. 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

Please dont put coal mining in the area.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement
 Yes

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



 Oatlands NSW 2117 Australia

Date 16/8/21

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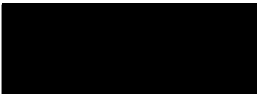
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Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 3:26:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkins-rumker-coal-mine-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 15:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Margaret

Last name

May

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Five Dock 2046

Submission file

[hawkins-rumker-coal-mine-submission.docx](#)

Submission

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

Margaret May

[REDACTED]

Five Dock 2046

NSW

16 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 now 70 years old and have lived in NSW, Australia all my life. Born and bred in the coal town of Newcastle!
 I have 2 grandchildren and two more on the way and I want to leave a habitable planet for them to enjoy. However, as an environmentalist for most of my life I despair at the decisions being made by State and Federal governments to approve more coal mining.

Only this week the IPCC came out with its dire warnings for the climate of the planet over the coming decades – mainly because of the production of CO₂ over the past two hundred years.

The following information I have downloaded from sources I trust but no arguments trump letting our planet be come so affected by climate change that we cannot survive. Life can still prosper in NSW without coal mining.

The best solution to climate change disaster is to stop producing coal - the main cause of CO₂ emissions.

Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

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

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

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

Water

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

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,
Margaret May

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Margaret May

Five Dock 2046
NSW

16 August 2021

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Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

Water

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

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Margaret May

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 2:39:35 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission.doc](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 14:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Peter

Last name

Krinks

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Waverton 2060

Submission file

[submission.doc](#)

Submission

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

From:
 Peter Krinks [Dr]

[REDACTED]
 Waverton
 NSW 2060 16 August 2021

Submission concerning the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Although I am now retired, I spent my working life as a geographer concerned with issues of rural society, economic development and the environment. For leisure, I have been a keen bushwalker, and have often visited Blue Mountains National Park and the unique area known as the Gardens of Stone. I am strongly opposed to the proposed 'Hawkins Rumker' exploration for coal, for the following reasons.

1. The planet is already approaching disaster through burning of coal [and other fossil fuels]. It does not need more to be mined. The International Energy Agency has called for an immediate ban on new production of oil, coal and gas and the NSW government has announced plans to phase out reliance on coal. Exploration for more is completely pointless.
2. Mines have already caused damage to the Gardens of Stone. More mines would threaten the water sources that are essential to maintain the biophysical environment, including wetland plants and wildlife, which includes some endangered species. The water resources are also important to nearby settlements such as Kandos, Rylstone and Charbon.
3. Exploration and mining threaten quite a lot of important sites for aboriginal heritage.
4. Opening the area to mining would massively increase risks to health. Blasting causes noise, vibration and pollution of the air. The effects would be greatly worsened by increased traffic of cars, heavy vehicles and coal trains. It's notable that the Hunter Valley is now considered a pollution 'hotspot', with some of the highest rates in the state for respiratory and cardiac conditions. Those physical effects are compounded by probable effects on mental well-being of replacement of a beautiful rural landscape by an ugly industrial one.
5. Another compounding effect would be the destruction of the local economy – most of the existing businesses are quite incompatible with mining. That applies particularly to tourism. Most such businesses are locally-owned and bolster each other, so it would be regrettable for them to be replaced by a few companies that are owned by outsiders, most probably including foreigners, so that there would be no multiplier effects supporting the regional economy.
6. As a separate issue, I'm disappointed at the inadequacies of the processes of so-called community consultation. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has known of the proposed mining in Hawkins and Rumker for a year, but it did not issue notices for community consultation until June 2021, and it did not directly inform the great majority of residents of the region. It has not made plain how the government will evaluate the submissions, nor has it said that it will make the report on the outcomes publicly available before sending it to Cabinet. This flouts the findings of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, which has shown how ministers can press public servants to change their advice.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Krinks

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

From:
Peter Krinks [Dr]
[REDACTED]
Waverton
NSW 2060

16 August 2021

Submission concerning the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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Yours sincerely,

Peter Krinks

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 1:18:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-on-whether-to-release-the-hawkins-and-rumker-areas.docx](#)

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Nicole

Last name

Steinke

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bondi 2026

Submission file

[submission-on-whether-to-release-the-hawkins-and-rumker-areas.docx](#)

Submission

Submission on whether to release the Hawkins and Rumker areas, located about 30 km east of Mudgee NSW, for coal exploration.

I am in a state of shock that the NSW government would for a moment consider releasing the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration. The only purpose of this exploration is to mine coal at a time when we should be moving towards abandoning the practice, as the rest of the world is.

Climate change is not a myth and it's not something in the distant future. It's happening right now and the world's use of coal for energy is one of the major contributors. That is why most other nations are moving away from it. We need to look elsewhere for our future.

We need to invest in jobs and technology that have a future and do not destroy the future of the planet. Consideration must be given to the state of the world that we leave for our children and grandchildren. A short term profit that is pursued at their expense is pure vandalism.

It was only a week ago that the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its report – the first in seven years - and it said that we are in terrible danger and must change our behaviour now. Not in the distant future, now.

The report stated that the globe's ocean, lands and air temperatures are rising, and that human influence is unequivocally the cause. As global temperatures rise from 1.5C to 2C and beyond, heatwaves, droughts, floods and other violent impacts become more widespread. Sandstorms and dust storms are predicted to increase across the continent.

With Australia's population heavily concentrated along the coast, particularly in coastal cities, rising sea levels pose a major risk to our country - and we've already seen the impact of drought, heatwave in catastrophic fires, then followed by floods. We must change our behaviour in Australia to try to aid the rest of the world in fighting climate change. Instead, by wanting to open up a vast tract of land for potential mining we are doing exactly the opposite. We look like ignorant fools and vandals.

And all this is without even mentioning the other negative impacts that this proposed development could have on native animals and plants, water supply, Aboriginal heritage sites, and on the health of local people. The Hunter and areas such as Singleton that are heavily exposed to the pollution that comes from a mining based economy are already suffering serious health effects.

This proposal to look at releasing the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration, with the intention of mining there, is shocking and should be abandoned before it goes any further.

Regards

Nicole Steinke

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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Regards

Nicole Steinke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 12:46:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [wollemi-national-park.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 12:44

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Carol

Last name

Zouroudis

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

MANGROVE MOUNTAIN, 2250

Submission file

[wollemi-national-park.docx](#)

Submission

16th August, 2021

We, the members of the Mountain Districts Association, are vehemently opposed to opening up new areas for coal mining.

We refer particularly to the land north of Rylstone stretching to the Wollemi National Park for the following reasons:-

- Flora - Almost two-thirds of this land is covered by native vegetation with more than ten percent is known or potential threatened ecological communities.
- Fauna - There are several records of koalas in this area, as well as the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and the nationally-endangered Spotted-tailed quoll. Surely we all need to protect the environment for these and other flora and fauna that were so devastated by the catastrophic bushfires of 2019/2020.
- Water- The area contains high-value waterways, covering 63kms of creeks in good or moderate condition, which are fragile to disturbances. This includes headway streams of the Cudgegong River which is part of the Macquarie River catchment of the Goulburn, which flows into the Hunter and on to the coast.
- Culture – The area is Wiradjuri country and has several sites of indigenous heritage including rock shelters with painted or engraved art, camp sites and grinding grooves that need our protection.
- World Heritage - To the north east, the Rumker release area runs along 33km of the border of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Concern has already been raised at the World Heritage Centre and IUCN about the potential impacts of eight mining operations on the boundaries of the site.

Just last week it was announced that our planet, Earth, is experiencing catastrophic climate change. We must stop using fossil fuels. This needs to happen within ten years if we have any chance of stabilising the rise in temperature.

We say "NO" to coal mining.

This government needs to listen and respond to the will of its people.

We need to protect and preserve all remaining natural eco systems....our world are at stake.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Zouroudis

Secretary

Mountain Districts Association

I agree to the above statement

Yes



Mountain Districts Association

Working for our Rural Community and the Environment

www.mountaindistrictsassociation.com.au

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Secretary

Mountain Districts Association

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 12:30:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawker-rumker-prelim-assessment-16.08.2021.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 12:28

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Kim

Last name

Zegenhagen

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bowral

Submission file

[hawker-rumker-prelim-assessment-16.08.2021.docx](#)

Submission

Refer attached file.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Kim Zegenhagen,
[REDACTED]
Bowral, NSW, 2576.

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.

Issues with the PRIA Process

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is fundamentally and overwhelmingly flawed. The area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area. 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 proper notification. Why is it that these people would not be notified of potential new coal release areas when they receive their water from the potential release areas, and the coal would be transported through these areas?

The community consultation meeting was capped at four groups of 50 people, with one of these to be held in Mudgee. How could this possibly be a real attempt to have 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 and most other economic think tanks anticipate international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes increasingly 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

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

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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.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Kim Zegenhagen,

[REDACTED]

Bowral, NSW, 2576.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 12:22:28 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [agricultural-community.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 12:17

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

2848

Submission file

[agricultural-community.docx](#)

Submission

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Rumker, Hawkins coal exploration. This proposal will impact me in the following ways:

The Rylstone area is an early 19th century colonial rural settlement with highly productive agricultural land which is also renowned for its natural resources, the extensive waterways and wilderness. Many people have relocated to the area to enjoy the pristine environment with its laid-back lifestyle and beauty, and hardworking local community. The Rylstone region adjoins the Wollemi National Park, and as a person who is heavily involved in the local fire brigade, I spent 72 days with our best effort to protect all of this in the recent Black Summer Bushfires.

My family have been landholders in the Ganguddy-Kelgoola region adjoining Hawkins Rumker for more than a century, where we have, with blood sweat and tears, worked and cared for this land, producing food, and worked to build a strong community in Olinda. The Olinda community includes the people of Hawkins and Rumker. My forebears, with two other local family landholders generously bought land and created a community centre, the Olinda Hall, to support our people. If this is taken for a coal mine, you are disregarding, more than, a hundred-year legacy, that our families have created.

We know that there are enough coal mines and that they are not operating at capacity. We also know that the world is moving away from coal and that the thermal coal in our region will be sold overseas. What is our cost to servicing the government's overseas market?

The cost is all our heritage, all our community, an interference with the provision of food and a lost legacy. What value is placed on our people, our heritage, our food chain supply, that has served the country for over 100 years and continues to do so. We have been the backbone of our country and now this is all sacrificed for some short-term coal dollars. This government proposal of coal exploration doesn't make sense.

Coal mines conflicts with tourism and our agricultural production, destroying the vital waters systems that support our lands, our towns, and which draw tourists to our area. The many businesses of our region rely on the natural resources and our "clean" qualities especially for tourism and agricultural enterprises. Such enterprises include beef cattle, sheep for wool and fat lambs, wine, honey, olives, nuts and seasonal produce. Many of our high producing grazing lands are native pastures resulting in a premium product.

Our farms and surrounding bush along with the waterways are both habitat and a corridor for a multitude of birdlife, including endangered and specific area species such as the Gang gangs, the Regent Honey Eater, the Brown Tree Creeper, the Rock Warblers, Lyrebirds, and the Powerful Owl. Our region attracts many visitors, artists, and photographers to view the abundant birdlife. Along with the birdlife is the abundant wildlife including the threatened spotted quoll and the platypus.

Much effort by our community was devoted with the recent Black Summer Fires to save wildlife and habitat along with the revegetation after the fires. Our landscape includes unique fragile pagoda sandstone structures that add to beauty and habitat. These structures will be ruined if a mine should eventuate.

The greatest concern to our environmental is if water is impacted. Our area is rich in natural springs, swamps, and waterways, which can easily be damaged or drained by exploration or mining. Several farming properties rely on the underground water which they access through bores; these will also be impacted. The upper catchment of the Cudgegong River is the headwater supplying Rylstone, Kandos, Mudgee and then downstream to the Macquarie River system, supplying towns and enterprises with critical water. Water supply can be challenging in drought times already, and mining will further reduce the water available to our community and the many agricultural enterprises which rely on it. Mining companies receive a government guarantee of water. This means that the mining company will get water regardless of the needs of our community and its enterprises.

If the water systems are damaged, contaminated, or drained, it will be an environmental and community catastrophe. We have come back from droughts, floods, bushfires and now COVID, but there will be no coming back from that. Experience tells us that, with all their so called "water experts", mining does damage the water systems. I know this personally, from people who have worked in mines, and from geologists, and of course from witnessing this devastation in other areas, and the penalties that the mine companies receive is tokenistic at best, and at worst the mining company pleads financial incapacity.

The scale of traffic on our country roads, especially from heavy vehicles, the noise and vibration, the blasting and large-scale earth moving, the reduced air quality from coal dust at the mine site or in transportation are all present at coal mine sites. The Hunter Valley now has the unenviable "most polluted postcode in Australia." Coal mining would transform this beautiful area into a dirty industrialised work site. The so called "Rehabilitation" areas around other coal mines near Ulan and the Hunter valley are dismal failures. It is impossible to restore an area effectively once the topsoil and soil profile which has been built over thousands of years has been destroyed.

There would also be negative social impacts. Maybe a small number of local businesses may profit, and a small number of locals may gain lucrative employment, but most will be hired with skills from mines in other areas, transient and not at all invested in our local community. Our community will suffer job losses and small business failures. This has already begun, as people stop investing in tourist businesses and agricultural investment, just with the uncertainty of whether this mine exploration will go ahead.

International Energy Agency's latest report showed a downturn in coal projections for the first time; NSW's 5-year intergenerational update predicts that coal will be gone completely from our economy within 20 years. It would be a tragedy to destroy our rich farmlands, our pristine environment of significant natural beauty, to lose our abundant birdlife and wildlife, all on the doorstep of a world heritage area and contribute to climate change and environmental damage just for some short-term government royalties, and a coal-company's (most likely NOT Australian) short term profits. Australia must take responsibility for the emissions of the coal it exports – we have the ability to effect change.

At G7, the seven biggest economies in the world have agreed to phase out, and stop the funding of coal projects by the end of 2021; such a measure is seen as critical to truly meet the net zero targets to avoid a climate disaster.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Rumker, Hawkins coal exploration. This proposal will impact me in the following ways:

The Rylstone area is an early 19th century colonial rural settlement with highly productive agricultural land which is also renowned for its natural resources, the extensive waterways and wilderness. Many people have relocated to the area to enjoy the pristine environment with its laid-back lifestyle and beauty, and hardworking local community. The Rylstone region adjoins the Wollemi National Park, and as a person who is heavily involved in the local fire brigade, I spent 72 days with our best effort to protect all of this in the recent Black Summer Bushfires.



2019-2020 Black Summer Fires -Gospers Mountain

20 lyrebirds in this dam – waiting for the bushfire to pass over

You can see how dry it was from the drought

My family have been landholders in the Ganguddy-Kelgoola region adjoining Hawkins Rumker for more than a century, where we have, with blood sweat and tears, worked and cared for this land, producing food, and worked to build a strong community in Olinda. The Olinda community includes the people of Hawkins and Rumker. My forebears, with two other local family landholders generously bought land and created a community centre, the Olinda Hall, to support our people. If this is taken for a coal mine, you are disregarding, more than, a hundred-year legacy, that our families have created.

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The cost is all our heritage, all our community, an interference with the provision of food and a lost legacy. What value is placed on **our** people, **our** heritage, **our** food chain supply, that has served the country for over 100 years and continues to do so. We have been the backbone of our country and now this is all sacrificed for some short-term coal dollars. This government proposal of coal exploration doesn't make sense.

Coal mines conflicts with tourism and our agricultural production, destroying the vital waters systems that support our lands, our towns, and which draw tourists to our area. The many businesses of our region rely on the natural resources and our "clean" qualities especially for tourism and agricultural enterprises. Such enterprises include

beef cattle, sheep for wool and fat lambs, wine, honey, olives, nuts and seasonal produce. Many of our high producing grazing lands are native pastures resulting in a premium product.



Premium Angus cattle
from our property –
Grazed on native
pastures (2021)

Our farms and surrounding bush along with the waterways are both habitat and a corridor for a multitude of birdlife, including endangered and specific area species such as the Gang gangs, the Regent Honey Eater, the Brown Tree Creeper, the Rock Warblers, Lyrebirds, and the Powerful Owl. Our region attracts many visitors, artists, and photographers to view the abundant birdlife. Along with the birdlife is the abundant wildlife including the threatened spotted quoll and the platypus. Much effort by our community was devoted with the recent Black Summer Fires to save wildlife and habitat along with the revegetation after the fires. Our landscape includes unique fragile pagoda sandstone structures that add to beauty and habitat. These structures will be ruined if a mine should eventuate.



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enterprises which rely on it. Mining companies receive a government guarantee of water. This means that the mining company will get water regardless of the needs of our community and its enterprises.

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There would also be negative social impacts. Maybe a small number of local businesses may profit, and a small number of locals may gain lucrative employment, but most will be hired with skills from mines in other areas, transient and not at all invested in our local community. Our community will suffer job losses and small business failures. This has already begun, as people stop investing in tourist businesses and agricultural investment, just with the uncertainty of whether this mine exploration will go ahead.

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At G7, the seven biggest economies in the world have agreed to phase out, and stop the funding of coal projects by the end of 2021; such a measure is seen as critical to truly meet the net zero targets to avoid a climate disaster.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 12:20:45 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [public-comment.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 12:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Peter

Last name

Cranston

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Canberra 2602

Submission file

[public-comment.docx](#)

Submission

Please find attached submission file Public comment.docx

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Professor Peter Scott Cranston,
Emeritus, Australian National University,
[REDACTED] O'Connor, ACT 2602

August 16th 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

For more than three decades I have been studying, with students, freshwater ecosystems of New South Wales. I am now retired, emeritus, aged 71 but continue some aspects of water quality assessment using insects. My experience with the aquatic ecosystems over the past 3 decades in the Rylstone / Newnes area is that they shelter some very valuable sites of endemic biodiversity. Coal mining is incompatible with these ecosystems as shown by continuing studies e.g. by Ian Wright, and my own observations.

There is documented endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. Notably 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 Cocks Creek is understood to be unique and threatened.

How can the Hawkins Rumker REF state that there are no threatened fauna and flora. How was that assessed and what assurances are there that exploration licenses would include "*strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values*", when the exploration process couldn't get it right.

I am in complete agreement with the following details and statements that I have modified from other sources.

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. This is not adequate.

This region is rich in natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining significantly impacts local water resources by damage to underground aquifers. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever. Open cut and underground coal mines are known to cause water contamination and destroy biodiversity in waterways.

I do not wish my name to be withheld from the PRIA submission site.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Scott Cranston, Canberra

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 11:49:07 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [mine-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 11:48

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

2233

Submission file

[mine-submission.docx](#)

Submission

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

[REDACTED]

Engadine

NSW 2233

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 59 years old and have been visiting the area for 58 years and a property owner in the area for 23 years.

The mine is proposed to be developed in pristine areas of the country bordering National Parks and untouched waterways. Coal mining results in total and irreversible destruction of the land, the water and the air. The Hunter Valley which once boasted some of the finest farming and Horse breeding land in the state is now practically uninhabitable. As an asthmatic I feel noticeably unwell when travelling through the area and now avoid it.

Any promises of rehabilitation of the area are never, ever carried out and weak governments never enforce mining companies to fulfil their obligation to regenerate the land. Apparently painting a rubble heap green is good enough.

The local community is kept in the dark, or worse lied to, about the true impact on the water table and the flora and fauna within the adjoining National Parks. The consultation process was kept at an underhanded level with only the immediate people notified that were affected by the exploration. The information was then only filtered to the surrounding land holders. The benefits to the local economy are overstated with modern mines requiring very small workforces that are not sourced from the local area but supplied by the mining company's current FIFO workforce. As an added insult most coal mining companies are foreign owned and the benefit to the national economy or the national energy supply requirements are also not truthfully portrayed. With coal usage destined to decline the concept of the development of a new mine when existing mines still produce saleable quantities is backward thinking and archaic. Our future depends on the protection of the pristine parts of the land and our focus should be on retaining what little of that there is left.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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



Engadine

NSW 2233

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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Yours Sincerely



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/08/2021 11:42:22 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [pria-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 16/08/2021 - 11:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Kandos 2848

Submission file

[pria-submission.docx](#)

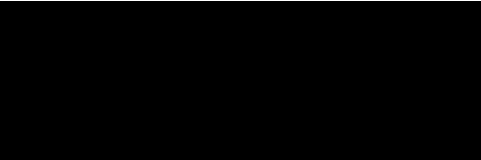
Submission

Letter is attached.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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



Kandos NSW 2848

16 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

We would like to express our concern with regards to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

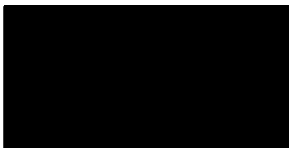
Our region has suffered considerably over the last few years with prolonged drought, severe bushfires over many months followed by COVID, which has had a marked impact on towns that depend on visitation for regular income to the local economy. We have had a recent brief uplift for businesses during the short-lived lift in restrictions on regional travel, however as this letter is being written, we have just been placed into full lockdown again.


The potential for future coal exploration and mining in our region has created significant economic uncertainty – for property owners wishing to invest in their property, people considering purchasing in our region and businesses and investors future plans. It is also causing uncertainty and division amongst our community. We are on the cusp of economic recovery, however news of this preliminary assessment is causing significant concern and economic uncertainty that is likely to be the position for many years.

We are also concerned as to the transparency of the PRIA process and are unclear as to how community input is used in the assessment and whether this is just a process, rather than a significant input into the decision-making process. Timeframes for decisions and activity is also unclear.

Rylstone Kandos Business Chamber would appreciate being kept informed of the progress of this initiative so we can continue to inform our 75 local business members.

Regards



Rylstone Kandos Business Chamber
Email: 

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15/08/2021 11:33:10 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-hawkins-rumker-sinclair-150821.docx](#)

Submitted on Sun, 15/08/2021 - 23:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Last name

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mangerton

Submission file

[submission-hawkins-rumker-sinclair-150821.docx](#)

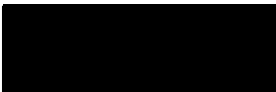
Submission

Submission uploaded

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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


Mangerton, NSW, 2500

15/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 50 years of age, work as a psychologist, and have been visiting the area with my partner for over 20 years. During that time, I have visited the area as a tourist: camping and enjoying the natural environment, enjoying the villages in the area including restaurants, coffee shops, and local produce, visiting friends who live on properties in the area, spending time on the land, and attending retreats.

The PRIA process was flawed, and either badly researched or dishonest. I am disgusted by the way this has been carried out. The Hawker Rumker area was not properly represented in the Hawker Rumker Review of Environmental Factors prepared by the government. For example, the review says that there are no known Aboriginal objects or places within the project area. This is not true – there are 45 listed aboriginal heritage sites and 13 more sites that are restricted. Included in these are art and ceremonial sites. As a white Australian whose ancestors arrived from the British Isles by boat, I feel very deeply about the way that the Aboriginal population have had their lands invaded, have been massacred, traumatised, disrespected, mistreated, had their children taken away, and their sacred sites and objects destroyed. It is important to me that the mistakes of the past are not repeated and that in future we respect the First Nations peoples and their cultures. Only recently was an aboriginal sacred site in the Pilbara destroyed. Why is the government considering allowing this to happen again? As a concerned human being and a psychologist working with people who have experienced trauma, some of them aboriginal, I want this terrible denigration of First Nations people, their lands, and culture to STOP. This ongoing overriding, ignoring, disrespect and ongoing abuse of their people and cultures does not allow healing. As a psychologist I have seen the effects of this first-hand. **I do not support continued abuse and traumatisation of Aboriginal people, or the destruction of Aboriginal heritage sites, and I do not support coal mining or exploration in this area.**

The REF also asserts that there is no threatened flora or fauna. This is not true! There are at least 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA identified by NSW Bionet! These include the spotted-tailed Quoll and Koalas which were already decimated in the recent bushfires. Powerful owls and yellow-bellied gliders can be found in the release areas, and there are a number of beautiful birds that are swindling in numbers such as scarlet robins, speckled warbs, and diamond firetails. As a result of bringing mining into the area, waterways will be severely impacted, leading to a loss of fish habitat and species. There are some very special and beautiful local areas that also will be impacted and perhaps lost including the riparian meadows along Breakfast and Reedy Creeks. In the central part of Cox's Creek, the Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog are unique and will be threatened.

Having spent time in this area over many years, the local environment and plants and animals within it are very important to me. This place has been a source of peace and inspiration for me and others I know. It is important to me to keep this beautiful World Heritage area intact and not have it damaged or destroyed by coal. Apart from my own personal enjoyment of the area, it is just not okay to destroy the environment for future generations.

I do not support the loss of the natural environment in this area and I do not want coal mining or exploration in this area.

The government consultation process with the community was not transparent, was rushed, and blatantly dishonest and disrespectful of local community members.

The PRIA process is the result of ICAC recommendations indicating there should be community consultation. The Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment was aware of coal release areas for over a year yet the portal for community consultations was only opened on the 14th of June 2021 and community consultation was scheduled for the 29th and 30th July 2021 (a very short two weeks afterwards. Notification of the community was only directed towards landowners within the exploration zones and apart from that there were a few one-off advertisements in newspapers. There are around 3000 residents in the surrounding areas who will be impacted by these coal release areas. Community consultation groups, of which there were only four, were capped at 50 – how is this representative? Their environment, the quality of their water, their businesses, and their children's futures will be impacted by coal mining in the area, including the industry and transportation of coal through the area. What about the many, many people who visit this area every year? Those of us who enjoy the area, spend time on the land, and support local businesses do not want coal to destroy the local community or local businesses. Coal mining in the area will change the area for the worse, deeply impacting local businesses and the nature of the local community.

This process is not transparent and smells to me of the government and the coal industry being in each other's pockets. If the government has nothing to hide, why not make the process transparent? Why is the government not making the report on the PRIA publicly available prior to its submission to Cabinet? As a voter, I expect elected government officials to do their jobs in a transparent manner. **I do not support lack of transparency or corruption and I do not support coal mining in this area.**

Please withhold my name from the PRIA submission site.

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 7:31:53 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 19:29

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Natalie

Last name

Berry

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2850

Submission file

[submission.docx](#)

Submission

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration on the grounds that I do not consider the release of land for coal exploration purposes to be in line with a sensible plan for rural NSW. As a resident of Hargraves, a town near Mudgee, I am concerned that this exploration is strategically unsound from both an economic and environmental perspective. Any development towards new coal extraction in the region would be harmful and is not wanted by the community, as I will elaborate on in this letter.

Environmental Perspective:

Firstly, the proposed exploration areas include key watercourses such as the Rylestone dam. They also feed into important rivers such as the Cudgegong. Coal mining can compromise water quality in these and surrounding areas, as pollution is widespread.

Also, the clearing of land, particularly land that backs onto one of the biggest National Parks in NSW would irreversibly harm many endangered native animal species and plant communities. As any rural landholder will tell you, our natural resources are our most valuable asset, and everything we do needs to be centred around managing them appropriately.

There are also very significant Aboriginal sites in the proposed exploration zones, and there is no consent by Traditional owners for this exploration. Rural people are beginning to realise that we must reckon with the history of Aboriginal affairs in this country, and we must not further disrespect, erase and destroy Aboriginal heritage.

Economic Perspective:

The central west of NSW, and particularly areas in and adjacent to the proposed exploration zones are of great value for their agricultural and tourism capacities. Many, many people come from Sydney, other regional centres, and other states (and even countries) to buy our wine and other products, as well as see the natural beauty and unique wildlife (such as birdlife) that exists in the region. Coal mining in this area would jeopardise these industries, particularly that of tourism, as natural landscapes are permanently changed, the animals and landscapes that bring so many people to our region would simply cease to exist. This would affect many livelihoods in Rylstone, Kandos and even Mudgee.

As discussed in the environmental perspective section, there is significant risk to waterways, and thus agricultural land more generally that extends well beyond the 30,000ha or so of land that would be affected by coal exploration. Agricultural industries in the area must be protected as a priority by the government.

Furthermore, I do not believe that mining will make up for the inevitable losses to other industries that will occur if coal extraction operates in the area. Though coalmining claims to bring us jobs and revenue, I have seen time and time again that the money does not go to the local community. For example, Hunter is the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas. Jobs also do not go to the community, as mining is largely automated, and those who do work in the coal industry are specialists from the city.

In reality, the boom-and-bust cycle of mining destroys towns, as for example, in Wollar, a nearby town. Mining areas are associated with higher costs of living (unaffordable to regular people) and social unrest including alcohol and drug abuse, violence, and other crimes, as people are pushed to the margins.

Furthermore, I find it quite disturbing that community consultation for this project has been at least half-hearted if not intentionally obscured. Why were only landowners whose properties are directly impacted by the exploration zones notified about planned community consultation meetings? I feel it is unacceptable that the nearly 3000 residents in surrounding areas on Rylstone, Kandos and other towns, whose livelihoods will no doubt be impacted by mining in the region (as explained above) were not also duly notified of these meetings.

Conclusion

It appears that the DPI is trying to quietly approve the Hawkins Rumker exploration, but I would like to make it clear that people in the larger rural community are aware of it and are firmly against new coal exploration and development. Rural people of NSW will not benefit from this coal exploration. We will be harmed.

I hope that for these reasons, the coal exploration will not go ahead.

Thank you for your time,

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Elizabeth Berry

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Natalie Elizabeth Berry

Hargraves 2850
18/8/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration on the grounds that I do not consider the release of land for coal exploration purposes to be in line with a sensible plan for rural NSW. As a resident of Hargraves, a town near Mudgee, I am concerned that this exploration is strategically unsound from both an economic and environmental perspective. Any development towards new coal extraction in the region would be harmful and is not wanted by the community, as I will elaborate on in this letter.

Environmental Perspective:

Firstly, the proposed exploration areas include key watercourses such as the Rylestone dam. They also feed into important rivers such as the Cudgegong. Coal mining can compromise water quality in these and surrounding areas, as pollution is widespread.

Also, the clearing of land, particularly land that backs onto one of the biggest National Parks in NSW would irreversibly harm many endangered native animal species and plant communities. As any rural landholder will tell you, our natural resources are our most valuable asset, and everything we do needs to be centred around managing them appropriately.

There are also very significant Aboriginal sites in the proposed exploration zones, and there is no consent by Traditional owners for this exploration. Rural people are beginning to realise that we must reckon with the history of Aboriginal affairs in this country, and we must not further disrespect, erase and destroy Aboriginal heritage.

Economic Perspective:

The central west of NSW, and particularly areas in and adjacent to the proposed exploration zones are of great value for their agricultural and tourism capacities. Many, many people come from Sydney, other regional centres, and other states (and even countries) to buy our wine and other products, as well as see the natural beauty and unique wildlife (such as birdlife) that exists in the region. Coal mining in this area would jeopardise these industries, particularly that of tourism, as natural landscapes are permanently changed, the animals and landscapes that bring so many people to our region would simply cease to exist. This would affect many livelihoods in Rylstone, Kandos and even Mudgee.

As discussed in the environmental perspective section, there is significant risk to waterways, and thus agricultural land more generally that extends well beyond the 30,000ha or so of land that would be affected by coal exploration. Agricultural industries in the area must be protected as a priority by the government.

Furthermore, I do not believe that mining will make up for the inevitable losses to other industries that will occur if coal extraction operates in the area. Though coalmining claims to bring us jobs and revenue, I have seen time and time again that the money does not go to the local community. For example, Hunter is the biggest coal export

terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas. Jobs also do not go to the community, as mining is largely automated, and those who do work in the coal industry are specialists from the city.

In reality, the boom-and-bust cycle of mining destroys towns, as for example, in Wollar, a nearby town. Mining areas are associated with higher costs of living (unaffordable to regular people) and social unrest including alcohol and drug abuse, violence, and other crimes, as people are pushed to the margins.

Furthermore, I find it quite disturbing that community consultation for this project has been half-hearted if not intentionally obscured. Why were only landowners whose properties are directly impacted by the exploration zones notified about planned community consultation meetings? I feel it is unacceptable that the nearly 3000 residents in surrounding areas on Rylstone, Kandos and other towns, whose livelihoods will no doubt be impacted by mining in the region (as explained above) were not also duly notified of these meetings.

Conclusion

It appears that the DPI is trying to quietly approve the Hawkins Rumker exploration, but I would like to make it clear that people in the larger rural community *are* aware of it and are firmly against new coal exploration and development. Rural people of NSW will not benefit from this coal exploration. We will be harmed.

I hope that for these reasons, the coal exploration will not go ahead.

Thank you for your time,

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Elizabeth Berry

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14/08/2021 9:35:02 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [ray-ferguson.docx](#)

Submitted on Sat, 14/08/2021 - 21:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Kandos 2848

Submission file

[ray-ferguson.docx](#)

Submission

Address: [REDACTED] Kandos, 2848

No email address - (email address of friend used to submit)

I am an indigenous citizen. I grew up in a "moving family," we had to keep moving and working. Now, I am 72 years old, and I'm retired. With my wife, I operated a successful construction business, although I cannot read or write. I am now asking friends to write this submission on my behalf so that my voice maybe heard.

Many of my people have lived in this country and there is evidence of their lives in artefacts, rock-shelters, paintings, rock-art sites, and human homes. These sites are often not made public for their protection. Many sites have been destroyed to eliminate our evidence. This country holds our heritage, our culture and Australia's history.

It is important for past and future generations that this area remains intact. A Coal Mine development, especially of the size being proposed, will destroy our heritage and the history of this region. I don't want it destroyed like they blew up the Juukan in Western Australia.

Once the earth is disturbed, the waters will be polluted and disrupted forever. No mining company or government can ever bring this back after it's damaged and we know that they CANNOT mine, without disrupting the water. We see this with all the damaged water systems at other mines. Water is critical for all life. As aboriginal people, we highly valued the waterways, the springs, and the swamps. These are imperative for all living things – the plants, the animals and the people. The water equals life sources.

Once the living soil is dug up and the soil structures are fractured, the soil dies and becomes dead dirt. It no longer supports life. We lose the plants, the grasses, and the trees. The mines can't put back what country took thousands of years to create. Rehabilitation is a nice idea, but it just doesn't happen. It is impossible to restore the landscape as it was before the mining. I've seen this at plenty of other mines.

Tourism has become a vital link in our community. Through tourism we are breaking down barriers and bringing our communities together. Tourism supports aboriginal people through a variety of projects including art, weaving, indigenous food, education, and tours. It provides us with an opportunity to share our skills and culture. It's also allowing our artists & emerging artists to earn some money, while embracing their culture. This is very important; it helps aboriginal people maintain their culture and pass it on to our young people in a way that they will take it up. All this will be lost if a mine goes ahead. Tourists don't come where there is Coal Mining. I've seen the Hunter Valley lose tourist because of the pollution from the dust, the noise, and the loss of natural beauty – country gets traumatised - we lose country. Many tourists that were going to the Hunter Valley now come to our region as part of the East-Mudgee tourist region.

It's no coincidence that we are experiencing worse and worse natural disasters with the constant destruction of the earth. The recent mega fires of Gospers Mountain, which destroyed much rock art are just one example of disasters that are becoming more frequent. Look at what's going on, on the other side of the world. This is what we are headed for. We can't keep doing the same things expecting different results. You have our lives in your hands. You need to make a stop to these activities.

What I fear the most is that they will blow up our country, they use explosives – it will be destroyed! I don't want the same thing to happen here as in Juukan in WA. It's gone forever.....There's a lot of things these mines get away with.

This will affect me. My grandkids won't get to see it how it is now.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Address: [REDACTED] Kandos, 2848
No email address

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14/08/2021 6:46:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-for-the-hawkins-rumker-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment.docx](#)

Submitted on Sat, 14/08/2021 - 18:45

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Barbara

Last name

Maclaggart

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

BATHURST

Submission file

[submission-for-the-hawkins-rumker-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment.docx](#)

Submission

Submission attached

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Dr Barbara Mactaggart
[REDACTED]
BATHURST NSW 2795

13 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am submitting this letter as a personal expression of my opposition to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

My concerns are broad-ranging and bridge across a number of issues including potential and uncertain threats to Aboriginal heritage, the state of our future climate, social disruption to small local communities, haulage safety and logistics and the Pandora's box of complex environmental issues. However, I am keeping this submission directed in line with my professional background and knowledge gained as a consulting swamp/aquatic ecologist.

I am recently retired and have spent many years working in the coal industry (or in response to coal mining) for coal mines, state and federal government agencies and at times for other consulting firms providing expert opinion and preparing environmental reports and assessments covering the Western and Southern Coalfields, and the Gunnedah region.

I have been privileged to wonder through and study large tracts of 'near natural' terrestrial, aquatic, and semi-aquatic landscapes in mine lease areas (mined and not mined). Many parts restricted to public access. These are incredibly special places in their own right, and of course from a human-centric perspective they provide ecosystem services that benefit society beyond the borders of land tenure. In some ecosystems, such as swamps, the evolutionary processes which have led to their development are many thousands of years in the making. Testament to this, for example, are the large volumes of plant material that have accumulated in wet environments to form rich, moist, dark peat - in places metres deep.

So why the concern? Depressingly I have been witness to the partial or complete collapse of many streams and valley floor swamps – both knowingly and unwittingly destroyed. The possibility of future mines causing ongoing degradation or loss of unique and critically important aquatic ecosystems across NSW, I find, incredibly despairing. The proposed exploration in the Hawkins Rumker areas under the Strategic Release Framework is pitting ecosystems against coal mining with the risk of irreversible and possibly unforeseen consequences. The cumulative effects of waterways degradation from all human-induced causes across the state should give stock to what we are doing.

Concerned citizens would value a determination being made to the cessation of mining in areas where the risks posed to significant landscapes and ecosystems are addressed. At what point as a wider community do we say, that's enough? Does coal mining progress into the future with a flawed or ignored risk assessment? Can we continue to pressure the

environment over the ensuing decades and accept degradation as a lamentable cost of coal production?

It is known that open-cut mining practices completely alter landforms and waterways. Impacts from longwall mining are also well documented, with examples of overland discharge of mine water from licenced discharge points scouring a number of swamps (not an anticipated problem then followed by years of failed environmental reporting). More insidious due to its high-risk consequence and impact uncertainty (both at the time of planning and after mining) is bedrock cracking and the change in moisture status of the swamps (over short and/or long timeframes) and streamflow in watercourses.

The consequences of these impacts are little understood both spatially and temporally. We really don't know. Seriously, we don't.

Drying swamps overlain with higher evaporation rates (actual trends), fires, and the forces of surface water erosion has shifted these once pristine swamps beyond a self-repair threshold. This means they don't come back.

Walking along dry, cracked sandstone streambeds, once fed from overland flow, springs and precipitation, are now devoid of aquatic life. Again, a threshold has been exceeded meaning the antecedent streams don't come back.

The often-touted argument of self-repair or remediation of bedrock cracks is both fallacious and impractical at scale. The ecosystems have intrinsically lost their characteristic processes and function, which have implications in the immediate area and further downstream.

These irreversibly altered waterways and valley floor ecosystems are a poor legacy for us all and some consequences are yet to be realised due to lag responses. The consequences of mining on the physical and ecological integrity of wet, forested gully floors, sandstone pagodas, sandstone cliffs, swamps, creek systems and groundwater dependent ecosystems in the Hawkins Rumker areas cannot be fully determined.

I strongly urge the reconsideration of the proposed mining exploration in the Hawkins Rumker area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Mactaggart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Barbara Mactaggart
Swamp/Aquatic Ecologist

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14/08/2021 2:43:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-template-for-public-final.docx](#)

Submitted on Sat, 14/08/2021 - 14:42

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
 I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
 Richard

Last name
 Dames

I would like my submission to remain confidential
 No

Info

Email
 [REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
 Linwood, Christchurch, 8011

Submission file
[submission-template-for-public-final.docx](#)

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

Mr Richard Dames

[REDACTED]
 Christchurch
 8011

14 Aug 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 59 years of age and have been visiting the area for 20 years.

Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

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

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

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

Water

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

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely
Mr R Dames

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Mr Richard Dames



Christchurch
8011

14 Aug 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely

Mr R Dames

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14/08/2021 2:21:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-eamonn-briggs.docx](#)

Submitted on Sat, 14/08/2021 - 14:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Eamonn

Last name

Briggs

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Coxs Crown

Submission file

[submission-eamonn-briggs.docx](#)

Submission

File submitted above

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Eamonn Briggs
[REDACTED] NSW, 2849

14/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 23 years of age and have been living in the area for 2 years.

From the occasional zoom meetings that I attended discussing the issues surrounding this potential coal mine, it became immediately clear that there are a huge list of reasons why this exploration should not go ahead. However, I am not going to get into the issues of water, aboriginal heritage, or local social, health and economic impacts. I am not even going to expand on the lack of foresight that would lead this government to expand the coal industry in a world that is increasingly anti-coal. Instead I wish to speak on the issues of this process and its lack of research into the flora and fauna of the region.

One of the steps that are fundamental to the NSW Government's Strategic Release Framework for Coal and Petroleum Exploration is the Review of Environmental Factors (REF). The Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors is a pathetically lacking document, stating there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened flora and fauna. This is a laughable excuse for research.

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. The presence of both Aboriginal sites and threatened flora and fauna are common knowledge within the community, suggesting that there was no real attempt from the government to review the environmental factors in the area. As such, I do not believe that there should be any more steps towards coal exploration until a proper REF has been completed.

This whole PRIA process is a result of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Report, Reducing the opportunities and incentives for corruption in the state's management of coal resources 2013. The lack of a proper REF is just one part of this process that has been inadequately followed. This, alongside the poorly executed community consultation in which only a small group of landowners were notified despite the far reaching consequences of coal exploration, show a lack of intent to properly follow ICAC's report.

We, as members of the community, should not have the onus of presenting research on the flora and fauna of the area or notifying the rest of the community about community consultation times. These were your jobs, and they were intentionally done poorly to streamline a process meant to exploit a small town and its precious and unique environment for the broader economic gains of the state government.

I have seen the research done by community members into the impacts of exploration and mining and I know that this information has been sent to you too. As such I will not repeat it but instead ask that you acknowledge the lack of protocol and therefore do not allow this process to continue until proper steps are followed.

I **have not** made any political donations in the last two years. If yes, disclose.....

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

Sincerely,

Eamonn Briggs

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14/08/2021 1:59:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-hawkins-rumker-assessment.docx](#)

Submitted on Sat, 14/08/2021 - 13:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Anna

Last name

Gibbs

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bondi 2026

Submission file

[submission-hawkins-rumker-assessment.docx](#)

Submission

See attached file

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Adjunct Professor Anna Gibbs

[REDACTED]
Bondi 2026

13 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I wish to strongly object to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My reasons and/or how it will impact me are outlined below.

I have been visiting the Rylstone-Kandos area in connection with the local arts community and the Kandos-based Cementa Arts Festival since 2013. During this time I have explored widely in the local areas and I would hate to see these places destroyed by coal.

To approve exploration now would be a tragedy in the face of the latest IPCC report and the urgent need to ensure an immediate transition away from coal and other fossil fuels. Coal-mining does not create many jobs – far fewer, in fact, than the arts do. Coal companies have misrepresented this for many years and continue to do so. It's also not as though there aren't many food-production and farming businesses in the area, not to mention sheep and beef farms, horse studs, and eco-tourist businesses, all of which would be ruined by mining.

The truth is that mining generates much, much more revenue for overseas corporations than it does for Australian governments or the Australian economy.

The markets for coal are shrinking in any case, as the International Energy Agency Roadmap (2020) shows, and the Reserve Bank of Australia agrees. The NSW government has committed to supporting diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phase-out of thermal coal mining, as its Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW (2020) attests – but how can this happen if new coal exploration and mining licenses go on being approved to appease a few vested interest groups and to the detriment of local communities and the national interest?

Apart from its other numerous documented adverse impacts on human health, coal mining will exacerbate current and predicted water shortages. It drains and contaminates water sources aquifers and threatens town water supplies, as well as destroying the environment which supports the habitat of native wildlife, and also farming and food production. We can't live without water, but we can – and must – live without coal.

It is simply not true that there are no threatened species in this area: NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. Nor is it true that there are no known Aboriginal sites. Talk to the local indigenous elders – listen to them – they will tell you differently. How could any Australian contemplate enabling the further destruction of Indigenous cultures after what Rio Tinto did in WA? How can further coal exploration possibly be approved without meaningful consultation with Indigenous people, both local and from further afield? This has simply not happened, and nor have other locals been consulted – a few newspaper ads and numbers-limited meetings in one centre just don't meet the need for the transparency that makes democracy meaningful.

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

Yours sincerely,

Anna Gibbs

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14/08/2021 12:08:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-pria-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

Submitted on Sat, 14/08/2021 - 12:07

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Marita

Last name

Macrae

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Avalon Beach 2107

Submission file

[submission-pria-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

Submission

My submission is attached

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Marita Macrae



Avalon Beach
August 14 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I am 79 years of age and have been visiting the area for 20 years. I visit as part of my travel to help with tree planting in the Capertee Valley for the Regent Honeyeater recovery program.

The NSW Government should not be permitting or encouraging any more coal exploration. As well as the many concerns expressed about this PRIA process in the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community submissions, I stress the case that the PRIA process should be abandoned, and that the coal estimated to be in the area must stay in the ground. I understand that 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.

The latest information from the IPCC regarding the seriously increasing rate of climate change and the contribution of emissions of CO₂ and methane makes it clear that we face terrible consequences.

I dread the future for the natural world – its biodiversity of flora and fauna – destroyed by human induced climate change, and the effect it will have on human society. The changes are already well under way.

To consider business as usual is environmental lunacy. Please demonstrate your awareness of the possible consequences of coal mining in this area and abandon this PRIA process.

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

Yours sincerely,

Marita Macrae

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13/08/2021 4:00:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Fri, 13/08/2021 - 15:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

David

Last name

Hunt

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Port Hacking 2229

Submission file

[submission.docx](#)

Submission

Submission.docx

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Dr David R Hunt



Port Hacking 2229

13 August 2021

Dear Sirs,

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. The proposal reads like some sick joke. In the week when the most recent report by the expert committee of scientists was released its comprehensive report and against the recommendation of the G7 that there should be no new fossil fuel developments along comes this proposal. To add insult to injury the Annual Report from Glencore that its' Ravensworth coal mine, mothballed in 2014, continues to leak methane equivalent to the pollution caused annually by 33,000 cars. And the EPA nonchalantly admits that it doesn't monitor fugitive emissions. It's unbelievable.

I am 82 years of age, was born in Cessnock and spent my early years in the Hunter Region. Although I now reside in the City my affection for the hinterland remains. But in recent years I visit less often because the wholesale destruction caused by the massive open cut mines in the upper Hunter is too distressing. With 11 grandchildren my wife and I are greatly concerned by the impact of global warming and climate change on their futures. Now I recognise that these coal mines provide employment for many local residents but their futures too are at risk and along with renewable energy tourism will become important opportunities. Who wants to travel to see gaping holes in the ground.

In the documentation regarding the Hawkins Rumker area, it states that there are no known Aboriginal places or objects in the area. Presumably, this information comes from the proponents for the mine. Sounds like Rio Tinto's assurances before the destruction of the Ruukan Gorge site and your own Governments dismissal of the significance of aboriginal sites threatened by the proposal to raise the height of the Warragamba Dam wall.

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. Just look at the disappearing creek below the Pheasants Nest Bridge attributed to underground coal mining.

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

David R Hunt

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13/08/2021 12:59:20 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [coal-exploration.docx](#)

Submitted on Fri, 13/08/2021 - 12:57

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Louis

Last name

Tate

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

West Pymble 2073

Submission file

[coal-exploration.docx](#)

Submission

Please find attached a submission regarding the proposed coal exploration in the Rylstone area.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Louis Tate
[REDACTED]
West Pymble 2073

13th 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 11 years old and my family have lived in the Rylstone area for over 125 years. My grandma grew up on a property called 'Eastwood' and it has been in the family since 1889.

It is a special place to me as I have learned to fish on the Cudgegong River and spent many holidays on my Grandma's farm enjoying the beauty of the natural environment.

Ever since I started going there I have seen amazing things in the area. They have been wombats, kangaroos, platypus, echidnas, Golden Perch, Murray Cod and countless native birds.

All of these animals are special to the area and I am worried what impact the coal exploration will have on their habitat.

I have also visited many areas around my grandma's farm that contain Aboriginal carvings and sacred sites. I am worried that the coal exploration will not respect the aboriginal history of the region and much of this will be lost.

One of my favourite things to do when I go to my Grandma's farm is to fish for Golden Perch with my dad. The Cudgegong River is a clean river and holds many native fish. The impact that the coal exploration will have on the river is huge. Not only for the habitat of the native fish but also for the drinking water for Rylstone and its surrounding areas.

I love going to my Grandma's farm. It is a quiet and special place for me and my family. The coal exploration will take that away, not just from me, but all of my family and all of the other people that love the Rylstone area.



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

Yours sincerely,

Louis Tate

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13/08/2021 12:26:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkins-rumker-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Fri, 13/08/2021 - 12:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Pamela

Last name

Lofthouse

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mosman 2088

Submission file

[hawkins-rumker-submission.docx](#)

Submission

I am a resident of the city, however I feel very strongly that our regional environment is precious and must be protected where possible. I am totally opposed to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. Not only because of the environmental vandalism should coal mining proceed, but because the business case for coal mining just does not justify any expenditure on exploration. Climate change is a reality, and the recent report highlights that we must take IMMEDIATE steps to limit emissions. This is totally incompatible with mining more coal.

I have an MBA and know that when business cases do not support a project, yet the project is commenced anyway, then there has been political interference or undue influence by stakeholders with a different agenda. So please look at the risks and rewards for this assessment, and who might be promoting it for reasons other than normal business operations. The reward is negative, because there will be no market for any mined coal, but the risks are large – environmental and financial. So to explore is futile, if it does not lead to a viable project.

Please do not proceed with any exploration permit.

Yours sincerely

Dr Pamela Lofthouse

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

[REDACTED]
Mosman NSW 2088

13 August 2021

Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am a resident of the city, however I feel very strongly that our regional environment is precious and must be protected where possible. I am totally opposed to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. Not only because of the environmental vandalism should coal mining proceed, but because the business case for coal mining just does not justify any expenditure on exploration. Climate change is a reality, and the recent report highlights that we must take IMMEDIATE steps to limit emissions. This is totally incompatible with mining more coal.

I have an MBA and know that when business cases do not support a project, yet the project is commenced anyway, then there has been political interference or undue influence by stakeholders with a different agenda. So please look at the risks and rewards for this assessment, and who might be promoting it for reasons other than normal business operations. The reward is negative, because there will be no market for any mined coal, but the risks are large – environmental and financial. So to explore is futile, if it does not lead to a viable project.

Please do not proceed with any exploration permit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Lofthouse', is written on a light-colored background.

Dr Pamela Lofthouse

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13/08/2021 11:34:33 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [objection-to-the-hawkins-rumker-project.docx](#)

Submitted on Fri, 13/08/2021 - 11:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Juanita

Last name

Kwok

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bathurst

Submission file

[objection-to-the-hawkins-rumker-project.docx](#)

Submission

See attached submission

I agree to the above statement

Yes

13 August 2021

Objection to the Hawkins Rumker Project

To whom it may concern,

I am a Bathurst based historian and heritage consultant. I recently became aware of the Hawkins Rumker Project to open up a large area of land at Rylstone for coal exploration which if approved, is likely to result in coal mining. I write to express my strongest personal and professional objections to this project.

My initial motivation in joining the community action opposing the project was triggered when I discovered that the area under proposal includes the Ferntree Gully Reserve. Ferntree Gully is remnant rainforest protected as a Crown Reserve and managed by the Ferntree Gully Trust, whose members maintain the Reserve. The walks in the Reserve are accessible and are a great tourism asset for the Mudgee Rylstone area.



Ferntree Gully Reserve 7 August, photos Juanita Kwok

The huge area under proposal stretches from prime agricultural land at Rylstone across to the Wollemi National Park.

Since, I became aware of the project and read the submission made by the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community, I have become opposed to the project in its entirety for the following reasons:

- 1) The proposal runs contrary to agreements signed by Australia to protect the environment
- 2) There are inadequacies and inaccuracies in the REF
- 3) The negative impact on water, flora and fauna and the destructive legacies of coal mining
- 4) The negative social and health impacts
- 5) The very real risk of destruction of Aboriginal heritage in the proposed area

1) The proposal runs contrary to agreements signed by Australia to protect the environment

The Rylstone – Wollemi area is environmentally significant and it needs protection, not destruction. The area under proposal already took a devastating blow in the Gospers fire of 2019-20, which burnt vast areas of the Wollemi Wilderness and the Rylstone area. The vegetation in the area under proposal needs to recover and be retained.

NSW Energy and Environment Minister Matt Kean stated that NSW is “leading the nation when it comes to decarbonisation,” (ABC Radio, Tuesday 10 August). Yet the planned clearing of land for coal mining and the extraction of fossil fuels will add to carbon emissions.

The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that Australia may warm by 4°C or more this century. This report synthesised 14,000 research papers and involved 234 of the world’s leading scientists. Australia has signed or ratified nearly 100 environmental treaties and it has national and international obligations to fulfil its obligations to protect the environment.

2) Inadequacies and flaws in the Review of Environmental Factors REF

The Rylstone Region Coal Free Community commissioned qualified professionals, Earthscapes consultants Pty Ltd. To conduct a review of the Environmental Impact Statement provided by the applicant.

The review of the EIS commissioned by the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community and contained in their submission, concluded that :

the REF has not properly assessed the geology and water resources of the region, threatened flora in the area, nor the Aboriginal heritage. It has drawn inaccurate conclusions based on the limited and inadequate information and assessments.

Until such time as can be satisfied that the environmental impact of the geology and water resources of the region and the threatened flora in the area are properly assessed, this project cannot be allowed to proceed in any manner.

3) The impact on water, flora and fauna and the destructive legacies of coal mining

The impact on water resources

Coal mining has been shown to have serious negative impact on the landscape in the Wollemi area. See Muir, K. (2010). *The Impact of Coal Mining on the Gardens of Stone*, Colong Wilderness Foundation.

Scientific studies show that exploratory drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers causing the supply of water in creeks and rivers to decrease. Subsistence from exploration and mining can crack rock substrate and lower water tables. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

Moreover, open cut and underground coal mines have been shown to cause water contamination and destroy biodiversity in waterways. See Ali, A., Strezov, V., Davies, P. *et al.* Environmental impact of coal mining and coal seam gas production on surface water quality in the Sydney basin, Australia. *Environ Monit Assess* **189**, 408 (2017).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-017-6110-4>; Morrison, K.G., Reynolds, J.K. & Wright, I.A. Subsidence Fracturing of Stream Channel from Longwall Coal Mining Causing Upwelling Saline Groundwater and Metal-Enriched Contamination of Surface Waterway. *Water Air Soil Pollut* **230**, 37 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11270-019-4082-4>

Flora and Fauna

With regard to the flora and fauna in the proposed area, there are 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

The disturbance of, or destruction of waterways would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species and the loss of invertebrates.

Wright, I.A., Ryan, M.M. Impact of mining and industrial pollution on stream macroinvertebrates: importance of taxonomic resolution, water geochemistry and EPT indices for impact detection. *Hydrobiologia* **772**, 103–115 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10750-016-2644-7>;

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.

4) The social and health impacts

Health impacts

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 Windemere Dam. Thus, the proposed release areas threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted.

There would be a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on local and rural roads.

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.

Social impacts

Coal mining would destroy the village of Lue, as it has done to the nearby village of Wollar.

Coal mining guzzles water and the demand for water would compete with pastoralists.

Mines would transform a beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one just as the area has established itself as a premier tourism destination.

5) The threat of destruction of Aboriginal heritage in the proposed area

The REF states there are no known Aboriginal objects within the project area and there are no declared Aboriginal places within the project area.

This is inaccurate. The AHIMS database has recorded rock art, artefact, grinding groove and potential archaeological deposits throughout the site.

The fact that the REF was unable to identify any Aboriginal sites within the area shows a lack of care and expertise. The Earthscapes review found that it would appear that there was no site inspection by a suitably qualified person informing the REF on matters of Aboriginal heritage.

The Aboriginal heritage assessment has not been undertaken in accordance with the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (2010). As there are recorded Aboriginal heritage sites on the AHIMS database scattered across the proposed area, no further work should proceed without qualified investigation and impact assessment.

The importance of Aboriginal heritage

The preservation of Aboriginal rock art heritage connects contemporary indigenous residents to their cultural stories and histories.

See Tacon, P.S. (2019). Connecting to the Ancestors: Why Rock Art is important for indigenous Australians and their well-being. *Rock Art Research: The Journal of the Australian Rock Art Research Association (AURA)*, 36 (1), 5-14.

<https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/ielapa.392956435680766>

The rock art which can be found in numerous sites in the proposed area is also a potential tourism asset, which is as yet unexplored. See Cole, Noelene A., and Lynley A. Wallis 2019.

"Indigenous Rock Art Tourism in Australia: Contexts, Trajectories, and Multifaceted Realities" *Arts* 8, no. 4: 162. <https://doi.org/10.3390/arts8040162>

Conclusion

For all the reasons elucidated in my points above, as a heritage specialist and as a resident of the Central West, I strongly object to the Hawkins Rumker proposal. I object to the opening up of new land for coal exploration anywhere in New South Wales. There are many options for renewable energy and the NSW Dept of Planning and the Environment needs to be exploring these options, not fossil fuels.

Juanita Kwok

Historian and Heritage Consultant

[REDACTED]

Bathurst NSW 2795

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13/08/2021 10:41:42 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [ian-baird-submission-proposed-hawkins-and-rumker-strategic-coal-exploration-and-mining-leases.docx](#)

Submitted on Fri, 13/08/2021 - 10:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Ian

Last name
Baird

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Katoomba

Submission file
[ian-baird-submission-proposed-hawkins-and-rumker-strategic-coal-exploration-and-mining-leases.docx](#)

Submission
Please find attached my submission in relation to the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

Dr Ian Baird

Katoomba NSW 2780

15 August 2021

Director Energy and Resources Policy

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

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

Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

I am writing to indicate my objection to the granting of any new coal exploration and mining leases at a time when our society must be doing everything possible to mitigate climate change impacts; new coal mines are completely incompatible with this most critically important goal.

I wish to express my concern in relation to potential negative impacts of coal mining in the proposed Rumker and Hawkins lease areas north and northeast of Rylstone, proposed for release for coal exploration and mining under the Strategic Release Framework; these areas are directly adjacent to Wollemi National Park, part of the Greater Blue Mountains Area World Heritage Property (GBMA), and include ecosystems contiguous with the GBMA. Coal mining adjacent to the GBMA poses a threat to the World Heritage values of this Property.

The threat to aquatic ecosystems in the area, particularly groundwater dependent ecosystems, is exemplified in the now well-documented, catastrophic impacts of underground longwall coal extraction on the nearby Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps (NPSS), listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, and part of the Commonwealth Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone (THPSS) Endangered Ecological Community (*EPBC Act 1999*). Baird and Benson (2020)¹ reported “*increasing evidence of the lowering and loss of water tables in undermined NPSS swamps and resulting impacts on groundwater-dependent flora and fauna.*” They noted that following the 2019 bushfires, “*observations of the impact of the longwall mining-related lowering of water-tables and subsequent fire impacts in these swamps provides dramatic evidence of the irreversible damaging impacts of longwall mining. Unlike the reference swamps, the undermined swamps failed to respond to good rains since January 2020, with almost no resprouting of typical and often long-lived, resprouter sedgeland and shrub species.... the dead swamps provide clear evidence of the impacts of longwall mining.*” The loss of groundwater on groundwater-dependent fauna species at the western edge of their distributions, such as the Endangered Blue Mountains Water Skink (*Eulamprus leuraensis*) and Endangered Giant Dragonfly (*Petalura gigantea*), has resulted in, or is expected (based on current monitoring trajectories) to result in extirpation of all populations of these species in undermined swamps¹.

¹ Baird, I.R.C. and Benson, D. (2020). Serious impacts of longwall coalmining on endangered Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps, exposed by the December 2019 bushfires. *Australasian Plant Conservation* **29**(1):12-15.

The Rumker and Hawkins strategic coal exploration areas include all of the upper Cox's Creek, Breakfast Creek and Reedy Creek catchments. The significant biodiversity values of the endangered and unique montane peat swamps in the upper Cudgegong River catchment east of Rylstone (including Cox's Creek), have previously been highlighted^{2,3}. These peat swamp ecosystems form part of the Montane Peatlands and Swamps in NSW Endangered Ecological Community (NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*) and although not specifically identified as such, will form part of the THPSS Endangered Ecological Community. Due to their high biodiversity values, some of these areas (e.g., Coricudgy State Forest and its significant montane peat swamps), have been proposed for addition to the GBMA⁴.

In view of the extensive evidence of the destructive impact of longwall coal mining on the Endangered NPSS^{1,5} and well documented damage to watercourses and Coastal Upland Swamps of the Woronora Plateau south of Sydney, the potential for irreversible damage and destruction of these regionally important and poorly documented, groundwater dependent peat-swamp ecosystems along Cox's Creek and in the upper Lawson Creek catchment along Breakfast Creek and Reedy Creek, and rare spring ecosystems such as around Bald Mountain^{6,7}, is extremely high. There is also a high risk of negative impacts on stream hydrology, biodiversity and ecology across the area, including into the GBMA.

The potential for threatened species, e.g., the Endangered Giant Dragonfly, to be present in parts of these ecosystems is also high^{2,3}. The 2017 description of a recently discovered new species of giant spiny crayfish in headwater streams draining Mt Coricudgy in nearby

² Baird, I.R.C. & Benson, D. (2017). *Survey and estimation of biodiversity values in relation to National Heritage listing for Rollen Creek swamp, Coricudgy State Forest, Central Tablelands, NSW*. Unpublished report. Available from <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.24271.48800>.

³ Baird, I.R.C. & Benson, D. (2018). *Hydrogeomorphology, floristics, classification, and conservation values of the little-known montane mires of the upper Cudgegong River catchment, Central Tablelands, New South Wales*. *Cunninghamia*, 18, 001-021.

⁴ Benson, D. & Smith, J. (2015). Protecting biodiversity values in response to long-term impacts: additional areas recommended for inclusion in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. In: *Values for a new generation: Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area* (ed Benson, D.) pp. 48-75: Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Advisory Committee. Available from <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/values-new-generation.htm>

⁵ Keith, D.A., Benson, D., Krogh, M., Watts, L., Simpson, C.C., Baird, I., Mason, T. L., (2021) *Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps: Monitoring responses to the 2019-2020 bushfires and interactions with other threatening processes*. Update Report March 2021. Centre for Ecosystem Science, University of NSW, Sydney.

⁶ Lillis, S. (2002). Cudgegong River & Tributary Vegetation Mapping Project. Report prepared for The Cudgegong Catchment Committee (s.355 committee of Rylstone Shire Council) August 2002. Sj Landscape Constructions, Wollar, NSW.

⁷ Lillis, S. (2003). Lawsons Creek Vegetation Mapping Project. Report prepared for the Cudgegong Catchment Committee (s.355 committee of Rylstone Shire Council) November 2003. Sj Landscape Constructions, Wollar, NSW.

Coricudgy State Forest⁸ highlights the potential for rare, threatened, and as yet undiscovered aquatic species to be present elsewhere in the proposed lease areas. McCormack and Ahyong (2017) suggested this species qualified for listing as Critically Endangered. The occurrence of isolated populations of the rare mallee, *Eucalyptus camphora* subsp. *camphora*, in and around swamps in the proposed lease areas, further highlights the biodiversity values of this area and the threat associated with any lowering of water tables associated with coal mining.

The World Heritage Committee is unambiguous in stating that mineral exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status. The World Heritage Committee's decision in 2019 (43 COM 7B.2⁹) "*notes with concern that several mining projects exist in the vicinity of or adjacent to the property, and that some mining activities have resulted in impacts on the property, as evidenced by the incident at the Clarence Colliery, and also requests the State Party to undertake an assessment of potential cumulative impacts of all existing and planned mining projects in the vicinity of the property through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or a similar mechanism*".

CSIRO has been contracted by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, to conduct the Greater Blue Mountains Area Cumulative Impact Assessment project which aims to identify risk to the Outstanding Universal Value of the GBMA from mining and analyse the protection and management arrangements. The outcomes of the CSIRO cumulative impact assessment project, which is currently being finalised, may have models that will assist with assessing potential impacts to the GBMA. We recommend the model be used should a Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment, as described in the Strategic Release Process, be determined.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Baird

⁸ McCormack, R.B. & Ahyong, S.T. (2017). *Euastacus vesper* sp. nov., a new giant spiny crayfish (Crustacea, Decapoda, Parastacidae) from the Great Dividing Range, New South Wales, Australia. *Zootaxa*, 4244, 556-567. doi:10.11646/zootaxa.4244.4.6

⁹ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7430/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 6:31:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [lithgow-environment-group-submission- -hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Julie

Last name

Favell

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Blackmans Flat 2790

Submission file

[lithgow-environment-group-submission- -hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

Submission

Please see attached a submission on behalf of Lithgow Environment Group Inc. objecting to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal Exploration licence.

Yours sincerely

Julie Favell

Natural Area's Project Officer

Lithgow Environment Group

PO Box 3081

BOWENFELS NSW 2790

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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



Lithgow Environment Group Inc.

PO Box 3081 Bowenfels, NSW 2790

ABN 23395145080

Preserving the Balance of Nature

18th August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

The Lithgow Environment Group Inc. (LEG) objects to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration licence. Our reasons for opposing it are outlined below.

Issues with the PRIA Process

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government has prepared is fundamentally flawed. The area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area, incorrectly states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and that no threatened fauna and flora occur in the area. LEG questions how the NSW government can ensure that any future exploration licenses would include "*strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values*", when the NSW Government's own PRIA process can'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 only issued notices for community consultation in June 2021.

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

The community consultation meeting was capped at four groups of 50 people, with one of these to be held in Mudgee. How could this be regarded as genuine 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 to of this Proposal is to this 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. See attached historic documentation on the impacts on surface and groundwater

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining, and current legislation is 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 has 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 upon; 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. Current example is Lithgow with the decline of coal for the domestic market given renewables have taken hold with daytime generation.

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 the roads in the proposal area are already very poor, and not suited to increased or heavy load traffic. Historically mining companies have been loath to fund the mitigation of road maintenance and traffic safety 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 are not required to cover their wagons, which has already been reported as being associated with pollution from the transporting of coal.

Health effects are already being felt as people, land, water and air are yet to recover from previous drought, fires and current pandemic, not to mention the anxiety this Proposal is creating for the local community.

Our members urge the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to reject this Proposal in its entirety, so that the local community can get on with their lives without having the long-term threat of mining ruining their quality of life hanging over their heads for years.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Favell

Natural Areas Project Officer

Lithgow Environment Group Inc.

(02) 6355 1179

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12/08/2021 9:56:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [diane-page-rcfc.docx](#)

Submitted on Thu, 12/08/2021 - 09:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Diane

Last name

Page

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone 2849

Submission file

[diane-page-rcfc.docx](#)

Submission

See Uploaded file

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Diane Page

Rylstone NSW 2849

I oppose the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration for the following reasons:

1. The Government has not informed all of our community properly about the submission and exactly how the submission will be evaluated.
2. The exploration will endanger the water supply of our community. We must have clean, potable, safe, and secure water. This exploration jeopardises our water supply and threatens our existence and our future here.
3. It will destroy and pollute agricultural land, which is one of our major industries in the area, (land) which could then never be rehabilitated to a productive level.
4. The exploration will create fear and uncertainty and stunt investment in our towns. It will threaten the sense of security of the people who have invested time, energy, infrastructure and money to develop businesses and tourism in our towns, Rylstone and Kandos.
5. To be globally competitive, the energy future for our nation is in renewable energy. Investment of tax payer money must be in energy sources for the future. It would be a waste of money to invest in fossil fuel energy sources which are fast being decommissioned by our trade nations.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12/08/2021 9:08:03 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-in-response-to-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment.docx](#)

Submitted on Thu, 12/08/2021 - 09:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Gregory

Last name

Sky

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

BOGEE NSW 2849

Submission file

[submission-in-response-to-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment.docx](#)

Submission

Document is attached

I agree to the above statement

Yes

SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO PRELIMINARY REGIONAL ISSUES ASSESSMENT

HAWKINS AND RUMKER INFORMATION PAPER

May 2021

The document “2021 IGR TTRP” advises that:-

There are 39 coal mines in NSW,

86% of coal mined in NSW is exported generating \$1.5bn equal to (only) 1.9% of NSW Government’s total revenue,

Fugitive methane emissions account for 9% of NSW’s GHG emissions,

Further coal production will be largely determined by global demand,

The 2 top markets, Japan and South Korea, have committed to zero emissions by 2050; the third, China, by 2060,

Future coal production is now expected to be considerably weaker than forecast in the 2016 IGR,

Chart 3, p19, shows Lower Global Coal Demand as zero from 2042 onwards (in 21 years’ time),

Chart 5, p20, shows employment in coal mining declining to zero, and Chart 6, p21, shows royalties also declining to zero,

The costs of renewable energy generation and storage are forecast to fall considerably over the coming decades.

The IPCC Climate Report, released this month, advises that “Greenhouse Gas Emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk”. The report must “sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels” before they destroy the planet. And further “the viability of our societies depends on leaders from government, business and civil society uniting behind policies, actions and investments that will limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius”.

The report synthesised 14000 research papers and involved 234 of the world’s leading scientists, giving us their take on the most authoritative and comprehensive statement since 2013 on the state of Earth’s climate

Nearby, when Centennial Coal cancelled its Angus Place coal mine application this month, five threatened wetlands in the Gardens of Stone were saved and 123 million tonnes of coal was kept safely in the ground, equivalent to two years of NSW’s total climate pollution.

For years, Centennial Coal (CC) denied they were damaging the wetlands and waterways, and paid consultants to convince state and federal governments that they would not drain these endangered ecosystems. Scientific evidence forced CC to admit that it would completely drain five remaining wetlands, destroying the habitat of some of NSW’s rarest

threatened plants and animals. Nature Conservation Council (NCC) investigations last year revealed the CC was cheating on its greenhouse gas emissions assessment, failing to account for 97% of the climate pollution it would cause.

Meanwhile the demand for coal is waning due to renewables. The NSW renewable energy roadmap that passed Parliament in late 2020 prepares the state for a future without coal generation, removing CC's trump card. In Thailand, CC's parent company Banpu announced a plan to turn away from fossil fuels, which the NCC leveraged locally to point out the inconsistency of opening a new mine in Australia to mine coal until 2053. Finally, in the face of a growing wave of public, political and scientific opposition, and declining demand for their product, CC withdrew their application.

Specifically, the NSW Government appears short-sighted in proposing coal mining at Hawkins-Rumker. These small isolated sites, in prime rural land, are unworthy of the cost of exploration and development. Should the proposal be approved beyond Stage 2, it seems inconceivable that subsequent Stages 3-6 would proceed given public concerns about coal mining and its dubious economic viability.

While the Federal Government is in denial about global warming, the NSW Government would have the public believe that it is more attuned to addressing greenhouse gas issues. Instead of looking at coal mining for royalties and jobs, the NSW Government should embrace the opportunities provided by renewables or face the wrath of the populace at the next election.

Gregory Sky, [REDACTED] Bogee NSW 2849. [REDACTED] 12/8/2021

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11/08/2021 7:59:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkins-letter-of-opposition.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 11/08/2021 - 19:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
 I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
 Vincent
Last name
 Wozniak-O'Connor

I would like my submission to remain confidential
 No

Info

Email
 [REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
 Springwood 2777

Submission file
[hawkins-letter-of-opposition.docx](#)

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

Vincent Wozniak O'Connor
 Springwood 2777 NSW
 11/8/21

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 35 years of age and have been visiting the area for 4 years as a bike tourer and bushwalker.

I believe the impact of further coal exploration on the Mudgee region will negatively impact the Central West region, in a time when coal leases are expiring in the Lithgow region and we desperately need to move to sustainable energy solutions and devise new solutions for developing thriving regional economies.

The Communities connected by new nearby cycle touring routes in the region including the Central west Cycle trail would be deprived of an alternative economy that is separate to a future embedded in coal exploration.

Additionally, I would like to add-

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

There is a wealth 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.

Further exploration- and development will not bring prosperity and instead of lasting skilled work for locals- but instead leave a legacy of post-coal clean up and subsequent environmental degradation.

The impact on the biodiversity of the region will be terminally impacted in a time when locals of New South Wales will be seeking to renegotiate their relationship to nature by undertaking increasing cycle journeys in the central and mid west of NSW.

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

Yours sincerely,
 Vincent Wozniak O'Connor

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Vincent Wozniak O'Connor
Springwood 2777 NSW
11/8/21

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 35 years of age and have been visiting the area for 4 years as a bike tourer and bushwalker.

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

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

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The impact on the biodiversity of the region will be terminally impacted in a time when locals of New South Wales will be seeking to renegotiate their relationship to nature by undertaking increasing cycle journeys in the central and mid west of NSW.

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

Yours sincerely,

Vincent Wozniak O'Connor

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10/08/2021 3:03:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkins-and-rumker-coal-mining-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 10/08/2021 - 15:01

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Susan

Last name

Douglas

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

SOUTH BATHURST

Submission file

[hawkins-and-rumker-coal-mining-submission.docx](#)

Submission

Please find my submission file attached.

My submission opposes the NSW Government releasing the Hawkins and Rumker areas, located about 30 km east of Mudgee NSW, for coal exploration.

The grounds for my objection are the damage that will occur to:
Water, Air, Economics and Climate.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

My submission opposes the NSW Government releasing the Hawkins and Rumker areas, located about 30 km east of Mudgee NSW, for coal exploration.

The grounds for my objection are the damage that will occur to:

Water, Air, Economics and Climate.

Water

Coal mining is water intensive and leaves behind toxic tailings dams and slurries which have no-where to go except to gradually seep back into the soils and water tables causing serious ground water pollution. No coal mining operation has come up with a real solution for this problem and it will poison the area for decades to come.

Local drinking water and feeder streams could suffer from significant water loss affecting reservoirs, farming communities and towns. All water courses could be contaminated by coal particles.

Landowners in the district and beyond may have their groundwater bores and water sources run dry or be seriously compromised.

Air

Once mined coal has to be moved and coal train movements through the Hawker and Rumker area could result in exposure to dangerous micro-coal particulates, for which there is no minimum safe level of exposure. These coal dust particles, the size of bacteria, travel vast distances and research has proven that coal dust is associated with increased mortality rates, asthma, respiratory illnesses, chronic dermatitis, difficulties breathing, headaches and mental-health symptoms.

Economics

Existing long-term jobs and a sustainable economy in the Mudgee area are at risk including our agriculture, equine, tourism and local food production.

The following ABS statistics show investment in mining results in poor employment returns:

Agriculture delivers 3.7 jobs per \$1 million

Health delivers 8.47 jobs per \$1 million

Mining delivers just 1.02 jobs per \$1 million.

Any new mining jobs that may be created could mainly go to experienced mine workers from outside the district and must be balanced against job losses resulting from the mine's impacts.

Landowners in the district and beyond may have their groundwater bores and water sources run dry or be seriously compromised.

Mudgee has a great reputation as a rural destination for tourists and is the biggest wedding venue host outside of Sydney. These areas of economic growth may be seriously compromised by coal mining in the area.

Climate

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

It has just released a report confirming that the earth is continuing to warm and that we are already at 1.1 degree of warming.

All governments around the world are being asked to reduce the use of fossil fuels which contribute significantly to global warming, especially wealthy well-resourced nations such as Australia who have access to clean energy technologies and can make a wise choice not to develop more fossil fuel mining for the sake of the whole world climate system.

Thank you for considering my submission.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 6:31:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkins-rumker-august-21.docx](#)

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Liz

Last name

Milen

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Hurlstone Park

Submission file

[hawkins-rumker-august-21.docx](#)

Submission

See file attached

I agree to the above statement

Yes

To whom it may concern

My name is Liz Millen, I am a recently retired health worker living in Sydney, and I'm writing this submission as I am extremely concerned about the proposal to open the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration. This proposal flies in the face of the recent call from the International Energy Agency for there to be NO new coal, gas or oil developments if there is any chance of achieving net zero emissions by 2050, or keeping the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees, which scientists around the world have agreed need to be a minimum target to avoid catastrophic outcomes.

The IPCC report released last week reinforced the urgency of the situation. I believe we cannot keep on ignoring the bigger picture, and continuing to INCREASE coal extraction at the very time we need to be radically reducing coal use and the consequent carbon emissions. How much more evidence of future problems do we need? Almost every night the news carries terrifying stories and images of wild fires, unprecedented flooding, extended droughts – all evidence of the impacts of climate change before we have even reached 1.5 degrees globally. I grew up confident that I would have a world to live in that was hospitable to human and non-human life; it's a devastating prospect to have to talk to our children about building resilience to prepare for the future that awaits them, especially when we have to admit that our governments did not act when they could, ignored the science, kept on putting immediate profit ahead of a future for the whole planet.

And apart from the fact that new coal projects should not be supported in the face of climate change, there are many other reasons why this proposal should not go ahead. Water is precious, and will become more so in the future, with predictions of decreased rainfall. It makes no sense to risk the integrity of water catchments by mining near or under them, and there is growing evidence that where this has been allowed, the results have been dire, with cracks draining aquifers, and contamination leading to reduction in biodiversity. Once underground aquifers are gone, they are gone for good.

I call on the NSW government to reject this proposal, and to commit to the recommendations of the IEA not to approve new coal, oil and gas developments.

I understand it is not easy to transition to new ways of working, of generating power, of creating wealth, but I believe that we can do this, if we work together with the sense of urgency. I'm not the first to point out that the COVID pandemic has proved that the world can change overnight and we can adapt to that change. We need to start now. This exploration, which is a precursor to mining, should not be allowed.

Liz Millen

[REDACTED]

Hurlstone Park

NSW 2193

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09/08/2021 5:48:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [mikes-final-coal-objection.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 09/08/2021 - 17:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Mike

Last name

Pridmore

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2849

Submission file

[mikes-final-coal-objection.docx](#)

Submission

Mike Pridmore's coal exploration and mining objection - see attached file.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From Mike Pridmore
The Badger Ground

Rylstone ,NSW 2849
6th August 2021

TO: The Planning Regional Issues Assessment Team,
NSW Dept. of Planning, Industry and Environment

Re : My objection to the proposed Release of Coal Exploration Licences on our own property, called "The Badger Ground", in the Hawkins area , and also in the entire Hawkins-Rumkir area .

I wish to lodge my strong objection to *any* exploration or mining of coal on, or near our property "The Badger Ground", and to the development of any new coal mines in Australia,

I believe mining of any sort is quite inappropriate in this sandstone -pagoda country. For ourselves it would be a personal travesty . These are my reasons, all of which relate to our own personal world, "The Badger Ground".

Points include:

- **1. Climate Change:** coal mining contributes to chaotic climate changes and we need to stop global warming before we get *beyond* tipping point.
- **2. Economics:** There is no future in coal, so NO new coal mines. The future lies in renewable and sustainable industries and activities.
- **3. Water:** Australia is the driest continent. Water is the greatest resource we can have. It needs protection and is not to be pillaged. Without it, we all cease to exist. I have personal concerns re effect of mining on our spring-water source in the Badger Ground.
- **4. Wildlife:** Our investment in saving our wildlife, including koalas.
- **5. Tourism:** The future lies in our *natural* environment.
- **6. Our First Nation people and their culture:** there is growing evidence of a rich and viable culture that existed before white settlers arrived and extinguished it.
- **7. Tourism and a beautiful environment** are the drawcards to here. Coal mining this area would lead to the demise of our community, as it already has in Wollar and Bylong.
- **8 . Conclusion**

1. Climate change/chaos is now scientifically proven to be a fact, all over the world. We have prime examples of changing and worsening weather events, and scientists continue to warn us that we are approaching the tipping point of global catastrophe. As we continue to create new coal mines, we are hastening this process. Recent extreme drought and fire seasons tell us this.

We need to stop climate chaos before this happens. No new Coal Mines. This industry is making a major contribution to global warming.

2.Economics:

Alternative energies are developing rapidly all over the world, but Australia is well behind. As other nations keep advancing with new technologies, they will lose interest in Australia's coal supplies. Starting new coal mines is the way to economic depression throughout Australia.

Coal mining is becoming obsolete. Not good for our economics.

Coal miners can be re-trained to construct and work in renewable infrastructures. Solar, hydro, and other sources of energy need skilled work force. Our society needs trained skills in *other* industries which are sustainable and environmental.

I object to our home and property being destroyed by short-sighted, short-term, and irresponsible policies that in the end will serve neither the mining industry, as it starts to realise that it is no longer a viable industry, nor people like us who have been forced into seeing the *needless* destruction of the what is one of the earth's most precious resource: a healthy, beautiful environment.

3.WATER, and MY PERSONAL CONCERNS for The Badger Ground: I am very concerned that mining activity may disturb the underground water system and our local springs. There can be no guarantee that they will not be affected. Without the spring water, none of the following would have been possible. I

When I bought "The Badger Ground" in 1971, it was a weed-infested, isolated, neglected piece of land. It now is an arboretum. In the 1920's and 30's it was cleared to become a commercial market garden, known as "The Gardens". Our spring, deemed a "perpetual spring" in our 1860's Deeds, had nearly perished by 1971 due to mismanagement of the land.

We own 125 hectares, all now restored to good health. Apart from the natural regeneration of the bush over the years, I have planted over 4,000 plants (about 500 *species*) as windbreaks, wildlife corridors, wild life habitat, furniture timber and soil erosion repair.

The Spring Gully is now re-generated rain-forest gully, filled with rainforest trees which I have planted, including **Wollemi Pines, Bunya Pines, Red Cedars**. Many varieties of ferns, plus Fern Trees, have *naturally emerged* by the pool. Un- common stands of grand **Euc cypellocarpa** have re-established themselves. They are excellent koala food.

We have a vigorous **maze of about 400 grass trees, (Xanthorrhoea)** which we grew from seed in 1988 when we started an Environmental Native Plant Nursery.

In the way of **rare species of plants**, we have several including the Plume/Incense plant, **(Calomeria amaranthoides)**, plus the **Dagger Orchid (Dendrobium speciosum)** and the **Wet Dog Orchid (Dendrobium pugioniforme)** which grow on our pagoda rocks.

1988-2006, our Native Plant Nursery, with a yearly turnover of 30,000 native plants, supplied Landcare groups, the Regent Honey-eater Project, the Charbon Coal Mine Re-habilitation Programme and many other private and government projects, over 20 years. We collected provenance seed which we propagated, and we planted many of them out on projects, including Charbon. It was a great draw-card for the public, partly due to the natural environment and scenery. **This is what tourists and the public generally love.**

.4. Wildlife: Our property has also become a thriving Wild Life Sanctuary . People come from far and wide to enjoy what is happening here, and to learn how to do the same thing. We help to keep the wildlife alive throughout the drought years.

- We have a Conservation Agreement with the Biodiversity Land Trust, and are members of the Wildlife Land Trust, The Wildlife Society and the Wombat Protection Alliance. Our land is bordered on three sides by Crown Land, much of which is the **Barrigan Heritage Lands Reserve (a 25,000 hectares Reserve)**. Apart from our narrow valley floor which our spring helps to nourish, “The Badger Ground” and its surrounds are wild, rugged and hard to access. It

Our property is well known for it's wildlife, especially for its large population of wombats.

Wombats, generally much maligned by farmers, are ,in fact a species threatened by mangle and habitat loss. They in fact have important functions including keeping the land healthy.

We also have threatened species such as the Powerful Owl, and koalas: we now have an established small colony of resident koalas. Prior to the 2019 drought and fire time, we had a resident diamond python in our garden.

We have noticed, amongst others, the *disappearance* of other species such as the spotted tail quoll and Greater gliders, perhaps due to the three years of drought prior to February 2020.

I believe these and other species have emerged from the Barrigan Heritage Lands Reserve, and I would urge that that Reserve, along with our connected property, remain unscathed by mining, and preserved for wild life habitat.

I believe it is essential that all this land remains intact for wild life habitat and for its sandstone-pagoda geological and aesthetic qualities, both of which are of greater value than for mining.

5. Tourism is the future here, not mining. The “Badger Ground” has always been one of the attractions. All our roads are tourist drives. Mining activity would destroy it all.

- **Peace and silence and clear skies: a rare asset:**

We have clear skies here, and silence. Mostly. However, these remarkable and rare qualities are threatened already by the creeping expansion of the coal mines to our north, and the Bowdens Silver Mine to our west. When the air is particularly clear, we can hear the Lue Bike Track activities, vehicles changing gears on the Bylong Valley Way, and parties conducted over 6 kms away. The noise of coal exploration drilling, let alone mining itself, would be horrific, damaging not only to humans but to the wild life.

- Coal mining has destroyed the communities of Wollar and the Bylong Valley. New mines would destroy Rylstone and Kandos, and the small villages around it. Our local economy depends on drawing people to our unique natural features of our sandstone-pagoda country. Ferntree Gully Environmental Reserve and Gungahyup are *examples* of passive recreational areas, and are *crowded* by bushwalkers, mountain-bike riders, birdwatchers, botanists, and tourists in general. All our roads are tourist drives due to their beauty.

Silence: A most rare and precious resource! We have it in “The Badger Ground”. Visitors exclaim over the absence of noise from human activities when they come here. It is a very rare experience. Mining activity would totally destroy it.

Clear night skies bring astromers to this area. Visitors to our place exclaim over the amazing star-lit sky here.. Coal mining activity lights up the night. It is already encroaching on our horizon, as we have faint light due to the Coal mining activity around Mudgee., Any mining nearer to us would totally destroy our night skies.

6. First Nation people:

There is evidence on our place that the First Nation people lived here. It includes grinding grooves in rocks near water sources . Search is going on for *further* evidence and it is important that the landscape is not destroyed before it can be found and managed in the right way. Much has already been damaged by white settlers living here. First Nation culture is to be highly valued and understood. They lived well without digging coal out of the ground.

Conclusion:

I want to repeat that I oppose all new coal mining activity, here on our property, “The Badger Ground” and its surrounds. All of this pagoda-sandstone country is interconnected. Wildlife depend on corridors around and over the terrain. All of it needs to be kept intact, as a whole.

The future of our economy, and the world at large, lies in having a healthy environment, and all *that* implies, *not* in the short-sighted, inappropriate and irreversibly damaging push for new coal mines.

Mike Pridmore

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08/08/2021 3:40:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [rystone-coal-free-community-letter.docx](#)

Submitted on Sun, 08/08/2021 - 15:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Julia

Last name

Longford

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2070

Submission file

[rystone-coal-free-community-letter.docx](#)

Submission

Letter uploaded

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Dear Sir/Madam

I am very concerned about the plan for the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. I am Sydney resident who visits the Rylstone, Kandos and Mudgee areas frequently every year to camp and relax in nature in the waterway parks and camping areas including Dunns Swamp and Cudgegong Waters Park.

Therefore, particular areas that are highly concerning this coal exploration would detrimentally effect are:

1. Water.

Coal mines have a significant negative impact on water resources in an area. They disturb, contaminate and destroy waterways. Springs and bores can disappear through mining drilling and digging activities. The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong waterways are Rylstone's water supply and this also flows into the Windermere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong.

Mining uses extraordinary amounts of water and with this, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment and nothing to fight bushfires with.

2. Native animals and plants.

There are many endangered flora and fauna species which could be lost. NSW Bionet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. Mines would transform the beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialized one and negatively impact on the value of the World Heritage area on its doorstep.

3. Climate Change and carbon emissions.

Coal produces 2.42kg of carbon per kg of coal burnt. An underground mine also produces methane emissions. The world is moving away from coal. Australia must encourage innovation and renewables

More questions:

- This proposed mine goes against NSW government's net-zero goal.
- The NSW government's own 2021 Intergenerational report forecasts decreased royalties from thermal coal as international demand falls.

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.

Thank you reading this letter and I urge you to consider my points.

Yours sincerely

Julia Longford
Sydney resident

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08/08/2021 2:57:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Sun, 08/08/2021 - 14:56

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Natalie

Last name

Tremain

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bathurst

Submission file

[submission.docx](#)

Submission

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

8 August 2021

Natalie Tremain

[REDACTED]

Bathurst NSW 2795

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am 53 years of age and have been living in the Bathurst for 25 years and I love exploring the Central West' nature walks on a regular basis. We moved to this area for the natural landscape (not developed) and easy access to beautiful natural places. I am very much against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration for various reasons.

I strongly believe that coal exploration will be a precursor to coal mining which will negatively impact this landscape by threatening flora and fauna and thus the reason why I came to this area in the first place will be negatively impacted. And besides, isn't NSW Government's one of the four actions to support diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phase-out of thermal coal mining? So why are we entertaining this in the first place?!

Another reason is that I am tired of hearing that there are no Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, which really shows our ignorance about Country once again. Please be brave, have courage to make decisions to protect these areas.

Another reason is that I am fed up with the lack of transparent practices about community consultation. It is not appropriate not to include the residents in surrounding areas and only provide limited notifications. I find this PRIA process done in poor taste; disrespectful.

And another reason is that I am deeply concerned about the threat to the region's water supplies. I cannot understand why you would gamble and have the approach of "nothing will happen, all precautions are taken" on our most beautiful asset and that is our nature! How many accidents have happened at other mines?! Because once the water is gone, we will never get it back again and the landscape will change, including the local communities, flora and fauna!

Finally, I hold concerns for the wellbeing of the people in this area having to manage coping with the air, water, soil and noise pollution and accommodation costs. It's a few jobs, for a few years and then what are you left with?! Local people getting sick, high risk of permanent damage to nature and loss of cultural significance...

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

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Tremain

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Delete all text that is highlighted.

Full Name
Full address

Date

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 xxx years of age and have been living in / visiting the area for xxxxx years.

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

Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

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

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

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

Water

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

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08/08/2021 10:45:25 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkinsrumkersubmission-tommoschitz.docx](#)

Submitted on Sun, 08/08/2021 - 10:44

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Leura

Submission file

[hawkinsrumkersubmission-tommoschitz.docx](#)

Submission

For the reasons outlined in my submission, I am completely opposed to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Leura NSW 2780

8th August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

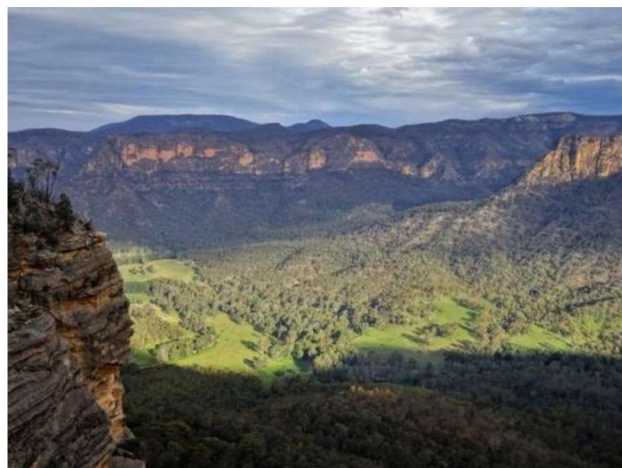
I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration!

My reasons and how it will impact me are outlined below.

I am a long time resident of the Greater Blue Mountains and take immense pride that it is recognised globally by its UNESCO World Heritage status. For myself, my family and friends, we have spent many weekends and holidays in this area, appreciating the unique environment and natural beauty. The fact this coal exploration is planned to be bordering Wollemi National Park, one of the eight protected areas of the Greater Blue Mountains, would see a severe degradation in the natural beauty of this section of the protected area.



Above - Wedding Cake Mountain and Mt Morgan from the Lovers Leap Range, roughly 35kms to the North-East of the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration area.



Above – Looking towards Nullo Mountain State Forest, less than 10kms to the East of the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration area.

It will also have a significant impact on adjoining areas such as the tranquil Capertee Valley and spectacular wine producing Mudgee region. The proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration would devastate the area and its surrounding natural and pristine beauty.



Above – Capertee Valley as it is today, a peaceful and idyllic rural setting amongst spectacular natural beauty.



Above – Mudgee as it is recognised today, a spectacular food and wine tourism destination set against a peaceful rural backdrop.

NSW Government approved coal exploration would transform this natural beauty into an industrial and unsightly environment that would have negative and long lasting impacts on the value of the area and the World Heritage acknowledgement.



Above – A typical open cut coal mine

The following issues may have already been raised as major concerns by other residents. I too, feel strongly about the following issues:

Flora and Fauna

This area has been recognised as being unique and should be treasured for its diversity. There are many endangered flora and fauna species. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. Endangered ecological communities could also be lost.

There are meadows in the region, such as riparian meadows, as well as swamp grasslands and bogs that would be under threat.

The nature and its ecosystem has been established for many years and should not be taken for granted.

Water and Water Security

Disturbance of any water sources, would see waterways disturbed and/or destroyed, threatening fish species and other animals that use them for survival. This area is rich in natural bores and springs and must be protected. Mining and exploration can significantly impact these water resources as well.

It is well documented that underground coal mines and open cut mining methods have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways. The Hawkins Rumker proposed release areas threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; and water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted.

Water, as a precious resource, must be protected. It protects life, and us, especially when there are other devastations such as bushfires. Without water, nothing lives.

Impact on the local economy

It is difficult to believe that coal mining in the Hawkins Rumker coal release areas would have any positive benefits for the local community. The Hawkins Rumker coal release areas are on the fringe of a significant growing tourism destination and their approval would have detrimental effects on local employers, that will affect the local economy. The Mudgee Region recorded 32% visitation growth since 2014, as reported by Tourism Research Australia. It now welcomes, on average, 691,000 visitors annually, resulting in more than one million overnight visitors and over \$199M to the region's visitor economy each year.

The impacts are on vineyards, olive groves, beef and sheep farms, horse studs, eco-tourism, accommodation, cafes and restaurants and other retail and wholesale industries would be far-reaching.

It is understood that 180 landholders will be directly affected by the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas. Subject to cover approximately 32,000 ha of land, it will cross agricultural and farming areas, causing significant impact to the purposes of these land areas.

As a specialist industry, mining provides little or no support for the creation of local jobs, whilst in operation. And when the mining efforts reduce or even close up, local towns are left to pick up the pieces of a decimated regional economy and community. Rarely is the transition managed well.

The need for 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.

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.

Aboriginal Heritage

I am aware 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.

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 increased 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 and economic stability.

For all of the above reasons, I am completely opposed to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:58:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkins-rumker-pria-cfp-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 23:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Chris

Last name

Pavich

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mudgee

Submission file

[hawkins-rumker-pria-cfp-submission.docx](#)

Submission

Chris Pavich

[REDACTED]

MUDGEE NSW 2850

[REDACTED]

Dear DPIE officers and contracted consultants

Re Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission

I wish to voice my concerns regarding proposed opening of the subject lands for coalmining exploration.

It is assumed that following the issue of exploration licences the NSW government will then seek applications for coal mining licences from the explorers. Consequently my concerns extend to the impacts of coalmining in addition to exploration activities.

My interests in the above process stem from:

- Lifelong interest in geology, physical and human geography, aided by recreational interests in landcare, birdwatching, camping, surfing, bushwalking, climbing, mountaineering, kayaking and canoeing, skiing, photography, and geology
- Gaining a university degree majoring in Earth Sciences
- Working as an Engineer, Engineering Geologist, Land Manager, and National Parks Ranger / Project Officer in Australia and the United Kingdom
- Travels in Australia and all other continents except Antarctica observing natural lands management, natural and cultural features, social conditions, and undertaking volunteer work in land conservation projects in various districts of East Africa, Scotland, and Australia.
- Working with NSW NPWS in many places from Tiboburra to Lord Howe Island, with the last 22 years of this career working mostly in Wollemi National Park.

Principal Concerns relating to Hawkins – Rumker PRIA

Social

- Disruption of family life for 100's of people with uncertainty of future lifestyle if current peaceful, secluded often semi-natural living environment becomes industrial, for years or decades
- Loss of small communities of friends or colleagues with relocations becoming frequent
- Loss of organisations such as RFS, Landcare, Farmers groups such as Wild Dog Associations, CWA sporting groups
- Tranquil tracks and byways becoming busy roads
-

Economic

- Agricultural enterprises being sold to large companies, consequent loss of rural jobs and demand for rural products
- Expanding tourist trade with hospitality and other visitor services opportunities, employing many young semi or unskilled local workers, evaporating
- Exploration and Mining work principally employing technologically or professionally skilled staff, who mostly will come from out-of-area cities or coast
- Land and Home prices rising dramatically, forcing younger people to choose to live elsewhere
- Rental houses becoming even more difficult to find
- Rental prices rising steeply
-

Cultural Heritage

Aboriginal

- All of Australia is significant and has a spiritual connection for most First Nation people – and any loss of visible or archaeological occupation, agricultural, hunting, stone toolmaking, trees and other plants for weaving and basketry, timber shields / coolamans / spears / canoes, ritual sites, art sites, and carved trees are significant. These sites are widely scattered everywhere.
- Quarries for petrified wood and silcrete toolmaking and ochre are also prevalent within coal measures areas.
- Sandstone overhang occupation and gallery sites are also prevalent.

Recent Settlers (including Asian, African, European et al)

- Chinese gold mining water race-lines, pit, and occupation sites often found in local valley floors, side, and creeklines locally
- Old dog fences, engraved stone or rock and tree or timber survey marks, huts, gardens, or foundations of disappeared homesteads, old abandoned machinery, early roads or pathways – all these artefacts are present but mostly unknown or not recorded.

Environmental

Landscapes

- Large bare Open-cut pits, roadways, Coal Prep plants, railway loops, powerlines, water treatment facilities, explosives magazines, machinery sheds, workshops, plant and equipment and materials storage yards, signage, replacing rural or forested/woodland lands
- Rehabilitated mined lands having even-aged tree and shrub stands with lack of bacterial, fungal, herbs - grasses – forbs, shrub, tree, insect, mammal, and reptile diversity, and consequently providing very limited native species habitat.
- Mined areas usually will extend to the very edge of native forest or woodland, leaving no extensive grassy areas providing emu and night time kangaroo, wallaby, wombat and other species feeding lands, with consequent loss of these species at least locally, with some local extinctions.
-

Flora and Fauna

Flora and fauna

- Roadkill of kangaroos, wombats, various bird species, reptiles and turtles, echidnas, will all become far more frequent victims of heavy traffic at all hours of the day and night
- Loss habitat for most native species with the development of pits and facilities, roads, dwellings,
- Spread of feral species that prefer open landscapes, easier access, and large open structures (dogs, cats, foxes, exotic rats and mice, feral pigeons,
- Larger areas of disturbed lands becoming populated with pioneer weed species
- Endangered species such as Brush-tailed Rock wallabies were once common in the local sandstone country but may be locally extinct, and even more likely to be so when disturbance by mining activity commences.

Water

- Competition for scarce ground and surface water will be a determining factor for the development of coal handling facilities in the area. Even without mining locally, water is already not infrequently in short supply. Long distance pipelines may bring unwanted contaminated water from distant existing mines, but will be expensive to treat and a pollution hazard.

•

Pollution

- Coal dust while in transport to end user by train
- Dust from in-pit trucking
- Dust from blasting
- Noise from blasting
- Low-frequency vehicle and dozer rumbling especially long distance issue on still cold nights
- Vehicle heavy traffic noise, including heavy vehicle air compression brakes
- Light pollution at night
- Waste pit breaches following very heavy rainfall released into the local streams and eventually into the Hunter or Macquarie Rivers systems
- Higher river acidity following sulphur solution in mine and groundwater
- Solution of salts and fine toxic metals (Zn, Cu, Fe, Ur, Sr, Ba, Pb) which are all found in traces but are concentrated in various ways locally, finding their way into streams and river systems
- Rail transport potential through Mudgee, Lue, Rylstone, Kandos, and many rural districts with attendant traffic disruption, noise, dust, massive inconvenience.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07/08/2021 2:55:45 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-to-dept-of-planning-hawkins_0.docx](#)

Submitted on Sat, 07/08/2021 - 14:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Virginia

Last name

Handmer

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone

Submission file

[submission-to-dept-of-planning-hawkins_0.docx](#)

Submission

I object to granting exploration licences for the Rumker Hawkins Coal exploration areas on the grounds of killing the future for ALL LIFE on Earth for short term gain.

Australia is inextricably linked to all life on this planet, we call ourselves rich and a world leader.

We know the Science; we know the risk and we know our responsibility.

We fall last in a UN OECD list of countries and their action on Climate Change. Our near neighbours are already climate refugees.

Stop the madness.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Submission to Dept of Planning Hawkins-Rumker

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

The IEA (International Energy Agency) in their April 2021, Global Energy Review states and I quote

“ The number of countries announcing pledges to achieve net-zero emissions over the coming decades continues to grow. But the pledges by governments to date- even if fully achieved- fall well short of what is required to bring global energy related carbon dioxide emissions to net zero by 2050 and give the world an even chance of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C.’

Executive Director of IEA, Faith Birol, spoke at the G20 meeting in Naples on the 23rd July 2021 and I quote

“We already have many of the technologies we need to reach net zero and we know innovation can help finish the job. International Cooperation is key to succeed. “

Top of the IEA list; NO NEW UNABATED COAL PLANTS effective immediately. Not only do we NOT spend time and money on this but we increase many fold this time and development on life giving, life preserving CLEAN AND EFFICIENT ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES. We join in full hearted cooperation with world leaders to succeed in averting this threat to all life.

Australia ranks 170th (and last) in Climate Action in OECD countries according to a recent UN study. This appalling and arrogant lack of care for our country and for our neighbours such as Pacific Island nations who are already Climate refugees is an embarrassment. The time to act is now. Shift the focus from a destructive extractive past to leaders in a productive sustainable future.

We must decarbonise the global economy in 3 decades and we have not acted in the past decades even though the science was there and the planning was there. THERE IS NO TIME UP OUR SLEEVE NOW. To ignore this situation will unleash catastrophic and irreversible changes to global climate and make many places impossible to live in, including almost the entire continent of Australia.

The community WANTS this action from government. Our young people want this action and the natural world is crying out in extinction and stress as a result of our inaction. Further, in NSW (13.03.21 SMH) Consumers and small business have already shown the way for government; Renewable energy already provides ALL THE DAYTIME power needs in NSW! Now is the time to invest in our planet, future generations and the future itself

Sincerely, Virginia Handmer [REDACTED] Rylstone NSW 2849

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04/08/2021 3:53:01 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [coal-is-a-bad-idea-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 04/08/2021 - 15:48

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

Teloepa, 2117

Submission file

[coal-is-a-bad-idea-submission.docx](#)

Submission

please do not give any of my personal information in those documents and possible supply to third parties such as state agencies, local government and the proponent.

you have my permission to use the document itself,

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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


Telopea, 2117

4th 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 59 years of age and have been visiting the area for 13 years. I was gob-smacked to hear our elected politicians are still moving forward with coal. I can't believe it.
Are you kidding?

We are taking from all of the next generations future as COAL IS UNSUSTAINABLE. I just can't believe the global message that COAL IS BAD and there is NOT SUCH THING AS CLEAN COAL keeps missing the headspace of people involved in approving and planning coal exploration.

It's gotta be about money. Greed and fear. WTF. Seriously.
Surely we can begin to build a state of exports other than coal. We have plenty of good brains to draw on that are not obscured by coal profiteering at any cost including:

- The local flora and fauna
- The water supplies (coal uses up a lot of water in its production, Australia IS THE DRIEST CONTINENT ON EARTH, leave it alone FGS)
- The health of locals – coal is not clean and has screwed up the health of families and individuals living close to coal mines
-

Besides, you guys and possibly gals are playing dirty. The power differential is palpable. Do you think the community is dumb?

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.

**PLEASE PROTECT our Aboriginal Heritage, AS WHITE PEOPLE WE HAVE ALREADY DONE ENOORMOUS DAMAGE
WHAT PART OF THIS DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND??**

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. THIS MUST STOP.

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

PLEASE STOP < GO INSIDE YOURSELVES AND FEEL DEEP. IS YOUR SUPPORT OF COAL EXPLORATION A LEGACY FOR THE PEOPLE YOU REPRESENT AND THE FUTURE GENERATIONS??

I can't believe I need to write this. IT IS SO OBVIOUS that it is a very wrong thing to approve, just ASK A 7 YEAR OLD. Ask your 7 year old or the 7 year old you that was possibly more connected to the land.

I am sorry to hurl insults but you guys and gals are proposing some very, very damaging effects that cannot be fixed once unleashed and the world has enough of these . Plus I don't want the world thinking I though this was a great idea.

It's not . Please put your time, energy and power into cleaning up the mess, not making more.

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03/08/2021 8:48:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [wollemi-coal-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 20:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Therese

Last name

Gibson

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Chiswick

Submission file

[wollemi-coal-submission.docx](#)

Submission

Objection to the NSW Government's announced exploration and development of new Coal mine leases in the Hawkins Rumker Area

I agree to the above statement

Yes

PERSONAL SUBMISSION

Objection to the NSW Government's announced exploration and development of new Coal mine leases in the Hawkins Rumker Area.

I am deeply concerned that the NSW government would embark on a plan to mine more coal, with full knowledge of the contribution of coal on climate change, including more extreme weather events & fires. Notwithstanding our own national CO2 emissions from coal, Australian coal exports continue to contribute millions of tonnes of embedded carbon dioxide emissions annually. It is inconceivable that this government is considering the expansion of coal mining and its inevitable impact on Climate Change.

I believe that Coal Mining and its impact on Climate Change, is becoming increasingly related to the disease burden associated with extreme weather events.

I live in Sydney, and with increasing extreme weather events, I am hearing about entire local suburbs that are becoming known as 'urban heat islands.' I.e., suburbs storing and radiating more heat than surrounding areas, where older adults, young children, and people in poor health, are at increased risk of adverse health outcomes, including death from heat stress. I am concerned by predictions that many Australian suburbs like mine, will become unliveable, if actions to mitigate climate change are not forthcoming.

Our very own Bushfire royal commission's final report (2020) provides a stark warning of a future defined by the extreme weather impacts of climate change. The report concluded "that climate change drove the Black Summer bushfires, and climate change is pushing us into a future of unprecedented bushfire severity." I believe that the increased climate change associated with coal mining will only exacerbate extreme weather events and catastrophic bush fires.

Our elected Government now has a very clear 'Duty of Care' to protect all future generations from the health and economic risks of Climate Change. Australia's shameful increasing emissions footprint from coal confirms that Australia does not take climate change and its commitments to the Paris Agreement seriously. Extreme weather and bushfires have already become more frequent and intense because of climate change. With the established links between coal and climate change, I believe that it is unconscionable for any government to support the creation of new coal mines, the most climate polluting of all fossil fuels.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 5:54:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [handsofdabeeland.docx](#)

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Joanne

Last name

Windle

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Wonnarua Nation - Glenridding

Submission file

[handsofdabeeland.docx](#)

Submission

Find attached, my objection to you desecrating my children's Country.

KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OUR SACRED SITES AND AREAS!

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Joanne Windle

Wonnarua Nation



Glenridding NSW 2330

16th August 2021

Acknowledgment to Country

Yiradhu marang biyambul

Yuwindhu Djoane Windl

Ngadhu Wiradjuri Dharawal Yinna on Wonnarua ngurambaang.

Ngadhu ngunha ngadhi Yindyamarra to biyambul mudyiganggalang-bu biyambul mayimgalang to
maradhalnha-bu giyira-bu.

Ngadhu nayaarra ngindhu dharray Yindyamarra-bu yanhambilnha dhagaanhabiyi birrrrabinabirra
ngurambaang ngindhu winya.

Mandaang guwu

Hello all.

My name is Joanne Windl

I am a Wiradyuri Yinaa with ties to other Nations. I am living on Wonnarua Nation as a guest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Filling your cup and sustaining each of us.

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

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

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

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

Sovereignty was never and will never be ceded

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I write this rejection regarding the mining proposal of the Hawkins Rumker areas, which are upon the unceded Nation of the Wiradjuri peoples. Namely the Dabee and surrounding clan. You need to be aware that this is a letter of complete and utter objection and I am thoroughly against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration upon my children's paternal Wiradjuri Country of which my children are the Traditional Custodians. My reasons and/or how it will impact me are outlined below.

My name is Joanne Windle, I am a Wiradyuri Dharawal Yinaa, with familial, cultural and kinship ties to many other nations. The reason I have so many ties to other nations is because of invasion, genocide, assimilation, and complete removal of my people from the Wiradyuri country of which my people lived upon – peacefully for all of millennia. I am living on Wonnarua Nation currently. I am a 60-year-old Yinaa who is one of the Wiradjuri traditional custodians and caretakers of a part

of Wiradjuri Nation (of which both your proposed mining area and other areas of Wiradjuri Country **Sovereignty has never been and never will be ceded**), and am married into the Dabee clan, of which makes me too a member of the Dabee clan, which includes Ganguddy and surrounding areas. My Ancestors have been living alongside the flora, fauna and living off of Gunhi-dhaan-bu ngurambaang -bu for and since millennia/the very first sunrise, just as the Dabee clan have in their part of Wiradjuri Country.

Although I live on Wonnarua Nation, I often go back to ngurambaang to visit family, to practice and learn culture, as well as teaching language and culture whilst I am on nguarambaang. I have been going back to my part of Country and my children's Country for approximately have been 34 years, as I lived on Wiradjuri country for the first 23/24 years of my life. As the historical records show in Kandos, Mudgee and many other areas my Dabee family has worked and lived in and around the Ganguddy area since the white people brutally and harshly invaded and decimated my children's Dabee Ancestors and have been ever since. My children's family are instrumental in creating a success of many of the stations in the area, namely Dabee Station, where it is recorded my Ancestors worked for many years.

I want to reiterate, that am absolutely and positively **opposed/against** to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped now! The below points include, however are not limited to what I am thinking and feeling.

THE EFFECTS ON WATER SOURCES

- One of the greatest threats is to our region's precious water supplies. **You will be threatening this precious source even further.**
- Mines have a significant negative impact on the water resources of a local area. **Did you not already learn this from all of the mines around the entire country of 'Australia'?**
- Even exploratory drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers. The supply of water in creeks and rivers decreases. Do you want to be responsible for creating further damage??
- Once the water is gone, it is lost forever. You cannot and will not be able to water back – once it is gone – **it is gone forever!**
- Coal mining consumes approximately 653 litres for each tonne of coal produced. This could be used for drinking water, water to assist the stock and agriculture in and on the properties and fill up the lakes, dams. **This is what it should be used for – not coal mining and such. You are wasting precious water that we need considering we have not long come out of a draught – much of which you assisted to create.**

- Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways. **Look at the statistics and history which you should have researched and been truthful about, instead of saying there is not impact to the biodiversity within our precious area and countries' 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. **You should not be okay with this occurring, nor even allow it to have been thought of – how would you feel if this was you and your family having to drink this contaminated water, shower in it and use it on and in your foods when growing vegetables and preparing meals??**
- 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. **Are you seriously willing to allow this to occur? Really?!**
- 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? How will you assist the community then? **How will you magically get the water to come back and prevent the drought/s occurring?? What is your magical solution? We must know this.**
- Without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture, no tourism. With what will we fight bushfires? **There is nothing we can do – nothing you can do. Are you seriously going to allow the whole town and it's agriculture, National Parks and the entire existence to simply die for an unneeded and required mine?**

THE EFFECTS ON NATIVE ANIMALS AND PLANTS:

- There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. **You claim there is none – how do you explain the data that exists on public databases? How will you explain the loss of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities?**
- Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species. **How will you explain this debacle to people?**
- The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cocks Creek is thoroughly unique and would be under threat. **Does this not bother you?**
- 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. **You**

only need look at [previous mining sites, and the current mining sites to see the unsightly and vile sites left. Not forgetting the decreased beauty and value of our beautiful and World Heritage Listed Capertee Valley area. Perhaps, you really do not care? Even here on Wonnarua country, the view from my front door becomes more and more unsightly as the days pass.

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 more that you are not aware of, due to you wanting to destroy these too, I am sure.**
- 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. **Do you not think you have destroyed more than enough of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples sacred sites, do you really think you need to be greedy and destroy more?**
- Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining and our laws are inadequate to protect these sites. **Enough is enough. You have already been greedy enough taking more than enough of our** lands, culture, artifacts and much more. You should not be taking even more.

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. There is no magical bubble stopping it from breaching the perimeters of the mine.
- The Hunter Valley is now considered a pollution 'hotspot'. It has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW. **I should know, I live in the Hunter Valley and I have more than enough respiratory illnesses caused by the mines and their pollution. Do not put more people at risk as well.**
- There would be a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on our local and rural roads. **Again, I can attest to this, as I am living on the main highway to get to the mines in my area and I am living with the constant noise, rubbish thrown out the windows of coal mine owned cars. As well as the constant dust which piles up on a daily basis.**

- 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. **No one cares for the roads here and this will not change on Wiradjuri Country either.**
- 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. **This is a constant with heavy vehicle trucks, machinery being transported here and not forgetting the noise, dust and more pollution of the trains – day and night – 7 days a week and 24 hours a day. I am able to see the lights from the coal mines from my place and this destroys the natural evening skies.**
- 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. **This allows for more and more pollution and this does accumulate more and more overtime.**
- Air quality would be reduced due to coal dust from blasting, mining and transporting coal. **This already happens in the Hunter Valley and will continue more and more with the mines here and in the Ulan and Mudgee areas, and any mine at Rumker and Hawkins will no doubt do the same.**
- Mines would transform our beautiful area into an unsightly, industrialised one and negatively impact our mental wellbeing . **This already does that on a daily basis. It is frightening that there is so many mines causing so much destruction everywhere.**
- The transient and shift work nature of miners can often result in an increase in violence and crime in the affected and nearby communities. **Again this occurs constantly when the workers are going to and from their shifts. I am always having a multiple broken sleep.**
- Socioeconomic divides form, as locals are often unable to compete with the high wages of miners who drive up housing and other costs. **I find it already difficult to keep up with the continual increase in prices in the area. This will no doubt be the same result on my children's country too.**

THE EFFECTS OF LOCAL ECONOMY:

- Large areas would be affected coal mines. The proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas cover approximately 32,700 ha of land and would directly affect 180 landholders.
- There will be a loss of agricultural lands, farms would disappear or lose their water, and productive agricultural lands would be dug up or left fallow.

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

QUESTION WHY WE NEED MORE COAL:

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

- 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 coalreliant 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, homes and livelihoods will be lost. As it is, some people are wondering if they will bother rebuilding after the fires when they may lose it all again, this time permanently.

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

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

The Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors prepared by the Government is fundamentally flawed. The geographical area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area, and it also states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened flora and fauna. One questions how the government can assure that any future exploration licenses would include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values" when their own exploration approval failed to do this.

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.

Joanne Windle

A Wiradjuri Yinaa, who has children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews who deserve to be able to practice culture, learn about culture and connect with their Ancestors, their Traditional living grounds with their current and future family. **WITHOUT PEOPLE STEALING THEIR LANDS AND MINING ON THEM.**

Do not take what you are doing lightly. You have the capacity to vote no, and to assist in preserving what is not yours, but my peoples lands, allowing them to care for Country as we have been since before millennia.

Have a heart and do the right thing by everyone.

Mother Earth never forgets who cares for, protects and respects her – remember that.

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

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

Sovereignty was never and will never be ceded

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01/08/2021 7:13:23 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-for-the-hawkins-rumker-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment-july-2021.docx](#)

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 19:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

LEETON

Submission file

[submission-for-the-hawkins-rumker-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment-july-2021.docx](#)

Submission

The Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc are against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc, are a group of like-minded people who like to facilitate and promote the knowledge of natural history, and to encourage the preservation and protection of the Australian natural environment.

I agree to the above statement

Yes



[REDACTED] Leeton NSW 2705

[REDACTED]

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

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc

25.7.2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

The Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc are against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. Our reasons and/or how it will impact this community are outlined below.

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc , are a group of like-minded people who like to facilitate and promote the knowledge of natural history, and to encourage the preservation and protection of the Australian natural environment.

Issues with the PRIA Process

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is fundamentally flawed. The area does not correctly represent the Hawkins Rumker area, and it also states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened fauna and flora. One question 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 only a short time ago. 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 Creek¹⁶ could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cocks Creek is thoroughly unique¹⁶ and would be under threat.

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Secretary.

Secretary

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01/08/2021 1:11:31 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [jennifer-ruth-franks-submission_0.docx](#)

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 13:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2849

Submission file

[jennifer-ruth-franks-submission_0.docx](#)

Submission

[REDACTED]

Olinda 2849

I have lived in the area for 80 years, nearly 60 in the exploration area. I have always striven towards community goals. I have worked on P&C, cooked cakes for stalls, worked for meals on wheels, pink ladies, local Christmas festivals and have supported many other community activities. I want to know where I, and my community will go if our area is spoilt.

I feel that water is of top priority. Coal exploration threatens water with springs and bores often disappearing, hence no water for agriculture or communities or for any bushfire fighting. Nothing can survive without water and to risk it for the sake of twenty years of highly paid miners and government Royalties is not worth it.

I also have concerns with the PRIA process. The government has not informed enough people or communities or given enough time especially with Covid19. Four weeks is not reasonable. PRIA was formed by government as a reaction to the Independent Commission Against Corruption to look as though they were consulting with the people. There is no way guaranteed that, what PRIA suggests, will be implemented by the government.

Social and Health issues will become worse because of noise and dust. Socially as no one wants to visit a mining area or buy a lifestyle property or visit tourist type venues. Everyone is affected. Health, because of noise and dust due to mining operations- trucks, trains, elevators and the incessant rumble and vibration from the actual mining. Mental health is also affected by the worry of impending exploration, the work to stop this mining and the change in landscape that follows.

Mining relies on people with expertise often from other mines, therefore the governments 'Jobs, jobs, jobs' would be a misnomer as little work is available for locals. There is more money earned from agriculture and tourism than mines. The miners inflate the price of houses and rent, making it impossible for the ordinary local people to afford. They only do this for a few years or they fly in and fly out and a community is left decimated.

What about aboriginal heritage? There are multiple sites of significance while only a few sites are actually registered and has any consideration been given to their feelings of spirituality?

Tourism, which we have striven hard to develop, would be lost. We started an eco-tourism business on our farm 26 years ago and have fostered and encouraged this industry. It is now a strong and vibrant part of our local economy. All these jobs and businesses will be lost. We have some of the most beautiful land in the world and who wants to come to an area devoid of water and torn asunder by mining.

There are endangered species of both flora and fauna and these may be lost forever given mining in the area.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

I have lived in the area for 80 years, nearly 60 in the exploration area. I have always striven towards community goals. I have worked on P&C, cooked cakes for stalls, worked for meals on wheels, pink ladies, local Christmas festivals and have supported many other community activities. I want to know where I, and my community will go if our area is spoilt.

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beautiful land in the world and who wants to come to an area devoid of water and torn asunder by mining.

There are endangered species of both flora and fauna and these may be lost forever given mining in the area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 5:53:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-of-opposition.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 17:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Kieran

Last name

Stokes

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

West Wollongong 2500, formerly Breakfast Creek 2849

Submission file

[submission-of-opposition.docx](#)

Submission

To the IPCC,

I cannot hide my disdain for what I am writing about. The potential to lose not only a visually stunning landmark but to cut, tear and maim natural escarpments and irreparably damage delicate ecologies for a finite resource is not acceptable.

Bob Dylan described the situation many young Australians as me:

"You might say I'm young, you might say I'm unlearned

But there's one thing I know, though I'm younger than you

Even Jesus would never forgive what you do." (Masters of War 1963).

It is true that the towns closest to the Rumpkins/Wollemi/Ferntree area were built around industries that exploited the terrain and resources.

Kandos and Charbon were built around limestone and cement production, Rylstone, Lue and Bylong were (and still are) centred around farming.

It's true that once those industries exhausted their finite resources and left, that the towns suffered greatly. Mining can't bring them back to what they once were. Once "Australia rode on the sheep's back", we became good at mining and farming, and along with that came exporting. We haven't become sustainable in these practices over the many years we've been practicing them. Swathes of land have been turned into visible scars from mines, some agricultural practices have also destroyed the land. And yet only one of these previous occupations seems to acknowledge where they went wrong and are trying to actively fix their mistakes. I hear nothing from any of our governing bodies regarding sustainable agriculture or sustainable practices, perhaps other than the solar rebate that was enacted for a short time. If anything, it feels as though our leaders want anything west of the east coast (eg inland NSW) to be reaped of all it can be to line their pockets. Pre-drilling by the government and let's not forget, the heinous and vicious buying out of people's homes and livelihood quite literally from under them to put down a mine for 10-20 years. Generational properties, farms, steads, ranches. For a few years of profit.

My family home has been at Breakfast Creek for four (4) generations now. Many of the properties around these towns are of similar age or older. If heritage is ever a consideration, consider this: This land is the gateway to the rest of NSW, where the early white "explorers" first settled west of the Blue Mountains. And there are families in the area who can trace their history back to that time.

These are working farms. These are memories. These places are sanctuaries for flora, fauna and people. Even the proximity of these proposed mines will be a detriment on the life in the area; indiscriminately. I ask whoever reads these forms to simply employ some empathy. How would you react if this was your home? Or better yet, let's have a quick look over towards Sydney. The mines just to the south have caused havoc, impacting directly on the water supply of the region. We remember the ANZACs every year so that we don't forget their sacrifices, and that history may not repeat itself. Why not take a leaf out of that concept and apply it to recent history? We don't have to have horrendous genocide to look back and learn. In fact, that's probably why we should be learning from far more recent history than more than 100 years ago.

There are endangered species in Wollemi National Park AND within the crown land area of Ferntree Gully. The proposed areas for these mines skirt the borders of the Nation Parks - only barely - and cover the entirety of Ferntree Gully Reserve.

The distance between the borders of Reserves and proposed mining sites will be insufficient in reducing damage to the areas. This isn't a video game like Age of Empires or the Civilisation franchise. This is real life. We can't re-open an old save when we realise we screwed up and killed off things that make the world go round (which isn't money shockingly). There's no plan for our country's future.

To further emphasise this, many properties in the area rely on the underground water reservoirs, that give way to freshwater springs, as their only source of water for living purposes. Some of these spring natural systems can produce up to (if not exceeding) 3L in just a few seconds. Drilling and disturbing these underground water stores not only ruins people's water supplies, but it damages water that is able to feed straight into the root systems of plants and inject minerals into the surrounding soil. Just imagine what would happen if these stocks were rapidly depleted and contaminated.

There's a saying by Confucius: "If your plan is for one year, plant rice. If your plan is for ten years, plant trees. If your plan is for one hundred years, educate children."

Farming, ecological sustainability, and the education to maintain these practices. Each of these transcends into the next, giving time and learning to the previous and following. We can't keep digging up places in the interest of a few dollars. When did Australia lose its bravery and outgoingness? Our country has made so many breakthroughs over the years. Our inventions stand the test of time to this day. New industries will bring new jobs. We've tasted hardship time and time again. From when colonists first arrived, World Wars, Depressions, drought, flood, fire, shootings, cyclones, and to the Covid-19 pandemic.

So, if money and the economy is what you're afraid of losing just remember these next two quotes. The first comes from a British philosopher in the last century.

"Money is a way of measuring wealth but is not wealth in itself. A chest of gold coins or a fat wallet of bills is of no use whatsoever to a wrecked sailor alone on a raft. He needs real wealth, in the form of a fishing rod, a compass, an outboard motor with gas, and a female companion. But this ingrained and archaic confusion of money with wealth is now the main reason we are not going ahead full tilt with the development of our technological genius for the production of more than adequate food, clothing, housing, and utilities for every person on earth." - Alan Watts, 1970, Does It Matter? Essays on Man's Relation to Materiality.

Here, our wealth is that of the natural places we have left. Those places that will be severely impacted by these careless, reckless explorations of mining. We could be forerunners in agricultural and ecological reform for the world. Yet we decide to sell Australian land, owned by farmers, families and other businesses, to overseas companies to short term harvest. And if not overseas, then national companies that go and export the resources offshore so that Australia hardly sees any of it and must import those processed by-products back in. That is utterly backwards.

The second quote comes from the next verse of the previously mentioned Dylan song:

"Let me ask you one question: is your money that good?

Will it buy you forgiveness? Do you think that it could?

I think you will find when your death takes its toll

All the money you made will never buy back your soul." (Masters of War 1963)

All the money you make will never buy back your soul, (treasures of men's souls).

I could go on ad nauseum, though I think the points are made. If you haven't been out there yourself to these places, then I ask you to go and see for yourself. Take a walk on the dirt you want to dig. Go out and see the faces of the people that care. The people that will have their lives shattered. See what they've been building out there. People are lost and torn. They – we – need help to invent new ways of industry that can last lifetimes. Have some humanity. These people love those places. Look them in the eyes when you tell them the verdict. Experience the humans, the citizens, the voters, the taxpayers, the custodians. See their emotion, their passion. And even more importantly see the utter natural beauty that will be lost; the world we are raping.
Thankyou for the time you've taken to read all these submissions.

Sincerely, unapologetically,

Kieran Stokes

Musician, Young Australian, Concerned Son, Future of the Country, Legal Voter, Fed-Up Citizen

I agree to the above statement
Yes

To the IPCC,

I cannot hide my disdain for what I am writing about. The potential to lose not only a visually stunning landmark but to cut, tear and maim natural escarpments and irreparably damage delicate ecologies for a finite resource is not acceptable.

Bob Dylan described the situation many young Australians as me:

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But there's one thing I know, though I'm younger than you

Even Jesus would never forgive what you do," (Masters of War 1963).

It is true that the towns closest to the Rumpkins/Wollemi/Ferntree area were built around industries that exploited the terrain and resources. Kandos and Charbon were built around limestone and cement production, Rylstone, Lue and Bylong were (and still are) centred around farming. It's true that once those industries exhausted their finite resources and left, that the towns suffered greatly. Mining can't bring them back to what they once were. Once "Australia rode on the sheep's back", we became good at mining and farming, and along with that came exporting. We haven't become sustainable in these practices over the many years we've been practicing them. Swathes of land have been turned into visible scars from mines, some agricultural practices have also destroyed the land. And yet only one of these previous occupations seems to acknowledge where they went wrong and are trying to actively fix their mistakes. I hear nothing from any of our governing bodies regarding sustainable agriculture or sustainable practices, perhaps other than the solar rebate that was enacted for a short time. If anything, it feels as though our leaders want anything west of the east coast (eg inland NSW) to be reaped of all it can be to line their pockets. Pre-drilling by the government and let's not forget, the heinous and vicious buying out of *people's homes and livelihood*¹ quite literally from under them to put down a mine for 10-20 years. Generational properties, farms, steads, ranches. For a few years of profit.

My family home has been at Breakfast Creek for four (4) generations now. Many of the properties around these towns are of similar age or older. If heritage is ever a consideration, consider this: This land is the gateway to the rest of NSW, where the early white "explorers" first settled west of the Blue Mountains. And there are families in the area who can trace their history back to that time.

These are working farms. These are memories. These places are sanctuaries for flora, fauna and people. Even the proximity of these proposed mines will be a detriment on the life in the area; indiscriminately. I ask whoever reads these forms to simply employ some empathy. How would you react if this was your home? Or better yet, let's have a quick look over towards Sydney. The mines just to the south have caused havoc, impacting directly on the water supply of the region. We remember the ANZACs every year so that we don't forget their sacrifices, and that history may not repeat itself. Why not take a leaf out of that concept and apply it to recent history? We don't have to have horrendous genocide to look back and learn. In fact, that's probably why we should be learning from far more recent history than more than 100 years ago.

¹ To the best of my knowledge the pseudo-forced buying of land from farmers etc comes from the loophole that the ground beneath the grass is supposedly owned by those that originally bought the land. For some reason underground is free real estate, but the above ground must be purchased to get to it. Corrupt and malicious money grabbing is what this is.

There are endangered species in Wollemi National Park AND within the crown land area of Ferntree Gully. The proposed areas for these mines skirt the borders of the Nation Parks - only barely – and cover the *entirety* of Ferntree Gully Reserve.

The distance between the borders of Reserves and proposed mining sites will be insufficient in reducing damage to the areas. This isn't a video game like Age of Empires or the Civilisation franchise. This is real life. We can't re-open an old save when we realise we screwed up and killed off things that make the world go round (which isn't money shockingly). There's no plan for our country's future.

To further emphasise this, many properties in the area rely on the underground water reservoirs, that give way to freshwater springs, as their only source of water for living purposes. Some of these spring natural systems can produce up to (if not exceeding) 3L in just a few seconds. Drilling and disturbing these underground water stores not only ruins people's water supplies, but it damages water that is able to feed straight into the root systems of plants and inject minerals into the surrounding soil. Just imagine what would happen if these stocks were rapidly depleted and contaminated.

There's a saying by Confucius: "If your plan is for one year, plant rice. If your plan is for ten years, plant trees. If your plan is for one hundred years, educate children."

Farming, ecological sustainability, and the education to maintain these practices. Each of these transcends into the next, giving time and learning to the previous and following. We can't keep digging up places in the interest of a few dollars. When did Australia lose its bravery and outgoingness? Our country has made so many breakthroughs over the years. Our inventions stand the test of time to this day. New industries will bring new jobs. We've tasted hardship time and time again. From when colonists first arrived, World Wars, Depressions, drought, flood, fire, shootings, cyclones, and to the Covid-19 pandemic.

So, if money and the economy is what you're afraid of losing just remember these next two quotes. The first comes from a British philosopher in the last century:

"Money is a way of measuring wealth but is not wealth in itself. A chest of gold coins or a fat wallet of bills is of no use whatsoever to a wrecked sailor alone on a raft. He needs real wealth, in the form of a fishing rod, a compass, an outboard motor with gas, and a female companion. But this ingrained and archaic confusion of money with wealth is now the main reason we are not going ahead full tilt with the development of our technological genius for the production of more than adequate food, clothing, housing, and utilities for every person on earth." – Alan Watts, 1970, *Does It Matter? Essays on Man's Relation to Materiality*.

Here, our wealth is that of the natural places we have left. Those places that will be severely impacted by these careless, reckless explorations of mining. We could be forerunners in agricultural and ecological reform for the world. Yet we decide to sell Australian land, owned by farmers, families and other businesses, to overseas companies to short term harvest. And if not overseas, then national companies that go and export the resources offshore so that Australia hardly sees any of it and must import those processed by-products back in. That is utterly backwards.

The second quote comes from the next verse of the previously mentioned Dylan song:

"Let me ask you one question: is your money that good?

Will it buy you forgiveness? Do you think that it could?

I think you will find when your death takes its toll

All the money you made will never buy back your soul," (Masters of War 1963).

I could go on ad nauseum, though I think the points are made. If you haven't been out there yourself to these places, then I ask you to go and see for yourself. Take a walk on the dirt you want to dig. Go out and see the faces of the people that care. The people that will have their lives shattered. See what they've been building out there. People are lost and torn. They – we – need help to invent new ways of industry that can last lifetimes. Have some humanity. These people love those places. Look them in the eyes when you tell them the verdict. Experience the humans, the citizens, the voters, the taxpayers, the custodians. See their emotion, their passion. And even more importantly see the utter natural beauty that will be lost; the world we are raping.

Thankyou for the time you've taken to read all these submissions.

Sincerely, unapologetically,

Kieran Stokes

Musician, Young Australian, Concerned Son, Future of the Country, Legal Voter, Fed-Up Citizen

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31/07/2021 9:53:57 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-for-the-hawkins-rumker-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment](#)

Submitted on Sat, 31/07/2021 - 09:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

[REDACTED] California, USA 96123

Submission file

[submission-for-the-hawkins-rumker-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment](#)

Submission

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

[REDACTED]

California, USA

July 30, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

This letter is written in opposition to the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I have been visiting the Rylstone area each year since 2013. When I first came in 2013 I did not anticipate it would become an annual trip. The natural untouched beauty, stillness, wildlife and friendliness of the local people has brought me back each year, and I intend to resume these trips as soon as global travel is once again open. My first trip was about a month long. Now my visits extend to 2 to 3 months each year for the reasons mentioned above.

The wide-open natural beauty of Australia is increasingly rare and I can only express surprise that scaring such beauty when technology has increasingly more sustainable options is even being considered. I live in the US and know just how devastating coal exploration is to the environment in many ways. Not to mention the visual ruination that comes with coal mining.

Coal mining releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, which fuels climate change. I live on the west coast of the US, and climate change is contributing to fires that are ruining our land, water and air – in short the very foundations of quality of life and health of local populations. I was visiting for a couple of months during the fires of 2019. Making decisions that will only worsen such vast and devastating fires is a mistake.

Burning coal causes air pollution that can damage the health of nearby residents. A study by West Virginia University Health Sciences Center cites that residents near to coal mining sites are at an increased risk of developing chronic heart, lung and kidney diseases.

I am sure that you do not need me to list the ruination of flora, fauna, rivers, lakes, springs etc., as there are plenty of experts that will have covered these in great depth. Suffice to say, such expertise needs to be considered with gravity.

I ask that you do not consider coal exploration or mining and instead seek more sustainable options – options that weigh heavily long-term sustainability and quality of life. Options that are more in line with the best of the future than outdated 20th century industrialization. Please withhold my name from the PRIA submission site.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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



California, USA

July 30, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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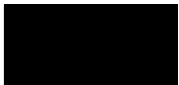
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Please withhold my name from the PRIA submission site.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30/07/2021 5:41:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-re-hawkins-and-rumker-central-west-nsw.docx](#)

Submitted on Fri, 30/07/2021 - 17:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Carol

Last name

Henry

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bogee

Submission file

[submission-re-hawkins-and-rumker-central-west-nsw.docx](#)

Submission

Please consider my submission which points out the constraints associated with the government's proposal to issue a coal exploration licence. I live in an area that has already been affected by underground coal mining, the Capertee Valley. Environmental Assessments are regulated by the NSW government and my experience has been that the government will do what it can to look as though it cares for the environment. However, the prospect of money tends to 'win out.' The following objections to the government's considerations.

1. Environmental considerations

- drinking water storage areas and impacts on town water supplies; The resource of water is already a delicate issue in this area of the Mid West Regional Council. Additional requirements imposed on the residents of the areas under examination will exacerbate the problem.
- water supply constraints including access to water/competing water use industries; During droughts, heavy industry's use of water (such as coal mining), could resort to the alternative supply of water by trucking water from Windermere Dam. However, there is a constraint on the use of water for heavy industry from Rylstone Dam, as that would override the access to town water for Rylstone and Lue residents that pay their Council rates and are supplied with water from Rylstone Dam. An example during drought of Coal mining use of water is this extract from: 2020 Coal Transport & Rail Movement Data ARLY MINE Reporting Period: 1 Jan 2020 to 31 Dec 2020: "A total of 26 water trains were received at Arly Mine from Charbon Colliery during the 2020 Reporting Period. Total water imported to site by rail for 2020 = 18.85 ML."
- practical constraints on future operations such as disposal of incidental water; What method of disposal is used for incidental water and where does the incidental water go to?
- known biophysical, environmental and heritage features (including the presence of biophysical strategic agricultural land), protected areas and areas of environmental significance or high sensitivity; HAWKINS AND RUMKER areas under consideration for exploration of licences for coal extraction projects impinge on super sensitive bio-diverse natural areas of environmental significance such as Femtree Gully, Nulla Mountain and the Wollerni National Park. Included in the areas under consideration for an exploration licence are areas of biophysical strategic agricultural significance, such as the Rylstone Olive press, Monivae and Camboon agricultural properties and wineries along Cox's Creek Road. These environments all contribute to the health of the surrounding district and alteration to the ground water table or use from storage water reserves for such projects that are envisaged, will significantly disrupt the balance that exists between the flora and fauna of the area.
- biodiversity considerations; There is none
- water sources for catchments, rivers and aquifers; and
- matters of national environmental significance identified at a regional scale. More pollution

2. Economic considerations.

There is no economic consideration in releasing the areas of HAWKINS AND RUMKER for coal exploration. The exercise of a 'preliminary regional issues assessment' will foretell the outcome is not a favourable objective by the residents in the affected areas being examined. When coal, even for domestic use is being sort by companies that know coal has harmed the balance of the world's environment, it is hard to be positive about the NSW government being positive regarding lowering fossil fuel emissions.

- availability and access to existing infrastructure and utilities; There are no existing infrastructures and utilities that could be used to enhance the extraction of coal from HAWKINS AND RUMKER areas.
- existence and activities of other industries (for example, agricultural industries or industry clusters); Mentioned under 'environmental considerations'.
- strategic resource significance, where known, including:
 - o estimated production (approximate millions of tonnes per year), capital expenditure, employment, export revenue and royalties; Unknown to the writer of this feedback
 - o DRE's Resource Assessment, which includes assessment of size, quality, thickness, depth and availability of the resource and other factors including proximity to competing resources (minerals); • access to markets; Unknown to the writer of this feedback
 - access to downstream processing or other related / dependent industries and other industry considerations identified at the Resource Assessment stage by DRE; Not feasible.
 - proximity to future infrastructure, to the extent known by the NSW Government. Unknown to the writer of this feedback

3. Social considerations

- practical constraints on future operations that may result from known risks to the health, safety and amenity of local communities; The practical constraints that would be placed on the Council, the residents and the roads would result in massive extra cost to the Council to implement infrastructure and maintain adequate road surfaces for extra trucks and cars. There would be extra cost to residents due to Council rate increases, plus extra health and safety issues due to increased traffic conditions and extra increase of patients to local hospitals due to mental health issues of unexpected and unnecessary disruption to the rural environment in which people have chosen to live.
- heritage values of the region, including Aboriginal cultural heritage; Putting this consideration in is really an insult to Aboriginal Australians. The whole areas of HAWKINS AND RUMKER are of significant Aboriginal cultural heritage as well as European heritage, but more importantly, natural heritage - once dug up can never be restored.. Any coal mine that is granted a licence in those areas will have to face the Independent Commission Against Corruption NSW.
- the ability of the region to manage potential impacts on local employment, housing supply, infrastructure, transport and community services. The region would be unable to sustain any of the above requirements should an exploration licence be granted, and thereby followed up with the acceptance of an underground coal mine operating in the designated areas.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Please consider my submission which points out the constraints associated with the government's proposal to issue a coal exploration licence. I live in an area that has already been affected by underground coal mining, the Capertee Valley. Environmental Assessments are regulated by the NSW government and my experience has been that the government will do what it can to look as though it cares for the environment. However, the prospect of money tends to 'win out.' **The following objections to the government's considerations.**

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domestic use is being sort by companies that know coal has harmed the balance of the world's environment, it is hard to be positive about the NSW government being positive regarding lowering fossil fuel emissions.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29/07/2021 3:16:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission_hawkins-rumker-coal-exploration.docx](#)

Submitted on Thu, 29/07/2021 - 15:05

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Karen

Last name

O'Connell

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Emu Plains

Submission file

[submission_hawkins-rumker-coal-exploration.docx](#)

Submission

I have uploaded the file that contains my submission. Please let me know if this is not the correct procedure.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Karen O'Connell
[REDACTED]
Emu Plains, NSW, 2750
25 July 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

As a regular visitor to the area for over 30 years, I was appalled at the news of the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. This is obviously a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped NOW.

Overview:

Coal provides 40% of the world's electricity BUT it produces 39% of global carbon dioxide emissions. It is one of the drivers of our current issue with global warming. It is a dirty source of fuel and is destructive to people and the environment from the moment it is mined.

It is also flying in the face of trends in every other developed country to move to renewable sources of energy.
Why is the NSW and Australian Government so short-sighted in its vision and policy decisions?

Why waste money on an exercise that:

- Destabilises and divides communities unnecessarily
- If successful will destroy the environment of a much-loved, self-sustaining, tourist-favoured region
- diverts money from research and development related to more environmental-friendly forms of energy that will prepare us for a future where clean energy is the ONLY alternative to ensure our survival.

This will provide the employment that sets Australia up for the future, not employment in out-dated industries that are damaging our precarious eco-system both locally and generally.

Global trends re transitioning regional communities affected by decline in the coal mining industry

In your own briefing paper ¹, you acknowledge the need for transitioning communities away from dependence on coal, citing the International Energy Agency forecast of a decline in the demand for thermal coal.

In the executive summary, it is noted that

Several regional communities in NSW and Australia are highly dependent on the coal mining industry. These communities could be disproportionately impacted by a global shift away from thermal coal as action is taken to meet the emissions reduction targets agreed to under the 2016 Paris Agreement.

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

So why expose another regional community that is highly self-sustaining to a future that is known to be limited?

¹ Patrick McCarthy, Briefing paper No. 1/2021

Also curiously, why is the NSW Government not trying to limit its exposure to being so dependent on fossil-fuel export?

In a recent article,² The Guardian cites industry observers' saying that, 'The global coal industry will 'never recover' from the Covid-19 pandemic because the crisis has proved renewable energy is cheaper for consumers and a safer bet for investors'.

It adds that:

- a long-term shift away from dirty fossil fuels has accelerated during lockdown, and
- ushered in power plant closures in several countries
- has wiped billions from market valuations of the world's biggest coal miners
- utilities have cut back on coal because it is more expensive than gas, wind or solar as electricity demand fell.

A new report by the US Energy Information Administration (May 2020) projected the US would produce more electricity this year from renewables than from coal *for the first time*.

And despite former President Trump's pledge to 'dig coal' and Scott Morrison's taunt to Labor in parliament (Feb 2017), 'This is coal, don't be afraid', both were out of touch with reality when:

- in the US, there were more job losses and closures in the coal industry than in the previous 60 years (May 2020)
- in Australia, where coal employment is less than 1% of the workforce (in spite of climate denialists using the need to protect those employed in the coal industry as a reason to keep investing in coal), the CFMEU union predicts similar trends to the US due to the impact of low coal prices and decreased demand due to the coronavirus pandemic (June 2020)

Why keep investing in this white elephant?

The attributes of the Hawkins Rumker local area that proposed mining would disrupt

Overview

The region around Hawkins Rumker is an area known for its diversity of economic opportunities and a popular tourist destination due to its spectacular scenery and natural attributes. Gateway to the Central West and Far West regions of the state, its industries include agriculture, viticulture, and, as said, tourism.

The district was settled in the 1820's making it one of the oldest settlements west of the Great Dividing Range. The township of Rylstone boasts charming 19th century photogenic buildings constructed in the Victorian and interwar years featuring a streetscape of sandstone public houses, cottages and government buildings and 1920's era stores. It is a popular tourist destination for those visiting the accompanying wine region.

It also acts as a gateway to the World Heritage listed Wollemi National Park and the beautiful Bylong Valley. It has some of the loveliest natural heritage in the region attracting nature lovers, hikers and campers especially to such wonders as Ganduddy, Ferntree Gully and Dunn's Swamp.

Agriculture and Water

More generally, the region is also a rich agricultural and farming area producing crops and livestock that bring a substantial amount to the economy. But the future of these regional industries depends on its access to water.

Exploration and mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. 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

² The Guardian, Sun 17 May 2020

water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla as well as to that needed for agricultural pursuit; water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted.

This area is also rich in natural springs and bores. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers. Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways.

One of the greatest threats of coal mining is to the region's precious water supplies.

Conclusion

If the government's proposal were to go ahead, large portions of the area could become coal mines. 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 its local businesses that have also built the tourism industry in the region including 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.

I call on the NSW government to 'cease and desist' in the proposed coal exploration of the Hawkins Rumker area (and beyond).

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

Yours sincerely

Karen O'Connell

E: [REDACTED]

M: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28/07/2021 5:18:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [coalmine-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 28/07/2021 - 17:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Susan

Last name

Kristensen

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Mosman NSW 2088

Submission file

[coalmine-submission.docx](#)

Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My letter is attached.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Susan Kristensen
[REDACTED]
Mosman NSW 2088

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 60 years of age and have friends living in the area for the last 12 years.

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

The Reserve Bank of Australia and the NSW Government plan to phase-out thermal coal mining and all countries to which Australia exports: Japan, South Korea and China, are following the worldwide trend to commit to move away from fossil fuels, which will result in decreased demand for coal.

Impacts on Water Availability and Quality

The area is rich in natural springs and bores. Exploration and mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

Endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities could be lost.

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

Impact on the current local economy

Large areas would become coal mines.

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. 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.

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.

My friends have lived in Rylstone for over 12 years establishing an organic and sustainable hazelnut orchard and farming to live off for the rest of their lives. A long term investment that must be respected.

Air, water, soil and noise pollution

The impacts of these must be considered, not just for the residents, and the minimal visitors that would come, but also the effects are not contained within the boundaries of the coal mining sites.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Kristensen

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28/07/2021 4:17:23 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission_wollemi.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 28/07/2021 - 16:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Jane

Last name

McNeillage

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Annandale

Submission file

[submission_wollemi.docx](#)

Submission

Thank you for reading my submission to the end.

I feel desperate to be heard. I know so many people who have not written a submission but are also dying to see our beautiful NSW State move forward and into the future. For leadership that innovative and honest in its declarations. For decisions to be for the best not for lobbyists.

We want NSW to do its bit for the planet

yours most sincerely Jane McNeillage

I agree to the above statement

Yes

SUBMISSION from:

Jane McNeillage [REDACTED] **ANNANDALE NSW2038**

This is a personal submission regarding the release of land for coal exploration in the Hawkins and Rumker area.

I would like to express my objection to the release of both of these areas for coal exploration for a number of reasons. Continuing to explore additional areas for coal is in total contradiction to the NSW stated goals concerning climate change. These proposed sites are in a completely inappropriate area, adjacent to nationally important Wollemi National Park, productive farming land and State Forest that support a number of endangered flora and fauna. Contain important sacred sites for Aboriginal people.

Contradictory Government policy

The Department of Regional NSW said the coal industry provided tens of thousands of jobs and underpinned the state's energy supply. We do NOT want our future NSW energy supply to be underpinned by coal! This is an example of a totally uncoordinated approach by the NSW Government- the Resources Department is just following the old pathways that it has done for generations – “Let’s find coal...” The NSW Government on the other hand, has made a commitment to the people of NSW that it aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. How are these two things compatible?! One must ask oneself at this point is the NSW Government sincere in its Net Zero Plan Stage 1:

The Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020 – 2030 is the foundation for NSW’s action on climate change.

It outlines how NSW will fast-track climate action through energy and emissions reduction initiatives.

The Plan aims to enhance the prosperity and quality of life of the people of NSW, while allowing the State to deliver a 35% cut in emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

New Coal exploration licences is totally incompatible with the above NSW Government statements. Apparently, the NSW Government is committed to providing funding for programs that will help households, businesses and communities benefit from clean energy as NSW transitions to a modern and secure energy system.” This is not consistent with proposing the release of more land for coal exploration.

Employment myths

Sloppy, misleading statements like; “*Coal mining provided tens of thousands of jobs,* “ is unforgivable. Even Adani’s Carmichael mine, destined to be one of the biggest coal mines in the world, will only need about 100 workers once it is established- the much-touted 1500 jobs that Adani talks about are in the construction phase. This will not add any real community

stability or prosperity to the local businesses and schools. The use of statistics like this is designed to persuade the public or to satisfy members of the National Party. It is absolutely not good government, and we are all desperate for a government with backbone and a innovative, forward looking policies that we can all get behind and move forward.

Where are the jobs of the future?

“Annual direct FTE employment in rooftop solar activities in Australia (a) 2018-2019”. 13,070 people. (Australian Bureau of statistics) Unlike coal mining these jobs are for a wide variety of people who live in the community.

Ecotourism in NSW has seen a 23% growth in employment. National Parks like Wollemi which is a mere 122 kilometres from central Sydney has huge potential for development. Walks and picnic areas- guided tours. Rod Hillman, from *Eco Tourism Australia* notes, “ecotourism is an important contributor to sustainable and thriving regional communities. Ecotourism businesses create and maintain sustainable employment and bring – and keep – revenue in regions.”

The importance of trees

The role of trees in the fight against climate change

Trees will play an important role in maintaining climate. The proposed areas for coal research are currently used for farming, pasture and State Forest and adjacent to the invaluable Wollemi National Park!. These are all so important in the war against climate change. A mature tree absorbs carbon dioxide at a rate of 22 kilograms per year. In one year, an acre of forest can absorb twice the CO₂ produced by the average car's annual mileage. Also when the sun sufficiently raises atmospheric temperature, plants ‘sweat’ by releasing excess water, thereby cooling themselves and the air. Large amounts of transpired water above forest canopies can induce cloud cover and rain. This further helps cool the space below. Australia needs trees not coal. We should be planting more trees not looking for places to dig up coal.

Habitat for wildlife

According to National Parks Australia (NPA) “Ganguddy-Kelgoola” one of the proposed coal leases bordering the Wollemi National Park and Wilderness Area and covers a nationally significant area of forest in Coricudgy State Forest.

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

Ganguddy-Kelgoola coal exploration area includes the catchment for Wollemi Creek, the Cudgegong river, Widden Brook, and Coricudgy and Blackwater creeks. The Cudgegong River catchment, which includes Rollen Creek montane peat swamp, has rare, unique plants and sphagnum bogs. These ancient, pristine creeks and rivers that contain unique sandstone pagodas, gorges and mountain tops would be exposed to toxic runoff from coal mining, coal dust pollution and destroyed by open cut mining.”(NPA May2021) I have included this direct quote because it is so powerful and authoritative.

Aboriginal heritage

Apparently there are, "... a lot of sacred sites and waterways ...," "There are songlines out here, there are birthing sites, ovens, our river — so many things that need protecting."

I have no personal knowledge of these things, but once again if we are sincere in our stated commitment to respecting First Nations cultural sites this must be taken into consideration.

I want the NSW Government to pull back and look for real, healthy, areas of development. Areas where we can develop in ways that look to the future and not the past. Ways that show we respect our own policies of building a sustainable future. This proposal is madness at all levels. Australia and NSW can do better than this!

References

ABCNews 2021, Coal mining licence proposal shocks landholders and local Indigenous people amid Upper Hunter by-election viewed 24/7/21 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-19/rylstone-coal-meeting-upper-hunter-by-election/100079138>

Arbor Day Foundation ND, *Trees Help Fight Climate Change* Viewed 24/7/21 <https://www.arboday.org/trees/climatechange/>

National Parks Australia, 2021, Threats to Wollemi National Park: from 8 new coal mining leases viewed 24/7/21 <https://npansw.org.au/2021/05/31/threats-to-wollemi-national-park-from-8-new-coal-mining-leases/>

NSW Government Adapt NSW, *NSW Government action on climate change* viewed 24/7/21 ent.nsw.gov.au/About-climate-change-in-NSW/NSW-Government-action-on-climate-change

Jane McNeillage

Email:



Mob:



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28/07/2021 3:12:23 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [dept-planning-25.7.2021.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 28/07/2021 - 15:09

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

John

Last name

MacKay

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Asquith 2077

Submission file

[dept-planning-25.7.2021.docx](#)

Submission

immense and expanding immense and expanding immense and expanding JOHN MACKAY Asquith 2077
 25 July 2021

The NSW Department of PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

Dear Sirs/Ms

Regarding:

Proposed COAL EXPLORATION of areas
 East of Mudgee and North of Rylestone
 (Hawkins and Rumker, Central West NSW).

This is to place my objection on record to the above proposal on the following grounds:

The proposal reveals that the NSW Government has no plan to end to coal mining.

If more coal is discovered on this proposed area, then the lease that will be sought is likely to be for 99 years.

There are coal mines in NSW that are still operating after 100 years. Indeed, such old mines have been given extensions to lengthen their lease as well as extend the size of their operations. This has involved recent permission to allow mining operations to extend close to drinking water sources and sites. Some recent coal mine extensions have been given permission to drill under river beds.

It is obvious that a "profitable" mine means something more to a mining company than it does to an ordinary citizen. This is illustrated by how these mines draw up their contracts - hiding behind such protective barriers such as "Commercial-In-Confidence" clauses - meaning that public scrutiny of such contracts is limited, if not impossible.

Moreover, these mining companies almost always get away with a failure to clean up their mess at the end of mining extraction, as the recent fiasco with the Timor sea pipeline leak has revealed. The company responsible wants to make taxpayers pay for their multi-million dollar foul up. Getting taxpayers to foot the bill for cleaning - up mining operations has been the rule the rule rather than the exception.

Four NSW coal mines larger than Adani (in Qld.) have been approved by this current NSW Government, with subsequent Federal approval to export, and another 23 proposed coal mines are waiting for approval, with a combined output total combined capacity of 15 Adani Carmichael coal mine equivalents. (Source: Australia Institute; March 2021.)

The NSW Minister for the Environment, Matt Kean, has made it clear that he approves of these proposals.

.....

This current proposal for coal exploration in the Central West of NSW (gazetted in July 2021) shows that both State and Federal Governments have no intention of ceasing or winding back their coal mining activities. Indeed, this current proposal is indicative of continuing push by both Governments to increase and expand coal production in this state indefinitely.

It is noted that this Hawkins-Rumker proposal borders on a State Park, is close to a nearby dam, and involves a 15 kilometer stretch of two rivers.

Despite the statements of the NSW and Federal Governments' that they take Climate Change "seriously" this is patently not the case. They continue to allow exploration and licensing of ever more fossil fuel mines, such as coal, Coal Seam Gas and "Natural" Gas.

.....

The above shows that most Australian Governments have no intention of reaching the Paris Climate agreements and that the Great Barrier Reef will continue to disappear, despite the antics and theatrics of the various ministers involved.

Yours Faithfully

John MacKay

I agree to the above statement

I agree to the above statement.
Yes

JOHN MACKAY

Asquith 2077

25 July 2021

The NSW Department of PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

Dear Sirs/Ms

Regarding:

**Proposed COAL EXPLORATION of areas
East of Mudgee and North of Rylestone
(Hawkins and Rumker, Central West NSW).**

This is to place my objection on record to the above proposal on the following grounds:

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It is obvious that a "profitable" mine means something more to a mining company than it does to an ordinary citizen. This is illustrated by how these mines draw up their contracts - hiding behind such protective barriers such as "Commercial-In-Confidence" clauses - meaning that public scrutiny of such contracts is limited, if not impossible.

Moreover, these mining companies almost always get away with a **failure to clean up their mess** at the end of mining extraction, as the recent fiasco with the Timor sea pipeline leak has revealed. The company responsible wants to make taxpayers pay for their multimillion dollar foul up. Getting taxpayers to foot the bill for cleaning - up mining operations has been the rule the rule rather than the exception.

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.....

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It is noted that this Hawkins-Rumker proposal borders on a State Park, is close to a nearby dam. and involves a 15 kilometer stretch of two rivers.

Despite the statements of the NSW and Federal Governments' that they take Climate Change "seriously" this is patently not the case. They continue to allow exploration and licensing of ever more fossil fuel mines, such as coal, Coal Seam Gas and "Natural" Gas.

.....

The above shows that most Australian Governments have no intention of reaching the **Paris Climate agreements** and that the Great Barrier Reef will continue to disappear, despite the antics and theatrics of the various ministers involved.

Yours Faithfully

John MacKay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 5:51:37 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [glennloughrey_againstminingonmycountrysubmission.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 17:51

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Glenn

Last name

Loughrey

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Naarm

Submission file

[glennloughrey_againstminingonmycountrysubmission.docx](#)

Submission

Find attached, my objection submission for the proposed mining.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

we are further deprived of our culture and heritage.

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

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

Regards

Glenn – a Traditional Custodian of the Wiradjuri People and land.

Glenn Loughrey (Rev. Canon)

Priest, Artist, Writer

www.glennloughrey.com



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27/07/2021 1:19:44 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission--james-maxwell.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 27/07/2021 - 13:18

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

James

Last name

Maxwell

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

WEST RYDE

Submission file

[submission--james-maxwell.docx](#)

Submission

Please see attached.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

James Maxwell

[REDACTED] West Ryde

28/07/2021

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 34 years of age and have been visiting the area for ten years.

The area is of utmost importance to those who live there and nurture the land for the greater good of the environment and its native flora and fauna. I can't imagine that another coal mine will benefit the greater good of not only those who live there but the provision of life-saving water to the community and the animals that rely on it.

Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

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

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

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

Water

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

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27/07/2021 12:57:55 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-natalia_usa.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 27/07/2021 - 12:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Natalia

Last name

Kaylin

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Westford, MA01886

Submission file

[submission-natalia_usa.docx](#)

Submission

Hello,

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

My name is Natalia Kaylin, I am from the East Coast of the United States. I just found out from a friend who visited the Hawkins Rumker area seven times in the past that a coal mining might be developed there soon.

I was planning on visiting the area next year. There is a group of my friends from USA and Europe that know the area and love to visit it almost every year for its unspoiled beauty, the richness of its flora and fauna and visit some aboriginal sites. With the coal mining it is not going to be the same. All that was special about the area will be gone and I can't even imagine what disasters it will bring to the people who live there. After all the disasters and negativity associated with coal mining in the United States, polluted rivers, poisoned underground water, ghost towns, cancer, law suits, it is pretty unbelievable that someone at this time and age would even consider coal mining in a civilized country like Australia. The consequences of the pollution and climate change are here, it is not the future, it is happening now. Civilized world is turning toward renewable energy sources.

My friends and I will be waiting for the decision and if the decision will be to coal mine this area, we will not visit anymore. This is our way to say "NO" to this action. We want to experience a wild life and nature rather than seeing and hearing heavy machinery, blasting and breathing polluted air.

Sincerely,
 Natalia Kaylin

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Natalia Kaylin
[REDACTED]

Westford, MA 01886

7-26-2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Hello,

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

My name is Natalia Kaylin, I am from the East Coast of the United States. I just found out from a friend who visited the Hawkins Rumker area seven times in the past that a coal mining might be developed there soon.

I was planning on visiting the area next year. There is a group of my friends from USA and Europe that know the area and love to visit it almost every year for its unspoiled beauty, the richness of its flora and fauna and visit some aboriginal sites. With the coal mining it is not going to be the same. All that was special about the area will be gone and I can't even imagine what disasters it will bring to the people who live there. After all the disasters and negativity associated with coal mining in the United States, polluted rivers, poisoned underground water, ghost towns, cancer, law suits, it is pretty unbelievable that someone at this time and age would even consider coal mining in a civilized country like Australia. The consequences of the pollution and climate change are here, it is not the future, it is happening now. Civilized world is turning toward renewable energy sources.

My friends and I will be waiting for the decision and if the decision will be to coal mine this area, we will not visit anymore. This is our way to say "NO" to this action. We want to experience a wild life and nature rather than seeing and hearing heavy machinery, blasting and breathing polluted air.

Yours sincerely,

Natalia Kaylin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26/07/2021 8:11:41 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [opposition-to-coal-mine-hawkins-and-rumker.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 26/07/2021 - 20:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

2130

Submission file

[opposition-to-coal-mine-hawkins-and-rumker.docx](#)

Submission

Against new coal mine – Hawkins and Rumker

To the Advisory Body for Strategic Release and Minister for Regional NSW,

I write as concerned resident over any new coal explorations. In this case, for the areas of Hawkins and Rumker.

News of this ill thought out proposal has reached me, (and many concerned citizens) via a local farm sanctuary located in Rylstone, in the beautiful Central Tableland region, which is only a 5 minute drive away from both areas.

This wonderful farm is well loved by their community, as well nationally and even globally for their compassion, dedication to farm animal and wildlife rescue.

This new proposal is now threatening their sanctuary, surrounding areas and community. The fossil fuel industry is dying and we do not need another environmentally damaging Adani mine.

I severely question whether the proposal has addressed any environmental, cultural, heritage and wildlife concerns. I also question the purpose of supporting a dying industry - we have seen a shift in the demand from fossil fuel to renewable energy.

The public and business communities are well aware of the effects of climate change and the urgent need to transition from fossil fuel to the future of renewable energy.

In summary, my opposition to this new coal exploration license for the below reasons:

- Evidence of the aftermath of coal mines show irreversible, severe environmental damage. Giant holes size of large towns left by the mines will not recover within our lifetime.
- There is growing awareness within the public - years of community and nation-wide protests against coal mines can't be denied
- Pollutants and waste generated from mines will threaten the groundwater
- Coal mines require large volume of water. The most valuable resource for the driest continent on earth that is Australia, will be pumped and wasted. There are regional towns suffering with the lack of water. Wildlife will suffer. Farms will suffer. Our climate will suffer
- There is mounting evidence of human engineered climate change through fossil fuel production
- We have seen an increase number of divestments from investors such as financial institutions
- There will be irreversible damage to the sensitive ecosystem. The huge negative impact to the surrounding ecosystem can't be ignored
- There is a trend in decline commercial value of fossil fuel.
- The growing public demand for renewable energy. If the government made the sensible move and invested more in renewable energy, Australia will be world leaders.
- Coal mining companies, however much they like to project a clean image, are still guilty of corruption (heavy political donors in exchange for favours), political meddling, environmental vandalism and violation of human rights
- Where is the consent from the First Nations/Traditional Owners?

Please reject this new coal exploration. Please join the future by supporting more renewable energy options, and protect our climate, environment, lands, water, wildlife, heritage and culture before it is all gone in our lifetime.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Summer Hill NSW

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

Against new coal mine – Hawkins and Rumker

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- Where is the consent from the First Nations/Traditional Owners?

Please reject this new coal exploration. Please join the future by supporting more renewable energy options, and protect our climate, environment, lands, water, wildlife, heritage and culture before it is all gone in our lifetime.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Summer Hill NSW

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26/07/2021 9:38:49 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-for-rylstone-council-and-mining.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 26/07/2021 - 09:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Candice

Last name

Oneida

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

89509

Submission file

[submission-for-rylstone-council-and-mining.docx](#)

Submission

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

Candice Oneida

[REDACTED]
 Reno, NV 89509
 USA

7/25/21

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am Australian living in the USA. I am 53 years of age and have been visiting the area for over 25 years.

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources and away from coal mining

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

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.

Water

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

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

Flora and Fauna

The Rylstone area has some of the most unique Australian animals and plants. I have encountered on my hikes in the area, goanna's, black and brown snakes, wallabies, kangaroos, kookaburras and lyre birds to name a few!

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


Yours sincerely,

Candice Oneida

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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


Reno, NV 89509
USA

7/25/21

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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Yours sincerely,

Candice Oneida

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25/07/2021 5:14:34 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-copy.docx](#)

Submitted on Sun, 25/07/2021 - 17:11

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
 2849

Submission file
[submission-copy.docx](#)

Submission

This is our lands and yours- why do you want to come and destroy it for our future generations - for what appears to be greed and a short term gain I'm shocked to think that millions of taxpayers dollars has been offered to the community for social and mental recovery after the biggest fire in history to improve resilience and economic recovery through grassroots initiatives, Re engaging with the local indigenous group and tourism – which is our greatest asset that keeps our town vibrant. You watched it burn and now you want to dig it up.

I'm very discussed and disappointed at the poor level of community consultation that the landholders received and the lack of consideration for the other stakeholders in this community. It should be including all the towns people of kandos, Rylstone, Glenn Alice, Mudgee, lue, Clandulla and all there local businesses and because we rely a lot on tourism the affected community is really a 5hr radius of our town . They all need to know what may not be able to come back and visit . What has happened so far is a very inadequate attempt. As of today 9th July we are still finding people who have no idea what is happening and now as I re read this 24th July there still people new to what's going on. WHY THE BIG RUSH – PEOPLE NEED TIME DIGEST AND WORK THROW THEIR THINKING. A few zoom or hall meetings and old mapping does not constitute correct due diligence. You need to come onto country and do real mapping of ours and your lands to what you are about to destroy .

I'm also very upset that there isn't full and continuous transparency throughout the whole process from the original announcement(hiding behind area names that don't translate to community towns), PRIA and the decision process after the PRIA is closed(smell like more corruption). Prove to us that it's not corruption and allow us to be part of the process. It is our lives that you are turning upside down and putting on hold. You are creating huge amounts of anxiety and sleepless night and hundreds of hours of works to fight for our future on the land and our community

I can't understand why you are considering these areas that are flourishing with tourism (Mudgee region ranked number one for 2021 NSW tourism awards) to tear up for an industry that you know is declining, that the government already subsidized billions of dollars every year to the fossil fuel industries and then we have to then pay to integrate these workers back into the community due to lack of skills and confidence and repair towns damaged by mining departures. NSW Parliamentary research services Briefing Paper No1 /202 and No1 2020 talks all about transitioning and declining industry and strength of a more diverse industries and not wasting money on failing industries

I'm appalled at the lack of duty of care to the peoples reactions and mental state of mind after you announce that you are about to possibly destroy there lives forever - from young families to very old people. This a huge mistake that will leave you all completely responsible and exposed

As for direct impact that mining will have on our lives and the community is hard to conceive the future and the duty of care and harm to the future generations – this needs to be your highest priority and guaranteed

- Social and health impact – this the number one item that know one is taking seriously. The awareness of these issues is so important and it has already started. You are dividing the community and polarizing it over lack of a broad ranging community consultation . We not able to express our view without having property stolen, deleted from social media, mail being tampered with, spreading of miss information, while causing unrest and impacting on people's mental wellbeing. You also have the local indigenous people North East Wradjuri people who's spiritual land you want to desecrate after their peoples were slaughtered in the area. Where is the support - shame on you. You are entering into a community that has already had to reinvent themselves from past industrial closures without support and now you want to do it again. History has shown that mining brings with it a transient work force, local accommodation becomes to expensive to rent or buy forcing local people away. Health in community will decline for those who work in mines, living close mines, next to railway infrastructure, exposed to noise, vibration , blasting, dust, Constant traffic and heavy equipment movement – this disruption to people's lives, long lasting health damage and death has already been documented from other sites in Australia and world wide. To which no one takes responsibility for except for tax payers who have to fund health bills. It's criminal
- Water – the idea that you will consider to compromise the the water security of a huge part of the state which is the start of the Murray darling basin. The most valuable asset in the world. Without water and a healthy soil you have no life. The damage from exploration drilling leading fracturing and water cross contamination and mining practices leading to water loss to natural flows. It is has been already been explained by your department that subsidence and collapse is most likely inevitable. This is a very sensitive area which is adjacent to a world heritage are with a huge amount of springs, swamps and major waterways being the Cudgegong and coxes creek that supplies the towns of kandos, Rylstone all the way to Mudgee and beyond. History has shown you can't guarantee no loss or disruption of water. Mining companies don't care and nether does government. No one personally is ever held accountable
- I can't start to comprehend the disaster that will happen if the water is affected. The death of living soil(which paramount to human health), change to pasture and flora which will lead to a dryer landscape, more woody vegetation and bigger than ever fuel load for fire and as agriculture changes to a dryer environment affecting our food supply.
- Also the volume of water required to mine coal is huge. Where is it going to come from - where recently other mines in the area had to cart water in to stay open Unless you have your experts walk on all the property to map all water features you are not doing your job as your existing mapping does not show. This is negligence on you personally and the government representatives When people start to take their lives because of this one issue because of a few individuals that sat around in some plush office deciding who's lives are we going to destroy now for our personal greed and a short term money grab for government and votes. You supposed to represent the people and not break the law – No harm to others. This why no one trust you – the government and our public servants
- Flora, Fauna and Fungi – these are as important as each other as they are a direct indication of a healthy landscape. Mining has shown us they don't care about the landscape during and after as evidence with existing mining rehabilitation. Just planting trees does not constitute rehabilitation. Unless you are prepared to reinstate all the soil as it was removed in its layers it is still just a pile of rubble with no life (Dead). It has to been proven by scientists that it takes 100s of years for nature to rebuild topsoil. Your records of rare and endangered flora and fauna and fungi is incomplete. If they exist in the wollemi national park they should also exist on private lands. We know we have rear and endangered species of all types - again the need to check all the land is paramount for a correct assessment and if not complete it's negligent on your behalf. This another point that you will be held responsible for.
- Aboriginal Heritage – land of the Wradjuri people this is a culturally sensitive area with a dark history of white mans annihilation of the local indigenous people – there reason to exist was taken away from them. They were dispossessed from their tribal hunting grounds, their food, their birthright of ritual and initiation their harmony with each other and their being as one with the land. Now you want to dig it up and put a hole in their

the strength of mud and mudstone, with harmony with each other and then being as one with the land. Now you want to dig it up and put a hole in their spiritual lands – straight to the soul of the people you once slaughtered – all because of greed and for a quick money grab. There is a huge amount of artifacts and site that you don't recognize or have recorded because once again you have not bothered doing your due diligence and to consider coming to landholders to ask and verify or seek consultation with local indigenous people. A few zoom meetings and old mapping doesn't constitute research and due diligence

- Impacts on local economy – affects more than the 180 landholders you are about to destroy but all the surrounding towns people and businesses. It's a community that is thriving and built on the back agricultural , small business like vineyards, antique shop, restaurants, horse studs, olive farms, café , people looking for a rural lifestyle, people in the arts industry, eco tourism, farmstay, over 50,000 visitors per year travel through to explore the areas of Hawkins and Rumker to get to the Ganguddy which is a UNESCO World Heritage area and those who just want to live in a healthy environment. We have all invested financially, physically and emotionally to create our areas lifestyle and wellbeing. No new jobs will come from this it will be all absorbed by existing mining workers from other mines as you have stated that the industry is in decline due to decline world demand
- The Land - With ancestry in the area for 4 generations it seems apparent like the local Wiradjuri peoples that our connections to lands has no value We currently host accommodation on our farm to share this beautiful land to all from Australia and overseas. We always talk and explain about how we are practicing Regenerative Agriculture and how it is a framework of thinking and consciousness that emulates nature's design, patterns and biological systems. With the example from our local indigenous peoples that this ancestral wisdom does not focus on tools or processes, but instead, it emphasizes understanding about how to farm within your ecological context. It's about a journey of healing for all people and biological communities facilitating beauty and life. This beauty and life you want to destroy

People don't come to see coal mines - that's why you try and hide them behind mountains of dirt Every visitor we talk to in town or on our farm is horrified by the idea of new coal mines. STOP IT, STOP IT NOW before you wipe out another community

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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towns of kandos, Rylstone all the way to Mudgee and beyond. History has shown you can't guarantee no loss or disruption of water. Mining companies don't care and neither does government. No one personally is ever held accountable

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- **Flora, Fauna and Fungi** – these are as important as each other as they are a direct indication of a healthy landscape. Mining has shown us they don't care about the landscape during and after as evidence with existing mining rehabilitation. Just planting trees does not constitute rehabilitation. Unless you are prepared to reinstate all the soil as it was removed in its layers it is still just a pile of rubble with no life (**Dead**). It has to be proven by scientists that it takes 100s of years for nature to rebuild topsoil. Your records of rare and endangered flora and fauna and fungi is incomplete. If they exist in the Wollemi National Park they should also exist on private lands. We know we have rare and endangered species of all types - again the need to check all the land is paramount for a correct assessment and if not complete it's negligent on your behalf. This another point that you will be held responsible for.
- **Aboriginal Heritage** – land of the Wiradjuri people this is a culturally sensitive area with a dark history of white man's annihilation of the local indigenous people – their reason to exist was taken away from them. They were dispossessed from their tribal hunting grounds, their food, their birthright of ritual and initiation, their harmony with each other and their being as one with the land. **Now you want to dig it up and put a hole in their spiritual lands – straight to the soul of the people you once slaughtered – all because of greed and for a quick money grab.** There is a huge amount of artifacts and sites that you don't recognize or have recorded because once again you have not bothered doing your due diligence and to consider coming to landholders to ask and verify or seek consultation with local indigenous people. A few zoom meetings and old mapping doesn't constitute research and due diligence
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- **The Land** - With ancestry in the area for 4 generations it seems apparent like the local Wiradjuri peoples that our connections to lands has no value. We currently host accommodation on our farm to share this beautiful land to all from Australia and overseas. We always talk and explain about how we are practicing Regenerative Agriculture and how it is a framework of thinking and consciousness that emulates nature's design, patterns and biological systems. With the example from our local indigenous peoples that this ancestral wisdom does not focus on tools or processes, but instead, it emphasizes understanding about how to farm within your ecological context. It's about a journey of healing for all people and biological communities facilitating beauty and life. **This beauty and life you want to destroy**

People don't come to see coal mines - that's why you try and hide them behind mountains of dirt Every visitor we talk to in town or on our farm is horrified by the idea of new coal mines. STOP IT, STOP IT NOW before you wipe out another community

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25/07/2021 11:55:26 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Sun, 25/07/2021 - 11:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Greta, 2334

Submission file

[submission.docx](#)

Submission

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

[REDACTED]

Greta NSW
 2334

24 July, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am firmly against the proposed Hawkins-Rumker coal exploration. My reasons are the following.

I am 40 years of age and have been visiting the area over the last decade. Being from the Hunter Valley I am keenly aware of the pollution associated with coal mining, particularly the low level air pollution associated with point source operations and roadway pollution from heavy truck traffic. I am a Registered Nurse and am concerned about the respiratory effects on not only the elderly (such as my parents), but the youth as well who are experiencing higher rates of asthma. It would be regretful and negligent for the NSW Government to ignore the known consequences to human health associated with large scale coal operations.

I urge you to deny this proposal.

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

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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



Greta NSW
2334

24 July, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am firmly against the proposed Hawkins-Rumker coal exploration. My reasons are the following.

I am 40 years of age and have been visiting the area over the last decade. Being from the Hunter Valley I am keenly aware of the pollution associated with coal mining, particularly the low level air pollution associated with point source operations and roadway pollution from heavy truck traffic. I am a Registered Nurse and am concerned about the respiratory effects on not only the elderly (such as my parents), but the youth as well who are experiencing higher rates of asthma. It would be regretful and negligent for the NSW Government to ignore the known consequences to human health associated with large scale coal operations.

I urge you to deny this proposal.

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

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23/07/2021 2:51:53 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [coal-free-rylstone.docx](#)

Submitted on Fri, 23/07/2021 - 14:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Andalib

Last name

Samandari

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

[REDACTED] CA, USA 94112

Submission file

[coal-free-rylstone.docx](#)

Submission

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

I'd like to state upfront that I am not a resident in the Hawkins-Rumker region, or even Australian, for that matter.

I heard about the proposed coal mining through a meditation retreat center based in the surrounding area, and while my own life would not be affected, as a past visitor to the region I want to add my voice to protect Australia's beautiful outback, which among other things holds space for activities such as meditation retreats and natural exploration. One of the major reasons that brings me to Australia could lose a lot of its value if the region was disturbed by large quantities of air and sound pollution from the mining industry. It's pretty hard to meditate with industrial distractions in the background, and there isn't much nature to explore when the region is being dug and blasted open.

Apart from the impact I would experience, I want to ask - is it worth downgrading the quality of life for generations of people and other species, to attempt cashing out on the waning coal industry? There are around 293 endangered or threatened species in the area, and mining would directly contribute to their possible extinction. Bodies of natural water would be polluted and disturbed, and I know that Australia really can't risk wasting water. The extensive aboriginal heritage in the area could be erased, as many already have been by mining. Locals would have a significantly worse quality of life, with all the industrial noise, traffic and pollution brought about by mining. Their livelihoods would also be threatened, as the cost of living and housing would likely increase, and agricultural lands would become infertile.

Honestly, it's quite embarrassing that even non-Australians can see the reasons why this is a bad idea. The NSW government itself has a goal to reach zero net emissions by the year 2050, and opening a new coal mine seems rather counterproductive, even if the coal is not to be burned within NSW. Plus, if the main market would be overseas, the G7 are ending government support for new coal power by the end of this year! Even if the money justified the environmental and other damage caused by mining, the world is moving away from coal, and it really does not seem like there are long-term profits to be made – certainly not longer-term than the damage caused by the mining industry.

Sincerely,

Andalib

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

CA, USA

94112

22-Jul-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'd like to state upfront that I am not a resident in the Hawkins-Rumker region, or even Australian, for that matter.

I heard about the proposed coal mining through a meditation retreat center based in the surrounding area, and while my own life would not be affected, as a past visitor to the region I want to add my voice to protect Australia's beautiful outback, which among other things holds space for activities such as meditation retreats and natural exploration. One of the major reasons that brings me to Australia could lose a lot of its value if the region was disturbed by large quantities of air and sound pollution from the mining industry. It's pretty hard to meditate with industrial distractions in the background, and there isn't much nature to explore when the region is being dug and blasted open.

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Sincerely,

Andalib

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23/07/2021 12:39:44 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [preliminary-regional-issues-assessment-hawkins-and-rumker.docx](#)

Submitted on Fri, 23/07/2021 - 12:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

KAY

Last name

JOHNSTON

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone 2849

Submission file

[preliminary-regional-issues-assessment-hawkins-and-rumker.docx](#)

Submission

See uploaded submission file

I agree to the above statement

Yes

PRELIMINARY REGIONAL ISSUES ASSESSMENT HAWKINS AND RUMKER

SUBMISSION OF KAY JOHNSTON AND LINDSEY JOHNSTON of

COXS CROWN RYLSTONE NSW 2849

We have been the owners of a small farm on [REDACTED] near Rylstone for over 20 years. We are now retired. The farm is in a beautiful valley adjacent to Wollemi National Park, and in the middle of the Rumker Potential Release Area (which of course was unknown to us when we bought it). It is close to the thriving village of Rylstone which provides not only essential services but cultural and social facilities. Our plan was to spend our retirement years on the farm. We have therefore spent a considerable proportion of our savings on its purchase and improvement.

A coal mine in the vicinity will destroy our plans for our future.

We are outraged that the New South Wales Government is even considering new coal mines in or near our valley, or anywhere. It is one thing to approve new projects which will benefit the State and its citizens for generations to come, even if some of those citizens will be adversely affected. However, it is unconscionable to forge ahead with unnecessary projects of limited lifespan and limited value which destroy communities. It appears to us that new mines are for the sole benefit of the mining companies seeking last minute profits before the end of coal.

We ask that the Hawkins and Rumker region not be opened for coal exploration, not only because it will affect us personally but for the following reasons:

WE DO NOT NEED NEW COAL MINES

It is well established that thanks to climate change and development of cheaper renewable energy resources:

- **Demand for coal from local coal fired power stations is diminishing.**
- **World demand for thermal coal is diminishing.**
- **Coal mines in New South Wales are operating below capacity.**
- **Infrastructure, such as the Newcastle port facility, is not being expanded.**

The boom has been over for a long time. [See the Government's own 2021 Intergeneration Report and Net Zero Plan].

What possible justification can there be for the government to have 23 new coal projects on its books in 2020.

Rather than a considered plan, taking into account future demand for coal and the need for transition to a coal free economy, the government has adopted a scattergun approach pursuing every possibility for new coal mines and thereby unnecessarily affecting the lives of thousands of its citizens.

“Now is not the time to be approving new coal” (Gloucester Resources Ltd v Minister for Planning [2019]NSWLEC7) .

TAXPAYERS MONEY IS BEING WASTED ON THESE NEW PROJECTS.

There is strong local opposition to the Hawkins/Rumker proposal. The costs of inevitable legal proceedings, development applications, etc. will be considerable. The approval process would take up a large part of the “few decades” left to the coal industry. **However, whether or not it results in a new mine, it will cause lasting harm to the region, starting from now.**

Our money would be better spent on development of other existing and new industries, including renewable energy resources, to facilitate the transition from coal and create long term employment.

The economy of our region is not presently dependent on coal. By opening a mine here the government would be creating a transitional problem that doesn't presently exist.

Claims of significant royalty income and employment from new mines over time are exaggerated and unsustainable in a market which is dying. We refer the Government to the research of The Australia Institute “One Step Forward, Two Steps Back” published in March of this year.

EFFECTS ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The people who live in and around Hawkins and Rumker have built a vibrant, diverse community and a sustainable tourism industry which provides local economic stability and relies on the peace, tranquillity and unspoilt beauty of the region. They have overcome drought, floods and the recent horrors of the 2020 bushfires. They know that the gravity of those bushfires was partially due to climate change. It is appalling to suggest that a coal mine on their doorstep is a good idea.

The mere release of the region for coal exploration will have a lasting effect on the region, even if a mine doesn't eventuate. Exploration licences will lead to

uncertainty with respect to future water supply, air quality, quality of life, land values, the viability of businesses and thus will be a deterrent to investment.

A coal mine, with its accompanying disturbance, blasting, pollution, destruction of native flora and fauna, would complete the destruction of tourism and the region.

Promises of remediation are meaningless once the underground springs have gone and the many small businesses have had to close down.

The Government's willingness to sabotage the lives and livelihoods of the people in the Rylstone community for no lasting benefit to the State is shocking.

Climate Change

Our lives are now dominated by extreme anxiety concerning the effects of climate change on the lives of our children and grandchildren. The Government is not treating reduction of emissions with sufficient urgency. Creating new coal mining projects instead of requiring full exploitation of existing mines and investment in renewable energy sources indicates that the Government has no intention of fulfilling its obligations under its own Net Zero plan.

It is inexplicable that the Government is ignoring not only its own stated policies concerning climate change but also international calls for an end to new oil coal and gas development.

The government will be aware of the recent Federal Court decision of *Sharma v Minister for the Environment* establishing a duty of care owed by the Federal Government to young people to protect them from the real catastrophic and reasonably foreseeable effects of climate change. We trust that the New South Wales Government will not follow the lead of the Federal Government and argue that it doesn't have such a responsibility.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22/07/2021 4:53:54 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [against-coal-mining-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Thu, 22/07/2021 - 16:44

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Ultimo 2007

Submission file

[against-coal-mining-submission.docx](#)

Submission

See uploaded file above. Thanks.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ultimo NSW 2007
Australia

22nd July 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My personal reasons and/or how it will affect me are listed below.

I am 56 years old and have been visiting and staying in this beautiful and peaceful area with friends for over 16 years. I have spent many happy days camping in this tranquil and quiet area and swam in the lovely and cool Dunn Swamp waters over numerous hot summer holidays. In addition, I have thoroughly enjoyed bush walking in this ancient terrain at different times of the year. Being able to spend time in these natural surroundings have brought huge benefits for my general health and well-being. Therefore, I would hate to see this area be dug up and exploited for the coal mining industry. I do not agree with the purpose of this coal exploration in Australia in general and exploitation in this particular region of NSW.

Worldwide Trend to Move to Sustainable Energy Sources

According to the Reserve Bank of Australia, it is anticipated that international thermal coal demand is declining as renewable electricity generation becomes possible.

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

Currently, Australia exports about 75 percent of its coal to Japan, South Korea and China. These countries have followed other countries in a worldwide trend and committed to remove fossil fuels usage. This indicates that demand for coal will decrease.

Most recently at this year's G7 summit, many countries have agreed to end public support for unabated coal generation by the end of 2021.

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

This is heart-warming news for preventing the worsening state of the global ecological and environmental situation.

Social & Health Implications

As air, water, soil and noise pollution, do not stay within the boundaries of the coal mining sites, therefore the pristine area of the Hawkins Rumker and its surrounding areas will be adversely affected.

Presently, the neighbouring Hunter Valley is already a pollution 'hotspot' and has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in the population in NSW.

Any coal mining activity will result in a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on our local and rural roads. Traffic incidents will increase from mine workers travelling to and from work. The quality of our country roads is already in a poor state and they are definitely unsuitable to increased or heavy load traffic. Historically, mines in this council area have declined to put money into fixing any traffic issues created by their presence.

Noise pollution and incessant 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. This pandemonium will contribute to further adverse ecological and environmental issues.

As trains and trucks are not covered, the coal dust and associated pollution from transporting the coal can travel for many kilometres and cause further health dangers to the community of people.

Moreover, mining areas can be associated with increased rates of alcohol and drug abuse, violence, sexual assaults, and other crimes in adjoining communities. This is detrimental to the population of people in this region as it has a negative impact on the communities.

As it is in the current pandemic situation, many adverse health effects are already being felt as people experience anxiety, depression and stress about the threat to their region and economic stability.

In the light of these unnecessary human, ecological and environment disruptions, I hope the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration will be halted.

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

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the author.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22/07/2021 11:35:51 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-against-coal-exploration.docx](#)

Submitted on Thu, 22/07/2021 - 11:34

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

2121

Submission file

[submission-against-coal-exploration.docx](#)

Submission

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

[REDACTED]

NORTH EPPING NSW 2121 22/7/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. Below are some reasons why this proposal will impact me and why I strongly oppose coal exploration and coal mining.

I know this area well even though I live in Sydney. I am 63 years old and have been a regular visitor to the region for over 12 years. I usually visit every couple of months because I enjoy walking in nature, the rugged beauty of the landscapes, the fresh air, the change of the seasons, and this region's country lifestyle. For me, it is always a very welcome time to de-stress from rushed city living.

I am distraught that all these "benefits" that I so regularly enjoy are under threat. As a psychologist, I help people with mental health problems. I can't begin to imagine the types of social and health pressures the local community would be facing if a coal mine is opened in their backyards.

The introduction of a coal-reliant mine to the area would change the social fabric of the people who live there. The transient nature of shift work associated with mining often results in increased alcohol and drug abuse rates, violence, sexual assaults, and other crimes in nearby communities. Socioeconomic divides will be created because locals will be unable to compete with the higher wage-earning capacity of the miners, which in turn will drive up housing and other costs.

Other detriments to the mental and physical health of the local population will be the effects of air, water and noise pollution. All pollution travels and cannot be contained to the mining area itself. The air quality will be reduced due to coal dust emitted from blasting, mining and transporting coal. Precious existing underground water resources and above groundwater streams are threatened. Loss of water resources such as damage to underground aquifers & contamination of water streams poses severe threats to the physical well-being of residents. Considerable noise pollution from heavy earth moving equipment and operating of mining machines 24 hours per day does harm a healthy lifestyle because it is the opposite of quiet and regenerative country-living. Anecdotally, I have heard some locals express how their mental health is already affected because they are anxious and stressed about the threat to their region.

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

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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


NORTH EPPING NSW 2121

22/7/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. Below are some reasons why this proposal will impact me and why I strongly oppose coal exploration and coal mining.

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

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22/07/2021 4:42:24 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [rcfc_submission_2021.bt](#)

Submitted on Thu, 22/07/2021 - 04:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Last name

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Ravendale, CA96123

Submission file

[rcfc_submission_2021.bt](#)

Submission

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

Ravendale, CA96123

July 20th, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

To whom it may concern,
 I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. My reasons and are outlined below.

My first visit to the area was the summer of 2007/2008. I fell in love with the natural beauty, unique wildlife, and quietude. I returned the following year of 2009, and then have visited annually since 2016 for phases of retreat. I am a 50 year old artist, and though I have always visited the area as a tourist, I find that my time there fills me with inspiration and recharges my creativity for the following year. I consider my trips to the area an investment in my well being and creative life.

I am deeply concerned to know that there is proposed expansion for further coal mining exploration and mining in this region for the following reasons.

With climate change water will be one of the most significant issues of the 21st century. The coal industry is one of Australia's biggest water users. Almost all water used in coal mines is consumed and cannot be reused. Water is used for coal processing, handling and preparation, dust suppression, on-site facilities, irrigation, vehicle washing and more. 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. Coal mining can contaminate water and effect the ecological balance of the region. This not only effects native plants and animals, but the people who live with them. In the winter of 2019 I was in the area as the bush fires were coming through. I evacuated to Sydney, but if water resources are used for mining, what will there be left to fight bush fires with in an already water-stressed environment? Once the water is gone it is gone forever.

There is a world wide trend to move to sustainable energy sources. The NSW government's own 2021 intergenerational report predicts a decrease in royalties from coal. As international demand falls, there will also be a decrease in revenue both globally and from two major coal customers, Japan and South Korea. The release of these areas is a contradiction to more recent government policies and NSW government's own net-zero goal. 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.

Where I live in California, I have seen big businesses (prisons) come into the area and negatively impact the people, economy, and land. These businesses promised to bring jobs and money to the area. The money stayed in the pockets of the business, and the local region has suffered with small businesses being driven out while the cost of living has risen. Mining provides a flow of revenue to governments, while the local communities and businesses are negatively impacted. 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. I would hate to see the area effected by the noise, dust and pollution that mining causes. Tourists do not come to see coal mines.

Lastly, the way that the assessment has been done does not give the full extent of the social, economic and environmental impacts on the areas. These impacts remain unknown and recommendations made for release of the areas for exploration based on incomplete information. 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. There also needs to be a transparent method for the way that the government will evaluate the submissions, and the communities need to be involved in the process, given time to consider and respond.

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

Yours sincerely,



I agree to the above statement
Yes

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



Ravendale, CA 96123

July 20th, 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

To whom it may concern,

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

My first visit to the area was the summer of 2007/2008. I fell in love with the natural beauty, unique wildlife, and quietude. I returned the following year of 2009, and then have visited annually since 2016 for phases of retreat.

I am a 50 year old artist, and though I have always visited the area as a tourist, I find that my time there fills me with inspiration and recharges my creativity for the following year. I consider my trips to the area an investment in my well being and creative life.

I am deeply concerned to know that there is proposed expansion for further coal mining exploration and mining in this region for the following reasons.

With climate change water will be one of the most significant issues of the 21st century.

The coal industry is one of Australia's biggest water users. Almost all water used in coal mines is consumed and cannot be reused. Water is used for coal processing, handling and preparation, dust suppression, on-site facilities, irrigation, vehicle washing and more. 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.

Coal mining can contaminate water and effect the ecological balance of the region. This not only effects native plants and animals, but the people who live with them.

In the winter of 2019 I was in the area as the bush fires were coming through. I evacuated to Sydney, but if water resources are used for mining, what will there be left to fight bush fires with in an already water-stressed environment?

Once the water is gone it is gone forever.

There is a world wide trend to move to sustainable energy sources.

The NSW government's own 2021 intergenerational report predicts a decrease in royalties from coal. As international demand falls, there will also be a decrease in revenue both globally and from two major coal customers, Japan and South Korea.

The release of these areas is a contradiction to more recent government policies and NSW government's own net-zero goal. 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.

Where I live in California, I have seen big businesses (prisons) come into the area and negatively impact the people, economy, and land. These businesses promised to bring jobs and money to the area. The money stayed in the pockets of the business, and the local region has suffered with small businesses being driven out while the cost of living has risen.

Mining provides a flow of revenue to governments, while the local communities and businesses are negatively impacted.

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. I would hate to see the area effected by the noise, dust and pollution that mining causes. Tourists do not come to see coal mines.

Lastly, the way that the assessment has been done does not give the full extent of the social, economic and environmental impacts on the areas. These impacts remain unknown and recommendations made for release of the areas for exploration based on incomplete information.

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.

There also needs to be a transparent method for the way that the government will evaluate the submissions, and the communities need to be involved in the process, given time to consider and respond.

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

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21/07/2021 9:22:42 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-re-proposed-hawkins-and-rumker-coal-release-final.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 21/07/2021 - 21:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Dan

Last name

Vickers

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Gordon 2072

Submission file

[submission-re-proposed-hawkins-and-rumker-coal-release-final.docx](#)

Submission

We strongly oppose the strategic release of the Hawkins, Rumker, and Ganguddy-Kelgoola areas for coal mining. Please see the attached submission.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

21 July 2021

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW
Submitted via www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/hawkins-rumker

Feedback regarding the Hawkins, Rumker and Ganguddy-Kelgoola strategic release areas for coal mining

The Southern NSW Branch of BirdLife Australia welcomes the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

For over a century, BirdLife Australia has been a leading advocate for birds and for those who value them. We are an independent, non-partisan, grassroots charity with over 200,000 supporters nationally, including 72,400 active supporters in New South Wales.

We are concerned that coal mining in the proposed Hawkins, Rumker and Ganguddy-Kelgoola strategic release areas will severely impact threatened woodland bird species and their habitat, including critically endangered Regent Honeyeaters:

1. Hawkins and Rumker are strategically placed close to three internationally recognised ecologically significant locations: the Greater Blue Mountains, the Mudgee-Wollar, and the Capertee Valley Key Biodiversity Areas. Key Biodiversity Areas are a global initiative established by international conservation groups, including BirdLife International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and World Wildlife Fund, which have identified areas significantly contributing to global biodiversity. Rumker shares a lengthy boundary with Wollemi National Park. Ganguddy-Kelgoola, also under consideration for mining, is almost surrounded by Wollemi National Park. The proposed Hawkins, Rumker, and Ganguddy-Kelgoola areas are valuable buffer zones for the Greater Blue Mountains in particular, and consideration should be given into their incorporation into the national park reserve system.
2. The valleys surrounding and draining the Greater Blue Mountains, such as Capertee, are strongholds for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, with a population of as few as 250 individuals. There are almost no contemporary breeding areas outside of the Greater Blue Mountains, hence the future of this species is underpinned by this region. Large mining developments in this region would likely be a death sentence for this species. With the Regent Honeyeater's status as Critically Endangered under both the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, it is crucial that no further loss or degradation of habitat for this species occurs.
3. Habitat loss is driving an alarming decline in the numbers of woodland bird species in NSW. The proposed Hawkins, Rumker, and Ganguddy-Kelgoola sites, covering almost 33,000 hectares, include a vast area of intact woodland and watercourses, which provides valuable habitat for a range of threatened woodland species, including: Regent Honeyeaters, Swift Parrots, Diamond Firetails, Powerful Owls, Speckled Warblers, Brown Treecreepers, and Scarlet Robins.
4. Open cut mining, the most common technique used in new coal mining ventures, requires a massive loss of habitat from the large areas required for mining pits, as well as transport and logistical infrastructure for haulage of large quantities of coal. Even underground mining requires extensive above ground infrastructure, in addition to



logistical and transport infrastructure. Such developments will result in either the destruction or fragmentation of swathes of intact woodland. The report by Earth Scapes Consulting Pty Ltd¹ identified numerous bird species that would be displaced and lost, including all threatened woodland species mentioned in the above paragraph, which will be impacted by coal developments in the proposed strategic release areas.

5. Coal mining in general risks polluting waterways and affecting creek and river systems by drawdown on the water table, as is the case with the Moolarben and Wilpinjong coal mines in the Goulburn River area in the Upper Hunter Valley, not far to the north of these sites in question. Underground mining carries a risk of subsidence and other damage to water courses and the water table, producing dieback caused by the shearing of tree roots, or alteration of tree root access to ground water. Any impairment to water courses, quality, and supply will damage the woodlands and harm fauna dependent on creek systems and ground water.

Aside from the profound impacts on a range of threatened woodland birds and their habitat, the proposal will unavoidably impact on the broader values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. It is unthinkable that mining should be seriously considered up to its current boundaries, especially when the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area was so recently damaged by catastrophic bushfires, and when the area is also threatened by other inappropriate infrastructure developments such as the Warragamba Dam raising.

Finally, there must be a consideration of climate change and to the ethics and economic viability of a new thermal coal, alongside the loss of carbon sequestering woodlands. The International Energy Agency has recently declared there must be no new coal mines if we are to keep climate warming below catastrophic levels. Meanwhile, global demand for coal continues to nosedive as countries transition away from fossil fuels, with some countries and international blocs even starting to place tariffs on Australian goods given our ongoing fossil fuel production.

In summary, we strongly oppose the strategic release of the Hawkins, Rumker, and Ganguddy-Kelgoola areas for coal mining.

Yours sincerely

Dan Vickers

Conservation Subcommittee
BirdLife Southern NSW

References:

1. Western Coalfields Strategic Release Mapping and Analysis. Prepared by Earth Scapes Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2021. Available at:
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/7317/attachments/original/1623889487/Western_Coalfields_Earthscapes_ReportV3.pdf?1623889487

BirdLife Australia
Sydney Office and
Discovery Centre

Newington Armory

Sydney Olympic Park
NSW 2127

T 02 9647 1033
F 02 9647 2030

birdlife.org.au

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21/07/2021 12:20:57 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [coal-exploration.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 21/07/2021 - 12:18

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Neil

Last name

Matthews

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone

Submission file

[coal-exploration.docx](#)

Submission

Dear Sir,

We have become aware of proposed coal exploration licences. Our property is on Cox's Creek Road Rylstone in this proposed area.

In our retirement we have travelled extensively throughout remote outback Australia and have observed the destruction of the environment as a result of mining.

Mining companies come in for a few years and leave us with a pit of polluted and poisonous water and heaps of overburden that can't be used for anything productive. Australia has enough coal, and we are faced with a diminishing export market.

We do not farm our small property and enjoy its pristine beauty and the wildlife it provides. We do not allow shooting on our property and enjoy the vast number of birds, kangaroos, Wombats, Echidna's, and the occasional Spotted Quail.

We are fortunate to have a spring-fed dam that provided water to the wildlife and bushfire brigades in the recent drought and bushfires.

Mining has been known to damage water tables that could destroy this valuable resource.

We are also concerned about the potential criminal trading of exploration licences in the wrong hands.

We thoroughly condemn the proposed issuing of these exploration licences.

Yours Faithfully

Neil & Pat Matthews

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Dear Sir,

We have become aware of proposed coal exploration licences. Our property is on [REDACTED] Rylstone in this proposed area.

In our retirement we have travelled extensively throughout remote outback Australia and have observed the destruction of the environment as a result of mining.

Mining companies come in for a few years and leave us with a pit of polluted and poisonous water and heaps of overburden that can't be used for anything productive. Australia has enough coal, and we are faced with a diminishing export market.

We do not farm our small property and enjoy its pristine beauty and the wildlife it provides. We do not allow shooting on our property and enjoy the vast number of birds, kangaroos, Wombats, Echidna's, and the occasional Spotted Quall.

We are fortunate to have a spring-fed dam that provided water to the wildlife and bushfire brigades in the recent drought and bushfires.

Mining has been known to damage water tables that could destroy this valuable resource.

We are also concerned about the potential criminal trading of exploration licences in the wrong hands.

We thoroughly condemn the proposed issuing of these exploration licences.

Yours Faithfully

Neil & Pat Matthews

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20/07/2021 10:39:06 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [hawkins-runker-objection-july-2021.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 20/07/2021 - 10:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

Yes

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Lane Cove

Submission file

[hawkins-runker-objection-july-2021.docx](#)

Submission

I object to this Assessment and have attached my submission file.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

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

20/07/2021

RE: Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Dear Director and panel,

I am writing to object to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment on the basis of long-term economic concerns that will extend in and beyond the region, as well as immediate environmental and heritage concerns.

Planning for new coal mines in this day and age is a step backwards. When the damaging impacts of coal on global wellbeing are recognized by governments, business leaders, and science experts and consequentially sustainable energy advances are being implemented at great speed it makes no sense to plan for coal extraction that is on course to steadily decline in years to come.

The area is home to waterways that will be threatened by exploration activity, as scientists have established significant fish habitat and already threatened species. Locally owned business that depend on local water resources will bear the immediate and long-term consequences. They can't manage this risk as a global corporation behind a new coal mine would do as part of their business plan.

We have already seen in Australia far too much disregard by large corporations for the natural and cultural heritage, particular indigenous heritage, in mining projects. At this time of increasing understanding for both environmental sustainability and recognition of first nations' cultural heritage, planning for this mining activity is unacceptable.

Our future generations will better served by planning jobs that meet future and better, sustainable livelihoods, not jobs of the past in coal mines. The location of this assessment has much more promise to develop agriculture, tourism, renewable energy and other sustainable economic activity that truly supports a thriving, diversified local economy of the future.

Regards

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15/07/2021 2:13:34 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [1.-submission-against-coal-exploration.docx](#)

Submitted on Thu, 15/07/2021 - 14:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Bryan

Last name

Ludwick

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone

Submission file

[1.-submission-against-coal-exploration.docx](#)

Submission

Submission against coal exploration in the Hawkins Rumker area

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Bryan H Ludwick

Via Rylstone NSW 2849

15/07/2021

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 me I have outlined below.

I have lived within the Rylstone / Coxs Creek area for 27 years and I am 69 years old and retired.

Within 500m of our property I know of two Aboriginal art sites which are regularly frequented and widely known. Thus, I find it hard to understand that the published Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors states there are no known Aboriginal objects in the area.

Our water supply for the house use is sourced from underground water seeping through the sandstone. I am concerned that the proposed exploratory drilling will have an adverse effect on our water supply, as there are many instances of where the drilling associated with mining has had significant and detrimental effect on water flow in local creeks as well as underground.

In the years we have lived at [REDACTED], we have been visited on occasion by the Regent Honeyeater, a critically endangered species.

We have also been privileged to see Koala and the Yellow-Bellied Glider in the timbered country on our property. Pleasingly, sightings of both have been made since the devastating bushfires of 2019/20 which severely impacted our property. Potential clearing of habitat will have a major impact on these endangered species.

Of the 300 acres we have title to, all but 1.6 acres around the house and shed suffered severe fire damage. As such, it has been a huge mental challenge to face the burnt country side and re-build - in particular the fencing which was almost totally destroyed. To have the potential for drilling/mining on the country has a detrimental effect of our state of mind. I feel anxious and stressed with this potential threat to our farm and to the community

Bigger picture view, this area is immediately upstream from the fertile lands in the Mudgee area. In many respects, not too dissimilar to the Liverpool Plains which was the source of a multi-million dollar buy-back of the mining license by the NSW government to rectify an allocation mistake.

In closing, I state once more that I am strongly against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

Yours sincerely

Bryan Ludwick

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15/07/2021 11:13:12 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-to-department.docx](#)

Submitted on Thu, 15/07/2021 - 11:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Lisa

Last name

Firkins

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Kandos

Submission file

[submission-to-department.docx](#)

Submission

submission sent

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Lisa Firkins

Kandos.

28/6/2021

Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

Department Planning, Industry and Environment.

Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Submission – re the proposed coal exploration in the region.

I would like to begin by lodging a complaint against the department for its noncompliance concerning community consultation. This has not occurred in any meaningful way – a short notice in two newspapers is not enough notification of the meetings organised. The sole manner in which townspeople and those in surrounding areas not directly affected but still with a stake in the areas as residents – were the flyers sent around by the RRCFC at their own cost. This is a blatant attempt at limiting the of people informed so as to downplay the communities' opposition. Despite this, the community meeting organised by the RRCFC was very well attended, which reflects the weight of concern being shown at this proposed project.

As a resident and rate-payer I demand the right to have a say in the future projects that are being planned for this area. The proposed coal exploration is an issue about which I feel very strongly opposed. Although there should be no more need for this idea to be cancelled than the very obvious opposition of the community, I feel it is incumbent upon me personally to submit to you my opposition in writing. It should be understood that I am not against coal mining per se, but believe that the existing coal mines are currently filling the need for coal and that there is no need for new coal mines to be planned and therefore no need to drill and blast this beautiful area for coal exploration. It seems very short sighted that coal mines are the best use the government can think of for this area when the tourism opportunities range far and wide. The most obvious of which are the products that it produces such as wine and honey, beef, wool, both from sheep goats and alpacas and Mudgee recently became the capital of the BBQ sausage, a festival that attracted many city siders as well as locals. Rylstone and Kandos both offer varied tourist attractions, such as the Kandos Museum, Dunns Swamp and several art galleries. As well as this, there is the Street Feast and Cementa festivals. Both these towns would be adversely affected by the destruction of the area if the coal exploration project is allowed. The proximity to Sydney is also a plus for the areas' tourism as well as the fact that there is a disused railway line that could be used for passengers and not coal. The diverse variety of birds attracts bird watchers, the magnificent sandstone cliffs and pagodas attract rock climbers, bush walkers and geologists. The Cudgegong River boasts of many beautiful places for a picnic or camp out, and the area is well invested with B&Bs and motels, all of whom are busy even in the offseason. The towns of Rylstone and Mudgee offer an abundance of homegrown and produced foodstuffs, most notably honey and cheese.

There are several significant aboriginal sites in these areas. Some are known quite widely by both locals and the land council in the area and yet some have not been listed but are still identified as being some of the most important aboriginal heritage sites that exist, certainly in NSW and possibly Australia. These sites are valued and valuable to all Australians and particularly to the people of the Wiradjuri tribe, who are the original owners.

The other area of concern are the endangered species who reside in the area. Most especially the diverse types of birds who breed here annually as well as the migratory birds who also breed in the area every year.

These include: Swift Parrot, Spotted Harrier, Little Eagle, glossy Black Cockatoo and the Scarlet Robin. Just a few of the birds that are on the critically endangered list.

In the forests of the Wollemi it is well known that there are several pockets of koalas, since the Black Summer it is even more necessary to preserve areas where koalas are known to be breeding and thriving. There are many stands of eucalypt, one of the types of tree that koalas eat. The birds and animals of this area need the woodland habitat much of which has already been lost, due to the effects of the Black Summer wildfires.

This submission will be sent to the department as well as
Cc; local member for Midwest, both federal and state.

Thankyou for your time,

Lisa Firkins.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15/07/2021 9:23:22 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Thu, 15/07/2021 - 09:22

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

Tamworth 2340

Submission file

[submission.docx](#)

Submission

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Rumker Hawkins coal exploration. This proposal will impact this area in many ways, as outlined below.

Coal exploration and mining destroys or disturbs waterways and farming land. There are many creeks and rivers in the areas that supply the residents and agriculture. Without water in this area nothing will survive or thrive. Risking the water is a risk to the community, agriculture and tourism, which currently thrive in this area.

The impact of air and noise pollution on the community will impact the local people, as well as the tourism industry which is currently working well. The unique tourism will be affected by the mine, impacting the landscape, discouraging tourists from come and will have a negative impact on the local businesses who rely on tourists.

Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk.

The local community will be significantly impacted by coal exploration and mining, which creates uncertainty and impacting local people through increased housing and other costs.

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

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Director Energy and Resource Policy
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

From:



South Tamworth, NSW, 2340

Please withhold my name: **Yes**

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am against the proposed Rumker Hawkins coal exploration. This proposal will impact this area in many ways, as outlined below.

Coal exploration and mining destroys or disturbs waterways and farming land. There are many creeks and rivers in the areas that supply the residents and agriculture. Without water in this area nothing will survive or thrive. Risking the water is a risk to the community, agriculture and tourism, which currently thrive in this area.

The impact of air and noise pollution on the community will impact the local people, as well as the tourism industry which is currently working well. The unique tourism will be affected by the mine, impacting the landscape, discouraging tourists from come and will have a negative impact on the local businesses who rely on tourists.

Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk.

The local community will be significantly impacted by coal exploration and mining, which creates uncertainty and impacting local people through increased housing and other costs.

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

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13/07/2021 12:34:20 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumbker

Attachments: [deg-submission-mudgee-coal-project.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 13/07/2021 - 12:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

Margaret

Last name

McDonald

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Dubbo, 2830

Submission file

[deg-submission-mudgee-coal-project.docx](#)

Submission

Dear Sir/Madam, Please find attached the Dubbo Environment Group submission for the Hawkins Rumbker exploration consultation.

Yours Faithfully,

Margaret McDonald (Pres)

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker: Dubbo Environment submission.

Dubbo Environment Group was founded this year and consists of 18 members from the local region. We have over 400 followers on social media, 35 newsletter subscribers and strong links with regional environmental groups.

Our group is extremely concerned about Climate Change and deeply frustrated by Australia's lack of effective action over the past 2 decades. Indeed, the Federal Government's Gas-led economic recovery and unmitigated resolve to open new coal and gas projects can only be described as reckless and pernicious.

The Paris Climate Agreement was instigated to limit the increase in global temperature to below 2°C by the end of the century. The pledges if followed, were planned to achieve World net zero emissions by 2050. Australia has not implemented a net zero emissions policy, to the disgrace of responsible citizens such as we are, who are distressed at our lack of cooperative action.

On 18th July, 2020, Professor Lesley Hughes from the Climate Council, said on the Farmers for Climate Action Summit, that we need to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 to limit temperature increases to below 2 degrees. 2050 is TOO LATE. We need to increase our draw-down actions 3-fold and we need to halve our emissions by 2030.

Professor Hughes says that 2 degrees higher temperatures mean increased fire danger and fire events which create their own weather events as occurred last summer. It means even more frequent and more extreme weather events and a 20-40% reduction in current river flows in the Murray Darling Basin.

Dubbo's Future Climate has been analysed by ANU researchers who predict that the city of Dubbo will have no winters by 2050 and an average temperature 4 degrees higher if emissions continue unabated. Parkes NSW (our Federal electorate) has been singled out as one of 5 Australian electorates to be most affected by Climate Change.

Records from the Bureau of Meteorology clearly show:

1. That NSW average temperatures have already risen well above 1.5 degrees in the last 2 years.
2. That the drought of 2019 was the most severe by more than 50% of previously recorded low rainfall events and that no 2 years of such low levels have ever run concurrently since 1900.

A policy to address Australia's emissions is more urgent than ever, with international pressure mounting upon Australia to commit to a target. There is increasing likelihood that exports from a non-compliant country will be taxed. The EU is drafting legislation as we speak which will impact farmers negatively.

Experts have stated that transferring to renewables is both possible and advisable for environmental and economic reasons.

The Hawkins Rumpker prospective coal exploration will occur in a beautiful, environmental location on Dubbo's doorstep. We are overly sensitive already in the Central West to the loss of natural habitat from clearing and industry, at the increasing rates of extinction and the degradation of our rivers. We especially do not need to lose more of our precious natural bushland when the sacrifice is utterly counter-productive.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 5:06:52 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 17:05

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Helen

Last name

Sobiesiak

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

East Kurrajong, 2758.

Submission file

[submission.docx](#)

Submission

Submission has been uploaded above.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Director Energy and Resource Policy
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta. NSW. 2124

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

My name is Helen Sobiesiak and I am a retired Geography teacher, also a Mum and Grandmother. I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration and inevitable coal mining which will lead to worsening the climate crisis. The recent release of the UN scientific report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that climate change is widespread and is intensifying. The IPCC recognises that this accelerated warming is as a result of greenhouse gases from human activity, such as burning coal, and that the planet is rapidly getting closer to 1.5C of warming. Global warming leads to the increased frequency of extreme weather events. The world is already experiencing the trauma and disruption of severe weather events associated with climate change. The recent flooding in Europe, fires in Greece and the unforgettable fires along the east coast of Australia in 2019/2020, are all evidence that climate change is happening now with very damaging impacts.

Therefore, it is vital that the world, including Australia and NSW in particular, does all it can do, to reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases in order to limit climate change. Consequently, the NSW government must say, "NO" to further coal exploration and coal mining, in order to reduce global emissions. Instead, it is necessary to transition to renewable forms of energy such as solar and wind and recognise that not only are renewables better for the environment, but also for the economy.

Please, do not allow the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration to go ahead. My grandchildren are depending on you.

Sincerely,

Helen Sobiesiak



East Kurrajong. 2758.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13/07/2021 11:37:07 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [rumker-coal-submission-20210712.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 13/07/2021 - 11:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Robert

Last name

Strange

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Katoomba NSW

Submission file

[rumker-coal-submission-20210712.docx](#)

Submission

SUBMISSION ATTACHED

I agree to the above statement

Yes

SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED RELEASE FOR COAL EXPLORATION
of the
RUMKER AREA
to
ADVISORY BODY FOR STRATEGIC RELEASE

I make this submission as a concerned citizen with some understanding of the sensitive and rare environments of the Blue Mountains area. I have no economic interest in the matters and no connection with other parties likely to be associated with the matters.

I am not philosophically opposed to coal or coal mining. However, it is inevitable that the World is moving away from the use of coal at an accelerating rate. It is equally inevitable that Australia will be left with unexploited reserves of coal, especially thermal coal, by mid century.

Many countries have assessed the cost-benefit of continuing coal extraction and have closed their coal industries despite economically winnable reserves. When considering the 'externalities' of costs beyond economic, the justification for developing thermal coal resources becomes a very short-term proposition.

In the case of the proposed exploration/ development of coal mining in the area defined as Rumker, near Rylstone in New South Wales the costs must consider the inevitable damage to rare and environmentally sensitive lands, from immediate mining activity and particularly from future mine subsidence.

The Rumkers area borders the Wollemi and World Heritage National Park. This is an area of exceptional natural features and sensitive ecology. The ecological value is such that mining of a low-value commodity should not be countenanced in much of the identified area.

Credible, independent environmental assessment should be undertaken to identify areas in, or under, which mining activity must be forbidden and such must be made conditions of any further exploration or development within the Rumker area.

Dr Robert F Strange
Katoomba.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13/07/2021 10:00:55 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission-against-providing-coal-exploration-licences.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 13/07/2021 - 09:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Leah

Last name

Bryant

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

CASTLE HILL, Qld, NSW

Submission file

[submission-against-providing-coal-exploration-licences.docx](#)

Submission

See above attached file.

If there is a problem with the upload, please contact me at [REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Submission against providing coal exploration licences

This submission is in opposition to providing coal exploration licences in the areas of Hawkins and Rumker, NSW. This is an area which has retained its rustic heritage and is a favourite tourism destination for this reason. Although I am currently living in Queensland, I know this area well.

It is extremely short sighted, in my opinion, for the government to be even considering exploration of coal which the world would like to see eliminated from the production of energy and for which there may not be a market in the future. We cannot afford to ignore what the environment is telling us by way of our fires, droughts, floods, high temperatures - that we must do everything we can to change our environment if not for us, at least for our descendants.

While it might be feasible to do exploration in an environmentally sensitive way, if coal is found, there is no way that a coal mine in that area could or would be environmentally sensitive. There are many protected animals in this area and a coal mine would most surely harm their environment and therefore the lives of these animals.

If the need to protect the world's environment does not convince, please consider the fact that coal in this area would destroy the ambiance of the area and therefore destroy the citizens of this area's tourism industry – the core of how most people in this area earn their living.

Please end any consideration of going forward with exploration of coal.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12/07/2021 10:43:20 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [pria.docx](#)

Submitted on Mon, 12/07/2021 - 10:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Carolyn

Last name

Barlow

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone NSW 2049

Submission file

[pria.docx](#)

Submission

I object to further coal exploration in the Rylstone area because of the issues raised in the uploaded file.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Issues arising from PRIA

I object to having further coal exploration in the Rylstone Area because of the following

Water

A new coal mine threatens to cause polluted water runoff into the Cudgegong River directly or via Lawson Creek or Cox's Creeek depending on the location of the mine site. The Cudgegong River at Rylstone is the town water supply for both Kandos and Rylstone and the Cudgegong River flows into Windamere Dam which is Mudgee's water supply.

Many of the properties affected by the Rumker-Hawkins mining exploration proposals have springs. Any new coal mining in the areas in question will affect the aquifers which supply these springs. Adverse impacts on water aquifers would in turn affect water flows into the Cudgegong, which is part of the Murray Darling system.

Negative Social Impacts

Pessimism – already people who have recently bought properties affected by the exploration proposal are worried about doing improvements to their properties even though mining activity will not go ahead for years if ever. Even the threat of mining has the potential to slowly destroy a community as was shown with the community of Bylong. Bylong Coal Mine has not been approved but the small, vibrant community of Bylong has been destroyed. Landowners started selling up and leaving the area as soon as the threat of mining became apparent.

Community division – it has been shown in the past that the prospect of coal mining divides communities. This is what happened in Rylstone and Kandos before the Bylong Coal proposal was rejected.

Economics

Kandos and Rylstone now depend heavily on tourism and much of this tourism is eco-tourism, with Wollemi National Park, Fern Tree Gully and Ganguddy (Dunns Swamp) close by. Many new residents in the area have small tourism businesses eg bed and breakfast, small scale camping and cafes and restaurants. Tourist numbers are likely to decline if coal mining starts in the area.

Few residents of Kandos and Rylstone would potentially benefit from employment in a coal mine. Mine workers could be drawn from a very wide area.

Property Devaluation

Properties, especially those threatened by exploration, are very likely to decline in value. In fact, this could be happening already. A very small number of property owners have been aware of the Rumker-Hawkins exploration threat since late 2019. In other words, they have been stressed by the threat of exploration for a long time already.

Flora and Fauna

There are many rare and threatened plants in the area. A comprehensive list of these is available in the Roadside Vegetation study of the Rylstone area.

There is also an abundance of wildlife in uncleared areas in our district. Many species are endangered or declining in numbers in NSW. Notable among these is the platypus. Visitors to Rylstone are often treated to a glimpse of a platypus in the Cudgegong River at Rylstone. Also abundant along the river are wombats, echidna and many birds, especially water birds. The Rylstone-Kandos area is a magnet for bird lovers.

Indigenous sites

These exist in many places, including on the Cox's Creek Road and Bylong Valley Way. I personally know of 6 ancient indigenous rock art sites within the areas marked for further exploration along Cox's Creek Road. The Dabee clan lived all along the Cudgegong River which makes the whole area sacred to their memory and we have a duty to look after country, whether we are indigenous or not.

Impact on Emissions

This is the main reason for not exploring further for coal mining. Further coal mining will lead to increased coal fired power which in turn will increase Carbon dioxide emissions and this will jeopardise

Australia's chances of reaching zero net emissions by 2050.

Air pollution

underground coal mining occurs, there will be increased dust pollution from increased heavy vehicle traffic in the area.

Infrastructure damage

Increased coal mining exploration traffic will damage roads. It is already difficult for Mid-Western Regional Council to keep up with local road maintenance.

Carolyn Barlow

Rylstone resident

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10/07/2021 3:53:08 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [individual-submission-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

Submitted on Sat, 10/07/2021 - 15:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Margaret

Last name

McDonald

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Dubbo 2830

Submission file

[individual-submission-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

Submission

Please find my individual submission for the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration project.

I agree to the above statement

Yes

To Whom it may concern,

I am a long -time environmentalist from the NSW areas of Baradine, Coonabarabran and Dubbo. My 3 generations of family have prospered from the original farming practices which displaced our First Nations people without thought of compensation. As a member of Dubbo Field Naturalists and Conservation Society, Dubbo Healthy Rivers, the founder of Dubbo Environment Group and a past member of Dubbo Knitting Nannas Against Gas, I am conscious of the damage that settlement has inflicted upon our Australian environment and is continuing to have upon the planet through the consequences of Climate change and habitat removal.

The scientific body providing data for Climate Works has reported recently (15/3/21), that “ Despite positive momentum generated in 2020, [emissions reduction] action needs to accelerate rapidly. Transition of the electricity grid and buildings remains behind the pace of change required to reach net zero by 2050, as scenarios modelled by ClimateWorks demonstrate. Meanwhile, major emissions sources in the transport, agriculture and industry sectors have not yet been adequately addressed. Global temperature rise has surpassed 1.1 degrees, and ClimateWorks’ *Decarbonisation Futures* report shows that to stabilise this and achieve net zero emissions by 2050, this decade needs to be transformational for climate action.”

Moreover, with international pressure mounting upon Australia to commit to a target, there is increasing likelihood that exports from a non-compliant country will be taxed. The EU is currently drafting legislation as we speak which will impact farmers negatively.

I cannot see why we need to open new coal mines. There is enough evidence that we can easily transfer to renewable energy from experts such as Bruce Robertson of the Institute for Energy, Economics, and Financial Analysis, who has said, "Two of our country's major export industries are going from growth to decline. It's the biggest structural change in modern Australian economic history". He was speaking about gas and coal.

Please leave the beautiful valleys east of Mudgee pristine and free from coal exploration.

Margaret McDonald

[REDACTED] Dubbo, NSW
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06/07/2021 12:33:55 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [gas-rylstone-6th-july-2021.docx](#)

Submitted on Tue, 06/07/2021 - 12:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Kate

Last name

Lush

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

NEWPORT

Submission file

[gas-rylstone-6th-july-2021.docx](#)

Submission

6th July 2021

Kate Lush

Newport NSW 2106

To The Committee

RE: Rylstone - Hawkins Rumker

Hi,

My name is Kate. I am live on Sydney's Northern Beaches, but my family are old farming families hailing predominantly from Central western NSW up to the Cape.

Rylstone is definitely not the place for a gas mine and is yet another financially driven push that yields short term and short-sighted gains at the expense of the people who don't want it and the land and it's water that has no voice. It clearly shows that the government is clinging to the mining industry to prop itself up and highlights Australia's blatant need to develop environmentally sustainable industries and to stop it's bullying.

Recently at a family reunion out at Coonamble I witnessed first-hand the impact of the gas mining companies. The fury and distress of the local farming communities, the impact on the use of their land and the strong feelings expressed by my family members and their friends. People are deeply angry. They are as angry as people can be. They are utterly disenfranchised by the laws that tell them that they don't actually own the full rights to the ground they purchased and are constantly reminded of that because of the drones sent out by the mining companies that impact their privacy in every way... sitting having a beer on their back balcony or having a game of golf as they hover above. They feel outnumbered, outdollared, overwhelmed and underrepresented. (Please see attached photos taken at the time of that reunion in Coonamble of a variety of properties).

This bid is yet another example of the total disregard of peoples wishes and the blind eye turned on the responsibility we hold to care for the land and water. It also highlights the lack of Australia's resilience to the only thing it thinks it can make money frommining and selling Australia ballast internationally. Countries, who's interests are politically and financially motivated and who acknowledge this vulnerability and will pull that intravenous drip anytime they wish.

This is bullying by companies that stand to make huge profits... all for one and none for all. In turn, this is bullying by the Australia Government of it's people. The impact is the desecration of indigenous lands, farming lands and it's abandonment of local communities that know they mean NOTHING to their own government when financial returns are on the table.

I believe this is the wrong investment path for the future of Australia's trade. This is the wrong decision to make when it is against the wishes of the Governments own constituents and it is the wrong decision for the protection and heritage of our land. I would like to see the proposal to mine in the area around Rylstone rejected outright.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely

Kate Lush

I agree to the above statement

Yes

6th July 2021

Kate Lush

Newport NSW 2106

To The Committee

RE: Rylstone - Hawkins Rumker

Hi,

My name is Kate. I am live on Sydney's Northern Beaches, but my family are old farming families hailing predominantly from Central western NSW up to the Cape.

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Recently at a family reunion out at Coonamble I witnessed first-hand the impact of the gas mining companies. The fury and distress of the local farming communities, the impact on the use of their land and the strong feelings expressed by my family members and their friends. People are deeply angry. They are as angry as people can be. They are utterly disenfranchised by the laws that tell them that they don't actually own the full rights to the ground they purchased and are constantly reminded of that because of the drones sent out by the mining companies that impact their privacy in every way... sitting having a beer on their back balcony or having a game of golf as they hover above. They feel outnumbered, out dollared, overwhelmed and underrepresented. (Please see attached photos taken at the time of that reunion in Coonamble of a variety of properties).

This bid is yet another example of the total disregard of peoples wishes and the blind eye turned on the responsibility we hold to care for the land and water. It also highlights the lack of Australia's resilience to the only thing it thinks it can make money frommining and selling Australia ballast internationally. Countries, who's interests are politically and financially motivated and who acknowledge this vulnerability and will pull that intravenous drip any time they wish.

This is bullying by companies that stand to make huge profits... all for one and none for all. In turn, this is bullying by the Australia Government of it's people. The impact is the desecration of indigenous lands, farming lands and it's abandonment of local communities that know they mean NOTHING to their own government when financial returns are on the table.

I believe this is the wrong investment path for the future of Australia's trade. This is the wrong decision to make when it is against the wishes of the Governments own constituents and it is the wrong decision for the protection and heritage of our land. I would like to see the proposal to mine in the area around Rylstone rejected outright.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely

Kate Lush





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03/07/2021 1:00:01 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Sat, 03/07/2021 - 12:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Colin

Last name

Bembrick

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Bathurst, 2795

Submission file

[submission.docx](#)

Submission

re release of Rylstone coal areas - Rumker & Hawkins

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Proposed release of coal mining areas near Rylstone:

Following in the wake of the International Energy Agency (IEA) statement re World energy production and the 2050 dateline (Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector ¹), the NSW Government has released a “Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment” (May, 2021)² wherein it proposes the release of two thermal coal exploration areas north of Rylstone, NSW. This follows upon the release in 2020 of the NSW Government’s “Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW” ³. The latter document is effectively the NSW Government’s “roadmap” for future coal mining in NSW and contains such statements as “streamlining the process for exploring new areas” and “consider releasing a limited number of new areas for coal exploration”.

To justify continued coal mining in NSW the document states “Ending or reducing NSW thermal coal exports while there is still a strong long-term global demand would likely have little or no impact on global emissions”. This is the classic “drug-pushers excuse” – ‘if the addicts don’t get it from me then they’ll get it from the guy down the road – taking me out will achieve nothing’. The fallacies in this argument are all too obviously a “no-brainer”. Notably, this argument has already been rejected by the Land and Environment Court in the decision in 2019 to refuse development approval for the Rocky Hill Coal Mine near Gloucester ⁴. In addition, most economists would now argue that the terms “long-term and strong” are rapidly becoming outdated with respect to global coal demand. “Stranded Assets” is the term that gets more exposure in the latest economic reports worldwide.

The IEA statement is perfectly clear on this point. If the world is to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, there should be *no new investment* in oil or gas production or coal mines as from 2021.

Significantly, this rationale has already been applied in September 2019 by the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) in refusing the development consent for a coal mine in the Bylong Valley⁵. Reasons included significant concerns about the long-term environmental impacts and incompatibility with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

Australia and NSW are signatories to the Paris Agreement which aims to keep world temperatures below a 2 degree warming threshold by limiting Greenhouse Gas emissions. Limiting CO₂ (and therefore Carbon) emission is the prime driver of this effort. This implies a world carbon ‘budget’, which is already being squandered. In the words of Sackett and Steffen ^{6,7} in 2019, “*Fossil fuel reserves already being exploited contain more than enough carbon to consume the remaining carbon budget for the 2 degrees Paris target. Simply put, it is senseless, dangerous and irresponsible to expand fossil fuel facilities in Australia (or anywhere else)*”.

In light of the situation outlined above, the NSW Government’s decision to promote and release new coal mining areas anywhere in NSW flies in the face of the IEA statement, the Paris Agreement, current economic analysis, the science of climate change and the duty of care to the future health and well-being of citizens of NSW (and indeed the World). The NSW Government should seriously re-think its “roadmap” for the future of mining coal in NSW.

Documents accessed, June, 2021:

- (1) - <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/4719e321-6d3d-41a2-bd6b-461ad2f850a8/NetZeroBy2050-ARoadmapfortheGlobalEnergySector.pdf>
- (2) - <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Bulletins-and-Community-Updates/Hawkins-Rumker-Information-Paper.pdf?la=en>
- (3) https://resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1236973/Strategic-Statement-on-Coal-Exploration-and-Mining-in-NSW.pdf
- (4) - <https://corrs.com.au/insights/nsw-land-and-environment-court-refuses-development-approval-for-rocky-hill-coal-mine-project-on-climate-change-grounds#>
- (5) <https://hsfnotes.com/environmentaustralia/2019/09/27/new-nsw-coal-mine-refused-due-to-impacts-on-environment-and-future-generations/>
- (6) <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/our-carbon-budget-is-all-but-spent-but-who-in-canberra-is-counting-20190505-p51k8c.html>
- (7) <https://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/our-carbon-budget-is-all-but-spent-but-who-is-counting>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01/07/2021 11:27:29 AM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [no-mining-in-rylstone-july-2021.docx](#)

Submitted on Thu, 01/07/2021 - 11:25

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Name

First name

Jennifer Therese

Last name

Cooper

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Rylstone NSW 2849

Submission file

[no-mining-in-rylstone-july-2021.docx](#)

Submission

Re. Coal Exploration in Rylstone Area.

Owner of Property, [REDACTED] Growee NSW 2849 in the proposed affected area.

Reasons Not to Coal Mine in this area:

- 1 No one wants Coal. It's not good for the environment, haven't you heard? See recent world leaders talk in G7 in 2021.
- 2 Environmental suicide. Have you heard about climate change?
- 3 Pristine environment, why destroy it for coal?
- 4 Threatened endangered flora and fauna in the area
- 5 Sacred Aboriginal Heritage sites should not be touched
- 6 Destroy water table essential for environment
- 7 Destroy air quality and endanger more species, like humans!

8 Put more money into protecting the beautiful, unique environment and indigenous heritage we have in this area, rather than destroying it!

Since 2019 in this area, we have had devastating drought, and devastating bush fires.

The land, bush and native animals are only just starting to recover.

There are still very few native animals to be seen in the bush.
 Many died in the drought and fires.

Leave the land alone! Do not touch it!

My answer is:

NO COAL EXPLORATION OR MINES IN THIS UNIQUE AREA

Regards,

Jennifer Cooper
 21/6/2021

I agree to the above statement

Yes

Re. Coal Exploration in Rylstone Area.

Owner of Property, [REDACTED] Growee NSW 2849 in the proposed affected area.

Reasons Not to Coal Mine in this area:

- 1 No one wants Coal. It's not good for the environment, haven't you heard? See recent world leaders talk in G7 in 2021.
- 2 Environmental suicide. Have you heard about climate change?
- 3 Pristine environment, why destroy it for coal?
- 4 Threatened endangered flora and fauna in the area
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- 6 Destroy water table essential for environment
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- 8 Put more money into protecting the beautiful, unique environment and indigenous heritage we have in this area, rather than destroying it!

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The land, bush and native animals are only just starting to recover.

There are still very few native animals to be seen in the bush. Many died in the drought and fires.

Leave the land alone! Do not touch it!
My answer is:

NO COAL EXPLORATION OR MINES IN THIS UNIQUE AREA.

Regards,

Jennifer Cooper
21/6/2021

See article below:

Aboriginal heritage sites and threatened species are in the path of two possible coal mines in Central West New South Wales, a report has found.

Key points:

- Forty-five Aboriginal heritage sites and 28 threatened species have been identified in areas proposed for coal exploration
- Hawkins and Rumker, near Mudgee, are part of the state government's strategic release framework
- The DPIE is seeking community feedback to decide whether the zones are appropriate for underground mining
-

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is seeking public feedback on whether the Hawkins and Rumker areas, both north of Rylstone near Mudgee, are appropriate for coal exploration.

The "strategic release areas" make up almost 33,000 hectares of state forest, Crown land and private property.

Anti-mining lobby group Lock the Gate Alliance commissioned a report by private company EarthScapes Consulting.

It found 45 Aboriginal heritage sites within the area earmarked for the mines sites and in a third region, nearby Ganguddy-Kelgoola.

Members of the local Aboriginal community believe more Indigenous sites there remain undocumented.

Wiradjuri woman Emma Syme said mining could significantly damage the structural integrity of the rock art sites and grinding grooves on the country.

"It's such a special place," she said.

"It just adds another layer of trauma on top of what our people have suffered if these destructive practices continue."

Wiradjuri people say the area is rich in Indigenous heritage. (ABC News: Hugh Hogan)

'Irreparable' impact

The environmental assessment also identified almost 7,000 hectares of potentially threatened ecological communities, 22 threatened fauna species and six threatened flora species.

NSW Lock the Gate coordinator Georgina Woods said the species included koalas, spotted-tailed quolls and the critically endangered regent honeyeater.

"They're really at the brink of extinction and can't withstand any further loss of their habitat," she said.

The report found the majority of the landscape was significantly intact and bordered more than 100 kilometres of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

"If we introduce the coal mining industry into that landscape it's going to irreparably alter it," Ms Woods said.

New processes cause concern

In June last year the state government introduced the competitive process for coal and petroleum exploration.

If the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) recommends the areas should be released, tenders will be put out for companies to bid on the licences.

Ms Woods said Hawkins and Rumker were the first parts of NSW to go through the process.

"We are in uncharted territory," she said.

In its strategic release framework the state government recognised that coal had a "finite lifespan as an energy source."

Ms Woods said the "mixed messaging" was "eroding the resilience of these rural communities".

"It seems cruel to be putting a shadow over these people's future by locking them into this highly damaging industry and the years of uncertainty that comes along with that," she said.

Community invited to consult

DPIE executive director of state policy and strategic advice Felicity Greenway said the findings in EarthScapes Consulting's report would be reviewed following community consultation.

"They're precisely the things that we'll be considering," she said. She said the strategic release process aimed to make the process of coal exploration more transparent for affected communities.

"It is very early days," Ms Greenway said. "We are going into this with open minds.

"This is around providing information to government to let them know what the constraints and opportunities are and how the community feels about the potential release."

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 3:40:43 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [to-the-nsw-government.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:42

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

Southport

Submission file

[to-the-nsw-government.docx](#)

Submission

To the NSW Government,

It feels so backwards that I'm writing a submission to speak up against releasing any land for proposed coal exploration. There can be NO doubt that the government and whoever might be reading this is living in 2021 and is fully aware of the severe and horrifying impacts of the continued exploitation of the world's fossil fuel resources on our planet's climate. It is not a political opinion, it is not an economic opinion, it is a cold and confronting truth. One which the IPCC has again made scary conclusions about within the last month! We can absolutely, unquestionably no longer support the fossil fuel industry if we are to have a shred of hope for the future of our species.

As a student studying environmental science, I am aware of the short- and long-term environmental impacts that even coal exploration will have, which will only worsen if a mine goes ahead. Drilling will drain segments of the water table known as aquifers, which will result in the loss of an incredible amount of water for the flora and fauna. Once water is gone, it's gone. Once a species of anything is gone, it's gone. By releasing this land, so close to the Wollemi NP, the government is putting at risk hundreds of species of animals, many of which are endangered or at risk. Do not release this land for coal exploration. If the government is so keen to get pass off the land, give it to the First Nations people. At least then we can all rest easy knowing it will be cared for.

Yours with great concern,

[REDACTED]

I agree to the above statement

Yes

To the NSW Government,

It feels so backwards that I'm writing a submission to speak up against releasing any land for proposed coal exploration. There can be NO doubt that the government and whoever might be reading this is living in 2021 and is fully aware of the severe and horrifying impacts of the continued exploitation of the world's fossil fuel resources on our planet's climate. It is not a political opinion, it is not an economic opinion, it is a cold and confronting truth. One which the IPCC has again made scary conclusions about within the last month! We can absolutely, unquestionably no longer support the fossil fuel industry if we are to have a shred of hope for the future of our species.

As a student studying environmental science, I am aware of the short- and long-term environmental impacts that even coal exploration will have, which will only worsen if a mine goes ahead. Drilling will drain segments of the water table known as aquifers, which will result in the loss of an incredible amount of water for the flora and fauna. Once water is gone, it's gone. Once a species of anything is gone, it's gone. By releasing this land, so close to the Wollemi NP, the government is putting at risk hundreds of species of animals, many of which are endangered or at risk.

Do not release this land for coal exploration. If the government is so keen to get pass off the land, give it to the First Nations people. At least then we can all rest easy knowing it will be cared for.

Yours with great concern,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the author.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:48:51 PM
To: DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Mailbox [REDACTED]
Cc: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: [rrcfc-covering-letter-for-the-hawkins-rumker-pria-submissions.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 23:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name

[REDACTED]

Last name

[REDACTED]

I would like my submission to remain confidential

No

Info

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode

Coxs Creek 2849

Submission file

[rrcfc-covering-letter-for-the-hawkins-rumker-pria-submissions.docx](#)

Submission

RRCFC covering letter listing submissions to be considered by the Hawkins Rumker PRIA:

RRCFC submission on the Hawkins Rumker Project REF failures

RRCFC submission surface water FINAL

RRCFC submission aquatic ecology

RRCFC submission terrestrial ecology

Aboriginal heritage

RRCFC submission land use capability and conflicts

RRCFC submission infrastructure FINAL

RRCFC submission health & social impacts

RRCFC submission noise

RRCFC submission GBMMHA Impacts FINAL

RRCFC submission GGE & Intergenerational Equity

12. RRCFC submission tourism values FINAL

RRCFC submission Euro Heritage Final

RRCFC submission Groundwater FINAL

RRCFC submission strategic and legislative framework FINAL

RRCFC submission our community our future FINAL

RRCFC submission Economic Impacts FINAL

I agree to the above statement

Yes



16 August 2021

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

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

Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment: Hawkins Rumker new coal exploration areas

The Rylstone Region Coal Free Community (RRCFC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) for potential coal exploration releases in the Hawkins and Rumker areas, located near Rylstone, NSW.

The RRCFC has prepared submissions on each the following topics:

#	Document	Topic addressed
1	RRCFC submission on the Hawkins Rumker Project REF failures	Flawed Hawkins Rumker project Review of Environmental Factors renders PRIA invalid
2	RRCFC submission surface water FINAL	Surface water impacts of mining in the Hawkins and Rumker areas
3	RRCFC submission aquatic ecology	Aquatic ecology impacts of mining in the Hawkins and Rumker areas
4	RRCFC submission terrestrial ecology	Terrestrial ecology impacts of mining in the Hawkins and Rumker areas
5	Aboriginal heritage	Aboriginal heritage impacts of mining in the Hawkins and Rumker areas
6	RRCFC submission land use capability and conflicts	Land use capability and conflicts that would arise from mining in the Hawkins and Rumker areas
7	RRCFC submission infrastructure FINAL	The transportation, water and local services of the Rylstone and Kandos region and the potential impacts of the development of the Hawkins and Rumker areas
8	RRCFC submission health & social impacts	The physical and mental health impacts that would arise due to mining in the Hawkins and Rumker areas
9	RRCFC submission noise	The noise impacts that would arise due to mining in the Hawkins and Rumker areas
10	RRCFC submission GBMWA Impacts FINAL	Impacts on Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the impact a coal mine would have on the Wollemi National Park.
11	RRCFC submission GGE & Intergenerational Equity	Considers the greenhouse emissions that would be generated by exploitation of the coal resources understood to be present in the Hawkins and Rumker coal exploration release areas and the impacts thereof.
12	12. RRCFC submission tourism values FINAL	Tourism values and the impact a coal mine would have on Rylstone, Kandos and Mudgee.
13	RRCFC submission Euro Heritage Final	European heritage values and potential impacts of mining in the Hawkins and Rumker areas
14	RRCFC submission Groundwater FINAL	Groundwater impacts of mining in the Hawkins and Rumker areas
15	RRCFC submission strategic and legislative framework FINAL	How the proposed mining and coal exploration is not consistent with local and state government strategic and legal framework.
16	RRCFC submission our community our future FINAL	We will stand as a community and fight to protect the land, heritage, culture & community for present and future generations.
17	RRCFC submission Economic Impacts FINAL	The economic impacts of coal exploration and mining in the Hawkins and Rumker areas



The RRCFC has prepared each of these submissions and provided them to the DPIE in the expectation that all relevant matters raised in each of these will be given full consideration in the PRIA process and in the Advisory Board's deliberations on this matter.

It is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework that it recommends against release of the proposed areas, and the Advisory Board should rule that coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

Yours faithfully



On behalf of the **Rylstone Region Coal Free Community**



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I acknowledge the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners of the lands upon which we live and work, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future

Enclosures: *Limitations of the Hawkins Rumker Project REF*