

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 4:29:36 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:** [hawkins-and-rumker-submission.docx](#)

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Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:26

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Gina

**Last name**

Tsiribas

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Marounbra 2035

**Submission file**

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

**Submission**

Please find submission file above in objection to the NSW Government releasing the Hawkins and Rumker areas, for coal exploration.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

I am a NSW resident concerned about the impacts of climate change and I am opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and needs to be stopped now when the world is facing a climate emergency.

Calls to abandon coal have been renewed as world leaders respond to the new United Nations climate report that warns the world remains on track for devastating global warming this century.

“All major economies must commit to aggressive climate action during this critical decade,” was the warning from the US’s climate envoy John Kerry. “It’s the only way to put us on a credible track to global net zero emissions by mid-century. We can get to the low-carbon economy we urgently need, but time is not on our side.”

These messages must be factored into any decisions being made regarding coal exploration and mining in the state of NSW along with statement from The [International Energy Agency](#) which called for an immediate ban on new oil, coal and gas development. The NSW Government has a net zero goal and as such the premise supporting the release of these areas undermines and contradicts more recent government policies.



Opening this area to coal exploration will have impacts on water sources, native plants and animals, aboriginal heritage as well as social and health impacts.

## WATER 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 Windamere Dam. The proposed release areas threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla. The water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted.

Mines have a significant negative impact on the water resources of a local area. This area was impacted significantly by the last drought and even exploratory drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers. It is well known that subsistence from exploration and mining can crack rock substrate and lower water tables.

## THE EFFECTS ON NATIVE ANIMALS AND PLANTS:

There are records of 28 threatened species in the proposed coal release area. The Hawkins-Rumker release areas in particular contains a large number of records for the nationally endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll, which is a large home-range species that is reliant on large, intact habitats with old growth elements. Other old-forest dependent species, like the vulnerable Powerful Owl and Yellow-bellied Gliders also occur in the release areas, and there a suite of declining woodland birds including the Scarlet Robin, Diamond Firetail and Speckled Warbler that exist in this habitat.

There are also records of koalas in the area and in light of the devastating impacts the NSW bushfires had on koala numbers, further information on the significance of the Hawkins area to koalas is warranted, especially in the context of the NSW Government claiming to wanting to double koala numbers in the state and the Federal Government now considering upgrading the status of koalas to 'endangered' under the EPBC Act.

Please note that there are six threatened flora species in the release areas, including 1 endangered and 3 vulnerable species endemic to the Rylstone/western Wollomai area – the endangered *Pultenaea* sp. *Olinda*, and vulnerable *Evans Grevillea*.

## ABORIGINAL HERITAGE IMPACTS

Please note there are 45 recorded aboriginal heritage sites and an additional 13 sites that are restricted and location data not supplied in the proposed coal release areas. The current Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors has stated incorrectly that there are no 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.

I urge you to say no to coal exploration in the Hawkins and Rumker area in light of the climate and environmental impacts when the world is facing both a climate and biodiversity crisis.

Regards,

Gina Tsiribas

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 4:22:06 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-pria-submission-marita-ridley.docx](#)

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Marita

**Last name**

Ridley

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Breakfast Creek NSW 2849

**Submission file**

[hawkins-rumker-pria-submission-marita-ridley.docx](#)

**Submission**

Please find my submission against this PRIA.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

## Historical Significance of the Area

### ● Aboriginal Histories and Cultures

- Waterway - creek
- Multiple water springs - one never dries even in drought - ensures local Aboriginal peoples would have used the waterway for their own needs and as it attracts animals seeking water, as a good place to hunt food and gather local food like seeds, fruits and berries.
- Caves / rock formations - ensures local Aboriginal peoples would have used the location for shelter and or ceremonies.
- The height of the rock formations within the property and the oral history of the local Wadjarri people indicate that the location was likely to be used as a lookout for neighbouring clan meetings, to observe animal behaviour and to hunt for food.
- Aboriginal hand prints found on the property by the first settlers family - the Glew family - also provide evidence of First Nation occupancy.
- Nearby evidence of Baby Foot Caves and one other site with evidence of Aboriginal peoples in close proximity of Breakfast Creek indicate a strong likelihood of the land having Aboriginal History and cultural significance.
- Location of Aboriginal artifacts within property found by current owners add substantive evidence to the hypothesis proposed above.
- Location of flat rock surfaces with small water pools used to make and sharpen tools by local people from our First Nations indicate strong evidence to support habitation by our First Nations people.
- Spiritual connection to land felt by owners reflects Aboriginal History and Culture.
- Family members from the Glew family remember the presence of First Nation people on the property and frequenting particular rock as a place to sit and congregate. Some of these people worked on the property.

## First Settlers Historical and Social Significance

- Breakfast Creek Cricket club - Glew family had several members - brought local men together socially.
- Local School next door used some of the property as a cricket pitch and was referred to by Glew family members as "The Cricket Pitch"
- One of the first families settled in the area, purchasing land from "the crown" and linked to the community of Camboon through marriage of two Glew boys to two Fenton girls.
- When the family first arrived, the eldest son used pioneering methods to build a house which took 10 years to build. It is built in a traditional pine and mud style using local

timber. The site where Jack Glew lived while building the house has significant historical rock cuttings indicating early tools used for construction.

- Multi generational inhabitants of the Glew Family from 1895 through to 1975 (when a fire persuaded the last inhabitant to move closer to town) lived and worked the property.
- Family history stories of one couple living in a cave, of the family acquiring the school house buildings when it shut to accommodate their growing family
- Historical evidence of children's handwriting, heights, phone exchange numbers are all still remaining in the existing house.
- Presence of a very early car.... still on the property indicated some economic success for the Glew family and would have allowed freedom for social connection at Breakfast Creek and in the local surrounds.
- As the family grew, the once much larger property was sold off to married adult children, starting their own families and creating a connected community. The current phone line has shared private polls and Glew family members refer to neighbouring places as Auntie's or Uncle's place.
- The larger property as it was had two cemeteries. One located just behind the Breakfast Creek home that Jack Glew built.(46 Breakfast Creek R.) It is believed to contain the remains of Thomas Glew - Jack's father- as his wish was to be buried at Breakfast creek. The other is now on a neighbouring property and is believed to hold the graves of two children. One a baby and one a 12 year old girl. When Thomas Glew arrived at Breakfast Creek, he had just lost his wife and one child of twins born near Capertee. His wife died in childbirth as they travelled to Breakfast Creek. The surviving twin died at Breakfast Creek and it is possible that the baby's grave is that of the second twin. The 12 year old girl is said to be the daughter of a worker on the property.

**Historical** significance to the land and dwelling from n **Aboriginal cultural** perspective, from a settlers personal family perspective and a **greater social historical** perspective and the presence of **two cemeteries. Historically significant building** as an example of pioneer architecture and as an artifact for the Glew family.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Breakfast Creek and the multiple springs that feed Breakfast Creek make up currently and historically a valuable asset to the property and to the surrounding community. One Spring has never dried, even through the longest and toughest drought. The other 4 springs provide water both intermittently and permanently. The property is fed by Breakfast Creek and by an unnamed creek flowing from Bald Mountain. All water feeds to Reedy / Lawson Creek that eventually runs beside Lue Rd to Mudgee. This creek is a very valuable resource to the whole community and to the land that sits adjacent to the creek.

In addition the springs provide a valuable resource for the Fauna and Flora in the area especially when it is dry. During the recent drought, many animals and birds, migratory and other, flocked to our spring fed dam as this was the only dam with water in the area.



Observations at 46 Breakfast Creek Rd include those of unique animals like Tiger Qualls - vulnerable, Gang Gang Cockatoos, The Azure Kingfisher, Rosella, King Parrots, Striated Pardalote, a collection of water birds like ducks, plovers and egrets, honey birds, blue wrens, bowerbirds, wag tails, kookaburra, magpie larks, currawongs.....

There is a large community of wombats, wallabies, kangaroos, antechinus, at least 4 species of frogs, native and non native bees... During the latest bushfires of 2019/2020 summer, several Koalas were found near and on our property in their search for appropriate gum trees for food. They had travelled a long distance in their search for food.

There is also a natural regeneration of plants occurring with a very old banksia grove, a large community of clistermon as well as rough bark angophora, eucalypt gums, acacia, cyprus pine...

In addition, in 2017, [REDACTED] received a grant of native flora to plant as a contribution to regenerating this land. This grant came with caveats designed to ensure sustainability of the plants situated mainly along the creek. One caveat was to protect the creek and waterways from animals or potential environmental disruption. The grant was not designed to include mining exploration along the creek line.

## **POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO THE AQUIFER**

Exploration for coal as well as coal mining in the Hawkins / Rumpke proposed mine exploration site has a very real risk of damaging the economically and environmentally valuable aquifer discussed above. As already tabled, the coal in the area is deep and just taking samples for exploration will without doubt interfere with the levels of the aquifer and mix the water table causing contamination. Contamination that causes significant long term damage as seen in nearby Gardens of Stone National Park bordering Capertee. We are discussing WORLD HERITAGE AREA here. This mistake can not be repeated in the Hawkins Rumpke area. Especially for no or little gain to anyone.

The potential risk to the aquifer would be devastating. The loss of water, the mixing of water from different aquifer levels and the potential destruction of the unknown source of water in the aquifer and the permanent spring mentioned above would be total and irreversible. It would have an impact on the economic and social value of the area, impact the fauna and flora and change the negatively impact the community forever.

## **CURRENT COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS**

- Division of local community as some support the short term employment offered by mining and mining exploration and others oppose mining exploration and mining because they will lose their livelihood and employment with current land use.

- Potential for the mining industry to geographically isolate and split the community as some properties are allocated mining approval and others are left living near mines with fewer neighbours and less local social connection.
- As the community becomes abandoned and desecrated as seen in nearby Bylong and Wollar, other social issues, like mental health, suicide rates, addiction rates, crime and poverty become threats to the social fibre of the community.

## **ECONOMIC**

- Economic gains through employment for some in the short term is offset as in the long term the economic impact of unemployment will be felt once mining coal is no longer permissible under Australia's legal obligations concerning fossil fuels vs renewable energies.
- Economic concerns as local businesses based on competing industries like tourism, wine, food, agriculture, outdoor recreation, environmental education, conservation and real estate are impacted by the mining exploration and the mining.

## **OUR OWN INVESTMENT**

Since purchasing our property in 2015 we have made significant improvements.

Over the last 6 years we have worked tirelessly ourselves to restore the house that has heritage factors as listed earlier. We have used materials, inspiration and surrounding resources to keep the house as a testament to those who have lived and worked the area before us. We have also paid such respect to the land as well as evident in the grant received.

We have maintained:

- Fences
- Roads
- Dams
- The creeks

- The ecosystem
- The house
- The sheds
- The fruit trees / orchard
- The early evidence of construction
- The cemeteries.

We have made plans for our future including plans to develop with further fruit vines (grapes) and olive trees. We have invested not only our money, but our time and our future. We are now in a position where we are frozen and unable to know how to proceed as the intent for coal exploration and possibility for mining impacts us drastically.

Please consider all raised in this submission. Also consider as we are locked down in Sydney and currently experiencing a mouse plague in Breakfast Creek, we can not access our property to add further detail like images, we can not have consultation with local Wiradjari people which could have also added detail and we can not access our own records to add evidence to this submission.

Marita Ridley

[REDACTED]

Breakfast Creek

[REDACTED]

Hornsby

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 4:17:45 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:** [hawkins-rumker-submission-ah.docx](#)

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Alena

**Last name**

Harvey

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Surry Hills 2010

**Submission file**

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

**Submission**

Submission is in attached letter.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

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

Alena Harvey

Surry Hills, NSW, 2010

### **Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment**

I am a 24 year old Sydney resident who has been visiting the Hawkins Rumker area for many years. I am extremely opposed to the Hawkins Rumker area being opened for coal exploration. This will have detrimental effects on sacred Aboriginal sites, the water sources, the native flora and fauna, the local community, and our commitment to climate change targets. We cannot allow further coal mining to continue.

#### **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<sup>10, 11</sup>. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

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

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

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

## **Flora and Fauna**

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

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

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

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

## **Aboriginal Heritage**

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

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

### **Impact on current local economy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Social & health implications**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Alena Harvey

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 4:15:04 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-in-response-to-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

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Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 16:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Clare

**Last name**

Power

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Katoomba

**Submission file**

[submission-in-response-to-preliminary-regional-issues-assessment-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

**Submission**

Please find attached my submission in opposition to the proposed coal mining exploration in the Hawkins Rumker region, Clare Power

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

Submission in response to Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Dr Clare Power

Katoomba NSW 2780

To whom it may concern,

It is deeply ironic and concerning that a submission for new coal exploration is being contemplated at the same time that the IPCC has released their latest report confirms unequivocally that humans are causing the warming of the planet through rising greenhouse gas pollution.

This global context should be enough reason to deny exploration in the Hawkins Rumker region. However there are a number of local contextual reasons for not allowing coal exploration here. Seven of these reasons are outlined below. Each one of these is argument enough in themselves to ensure mining does not continue.

I urge the NSW Government to recognise that coal is not the way of the future. Australia needs to urgently facilitate a just transition to a renewables economy. In fact Matt Kean has announced ' NSW's plan to become a clean energy superpower' and allowing coal mining exploration does not in any way accord with this plan.

Local contextual reasons to deny coal mining exploration in the Hawkins Rumker region are outlined below.

- These lands are rich in Wiradjuri heritage. Publicly available data reveal 26 separately recorded sites including rock shelters with painted or engraved art, camp sites and grinding grooves.
- The area is part of a very intact landscape with almost two-thirds of it covered in native vegetation and more than 10% known or potential threatened ecological communities.
- The area contains high value waterways, covering over 63km of creeks in good or moderate stream condition, which are fragile to disturbance.
- It includes headwater streams of the Cudgegong River in good condition, which is part of the Macquarie River catchment in the Murray Darling, and the upper catchments of the Goulburn River, which flows into the Hunter and thence to the coast.
- 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.
- There are several records of Koalas in the Hawkins area. A scientific study undertaken by BioLink found that 71% of Koala populations had been lost in six fire-affected areas in northern NSW after the catastrophic 2019/2020 bushfires.
- Other important species recorded in Hawkins-Rumker include the critically endangered Regent honeyeater and the nationally-endangered Spotted-tailed quoll, which is reliant on large, intact habitats with old growth elements to survive.

Please make a decision that acknowledges that this is no longer the time for fossil fuel based exploration, but instead the time for protecting the environment we have left, and creating a sustainable, renewables based NSW. Please note the words of Matt Kean: We have world-class renewable energy resources and that gives us a huge competitive advantage in a low carbon world –



to decarbonise, our trading partners are going to need fuels, chemicals and materials made using renewable energy.

A decade ago the risk of reducing emissions was that it would hurt our economy and make us uncompetitive. Today, the risk is that if we do not reduce emissions, we will miss the chance to underwrite our future prosperity. (<https://mattkean.com.au/news/media/nsw%E2%80%99s-plan-become-clean-energy-superpower>)

Regards

Clare Power

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 3:49:10 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:** [210818-submission-against-pria.docx](#)

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Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Max

**Last name**

Mosher

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Camboon

**Submission file**

[210818-submission-against-pria.docx](#)

**Submission**

I have attached a Word file as seen 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

Charles Maxim Mosher  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

CAMBOON NSW 2849

17<sup>th</sup> 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 71 years of age and have been living in 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. My property falls just outside of the exploration area by a few hundred metres, and I was notified by a near neighbour. 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.

There is also a distinct bias towards coal shown by the NSW Govt and some of the deciding Politicians, as it is intended that this locality is required to produce coal up to 2080. The Deputy Premier is claimed to have said that the NSW should be a prime exporter of Coal for Australia.

### **Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources**

The latest IPCC report condemns the mining and use of coal and gas, yet the NSW Govt is hell bent on digging up and exporting more coal.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Water**

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

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

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

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

## **Flora and Fauna**

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

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

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

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

## **Aboriginal Heritage**

There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk. We have a duty as a nation to protect these sites. The initial survey of the region claims that there are NO Aboriginal Artifacts in the Region, which shows how inadequate the PRIA and the DPIE surveys have been.

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

## **Impact on current local economy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## **Social & health implications**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Max Mosher

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 3:17:47 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:** [rb-pria-submission.docx](#)

---

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:14

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Robert

**Last name**

Bleach

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

BREAKFAST CREEK 2849

**Submission file**

[rb-pria-submission.docx](#)

**Submission**

Please see attached file. Thank you

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

## Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

### Hawkins and Rumker - Potential release of areas for coal exploration

Submission from Robert Bleach, [REDACTED] Breakfast Creek NSW 2849

Our property 'Long Gully' sits within the Hawkins potential coal release area. In your letter to us dated 1 June 2021 you asked for our input on the proposals.

**I submit that there should be no release of land for coal exploration in Long Gully, or surrounding areas or anywhere in the Hawkins Rumker region.**

#### Long Gully

Long Gully comprises approximately 400ha in the valley between Elephant Mountain and Lion Mountain. The boundaries include parts of the base and tops of those mountains with the remainder of those mountains being Crown Land. Barigan Heritage Reserve crown land borders the rear of the property.

Over 95% of the property acreage (ie 381ha approx) is the subject of a Conservation Agreement ('CA') signed with the NSW government's Department of Environment Climate Change and Water on 21 February 2011. This agreement attaches to the property title and is a covenant binding on us and all subsequent owners of the property in perpetuity. It was made under the terms of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. It is now administered by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust of NSW.

The remaining acreage is the setting for the main homestead, assorted cottages, sheds and outbuildings, orchard, gardens and water tanks etc, as well as former public roads throughout the property that we have since purchased and now own as part of Long Gully and use as access and management roads.

Within the 381ha CA part, 286ha is also the subject of a conservation/funding agreement with the Australian Government Department of Environment as part of the Environmental Stewardship Programme for Box Gum Grassy Woodland ('BGGW'), dated 22 May 2010.

As set out further below, the CAs recognise and document key flora and fauna and other conservation values, prevent any exploitation (eg farming, logging, agriculture, construction etc) or any activity that will negatively impact these items and values. The CAs contain other strict requirements, prohibitions and actions to maintain and improve the conservation values.

I would be pleased to send you copies of these agreements. Please let me know.

In summary, the land use at Long Gully is conservation and private dwelling. There is no commercial operation. There is the potential to provide some holiday type accommodation from the cottages within the area excluded from the CAs.

Mining and the exploration that precedes it is incompatible with:

- The intent behind the NSW and Australian Government CAs in preserving the environmental and heritage values for the future; actually 'forever' in the case of the NSW CA
- The specific dollar investment of the Australian government in the case of conservation funding provided under the ESP BGGW programme
- The significant investments (financial and emotional) made by us and the previous owner and to be made in the future in respect of conservation
- The extensive unique environmental and heritage values present in Long Gully (set out in more detail below).

#### Long Gully Environmental and Heritage Values

- The CAs document the following values specifically recognised by the relevant Ministers at the time the agreements were entered into 10 years ago:
  - o Contains White box, yellow box, Blakely's redgum grassy woodland and derived native grassland; listed as critically endangered under the Commonwealth EPBC Act and as an endangered ecological community under the NSW Threatened Species Act
  - o Contains Red Box, Grey Gum, Stringybark woodland
  - o Contains spotted tail quoll, powerful owl, glossy black cockatoo listed as vulnerable under the above NSW Act
  - o Contains potential habitat for regent honeyeater listed as endangered under the above NSW Act, and hooded robin and koala listed as vulnerable under that Act
  - o Contains scenic landscape and geoheritage features such as rock escarpment, caves and rock pagodas of regional significance
  - o (Now in 2021 all the above general statuses will only have become more dire, and the importance of Long Gully and its current and future success more important)
- Our own environmental observations:
  - o Periodic sightings of koalas; typically difficult to see and we hear them more regularly
  - o Seen quolls and their scats
  - o Seen gang gang cockatoos, black cockatoos, wedge tailed eagles
  - o Seen numerous other species of birds
  - o Heard barking owl
  - o Heard powerful owl
  - o Echidnas
  - o Lyre birds
  - o Red necked wallabies
  - o Wombats
  - o Eastern grey kangaroos
  - o Goannas, snakes and other reptiles
  - o Very healthy box gum grassy woodland that is regenerating well on account of conservation measures being applied
  - o Grass trees
  - o Slaty box patches
  - o Callitris
  - o Various other native trees and vegetation (trees, understorey and grasses)
  - o Extensive escarpments, caves and pagodas

- Note we report on the overall condition of Long Gully and our sightings as part of our annual reporting under the ESP BGGW program.
- Note the above observations would only be a small fraction of everything present
- Active conservation measures undertaken: weed and feral animal control; extensive fence renewal to exclude stock from neighbouring farms at bottom of the property; BGGW regeneration; no felling of any trees and using fallen timber for firewood from limited defined areas only; no stock, farming or commercial activity; no vehicle or bike activity off the existing limited management tracks; leaving rocks, soil and leaf litter undisturbed; following all requirements, prohibitions and actions contained in the CAs.
- In the 10 years of operation under the CAs Long Gully has improved markedly. BGGW is regenerating extremely well and native flora and fauna are abundant and thriving in balance. Even during the recent challenging drought and fire risk conditions there was only very limited die off of trees and vegetation and fauna. The valley really is a resilient and sustaining eco system.
- Aboriginal heritage. There has been limited specific investigation but the escarpments, caves and pagodas would be rich in heritage to the trained eye. We have seen grinding grooves in rocks in caves for instance.
- Colonial heritage. The valley has been documented as having up to approx. 50 inhabitants from about the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and there are signs of old footings, chimneys, fences, convict bricks (with hearts, spades and diamond inserts), farming implements and bottles etc
- Unique and irreplaceable homestead and cottage. The buildings are a blend of adobe/mudbrick sourced from the land (20,000 were made) and timber also mainly sourced from the land, took 2 – 3 years to complete by teams of local artisans and builders and are sophisticated, visually very attractive, blend perfectly with the landscape and have developed off-grid power and rain water capture. If destroyed, these can never be replaced. Little, if any, man made sound reaches the buildings during the day and then only sporadically, with none at night. No man made light reaches the valley and the night sky is brilliant. The property is reasonably well known in the area, not least because of all the local skills used, and has been the site of community get togethers.
- We have very much appreciated the involvement of the relevant government departments administering the CAs in the conservation initiatives and also the funding provided under the Commonwealth ESP BGGW programme to assist with its overall conservation. Interactions and site visits have been welcomed and enjoyable.
- We would welcome a visit by the DPIE to show you first-hand what is at stake. Please let me know.

Mining and exploration are fundamentally incompatible with Long Gully and the NSW and Commonwealth government CAs designed to preserve it. It will therefore not be possible to negotiate any satisfactory exploration access agreement, nor any later land acquisition for mining, in respect of Long Gully. The values at risk are unique and irreplaceable (or in some cases possibly only after a very long time) and their loss is not remediated by cash or offsets.

Long Gully's values will only become rarer as time passes. They are relatively easily preserved with dedicated owners/custodians and with the welcome government support in the form of protection and without encroachment in the form of allowing mining.

### **Areas Surrounding Long Gully**

Long Gully and its environmental and heritage values do not stand in isolation. Neighbouring properties have CAs and their own significant and unique values. Long Gully also connects to extensive Crown Land including Lion Mountain, Elephant Mountain, Barigan Heritage Reserve and Ferntree Gully. Separate submissions will be made specifically by these private properties and the land managers of the Crown Land.

The whole provides a necessary corridor and free range for all the native fauna (whether they be critically endangered, vulnerable, or abundant) to thrive and be protected, as well as for rare woodland and flora to flourish. All this becomes rarer and more valuable as time passes.

These areas possess koalas, quolls, powerful owl, barking owl, habitat for regent honeyeater, BGGW and slaty box, numerous other types of flora and fauna, impressive pagodas, rock caves and shelves and escarpments, and likely extensive aboriginal heritage.

These areas should remain intact and not be allowed to have mining or exploration.

### **Hawkins Rumker**

The region comprises an idyllic mix of rural landscapes, bush and woodland reserves and areas and a vibrant and harmonious community and tourist venues. The region has no need for new coal mines to be introduced. Opening areas for preliminary exploration therefore should not proceed. Given the acknowledged decline of coal and with the NSW government acknowledging the need to transition away from coal, it is financially irresponsible and immoral to artificially introduce a dependency that will cause harm to the region and community (as summarised further below) and will require government funding to alleviate and permanent damage to the region.

### **Summary of risks and costs to the region from coal mining**

- Loss of agricultural land and livelihoods
- Loss of invested capital (financial and emotional) in homes and property
- Serious risk to vulnerable water supplies
- Loss of tourism and associated income for local businesses
- Loss of natural environment and endangered flora and fauna
- Negative impact on physical and mental health of people
- Loss of scenic values and amenity in the region
- Noise, light, visual, air and chemical pollution from mines, associated nearby infrastructure and access works.

Introducing new coal mines in Hawkins Rumker is also contrary to most of the local environmental planning aims of the 2012 LEP of the MWRC. These are documented in other submissions but it is self evident that new coal mining is contrary to MWRC aims with respect to agriculture, scenic values, local amenity, rural, natural, environmental and heritage attributes etc

Maintaining and growing employment opportunities is always important. The region is vibrant with a range of employers, businesses and areas of new potential. Expansion should be focused on developing what is sustainable and positive.

### **NSW, Commonwealth and Global Factors**

Policies requiring new coal mines are out of step with virtually universally agreed scientific evidence and reports, strategies of many large and leading businesses, and significant international action mandating that there be no new coal mines and a move away from coal more generally.

### **Conclusion**

All the above negative impacts are substantial, clear, demonstrable and very long lasting. The impacts and risks are 'costs' that would be current and would extend to future generations, well beyond any perceived benefits.

Benefits are unquantified, seemingly unaudited, unguaranteed, short term and largely illusory. If there is any 'political mileage' being sought from the proposals, it has no benefit to the community. Financial royalties to the government do not cover a truly independent triple bottom line analysis of costs. Employment and economic development is important and a chance for government to lead in developing sustainable and positive opportunities.

There should be no release of land for new coal mining or exploration.

I appreciate the opportunity to make this submission.

Robert Bleach

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 3:06:32 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:** [submission-to-pria.docx](#)

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Merrilyn

**Last name**

Stokes

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Breakfast Creek 2849

**Submission file**

[submission-to-pria.docx](#)

**Submission**

Please find file submission to PRIA enclosed.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



# Submission to PRIA- Hawkins-Rumker Rylstone

## No Mines for Rylstone Region.

I have lived at Breakfast Creek (Hawkins) for 30 years after bringing my family here from Sydney for a better life style. My ancestors bought this property around 100 years ago and it has been in the family ever since, lived on and farmed. This property has been a retreat for many families over this time. We did not come here for a mine to destroy us!

In this area of Hawkins and also in Rumker, there are many springs. These have been permanent water supplies for all of us (never running dry even in severe drought). As this region is very sandy and hence becomes dry quickly, the springs become our only source of water for everything we do. The stock and wildlife use the pooled water, waterways are kept moist (even when the stream retreats underground) and contributes to the rivers further away. We humans rely on the springs also for drinking and domestic use. The flow on from our springs supports many tributaries (the region) as we are at the head of a number of east/ west river systems. If mining happens here and destroys our water, Windamere and Burrendong will be affected and hence Mudgee water supply will have reduced flows. (They complain they don't get enough now!) Even if the area is mined underground, the possibility of destroying the aquifer is immense.

We are not prepared to take the risk! No mines.

Rylstone/ Kandos is experiencing a boom in tourists now after long suffering from the closure of Kandos Cement Works which put a lot of local people out of work. The towns have worked hard to promote our region to stop it becoming a "ghost town". We rely largely on the National Parks and Reserves to enable it to flourish. Farming, viticulture and accommodation also help this. Many people come from across the world to Dunns Swamp, the Capertee Valley, Ferntree Gully Reserve (FTGR) and Windamere to name a few areas people enjoy camping, swimming, boating, fishing, bird watching, bush walking and star gazing (an amazing place to be especially on nights like Halley's Comet sighting).

If a mine disrupts any of these activities our visitors will retreat to some other peaceful area leaving us to die as a region. Our camping grounds and visited reserves have numbers climbing rapidly as people try to get out of Sydney and other populated regions, sometimes putting them at capacity. These people don't want their holidays destroyed and neither do we the locals who also regularly use the areas.

I don't see the merit of opening up new mines when the long term viability is very questionable and the current mines are not operating at full capacity. We need to be looking at renewable energy options more seriously. Ferntree Gully was gazetted by NSW Government as an environmental reserve to benefit all and now the government want to

destroy this sensitive area. The Land Manager members have put in thousands of hours to care for and protect this area.

The Rylstone area has had quite some years now of uncertainty as we experienced the forced council amalgamation with Mudgee Council in 2004, closing down of the cement works- putting many out of work, a severe drought lasting years, devastating fires, followed by COVID 19, a mouse plague and now the NSW Government want to destroy us with a coal mine! Give us a break- mental health around here is teetering on a catastrophe. We are resilient but everyone has a breaking point.

Don't put us through a mine.

This area has been well used for star gazing by many people as we had no major light source to upset the skies. Then the NSW Government put Ulan, Moolarben and Wilpinjong mines near Mudgee which we can see the glow of from here. Also underway is the Bowdens Silver Mine at Lue which will further affecting the clarity of our sky (especially as it's a lot closer) and they are contemplating Hawkins- Rumker which will destroy another pleasure. These mines are also likely to affect Mudgee Observatory and the Ilford area used by the NSW Astronomical Society for their South Pacific Star Party bringing hundreds of people to the area each year. (As a flow on- the local scouts benefit from these activities).

The noise from machinery and transport will destroy our very peaceful existence. Not to mention the dust, from the coal and also the vehicles kicking up dust from the roads. Our council roads won't cope as they are questionable already.

As I sit on my verandah, I get to only hear the breeze rustling through the trees, the birds sitting on the rail next to me twittering away, the clear sky with a few fluffy clouds wafting by and the sun warming my feet, this is what I/ my family and my ancestors came here for. Clean air, not contaminated.

I don't want this to be corrupted.

We have a number of species in our area that fall into the threatened species categories.

Koalas, Spotted tailed quolls, dusky Woodswallows, Swainsona recta (small purple pea), Cymbidium canaliculatum (FTGR) and Rosenbergs goanna. These are only the species I know of and are not all on the database.

Our farm has had 160 bird species identified since we arrived. This is both personal identification and also by NSW Birding who have had bird camps here over the years.

Echidnas, possums, bats, kangaroos, frogs, snakes, lizards, antechinus, wombat, butterflies, orchids, fungi along with gang gang cockatoos, glossy black cockatoos and powerful owls up the road with our paddocks and house yard sprouting the beautiful microlaena stipoides.

There are also numerous vulnerable species here or close by. Namely-

Rosenbergs Goanna  
Dusky Woodswallow  
Gang Gang Cockatoo  
Red Tailed Black Cockatoo  
Glossy Black Cockatoo  
Speckled Warbler  
Brown Treecreeper  
Little Lorikeet  
Spotted Harrier  
Painted Honeyeater  
White-Bellied Sea Eagle  
Black-breasted Buzzard  
Little Eagle  
Square-tailed Kite  
Hooded Robin  
Black-chinned Honeyeater  
Barking Owl  
Powerful Owl  
Scarlet Robin  
Red-tailed Tropicbird  
Grey-crowned Babbler  
Diamond Firetail

Along with the Capertee Stringybark and 2 known Critically Threatened Ecological Communities.

With the thought of mining hanging over my head, it diminishes my plans to retire and quietly spend my time restoring our 100 year old slab home and live my days enjoying our beautiful property and surrounds.

Government, forget new mines and concentrate on cleaner renewable energy.

**No more mines wanted- anywhere!**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 3:04:48 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:** [we-object-to-the-proposed-hawkins.docx](#)

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Bernadette & Bruce

**Last name**

Mullaney

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Kelso

**Submission file**

[we-object-to-the-proposed-hawkins.docx](#)

**Submission**

We object on environmental grounds. Please read the attachment

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

We object to the proposed Hawkins/Rumker coal leases. The biggest reason is the carbon and methane emissions, both during extraction and when burnt. There are many others: that the area is going well as it is, and the destruction of the land and the living things on it. These are the first of several proposed coal leases, we understand. They would contribute vast numbers of tonnes of GHGs – numbers that we can't envision, but we completely understand are pivotal.

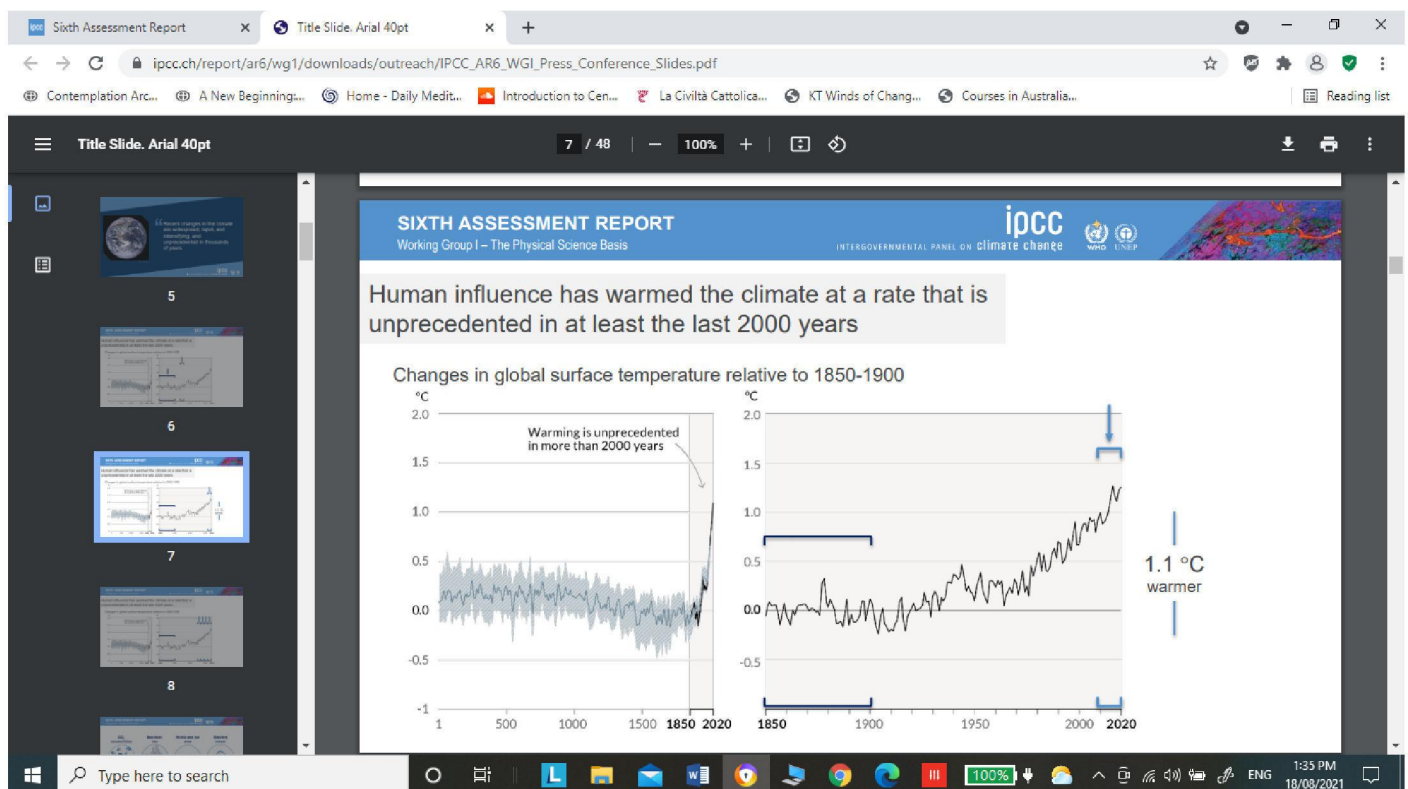
It is high time that these big decisions of your, and any government, be put into their full, relevant context, and subject to the over-arching situation and needs of NSW, Australia, and as happens to be in this case, the whole Earth.

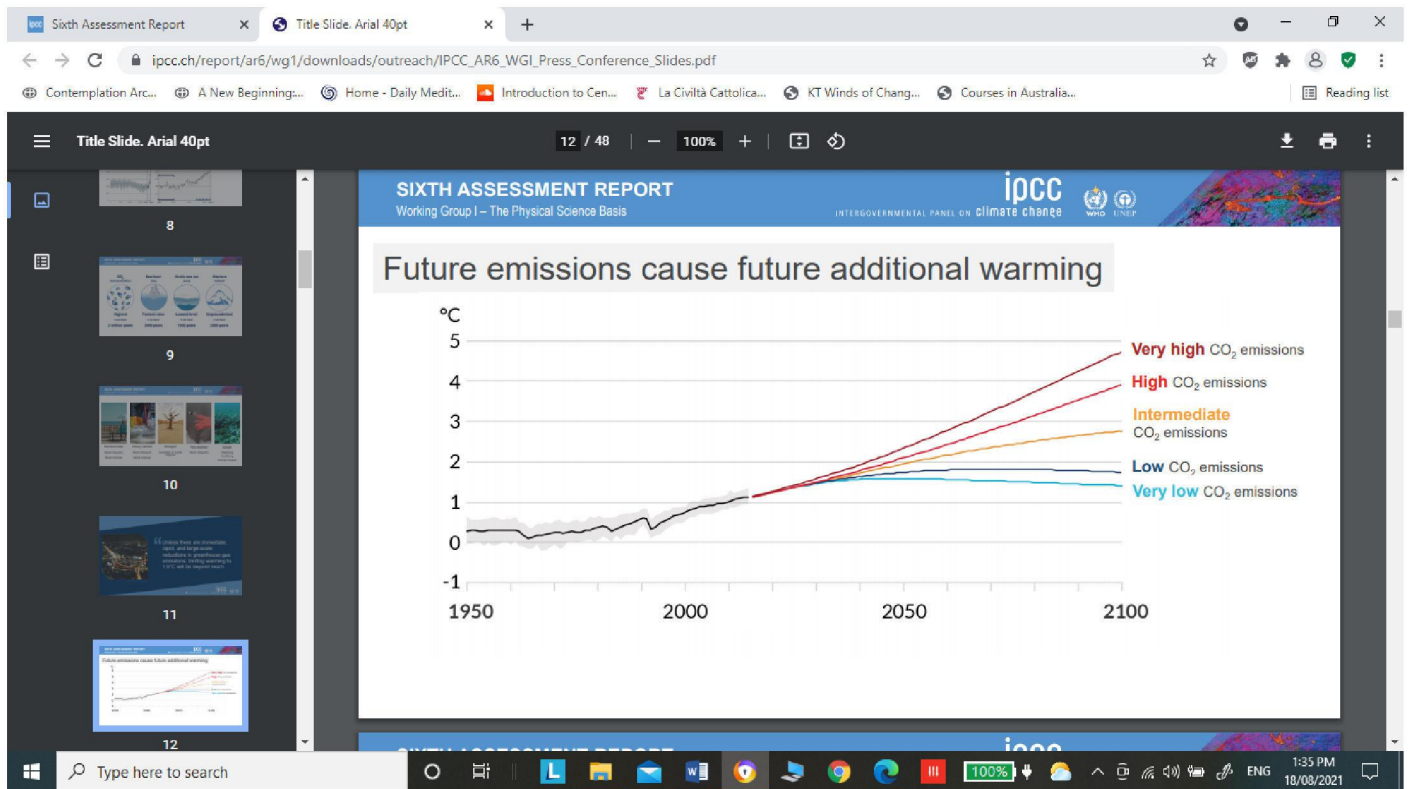
Last week the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change), released its 6<sup>th</sup> report. Who is this IPCC? It "is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation." So, it is *THE* top body. And Australia is a member.

The report stated with certainty that immediate, serious decisions must be taken to cut emissions and change the way we do things. Now is a narrow time of opportunity to take these decisions; whether or not we do will impact all earth and life for thousands of years to come. It is that serious.

We can't imagine going backwards to open new asbestos mines or taking up whaling again. Now it's time that coal mining joined that.

Here's some slides from their website of this report:





Sixth Assessment Report | Title Slide. Arial 40pt

ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC\_AR6\_WGI\_Press\_Conference\_Slides.pdf

Contemplation Arc... | A New Beginning... | Home - Daily Medit... | Introduction to Cen... | La Civiltà Cattolica... | KT Winds of Chang... | Courses in Australia... | Reading list

### SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis

ipcc  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change  
WMO | UNEP

## Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways.

The changes we experience will increase with further warming.

[Credit: Hong Nguyen | Unsplash]

31 / 48 | 100% | ENG | 1:36 PM 10/08/2021



Sixth Assessment Report x Title Slide. Arial 40pt x +

ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC\_AR6\_WGI\_Press\_Conference\_Slides.pdf

Contemplation Arc... A New Beginning... Home - Daily Medit... Introduction to Cen... La Civiltà Cattolica... KT Winds of Chang... Courses in Australia... Reading list

Title Slide. Arial 40pt 39 / 48 100%

37

38

39

40

41

There's no going back from some changes in the climate system...

[Credit: Jenn Caselle | UCSB]

ipcc  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change  
WHO UNEP

SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT  
Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis

ipcc  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change  
WHO UNEP

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18/08/2021

Sixth Assessment Report x Title Slide. Arial 40pt x +

ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC\_AR6\_WGI\_Press\_Conference\_Slides.pdf

Contemplation Arc... A New Beginning... Home - Daily Medit... Introduction to Cen... La Civiltà Cattolica... KT Winds of Chang... Courses in Australia... Reading list

Title Slide. Arial 40pt 41 / 48 100%

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41

...However, some changes could be slowed and others could be stopped by limiting warming.

[Credit: Andy Mahoney | NSIDC]

ipcc  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change  
WHO UNEP

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1:37 PM  
18/08/2021



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ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC\_AR6\_WGI\_Press\_Conference\_Slides.pdf

Contemplation Arc... A New Beginning... Home - Daily Medit... Introduction to Cen... La Civiltà Cattolica... KT Winds of Chang... Courses in Australia... Reading list

Title Slide. Arial 40pt 42 / 48 100%

38 39 40 41 42

To limit global warming, strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and other greenhouse gases are necessary.

This would not only reduce the consequences of climate change but also improve air quality.

ipcc  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

WHO UNEP

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1:37 PM 18/08/2021

Sixth Assessment Report x Title Slide. Arial 40pt x +

ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC\_AR6\_WGI\_Press\_Conference\_Slides.pdf

Contemplation Arc... A New Beginning... Home - Daily Medit... Introduction to Cen... La Civiltà Cattolica... KT Winds of Chang... Courses in Australia... Reading list

Title Slide. Arial 40pt 43 / 48 100%

39 40 41 42 43

SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT  
Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis

ipcc  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

WHO UNEP

Every tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions adds to global warming

Global surface temperature increase since 1850-1900 (°C) as a function of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (GtCO<sub>2</sub>)

Increasing temperatures

Very high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
High CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
Intermediate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
Low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
Very low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Historical global warming

Cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1850

Increasing CO<sub>2</sub>

Type here to search

1:38 PM 18/08/2021

In conclusion, the NSW government needs to abandon the proposal to open coal leases, find other revenue streams and support decreasing emissions unreservedly. We can all join together on this, and we're sure there are many creative minds who can come to the table should your government need more ideas. It is certain that the government's decision on this has huge roll-on effects, and the whole Earth community knows that this coal needs to stay in the ground.

Press Conference Slides, at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#outreach> , being:  
[https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_Press\\_Conference\\_Slides.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Press_Conference_Slides.pdf)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 3:03:08 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-nf-18-aug-21.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 15:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

[REDACTED]

**Last name**

[REDACTED]

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Galston 2159

**Submission file**

[submission-nf-18-aug-21.docx](#)

**Submission**

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

I am 53 years of age and have been visiting the area for 12 years.

1. Respect the community: people have spent a significant part of their lives developing a home, a business, a property in the region. Such a project has the potential to annihilate all this. The government is there to represent and protect the Australian community (they vote), not the mining and corporate interests (they don't vote).

2. Coal mining has tremendous impact on people's respiratory health (as if we don't have enough challenges in that respect currently). Please act responsibly and don't expose the population to an additional level of air pollution.

3. Respect the visitors: this is such a wild, diverse and beautiful area that would benefit from further tourism development. Such a project would absolutely kill this opportunity. It is horrible enough to drive past other sites when we get to Rylstone or the Mudgee wine region.

4. The future of energy doesn't lie in coal. I understand coal cannot be shut down from one day to the other, but it should slowly decrease in our energy supply and in no case be developed. Think of innovate projects instead, like a solar farm to recharge electric vehicles which will develop over the next few years and this would be a tremendous boost for regional development allowing Greater Sydney region people to spend time in the region on weekends or holidays.

5. Water is such a precious resource for Australia. Any mining initiative will significantly impact the quality of water, impacting people's health and agricultural development.

6. Regional development: we were looking at acquiring a second residence or land in the area as a weekender, investment and long term residence for retirement or for a healthier lifestyle away from the city. The perspective of such a project as put any such initiative on halt, and we are considering other regions. We will only reconsider the area if there is a strong message that there will be a halt to mining development in the region.

I wish my name to be withheld 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

  
Galston 2159

18/8/2021

### **Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment**

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

Yours sincerely,  


**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 2:51:51 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:** [fermtree-gully-pria-submission-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

---

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:49

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

**Name**

**First name**

Ferntree Gully Reserve

**Last name**

Land Manager

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Breakfast Creek 2849

**Submission file**

[fermtree-gully-pria-submission-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

**Submission**

see attachment "Submission from Ferntree Gully Reserve Land Manager to PRIA.."

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

**Submission by the FERNTREE GULLY RESERVE LAND MANAGER to PRIA on Hawkins/Rumker**

The Ferntree Gully Reserve Land Manager objects to the proposed coal exploration.

The Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BCA) has provisions to “maintain a healthy productive and resilient environment for the greatest wellbeing of the community now and into the future, consistent with the principles of **ecologically sustainable development**”. It provides a list of Threatened Species, Threatened Ecological Communities and Threatened Populations.

Records of the Reserve Land Manager contain 12 Vulnerable species, 1 Endangered Population and 1 Critically Threatened Ecological Community.

The BCA also contains a Schedule of Key Threatening Processes.

Any coal exploration or mining in or near Ferntree Gully Reserve threatens the integrity of the Reserve.

Relevant Key Threatening Processes are;

Alteration of habitat following subsidence due to longwall mining

Alteration to the natural flow regimes of rivers and streams and their floodplains and wetlands

Anthropogenic climate change

Bush rock removal

Clearing of native vegetation

Loss of hollow bearing trees

Loss or degradation or both of sites used for hilltopping by butterflies

Removal of dead wood or trees.

The State Government Gazetted Ferntree Gully Reserve in 1994 for the purpose of environmental conservation.

The Land Manager (then known as a Trust) was not permitted to conduct any activity which contravened this basic principle.

The Land Manager is made up of volunteers who over the years have donated thousands of hours of their time, energy and sometimes their own funds to maintain the Reserve and to provide facilities for the convenience of and enjoyment by visitors. The majority of funding is by way of various grants and also donations from local, interstate and international visitors, Council, and local businesses.

Any activity carried out which would contravene the principles of creating the Reserve would be hypocritical and a huge insult to the people who have put so much into the Reserve.

The Reserve won't survive on its own however. It is just a part of a huge network of reserves and private estates providing habitat for an amazing variety of plants and animals, most not occurring outside Australia, some not occurring far outside this region.

Mining activities are destructive and unsustainable ecologically and economically. Keep them out



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 2:44:31 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:** [chan-submission.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 14:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

Shami

**Last name**

Chan

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

No

## Info

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Hazelbrook

**Submission file**

[chan-submission.docx](#)

**Submission**

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

Dr Shami Chan  
 Darug and Gundungurra Country  
 [REDACTED]  
 Hazelbrook

18/08/2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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I am 39 years of age, I'm a researcher and I live in the Blue Mountains. I have been visiting the area around Ganguddy-Dunns Swamp for the past 3 years – we have been taking my 3 year old daughter there since she was born. We gather with friends and for a few days we recreate the village that no longer exists for most families. We kayak in the river and explore the unique rock features. We watch the sunset by the water, star gaze and watch the possums frolic. We feel at peace there as families must have for tens of thousands of years.

**Issues with the PRIA Process**

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared is fundamentally flawed. The report states there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area. I find this an unacceptable conclusion as the area contains areas of immense cultural significance for the Wiradjuri - for example my understanding is that Ganguddy (which means 'good place' in Wiradjuri) is a sacred women's place.

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 who properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration zones. Apart from this, the only other notification provided were one-off advertisements in a few newspapers. This is not notifying the nearly 3000 residents in surrounding areas on Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabbe, Olinda and Kelgoola. Why is it that these people would not be notified of potential new coal release areas when they receive their water from the potential release areas, and the coal would be transported through these areas?

The community consultation meeting were capped at four groups of 50 people, with one of these to be held in Mudgee. How could this possibly be a real attempt to have consultation with a population of nearly 3000 people? Where is the evidence of consultation with Wiradjuri Elders and Cultural Bosses?

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

## Wanted to move to sustainable energy sources

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

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

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

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

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

## Water

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

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

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

Without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture, no tourism, nothing to fight bushfires with. Where I live I the Blue Mountains, the removal of ground water by mining companies has contributed to the increasing severity of bush fires and I cannot support future exploration which puts further strain on ground water resources.

## Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

## Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

I work in the field of complex trauma and my particular focus is on intergenerational trauma and the importance of connection to culture and Country in healing for Aboriginal peoples. When we destroy Country we contribute to the destruction of culture and add to the burden of trauma Aboriginal peoples are managing. This years NAIDOC theme is Heal Country. How does this project contribute to the healing of Country and the people who are custodians of it?

## Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,  
Shami Chan

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 Sharni Chan  
Darug and Gundungurra Country  
[REDACTED]  
Hazelbrook

18/08/2021

### **Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment**

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### **Social & health implications**

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

Yours sincerely,

Sharni Chan

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 2:25:34 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-for-public-final.docx](#)

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

#### Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

#### Name

**First name**

**Last name**

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

Yes

#### Info

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

[REDACTED] Melbourne, 3000

**Submission file**

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

#### Submission

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

#### Issues with the PRIA Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Water

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

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

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

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

without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture, no tourism, nothing to give businesses value.

#### Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

#### Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

#### Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 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] Melbourne, 3000

18/08/21

### **Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment**

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

#### **Issues with the PRIA Process**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Water**

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

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

## **Flora and Fauna**

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

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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.

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

### **Social & health implications**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

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

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 1:56:57 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:** [hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:56

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Cal

**Last name**

Ford

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

3051

**Submission file**

[hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

**Submission**

NSW Government re Hawkins Rumker,

A very good friend of mine talked to me today about the proposed release of the land of the Hawkins Rumker areas for coal exploration. It's her family's country, it's been her family's country for longer than living memory, for thousands and thousands of years. Her family and their mob have cared for, lived, and danced on this country since essentially the beginning of human time. Their connection to the waterways, creatures and songlines runs deeper than any settler living on this country could ever understand. The countless sacred sites, both listed and unlisted, are put at immense risk with this proposition. Does a government care so little about the thoughts, feelings and faith of its oldest people?

I have spent my life in the bush. My dad is an ecologist with whom I spent years learning from, out of books as well as in the field. I have been witness to the extinction of species, the elimination of life and the obliteration of entire ecosystems. I have also seen choices made which bring back species from the brink of extinction, which rejuvenate life and bolster ecosystems. Drilling for coal exploration will cause incredible damage to the water table, no water no life. The hundreds of species in this area, many of which are endangered, will be put at incredible risk if a mine of any kind is approved.

See above the dollar, change your bottom line. We do not inherit the earth, we borrow it from our children.

Don't spit in the face of those who have wisdom which we can only dream to attain.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

NSW Government re Hawkins Rumker,

A very good friend of mine talked to me today about the proposed release of the land of the Hawkins Rumker areas for coal exploration. It's her family's country, it's been her family's country for longer than living memory, for thousands and thousands of years. Her family and their mob have cared for, lived, and danced on this country since essentially the beginning of human time. Their connection to the waterways, creatures and songlines runs deeper than any settler living on this country could ever understand. The countless sacred sites, both listed and unlisted, are put at immense risk with this proposition. Does a government care so little about the thoughts, feelings and faith of its oldest people?

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Don't spit in the face of those who have wisdom which we can only dream to attain.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 1:44:09 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-btraynor\\_aug2021.docx](#)

---

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Bradley

**Last name**

Traynor

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Coxs Creek, 2849

**Submission file**

[submission-btraynor\\_aug2021.docx](#)

**Submission**

Please find attached my submission against the commencement of the proposed coal exploration in the Hawkins- Rumker region.

Regards,

Bradley Traynor

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

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

**Bradley J Traynor**  
Coxs Creek, 2849

18 August 2021

**Submission for the Hawkins-Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment**

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

I am 61 years of age and have been visiting the area for over 12 years and moved here after retiring at the end of 2019. I have always enjoyed the clean air, running water, abundant wildlife and above all the quiet that pervades the region. Living and working in Sydney can be a noisy and tiring time, but pristine retreats akin to our place in the Rumker area, allow for a re-energising experience that is becoming harder and harder to find. I have many friends and extended family that come here for this tranquility and escape that it affords.

As an environmental scientist, with 40 years' experience, and a part-time teacher of ecological techniques at diploma level, I have a good grasp of the issues as they are set to affect this area. I keep a list of the wildlife as I find them around my property and am constantly amazed as I see more and more obvious biodiversity. In 2010 I observed an endangered species on my property and had a paper published on its range-extension. Rosenberg's Heath Monitor (*Varanus rosenbergi*), while anecdotal evidence suggested they should occur in the Hawkins-Rumker regions, are now officially listed here (Traynor, 2010).

The reliance of the biodiversity of this region on water quality is irrefutable. My own 'backyard' consists of open, dry sclerophyll forest, grasslands, swamp, springs and sphagnum bog (Lillis, 2002).

I am particularly distressed over this PRIA as it flies in the face of all that is good and sensible. The world is moving away (or trying to) from the dependence on fossil fuels and the latest IPCC report paints a very damning picture of the use of these resources. It is embarrassing to be Australian at the moment. While the world, is attempting to move toward carbon neutrality, even developing countries like India, China and Korea, we are ignoring the science and refusing to budge on making concrete commitments to the reduction of coal use and increased uptake of renewable energy sources. Our government seems to like to point out what other countries are doing in CO<sub>2</sub> production, but are not willing to confront the mining and power generation industries, to curb our own output of greenhouse gases.

This proposal is an affront to the efforts of so many people and countries to stave off the coming climate crisis.

Are we to assume that Australia will be running headlong into destruction of water, air, health and tourism, while simultaneously pointing out errors and foibles in other countries? This insanity has to stop NOW!

The coal mines of the Hunter region are not running to capacity (Denniss *et al.*), and with overseas markets set to reduce their reliance on coal, why do we need more mines? Increased output of coal will destabilize the current market, bringing down the prices in a decreasing market and placing the existing mining jobs at risk.

I say that a resounding 'NO' to new coal mines has been heard from the people who will be directly and indirectly affected by this proposal and the subsequent destruction of an area of rare beauty and amenity. The damage to the health of the ecosystems, the region as a whole, its people and the growing tourism business opportunities, will be catastrophic.

Please stop this lunacy before the real damage and cost to the region, the people and the State, begins.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B.J. Traynor', enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

**B.J. Traynor** (BAppSc, Grad Dip.Ed.)

## References

- Denniss, R., Campbell, R., & Littleton, E. One step forward, two steps back. New coal mines in the Hunter Valley. Canberra: The Australia Institute; 2021.
- Lillis, S. (2002). Cudgegong River & tributary vegetation mapping project. A report prepared for the Cudgegong Catchment Committee of Rylstone Shire Council. Wollar, NSW: SJ Landscape Constructions; August 2002.
- Traynor, B.J. (2010). Observations of the Heath Monitor *Varanus rosenbergi* (VARANIDAE): A Record from Gambo Hill near Rylstone, New South Wales. *Herpetofauna*, 40(1), 58-62.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 11:14:09 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:** [public-submission-2.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 23:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Roderick

**Last name**

San Martin

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Kandos 2848

**Submission file**

[public-submission-2.docx](#)

**Submission**

I'm quite angry as I write this public submission, and I will try not to let my emotions get the better of me.

I grew up as a kid in a coal mining town called Blackwater in Central Queensland during the 1980s. Blackwater was a vibrant community with outstanding facilities that the unions, together with the mines and council had equipped it with. I left that town decades ago and am quite saddened to know that it is not the place it once was. Its population has decreased significantly, many shops remain empty, and the bottom line is that this is because mining is an unsustainable industry.

The Queensland government was notoriously caught with its pants down on the issue of new coal mines with the Adani-Carmichael Mine proposal falling over; notably, massive global financiers such as Credit Suisse, Citi Group, Deutsche and HSBC wouldn't touch it with a barge pole. They know it's a bad investment simply because it's unsustainable. I know it's unsustainable because I know that Central Queensland communities like Blackwater, Moranbah and Dysart have been fading away for decades. The short term gains that are possible to pick from the carcass that is the coal mining industry will only deliver long term environmental strife that governments must recognise will only cost more money in the long run than coal will deliver.

I would have thought that any politician with an eye to the future, for their grandchildren and future generations, would recognise the common sense in supporting the development of renewable energy in this country. There was a time when Australia rode on the sheep's back to build its economy, before becoming the lucky country upon the discovery of gold, to then bravely transform itself into a mining and manufacturing country whose ability to deliver became world renowned. Now we stand at another crossroads, and I see and hear so many gutless politicians propping themselves up as the mouthpiece of the big miners, concerned only about what their less informed constituents might think and fearful of losing a ballot. We have the opportunity to reinvent ourselves as courageously as we have in the past by being a creator and an exporter of renewable energy and its associated technologies and expertise, if only our leaders will have the courage to lead.

I ask politicians to have the courage to speak for what you know in your hearts is right and simply let history judge your legacy, without fearing judgment at the ballot box. The science is in; Fossil fuel industries must be stopped. The damage they are wreaking on our existence and the possibility of our children being able to live in a world whose environment has been saved from catastrophe, surely must prevail in the forward-thinking minds of the brave. I urge the decision makers to show some heart, to show some courage, to stand against the money-grubbing vultures that these mining companies really are. They care not for forests or waterways or fish or clean air or climate conservation. Their only care is money. Surely there is no politician or decision maker who wants that alliance as part of their legacy.

Sincerely,

Roderick San Martin

[REDACTED]  
Kandos NSW 2848

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes



I'm quite angry as I write this public submission, and I will try not to let my emotions get the better of me.

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Sincerely,

Roderick San Martin



Kandos NSW 2848

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 12:20:01 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:** [bccan-hawkins\\_rumker.docx](#)

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

**Name**

**First name**

Margaret

**Last name**

Sewell

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Bathurst 2795

**Submission file**

[bccan-hawkins\\_rumker.docx](#)

**Submission**

Bathurst Community Climate Action Network objects to the proposed release of the Hawkins/Rumker thermal coal lease areas. The NSW Government has a duty of care to all to abandon proposals to open new areas to coal mining. Please see attachment for our reasons.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

*The Bathurst Community Climate Action Network (BCCAN) is comprised of individuals and groups from the Central West region who want to promote action in response to the Climate Emergency by collaborating with all levels of government and other environmental organisations to protect our environment and biodiversity from the impact of unsustainable human activity. Here are the grounds of our objections to releasing the Hawkins/Rumker thermal coal lease areas.*

The People of the Wiradjuri nation developed and maintained a deep and rich connection with the lands in this area. The land nourished all of the person, supplying physical, spiritual, cultural and identity necessities. We wish to acknowledge these First Peoples, and pay our respects to Elders - past, present and emerging. Their spirituality, connection, knowledge and care for country offers us a positive lens to move on together.

1. This area is quite close to Bathurst. Some BCCAN members have bushwalked, birdwatched and spent weekends in the area, and highly value its natural qualities and beauty. That such a major new coal mining area, contributing hugely to greenhouse gas emissions, is possibly proposed there is shocking and very worrying.
2. This proposal is a first step of possibly many areas being opened to coal mining. Its importance is huge, because the Hawkins-Rumker area alone contains an estimated 910 million tonnes of coal. To give perspective, consider: 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.<sup>1</sup>
3. Only one week ago, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its new report. They made headlines worldwide, because the hundreds of scientists of the IPCC stated unequivocally — leaving absolutely no room for doubt — humans are responsible for the observed warming of the atmosphere, lands and oceans. In its own words: “The report also shows that human actions still have the potential to determine the future course of climate. The evidence is clear that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the main driver of climate change, even as other greenhouse gases and air pollutants also affect the climate.”<sup>2</sup> The Climate Council observed: “The most important climate science update for almost a decade shows **there is a narrow path to avoiding climate catastrophe, but only through immediate, deep and sustained emissions reductions.**

This may be our final warning.”<sup>3</sup>

Climate change is already wreaking havoc around the world, (floods, bushfires, extreme heat, pressure on water sources and food production, infrastructure damage, people being displaced), with worse to come. The Climate Council notes: “Decisions taken this decade will be the difference between a liveable future for today's young people, and a future that is incompatible with well-functioning human societies.

Every choice made, and every fraction of a degree of avoided warming, matters. The right choices will be measured in lives, livelihoods, species and ecosystems saved. The benefits of stronger action would be evidenced well within our lifetimes, and even more so for our children and grandchildren.

**The most important thing is reducing emissions as much and as fast as possible. ”**<sup>3</sup>

## **There is no room for any new fossil fuel developments.**

Other significant supporting reasons to not put these areas up for coal lease:

4. Serious water pollution is caused by discharges incurred by coal mining. Studies published in 2021 found that coal mine discharge water from Tahmoor Colliery, NSW, was saline, alkaline, with ecologically hazardous concentrations of several metals including aluminium, arsenic, nickel, and zinc.<sup>4</sup> There may be variations compared to what is found in the coal mine water discharges here, both of types of contaminants and to greater or lesser degrees; however, it is a serious and unavoidable addition to the ecological impact of coal mining. This is apart from mining possibly affecting the drawdown of existing bores and water supply.
5. The Hawkins/Rumker area at present is a healthy ecological area. A high percentage of the area is intact forests and woodland, including Threatened Ecological Communities and home to least 8 species of fauna which are listed as Endangered.<sup>5</sup> The health of the vast majority of streams is rated as good to moderate.<sup>5</sup>

Some BCCAN members know people who live in the affected area. They tell us that local families wish to maintain the health, economy and rural nature of their community. This Hawkins/Rumker region is not reliant on coal. The 'Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW' states: 'Working with communities on their long-term sustainability is a key focus for the NSW Government.'<sup>6</sup> Therefore, continuing from the situation as it exists at present is a positive one, compared to inflicting the damaging legacy, both in carbon and methane emissions and to the soils, plants, animals and water that coal mining causes. We all see the unsightly Ulan and Moolarben coal mines close by. Inevitable damaging water discharges from coal mining have already been noted above.

6. Internationally, "The European Commission has outlined its ambitious policy package to more than halve its emissions by 2030, a move which could have major consequences for climate recalcitrant trading partners like Australia – including an A\$80 plus per tonne carbon tax on imports." President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said "The fossil fuel economy has reached its limits. We want to leave the next generation a healthy planet as well as good jobs and growth that does not hurt our nature."<sup>7</sup> <https://reneweconomy.com.au/fossil-fuel-economy-has-reached-its-limits-eu-to-slash-emissions-and-drag-australia-with-it/> July 15, 2021.

**The decision to reject these coal leases is vitally important for many reasons. There is no room for any new fossil fuel developments if we're to avoid catastrophic warming.**

*BCCAN believes the consideration of creating coal leases is flabbergasting, confusing, undermining the good work the present NSW Government is doing in other areas, and extremely serious. The science of climate change is certain. The International community calls for no new coal mines. The local area does not want or need coal mining. The NSW Government has a duty of care and well-being to all to abandon proposals to open new areas to coal mining.*

References:

1. Dr Brad Smith, Campaigns Director, Nature Conservation Council, (via email August 16, 2021).
2. "Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying – IPCC"  
<https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/> Accessed August 17, 2021.
3. <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/what-does-ipcc-latest-report-mean/> Accessed August 16, 2021.
4. <https://researchdirect.westernsydney.edu.au/islandora/object/uws%3A59218> "14-month water quality investigation of coal mine discharge on two rivers in NSW, Australia: implications for environmental regulation." Accessed August 14, 2021. (FROM 2)
5. "Western Coalfields Strategic Release Mapping and Analysis"  
[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/7317/attachments/original/1623889487/Western\\_Coalfields\\_Earthscapes\\_ReportV3.pdf?1623889487](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/7317/attachments/original/1623889487/Western_Coalfields_Earthscapes_ReportV3.pdf?1623889487) FROM 4
6. "Strategic Statement on coal exploration and mining in NSW"  
[https://www.resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/1236973/Strategic-Statement-on-Coal-Exploration-and-Mining-in-NSW.pdf](https://www.resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1236973/Strategic-Statement-on-Coal-Exploration-and-Mining-in-NSW.pdf) Accessed August 16, 2021.
7. "Fossil Fuel Economy has reached its limits" <https://reneweconomy.com.au/fossil-fuel-economy-has-reached-its-limits-eu-to-slash-emissions-and-drag-australia-with-it/> of July 15, 2021. Accessed August 17, 2021.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 11:45:49 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-17-08-22.docx](#)

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:44

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**  
 Pamela

**Last name**  
 Dunn

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**  
 No

**Info**

**Email**  
 [REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**  
 Saint Ives

**Submission file**  
[submission-17-08-22.docx](#)

**Submission**

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

As a NSW Educational Department School teacher I (with a team of teachers) have taken groups of High School students camping in this National Park area. Here these Sydney Metropolitan students were able to enjoy the countryside, the fauna, flora and historical Indigenous cultural aspects. Students were able to use the area for Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions (encouraging appreciation of the natural world and developing leadership skills), and also as a venue for workshops for their academic studies. If this area was to be coal mined the resulting pollution to water ways, to the air from dust, and the noise pollution of machinery and trucks, would impact on the students use of this area

To introduce the mining industry into this area would be providing more fuel to be burnt, increasing carbon and therefore impacting on increasing the temperature of the world: more damaging climate change! This is in opposition to the recognised developed world view that we need to increase renewable energy use, NOT FOSSIL FUELS. The NSW Treasury has noted the weaker prospects for thermal coal exports and a predicted contraction in the NSW coal industry over time (June 2021).

Why harm the local agricultural and tourism industries for an industry which has a limited time frame – before it will become uneconomic. It will harm the long term sustainable industries of agriculture (impact on water, degradation of the soil, pollution, erosion created by mining) and tourism, impacted by locals leaving the area due to town life eroded by mining impacting on employment, housing costs and people no longer investing in a downgraded eroded rural area.

Surely the NSW Government should be putting time and money into renewable energy which will not impact negatively on humans and our life style, or threaten flora and fauna of the area, or local indigenous cultural sites.

Who would gain from mining this area?

Not the Twenty-two threatened fauna species and six threatened flora species including the koala, the critically endangered regent honeyeater and the endangered spotted-tailed quoll, as well as four plant species endemic to the Rylstone/western Wollemi area

Have you consulted the local residents, and the Indigenous people who have their historical links in the area?

Coal exploration in this area has more detrimental concerns for the future of humanity in the area and worldwide, than any positive gain to humanity.

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

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

As a NSW Educational Department School teacher I (with a team of teachers) have taken groups of High School students camping in this National Park area. Here these Sydney Metropolitan students were able to enjoy the country side, the fauna, flora and historical Indigenous cultural aspects. Students were able to use the area for Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions (encouraging appreciation of the natural world and developing leadership skills), and also as a venue for workshops for their academic studies. If this area was to be coal mined the resulting pollution to water ways, to the air from dust, and the noise pollution of machinery and trucks, would impact on the students use of this area

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Have you consulted the local residents, and the Indigenous people who have their historical links in the area?

Coal exploration in this area has more detrimental concerns for the future of humanity in the area and worldwide, than any positive gain to humanity.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18/08/2021 11:41:15 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-hawkins-rumker.docx](#)

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Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

**Name**

**First name**

Margaret

**Last name**

Bodie

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

No

**Info**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

KIAMA 2533

**Submission file**

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

**Submission**

Submission Hawkins Rumker

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

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

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

submitted by  
Margaret Bodie

[REDACTED] Kiama NSW 2533

18/08/2021

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

My connections to the area started some 60 years ago when as a young Sydneysider I started to explore the way across the Blue Mountains and the area north from Lithgow particularly around Kandos and Rylstone where close friends live, and north to Ulan, Wolar, and Bylong.

Most of the landscape in the Hawkins Rumker area is still intact and borders more than 100 kilometres of the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Area, Wollemi National Park.

**Global move to sustainable energy sources**

On August 9, 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest Report in Geneva. The changes observed across the whole climate system will only be limited by strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

And yet NSW is considering the possibility of more coal mining.

The G7 has committed to end public support for unabated coal generation by end of 2021. 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.

**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.

It is quite clear that there are at least 45 documented Aboriginal Heritage sites and that there are threatened fauna and flora species - see below.

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 weigh and evaluate the submissions during the PRIA process. The Government has not agreed to make the report on the PRIA outcomes publicly available prior to its submission to Cabinet. This is also contrary to the Independent Commission Against Corruption findings, which highlighted the role of public officials in providing frank and independent advice to a minister and noted that public officials continue to remain vulnerable to potential demands to change recommendations to align with a minister's wishes.

### **Water**

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

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

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

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

### **Flora and Fauna**

Environmental assessment has identified almost 7000 hectares of potentially threatened ecological communities, 22 threatened fauna species including koalas, spotted quolls and the critically endangered regent honeyeater, and six threatened flora species.

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 World Heritage Area.

### **Aboriginal Heritage**

Some forty-five Aboriginal heritage sites are within the area earmarked for mine sites meaning the rock art sites and grinding grooves on the country would be significantly affected.

Local Aboriginal community members know there are more sites still undocumented including art and ceremonial sites. These would be at risk. Surely 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 them.

**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.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Bodie

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

[Full Name] [REDACTED]

[Suburb] SUFFOLK PARK

Postcode: 2481

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

Select	Issue	How it affects or concerns me
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lack of consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government has not informed the community properly.</li> <li>- There is no transparency in how the Government will evaluate the submissions.</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of our water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coal exploration and mining disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways.</li> <li>- Springs and bores can disappear through mining drilling and digging activities.</li> <li>- The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong waterways are our town's water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong.</li> <li>- Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bushfires with.</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Air & noise pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coal mines operate at above normal recommended noise levels all day every day.</li> <li>- Traffic from trucks will increase and coal trains will run through our towns.</li> <li>- The dust and particulate matter from the mine and trucks/trains travels for kilometres.</li> <li>- Pollution is inevitable, e.g. the Hunter valley is now one of the most polluted areas in Australia</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on our tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our community has worked very hard to build a thriving tourism industry. Tourism has sustained, long-term impact; mining is short term. Many of our local businesses are incompatible with mining; tourists do not come to see coal mines.</li> <li>- The landscape may change irreversibly if it is mined</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk.</li> <li>- Even if not mined directly, these can be damaged with subsidence.</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Town life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The threat of coal exploration and mining creates uncertainty for people. This results in people leaving, people no longer investing in the region, and towns declining as people lose their jobs. Bylong is the perfect example.</li> <li>- Very few if any jobs are created by new mines. Properties and associated infrastructure are built for miners by their own people, not locals</li> <li>- Locals struggle to compete with high wages of miners which drives up housing and other costs.</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farms would be lost with up to ~ 32,700 ha of land becoming coal mines.</li> <li>- Our farms and food will sustain us for much longer than a coal mine.</li> </ul>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate change and carbon emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coal produces 2.42kg of carbon per kg of coal burnt. An underground mine also produces methane emissions.</li> <li>- The world is moving away from coal – Australia must encourage innovation and renewables</li> </ul>

I Have not made any political donations in the last two years. (If yes, disclose )

**Privacy statement:** Before making your submission, please read the DPIE's Privacy Statement (attached)

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

**Save this form and then email it to**





## NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Privacy Statement

This privacy statement sets out the Department's practices regarding the privacy of your personal information. The Department's privacy practices are regulated by the [Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 \(NSW\)](#) (PIIP ACT) and the Department's [Privacy Management Plan](#)

The Department will only collect personal information for a lawful purpose which directly relates to our primary function as a NSW Government agency and for obtaining feedback about our services. The Department will not collect any more information than is necessary for it to fulfil these functions.

The Department will not disclose your personal information to anyone without your consent, unless legally required to do so.

Anyone engaged to collect, store or use personal information for the Department will be required to comply with the PIIP Act and the Department's Privacy Management Plan.

Please note that the Department does not have any responsibility for the privacy policies or practices of third party sites linked to this website.

### What is personal information?

Your personal information relates to you personally and includes any information or opinion made about you. Personal information includes your name, address, phone number, email address or any information from which your identity can be reasonably ascertained.

Personal information is information that identifies you, some examples include:

- a written record which may include your name, address, and other details about you
- electronic records, photographs, images, video or audio footage
- biometric information such as fingerprints, blood and records of genetic material.

### What is not personal information?

The PIIP Act excludes certain information from the definition of personal information. The most significant exemptions are:

- information contained in publicly available publications
- information about a person's suitability for public sector employment
- information about people who have been dead for more than 30 years
- a number of exemptions relating to law enforcement investigations
- matters contained in Cabinet documents.

### Submissions

When you make a submission to the Department we collect your personal information, including:

- name (including title)
- address
- email (if provided)
- internet protocol (IP) address (if the submission is made online)
- any other personal information contained in a political donations disclosure statement (if provided); and
- any other personal information contained on your submission.

***Making a submission is entirely voluntary and you are under no obligation to provide the Department with any of your personal information, except as otherwise required by law.***

**How will your personal information be used when you make a submission?**

We may publish some of your personal information online, including:

- Your submission.
- Your name (unless you state that you want your name withheld);
- Your suburb;
- Any political donations disclosure statement.

**We may publish any personal information you have included in your submission on a proposal. Do not include any personal information in your submission that you do not want published.**

We will use your contact details to send you notifications. For example, where there is a statutory requirement to notify submitters that an application has been determined.

Your submission may be published in reports, or other documents that are produced following the exhibition period.

We may forward your submission and personal information to the Planning Assessment Commission if the proposal has been referred to them. The Commission will use your contact details to notify you of any public meetings scheduled for the proposal. The Commission may publish your submission on their website, or in a report in accordance with the Commission's Privacy Statement.

We may forward your submission to third parties including other public authorities, Government agencies, local government, or to an applicant. There are statutory requirements to forward submissions on some applications to these third parties as part of the assessment process.

### Exceptions

There are a number of exemptions from compliance with the Information Privacy Principles in the PIIP Act. Some of the exemptions include the following:

- law enforcement and related matters
- investigative agencies
- where lawfully authorised or required
- when it would benefit the individual concerned
- Minister being informed of certain matters.

### Right of access to amend your personal information

Under the PIIP Act you have the right to access your personal information held by the Department without excessive delay or expense. You also have the right to have your personal information corrected in certain circumstances (e.g. if it is incorrect). Should you wish to access or correct your personal information contact the Department's designated privacy officer at:

Information Access & Privacy Unit  
4 Parramatta Square, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124  
Phone: 02 9860 1440  
Email: [REDACTED]

### Complaints

If you feel there has been a breach of your privacy under the PIIP Act, you have the right to make a complaint to the Department or to the NSW Privacy Commissioner, [www.ipc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au).

### Contact Planning & Environment

If you have any questions about the application of the agency's privacy policy please contact:

Manager, Information Access & Privacy  
Information Access & Privacy Unit  
4 Parramatta Square, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124  
Phone: 02 9860 1440  
Email: [REDACTED]