From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:57:50 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: submission-c.pdf

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
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Hinton, 2321

Submission file
submission-c.pdf

Submission
Protest against the exploration for coal in Hawkins Rumker region

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

[Full Name] [redacted]

[Suburb] Hinton **Postcode:** 2321

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

Climate change and decimation of traditional land

Select	Issue	How it affects or concerns me
☑	Lack of consultation	- The Government has not informed the community properly. - There is no transparency in how the Government will evaluate the submissions.
☑	Loss of our water	- Coal exploration and mining disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways. - Springs and bores can disappear through mining drilling and digging activities. - The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong waterways are our town's water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong. - Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bushfires with.
☑	Air & noise pollution	- Coal mines operate at above normal recommended noise levels all day every day. - Traffic from trucks will increase and coal trains will run through our towns. - The dust and particulate matter from the mine and trucks/trains travels for kilometres. - Pollution is inevitable, e.g. the Hunter valley is now one of the most polluted areas in Australia
☑	Impacts on our tourism	- Our community has worked very hard to build a thriving tourism industry. Tourism has sustained, long-term impact; mining is short term. Many of our local businesses are incompatible with mining; tourists do not come to see coal mines. - The landscape may change irreversibly if it is mined
☑	Aboriginal heritage	- Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk. - Even if not mined directly, these can be damaged with subsidence.
☑	Town life	- The threat of coal exploration and mining creates uncertainty for people. This results in people leaving, people no longer investing in the region, and towns declining as people lose their jobs. Bylong is the perfect example. - Very few if any jobs are created by new mines. Properties and associated infrastructure are built for miners by their own people, not locals - Locals struggle to compete with high wages of miners which drives up housing and other costs.
☑	Agriculture	- Farms would be lost with up to ~ 32,700 ha of land becoming coal mines. - Our farms and food will sustain us for much longer than a coal mine.
☑	Climate change and carbon emissions	- Coal produces 2.42kg of carbon per kg of coal burnt. An underground mine also produces methane emissions. - The world is moving away from coal – Australia must encourage innovation and renewables

I Have not made any political donations in the last two years. (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
info@rylstonecfc.com or to pria@planning.nsw.gov.au

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- any other personal information contained on your submission.

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

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Exceptions

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Phone: 02 9860 1440
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Complaints

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Contact Planning & Environment

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4 Parramatta Square, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
Phone: 02 9860 1440
Email: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:54:27 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-document.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Aram

Last name
Geleris

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Essendon 3040

Submission file
submission-document.pdf

Submission
Please, PLEASE consider the irreparable damage you will do to country with this project - this is land that has been properly cared for for tens of thousands of generations and to undo so much of that remarkable work in order to create an unsustainable, not even very profitable fossil fuel project isn't just ethically disastrous, it's a poor business model. At some point companies need to break the on-going cycle of destruction against native country, and if this project goes ahead, country and its people will continue to suffer for no good reason. Shame on this project.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

[Full Name] Aram Geleris

[Suburb] Essendon **Postcode:** 3040

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

Select	Issue	How it affects or concerns me
☑	Lack of consultation	- The Government has not informed the community properly. - There is no transparency in how the Government will evaluate the submissions.
☑	Loss of our water	- Coal exploration and mining disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways. - Springs and bores can disappear through mining drilling and digging activities. - The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong waterways are our town's water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong. - Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bushfires with.
☑	Air & noise pollution	- Coal mines operate at above normal recommended noise levels all day every day. - Traffic from trucks will increase and coal trains will run through our towns. - The dust and particulate matter from the mine and trucks/trains travels for kilometres. - Pollution is inevitable, e.g. the Hunter valley is now one of the most polluted areas in Australia
☑	Impacts on our tourism	- Our community has worked very hard to build a thriving tourism industry. Tourism has sustained, long-term impact; mining is short term. Many of our local businesses are incompatible with mining; tourists do not come to see coal mines. - The landscape may change irreversibly if it is mined
☑	Aboriginal heritage	- Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk. - Even if not mined directly, these can be damaged with subsidence.
☑	Town life	- The threat of coal exploration and mining creates uncertainty for people. This results in people leaving, people no longer investing in the region, and towns declining as people lose their jobs. Bylong is the perfect example. - Very few if any jobs are created by new mines. Properties and associated infrastructure are built for miners by their own people, not locals - Locals struggle to compete with high wages of miners which drives up housing and other costs.
☑	Agriculture	- Farms would be lost with up to ~ 32,700 ha of land becoming coal mines. - Our farms and food will sustain us for much longer than a coal mine.
☑	Climate change and carbon emissions	- Coal produces 2.42kg of carbon per kg of coal burnt. An underground mine also produces methane emissions. - The world is moving away from coal – Australia must encourage innovation and renewables

I Have not made any political donations in the last two years. (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: No

Save this form and then email it to

[redacted]

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Email: [redacted]

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:28:11 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: submission-to-the-hawkin-rumker-prelim-regional-issues-assessment.pdf

---

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:27

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
COLLINGWOOD

Submission file
submission-to-the-hawkin-rumker-prelim-regional-issues-assessment.pdf

Submission
Please read the attached file.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

[Full Name] [redacted]

[Suburb] Collingwood **Postcode:** 3066

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

See below.

Select	Issue	How it affects or concerns me
☐	Lack of consultation	- The Government has not informed the community properly. - There is no transparency in how the Government will evaluate the submissions.
☐	Loss of our water	- Coal exploration and mining disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways. - Springs and bores can disappear through mining drilling and digging activities. - The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong waterways are our town's water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong. - Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bushfires with.
☐	Air & noise pollution	- Coal mines operate at above normal recommended noise levels all day every day. - Traffic from trucks will increase and coal trains will run through our towns. - The dust and particulate matter from the mine and trucks/trains travels for kilometres. - Pollution is inevitable, e.g. the Hunter valley is now one of the most polluted areas in Australia
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☐	Aboriginal heritage	- Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk. - Even if not mined directly, these can be damaged with subsidence.
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Phone: 02 9860 1440
Email: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:16:59 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: 12.-rrcfc-submission-tourism-values-final.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Coxs Crown 2849

Submission file
12.-rrcfc-submission-tourism-values-final.pdf

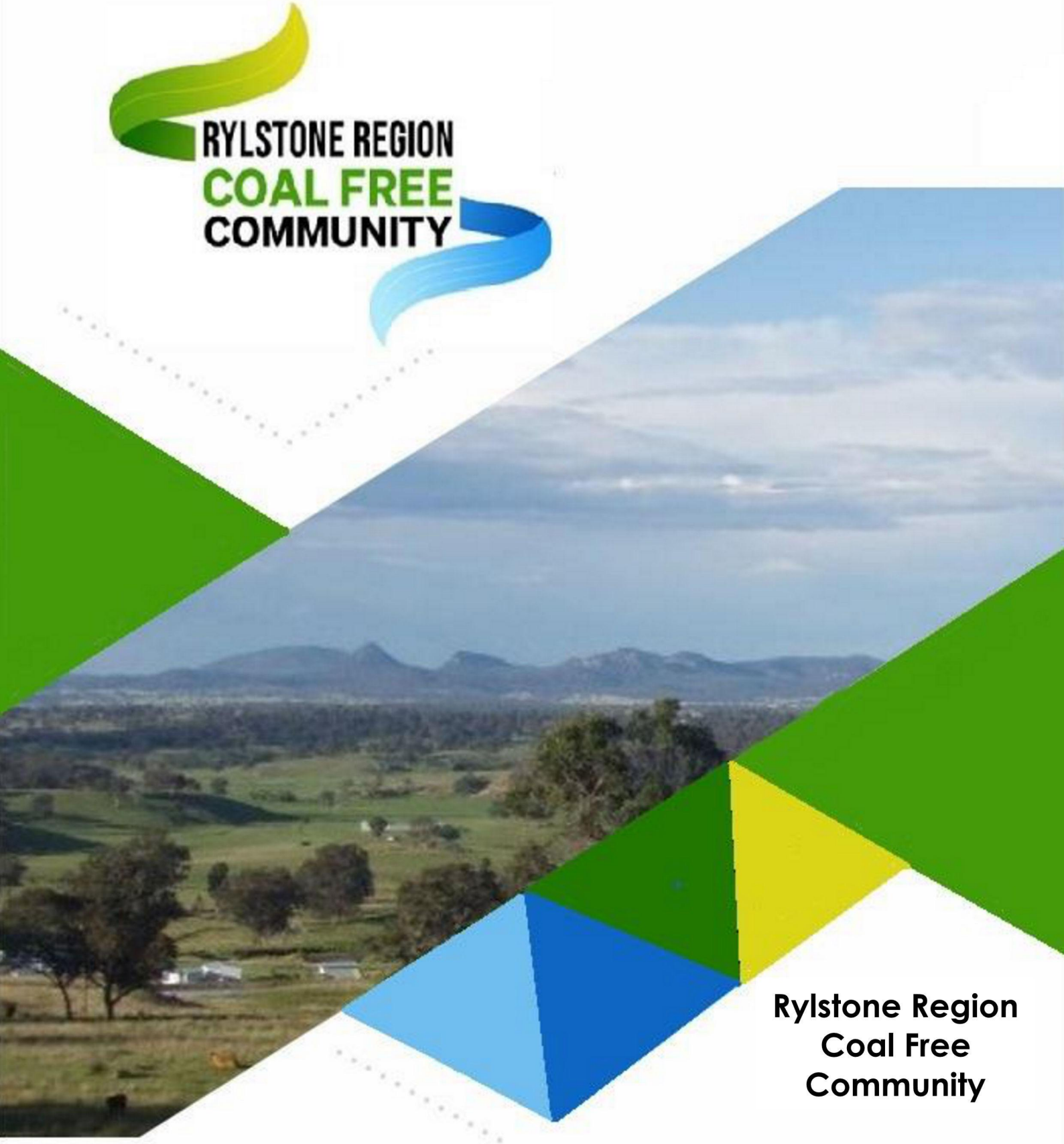
Submission
The attached report is the RRCFC's submission to the PRIA process on Tourism values and the impact a coal mine would have on Rylstone, Kandos and Mudgee. Separate submissions for a range of other issues are also being submitted by the RRCFC.

The RRCFC recognises that coal exploration is a precursor to coal mining, and therefore it is predominantly the mining phase that is considered in this submission.

This submission considers the Tourism values of the Rylstone Kandos region and the wealth of information presented here demonstrates there is no need for new coal mine developments. Further, the impacts of a large industrial mine, the pollution generated from it and the freight trains running through the heart of the Lue, Rylstone and Kandos would decimate our thriving economy. Long term, sustainable and healthy alternative industries like food, wine, agriculture, art and culture, and natural environment tourism are valued and help our Rylstone and Kandos communities thrive - they need to be protected and nourished not polluted.

It is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration and the resulting report, and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas

I agree to the above statement
Yes



Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Tourism Values

Final

Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Tourism Values

Final

Prepared by:
Rylstone Region Coal Free Community
Parkinsons Road, Coxs Crown NSW 2849

August 2021

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Document Control

Document Reference	RRCFC Submission Tourism Values FINAL.Docx
Project	Rylstone Region Coal Free Community PRIA response
Document Type	Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Tourism Values
Author	Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

Acknowledgement of Country

The RRCFC acknowledges that we live and work on Wiradjuri Country.

We acknowledge the Wiradjuri peoples as the traditional custodians of the land, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Executive Summary

2020 Strategic Statement and the PRIA process

The NSW Government's June 2020 Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining outlines the NSW Government's approach to transitioning to renewable energy and supporting the economy and aims to improve certainty about where mining should not occur. It identified 14 potential future coal exploration release areas (NSW Government, 2020). The Hawkins and Rumker potential release areas were identified in this Statement; the Ganguddy-Kelgoola area, which sits adjacent to Hawkins and Rumker, is also identified in this statement.

Following the release of the Strategic Statement, the NSW Government Advisory Body for Strategic Release has requested the Hawkins and Rumker areas be put through the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) process (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), 2021a). Ganguddy-Kelgoola is expected to go through the PRIA process in the near future once further exploration is completed.

The PRIA process, also set out in the Strategic Release Framework (NSW Government, 2020), is an initial assessment of social, environmental and economic matters relating to areas that could be released for exploration. In theory, it involves engaging with interested and potentially impacted stakeholders to identify issues for consideration.

RRCFC's Tourism Values Submission

This report is the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community's (RRCFC's) submission to the PRIA process on *Tourism values*. Separate submissions for a range of other issues are also being submitted by the RRCFC. The RRCFC recognises that coal exploration is a precursor to coal mining, and therefore it is predominantly the mining phase that is considered in this submission. The RRCFC strongly opposes the release of Hawkins and Rumker as coal exploration areas.

Our thriving tourism industry

Our region is experiencing tourism and hospitality growth like never before. Visits to providores, wineries, regular farmers markets and farm walk tours feature an exceptionally broad range of seasonal produce and locally made artisan fare with regional specialties. Some 660,000 people per year on average are visiting the Mudgee Region including the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Mudgee, and Gulgong. Statistics show **the Mudgee Region visitor economy is now worth over $170M annually and has seen a 26 percent growth over five years. Between 2016 and 2019, jobs in tourism in our region jumped by 100 percent, in accommodation and food services by 76 percent, in agriculture by 44 percent. In contrast, mining jobs are only 2 percent of jobs in our local areas and decreased by 24 percent.**

The wealth of information presented here on the Rylstone and Kandos tourism offerings and attractions, demonstrates there is no need for new coal mine developments. Further, the impacts of a large industrial mine, the pollution generated from it and the freight trains running through the heart of the Lue, Rylstone and Kandos would decimate our thriving economy.

The NSW Government's proposed Rumker coal mine exploration license area sits right on Rylstone's doorstep (directly northeast), and nearby Hawkins, not too far from there (directly north). It threatens to devastate the town's tourism, which will also impact neighbouring Kandos. The bustling, historic agricultural town of Rylstone, dating back to the 1820s, would be devastated by a mine in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

Coal mines threaten the increasing economic and social prospects that Rylstone's unique tourism experience offers for residents to prosper and for visitors to enjoy.

It is important that the NSW Government takes a long-term view on the future impacts of coal mining in the Rylstone Kandos region and NSW economy.

This is most prudent when the NSW Government has set a Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 (DPIE, 2021b), a clear target to reach net zero emissions by 2050; and renewable energy zones for regional jobs are in development in Central West Orana. The acknowledged science is that costs to the community on environmental and health issues outweigh the economic benefits of coal mining.

Long term, sustainable and healthy alternative industries like food, wine, agriculture, art and culture, and natural environment tourism are valued and help our Rylstone and Kandos communities thrive. They should therefore be protected and supported.

This submission outlines the reasons why the coal exploration should not proceed. **Now is the time for thriving businesses to continue the growth of our region's strong visitor economy. The local communities of Rylstone and Kandos do not want or need any new coal mines to kill its existing and future tourism industry opportunities.**

It is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration and the resulting report, and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

Coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

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1 | Introduction

1.1 Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) Process

The NSW Government's Advisory Body for Strategic Release has asked the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to prepare a Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) (DPIE, 2021a) to consider the benefits, opportunities, risks and constraints of releasing two adjacent areas located near Rylstone in the Mid-Western Regional local government area.

These areas are shown in Figure 1 and include:

- Hawkins - an area of 14,900 ha located directly north of Rylstone, and
- Rumker - an area of 17,800 ha located directly northeast of Rylstone.

An initial assessment of resource potential undertaken by the Division of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience within the Department of Regional NSW has identified coal resources within the Hawkins and Rumker areas that could be mined by underground mining methods (DPIE, 2021a). It is noted that these areas could just as well be mined using aboveground methods.

In June 2020, the NSW Government released the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining (NSW Government, 2020). The Strategic Statement "outlines the NSW Government's approach to transitioning to renewable energy and supporting the economy and aims to improve certainty about where mining should not occur." It identified 14 potential future coal exploration release areas (NSW Government, 2020).

Adjacent to Hawkins and Rumker is the area of Ganguddy – Kelgoola, which is slated to go through the PRIA process once further exploration is completed (NSW Government, 2020).

1.2 PRIA Preparation

The PRIA process is also set out in the Strategic Release Framework (NSW Government, 2020). It is an initial assessment of social, environmental and economic matters relating to areas that could be released for exploration. In theory, it involves engaging with interested and potentially impacted stakeholders to identify issues for consideration.

DPIE has engaged Resource Strategies to undertake 'preparation of a Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment document in relation to a defined area that could be released for coal exploration' for a sum of $167,156 (NSW Government eTendering, 2021).

On its website Resource Strategies (2021) says it facilitates development approvals for major mining and associated infrastructure projects and prepares comprehensive and timely environmental assessment documentation with the assistance of recognised experts across all environmental fields.

The DPIE undertakes the PRIA and submits this to the Advisory Body for Strategic Release, which considers potential release areas, reviews reports and recommends assessment of the release of an area for resource exploration. The Advisory Body for Strategic Release makes recommendations to the Minister for Regional NSW and these are considered by Cabinet and, if approved, the Minister for Regional NSW releases an area for exploration and invites companies to apply for a prospecting title.

1.3 Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

1.3.1 RRCFC

The Rylstone Region Coal Free Community (RRCFC) is a self-funded group of like-minded local residents, and supporters, of the Rylstone Region committed to stopping further exploration of coal and approval of mines in our region. Our aim is to protect the land, heritage, culture and community for now and future generations.

1.3.2 Purpose of this report

This report is the RRCFC's submission to the PRIA process on *Tourism values* and the impact a coal mine would have on Rylstone, Kandos and Mudgee. Separate submissions for a range of other issues are also being submitted by the RRCFC.

The RRCFC recognises that coal exploration is a precursor to coal mining, and therefore it is predominantly the mining phase that is considered in this submission.

This submission considers the *Tourism values* of the Rylstone Kandos region and the wealth of information presented here demonstrates there is no need for new coal mine developments. Further, the impacts of a large industrial mine, the pollution generated from it and the freight trains running through the heart of the Lue, Rylstone and Kandos would decimate our thriving economy. Long term, sustainable and healthy alternative industries like food, wine, agriculture, art and culture, and natural environment tourism are valued and help our Rylstone and Kandos communities thrive - they need to be protected and nourished not polluted.

It is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration and the resulting report, and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

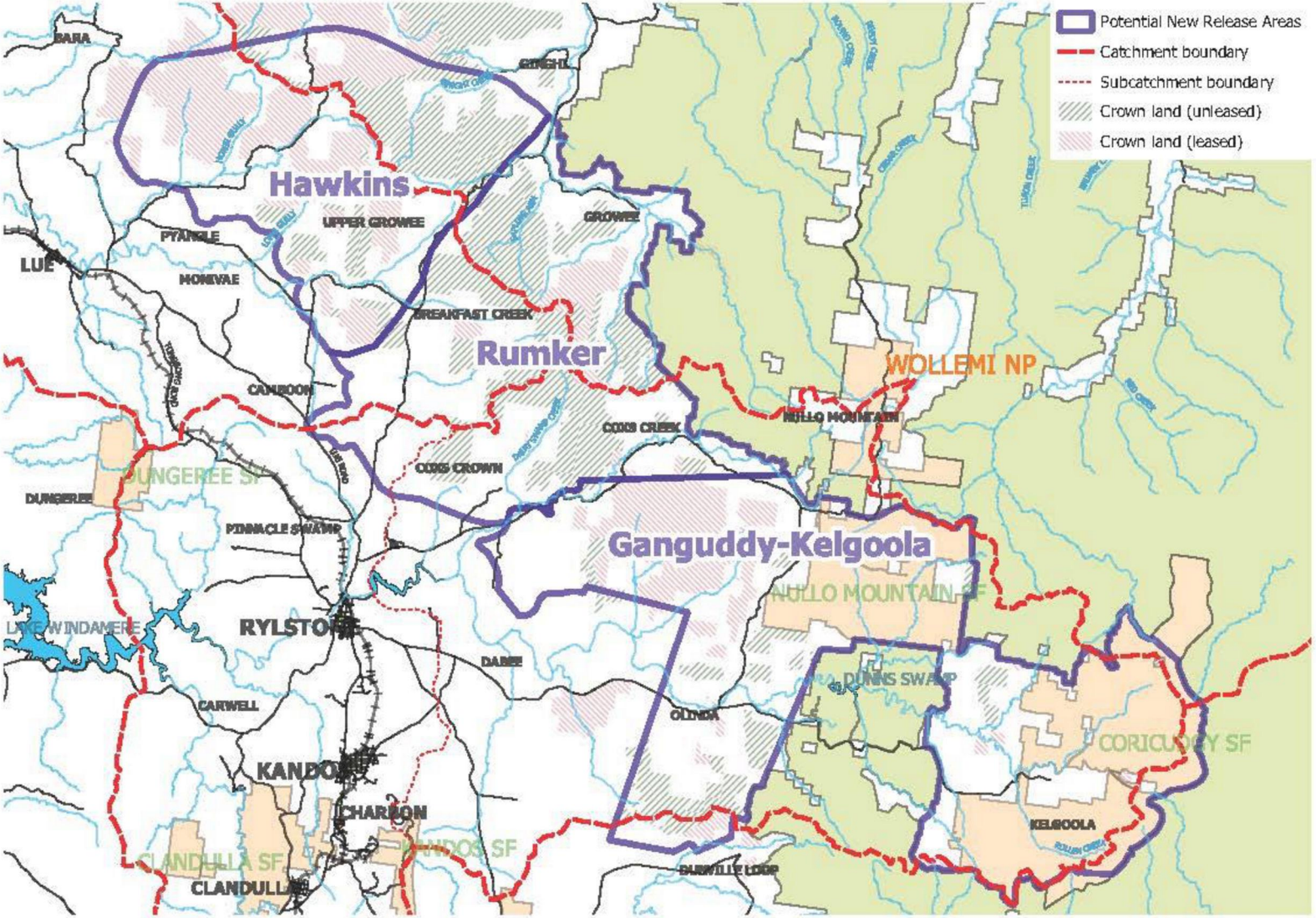

Figure 1 The proposed exploration areas (note only Hawkins and Rumker being considered in this PRIA)

2 | Our region

2.1 Context

2.1.1 The region

Rylstone is a heritage village on the western edge of the Blue Mountains, 238 km (3-hour drive) north-west of Sydney. Its sister town Kandos is a charming twentieth century town nestled at the foot of the Coomber Melon Mountain range. Kandos, and Kandos Cement Works, were founded in the early 1900s to help build the foundations of a new nation as the area was rich in limestone. Since the cement works closed in 2011, Kandos has become a popular tree change destination.

The towns of Rylstone and Kandos are part of the Mudgee Region, located in the Mid-Western Regional Council, Orana Central West area. The Mudgee Region is a popular tourism destination with the benefits of being a friendly country community.

Vines were first planted in the mid-19th century in this area and today the Mudgee Region is the third largest grape-producing region in NSW and boasts more than 40 cellar doors, a thriving art community with excellent galleries and museums, Aboriginal cultural experiences, national parks and nature reserves, community and farmers markets featuring food products and arts and crafts, horse racing, trail rides, hot air ballooning, miniature railway, fishing, canoeing and kayaking and farm visits.

Rylstone and Kandos also offer a unique retail experience with an eclectic collection of shops.

2.1.2 Population

Approximately 24,079 people live in the Mid-Western Regional Local Government Area, with 10,920 living in the Mudgee urban area. At the 2016 census, Rylstone had a population of 920 people. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people made up 4.0 percent of the population. Kandos currently has a population of 1261.

2.1.3 Our tourism industry

The Mudgee Region is experiencing tourism and hospitality growth like never before. Visits to providores, wineries, regular farmers markets and farm walk tours feature an exceptionally broad range of seasonal produce and locally made artisan fare with regional specialties. Some 660,000 people per year on average are visiting the Mudgee Region including the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Mudgee, and Gulgong.

Tourism Research Australia, on behalf of Destination NSW, prepare 4-year average reports for each NSW local government area. The March 2019 Local Government Area Profile for Mid-Western Regional area reported 995,000 overnight visitor stays in the Mudgee Region. This is worth **$171 million** to our local economy and there has been **a 26 percent growth over five years**. (Mudgee Region Tourism, 2021a)

This is supported by the NSW Government tourism and events agency, DestinationNSW who reported the local Mudgee Region Tourism industry in 2016 as worth $139 million (Watson, E. 2016).

The Federal Government's Regional Development Australia Orana (Central West) agency reports tourism is a growing industry in many of the smaller areas, where the communities are taking advantage of their natural beauty, rural outlook, and unique heritage to appeal to visitors.

> "Both accommodation and tourism are growing in the Orana, and provide an array of jobs for local people, particularly in hospitality and customer relations. They nestle between other industries, complementing other regional providers such as the retail and manufacturing sectors. The larger towns rely on major attractions as a drawcard while eco and Aboriginal tourism are growing markets.
>
> Increased visitor numbers are boosting significant growth in tourism-related businesses and employment, including accommodation providers. This is driving the regional economy which in turn is adding to infrastructure and investment opportunities."
>
> *Regional Development Australia, Orana NSW, 2021a.*

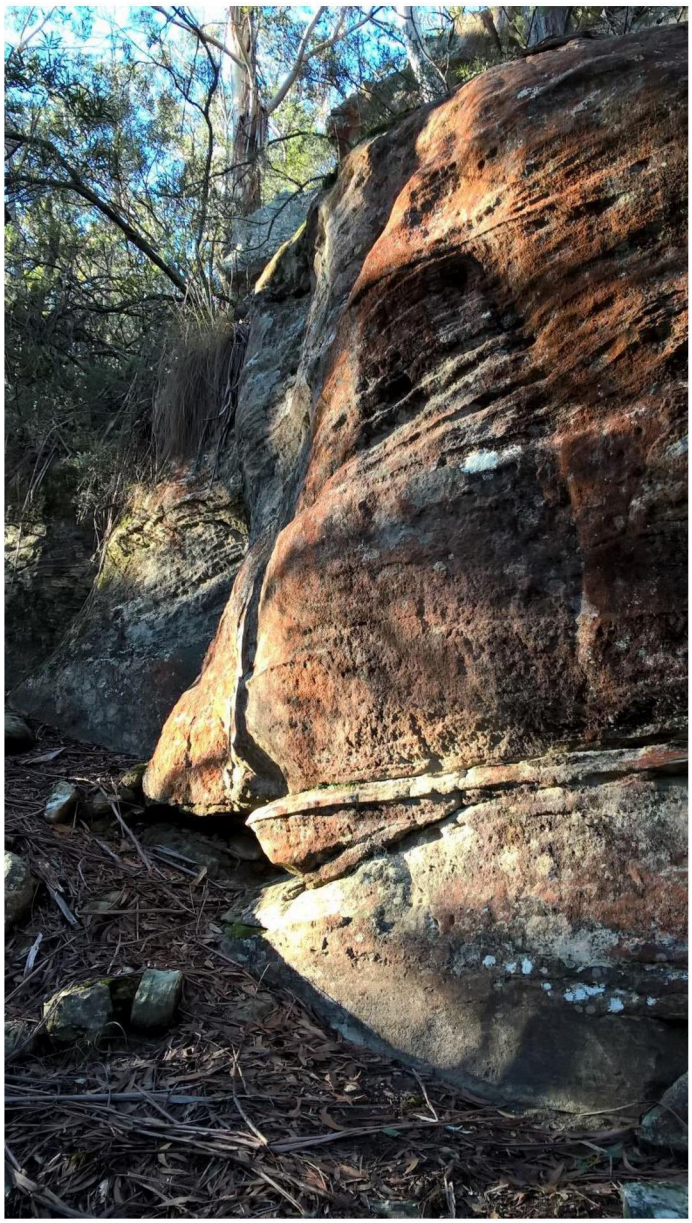

Photo credit: S. Baguley

3 | Statement of the problem

In 2021, regional tourism in New South Wales is booming and the Central West communities of Rylstone, Kandos and Mudgee are enjoying the economic and social benefits this affords.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic preventing international travel, domestic tourists are increasingly taking driving holidays closer to home and even moving to regional areas with the ability to remote work from home full time. This brings a unique opportunity to grow and build on existing industries such as: agriculture, viticulture, tourism, hospitality, retail, and the emerging renewable sector - all strong local employment areas (Regional Development Australia, Orana 2021b).

Much of Hawkins and Rumker areas are within the **Mudgee East area,** which covers Rylstone and Kandos area. Remplan 2019 and 2016 statistics (see also Figure 3) show:

- Tourism supports an estimated **76 jobs** in the selected area which accounts for **7.1 percent of total jobs in this area. (This is an increase of 100 percent on the 2016 figures)**
- Accommodation and food services - have **37 jobs** supported by tourist's expenditure. **(This is an increase of 76 percent on the 2016 figures)**
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry sector is the Mudgee East region's largest employer with 188 jobs (22.3percent). **(This is an increase of 44 percent on the 2016 figures)**
- Mining - supports an estimated 2percent jobs in this area. **This is a *decrease of 24 percent* on the 2016 figures)**
- **731 jobs are supported by tourism in the Mid-Western Regional Council area (23.5 percent).**

Note: tourism here refers to activities across various industry sectors such as retail, accommodation, cafes and restaurants, cultural and recreational services. The tourism industry sector services the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited. (Australian Bureau of Statistics National Accounts Tourism Satellite Account).

These statistics demonstrate that mining is already in decline in our region, and further development of coal mining is unnecessary, and the focus should continue on boosting the growing tourism, accommodation and services and agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries - and on keeping our natural environment pristine. It is important to note this is based on 2019 data, which is not reflective of the recent surge in visitors to the Rylstone region which has been occurring over the past two years.

Mudgee Region Tourism is an independent not for profit organisation, funded by its members, sponsors and a contract with Mid-Western Regional Council. It is responsible for destination marketing of Rylstone and Kandos (Figure 4 and Figure 5). As per their statement:

> "Mudgee Region Tourism is committed to growing the visitor economy across Mudgee, Gulgong, Rylstone, Kandos, and surrounds. We now welcome on average 691,000 visitors annually, resulting in more than 1M overnight visitors and worth over $199M to the region's visitor economy each year.
>
> Research and tourism insights indicate Mudgee Region connects perfectly with those wishing to escape the city for a contemporary country escape, there is confidence in further growth of the visitor economy over the next 3-5 years."
>
> *Mudgee Region Tourism, 2021b*

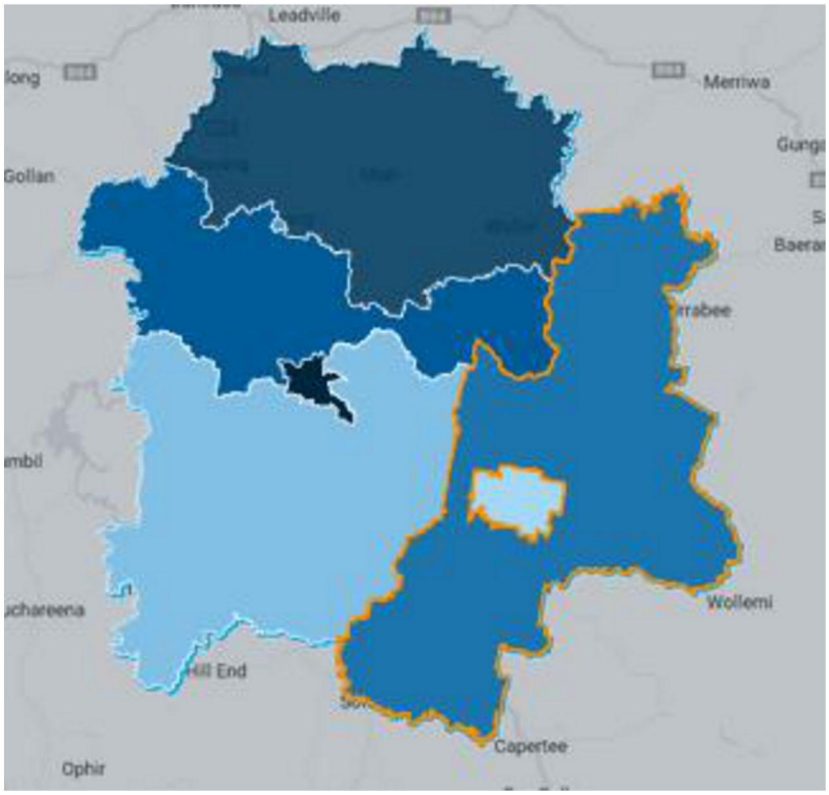

Figure 2 The Mudgee East area
(Source: Remplan 2021)

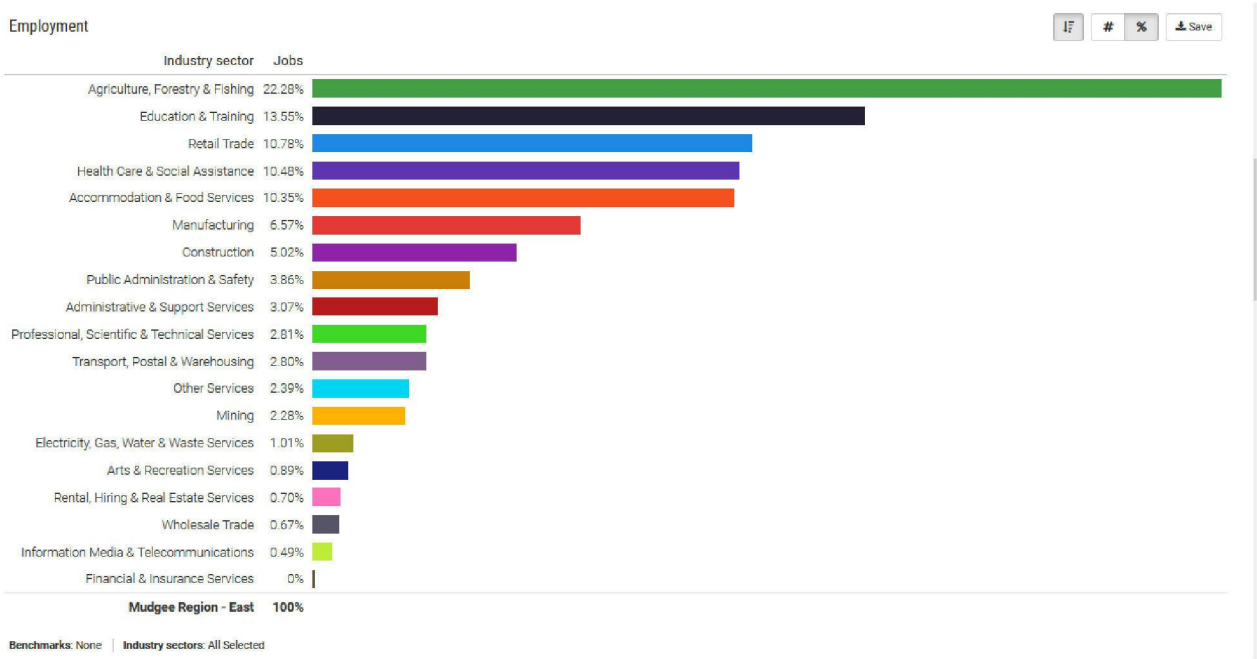

Figure 3 Employment breakdown in the Mudgee East area
(Source: Remplan 2021)

Figure 4 Mudgee Region Tourism promotion of Rylstone and Kandos

Source: Mudgee Region Tourism 2021a

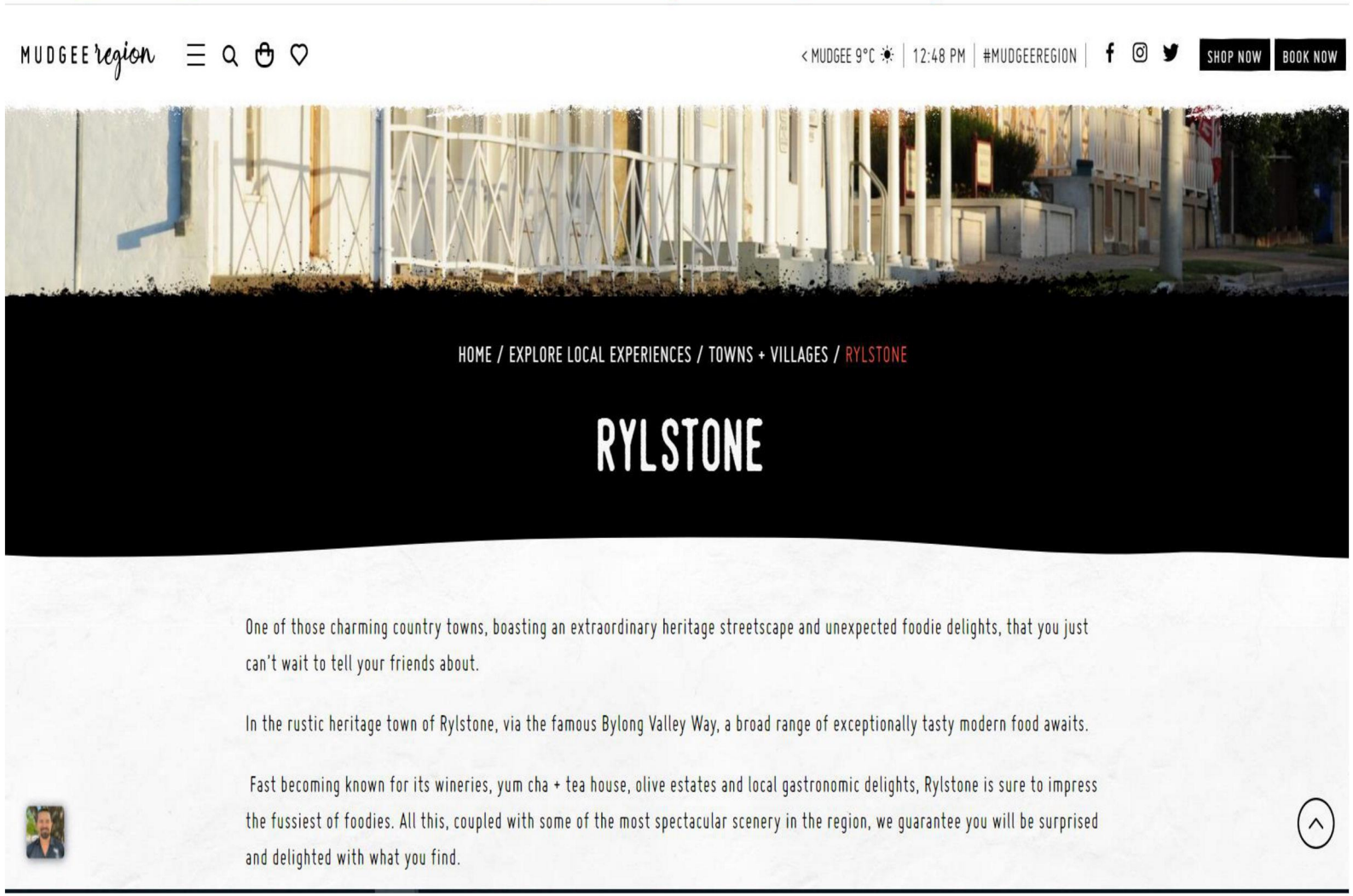

Figure 5 Mudgee Region Tourism promotion of Rylstone

Source: Mudgee Region Tourism 2021a

The clear trends in the visitation growth are shown in the graphs in Figure 6.

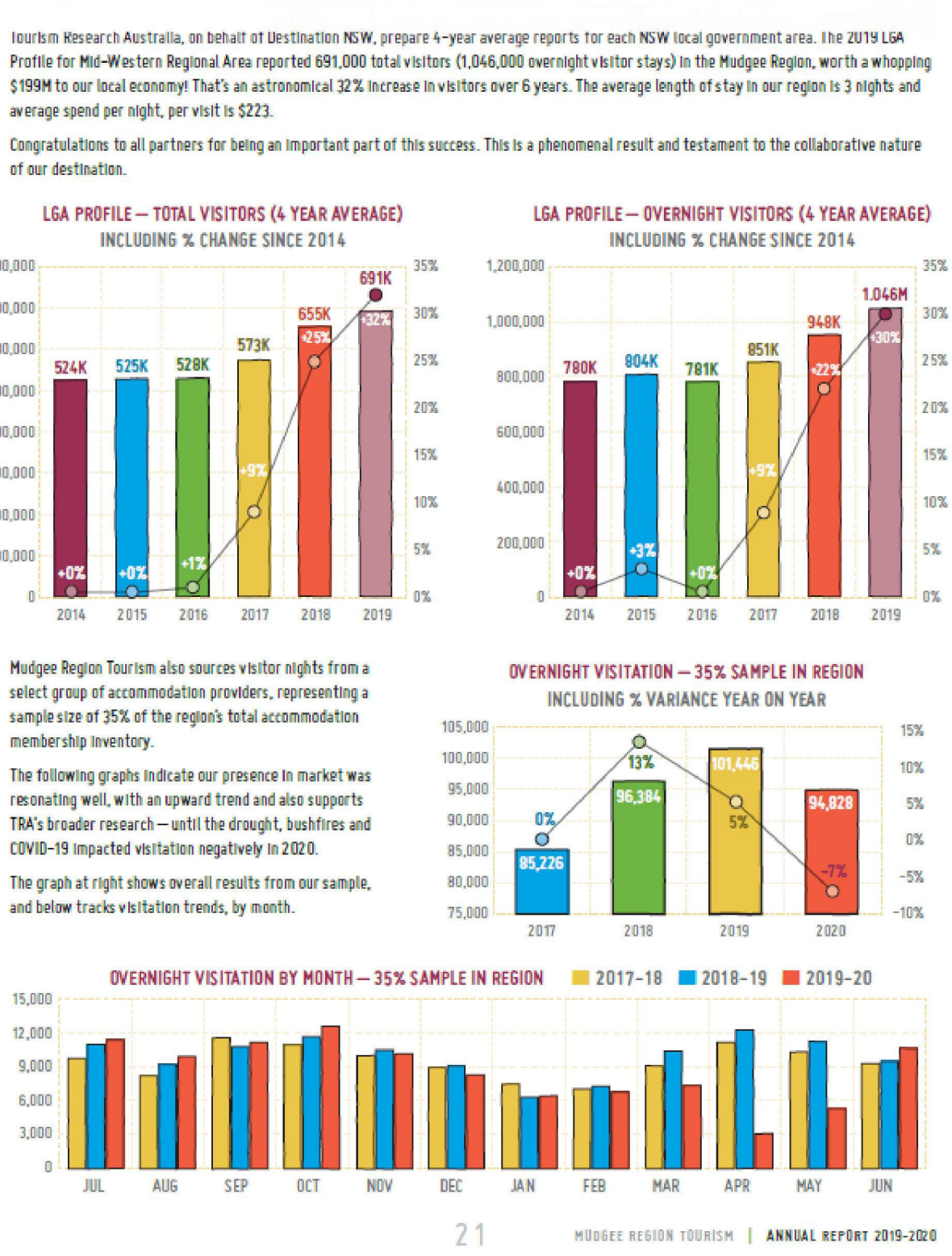

Figure 6 Destination Visitation Growth

Source: Mudgee Region Tourism, 2021b

The results of this, and conversely what is at risk should a coal mine open up in the Hawkins and Rumker areas, is illustrated in the recent Mid-Western Regional Council's 'Doing Business in the Mid-Western Region' e-newsletter. This newsletter proudly announces:

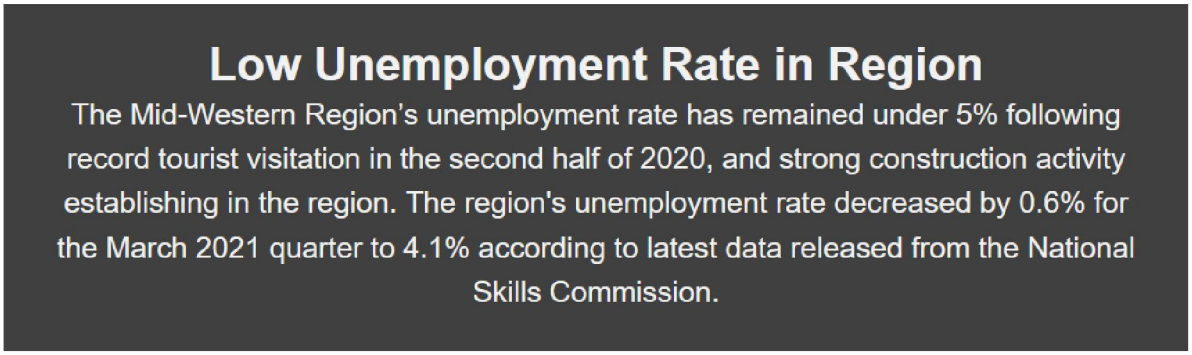

Figure 7 Record tourist visitation drives down unemployment

Source: Mid-Western Regional Council 'Doing Business in the Mid-Western Region' e-newsletter, Tue, 17 Aug 2021

4 | Analysis: Rylstone and Kandos Tourism

4.1.1 Rylstone and Kandos's values

The towns of Rylstone and Kandos act as a gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wollemi National Park to the east and the scenic Capertee Valley to the south. They are located on the beautiful Bylong Valley Way, a road that boasts some of the most spectacular natural heritage in the region. This route provides a leisurely alternative route to Sydney through the Hunter Region and Central Tablelands and return via Rylstone providing a tourist loop.

Rylstone is a destination for travelers on this tourist route (and on the way to and from Mudgee). Business associations and local governments in the area are promoting the journey which is further developing the tourist potential. Rylstone and Kandos have seen a steady increase in tourists visiting its cafes, pubs, wineries, events and bed and breakfast establishments as tourists seek real community experiences.

> **"People are becoming increasingly knowledgeable about, and engaged in, food and wine. Industry experts noted that many visitors wanted to make personal connections with winemakers, producers and proprietors as they sought 'authentic' experiences and products."** *Tourism Research Australia (2015)*

4.2 Food and wine

The Rylstone Wine District is part of the greater Mudgee Wine Region, with great wineries that specialise in cooler climate wines. With a strong historical association with excellent Chardonnay, the region is perhaps better known for its full-flavoured shiraz and cabernet sauvignon which consistently draw acclaim. More recently, the area has also become a leader in organic viticulture.

All of the region's vineyards, wineries and cellar doors are within easy driving distance from Rylstone. Rylstone is also known for its local produce from hand-made dumplings at yum cha to olive estates to quality coffee.

Research commissioned by Destination NSW and Tourism Research Australia in 2014 and 2017 provided insights into specific food and wine regions and the perceptions, motivations and behaviours of domestic food and wine visitors from NSW, Canberra, Brisbane, and Melbourne:

- The Mudgee wine region [which includes the Rylstone district] **was the second most visited by domestic overnight Wine Travellers** (after the Hunter Valley) - 10.0 percent visited the Mudgee Region.
- In the two years (2012–2014), despite the further distance from Sydney, Mudgee region [which includes the Rylstone district] (22 percent) was a popular destination for Sydney residents who are food and wine enthusiasts.
- Food and wine destinations with low proximity to the population centres had low spontaneous awareness (i.e., they required prompting). When prompted, however: **about half of the Sydney respondents were aware of Mudgee (53 percent)**
- When measuring the satisfaction of food and wine experienced in destinations across NSW: **visitors were most satisfied with** Orange (89 percent) and **Mudgee region** [which includes the Rylstone district] **(88 percent).**

- An interesting insight from this research was that: "...respondents indicated that **the journey to the destination and visiting other places of interest nearby** were also important elements of a good food and wine experience."

This points to the importance of towns like Rylstone and Kandos in the broader destination story of Mudgee Region, and the value of collaboration across towns in the development of destination marketing through a variety of experiences.

4.2.1 A taste of the local produce available

a) Food

Here's a taste of local produce available….

- **Rylstone Olive Press**: **#1 Ranked Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil; Top 5 Globally.** You can tour Rylstone Olive Press, maker of award-winning olive oils. Rylstone olives are grown locally and then pressed within six hours of harvest on the very same day, guaranteeing the finest and freshest extra virgin olive oil full of flavour.
- **29nine99 Yum Cha and Tea House:** Gourmet Traveller best rated dumplings in regional Australia.
- **The Globe Hotel:** Wonderful country pub dating back to the middle of the 19th century, serving up a great country pub meal, with a lovely beer garden.
- **The Saffron Kitchen and Cafe:** Café and art gallery, offering great coffee, food, and homemade ice-cream, as well as locally grown artisanal saffron and saffron-infused products made from the owner's saffron plantation.

  "If you fancy yourself as a bit of a gourmet, then you've found your new happy place. Stock up on award-winning olive oil at the Rylstone Olive Press, perfect to fry up some of the gourmet sausages from the Rylstone Butchery. Prefer to eat out? Then be surprised by incredible dim sum and quirky pots of tea served up in quaint surroundings at 29 Nine 99 or go Mexican at Pepino's." *Anne Majumdar, Wild Escapes.*

b) Rylstone-Kandos District Wineries

Rylstone is home to three family-owned boutique, cool climate wine producers that are part of the Central Ranges region of NSW.

- **De Beaurepaire Wines**: awarded Winestate Magazine's 2018 Australian Wine of the Year. The unique vineyard location shares Burgundy's cool, inland climate, and limestone-rich soils – a 'terroir' that produces some of the best wines in the world.
- **Naked Lady Wines**: Located in between Rylstone and Kandos, Naked Lady Wines are best known for their cool climate cabernet and rosé.
- **Elephant Mountain Wines:** a 6-hectare vineyard located in the shadow of Elephant Mountain, Lue. Elephant Mountain Wines are best known for their cool climate shiraz, rosé and pinot grigio.

c) Artisan Spirits

- **Craft Works Distillery:** for artisan single malt whiskey lovers located in Capertee.

4.2.2 Events

The Mudgee Region attracts almost 528,000 visitors each year to experience upwards of 50 annual wine, food, sporting and cultural events and festivals. The hugely popular annual events that Rylstone and Kandos host include food and wine events and sport tourism events, some of which are outlined below.

a) Food and wine tourism events

Street Feast Festival (each November): Growing in popularity each year, Rylstone-Kandos District's premier annual event introduces visitors to the scenic beauty of the area and gives them the opportunity to sample the diverse range of local foods, produce, wines, art and craftwork. The main street of Rylstone is closed to traffic and opened to festival goers, with a street market and buskers providing live entertainment and a gourmet four-course long-table, long lunch worth the visit in itself (long lunch attracts approx. 400 people and is booked out very quickly each year).

As one of the area's biggest events, local businesses get a significant boost. In addition to the daytime festivities, there is usually live entertainment in the pubs and clubs in the evening until late.

> "On Street Feast day, while we've got stalls, the local cafés and restaurants do quite well because not everyone wants to sit down for the long lunch," he added. "So, it's a big day for the businesses of Rylstone and surrounding accommodation outlets." *Rylstone Street Feast Secretary, Peter Monaghan.*

Figure 8 Rylstone Street Feast

Image credit: Rylstone Street Feast.

- Rylstone-Kandos Show (each February): held at the picturesque Rylstone Showground on the banks of the Cudgegong River, the show is a highlight on the NSW agricultural show calendar. It is a community and tourism event to celebrate excellent agricultural produce, talent, animal husbandry, cooking, crafts, and artistry skills. Highlights include a rodeo, wood chopping and spectacular fireworks. https://www.rylstonekandosshowsociety.com/
- **Fermenta Festival** (each March): a one-day celebration of the fermentation process bringing together science, education, and the best of regional produce in historic Rylstone and Kandos. The signature event, the **Twilight Picnic,** is held on the banks of the Cudgegong River, guests enjoy a picturesque picnic filled with local food + wine plus a stellar entertainment line-up. Fermenta is supported by the NSW Government's Create NSW and The Festival of Place – Summer Fund.

- **The Globe Hotel Beer Festival** (in March)**:** Celebrating all things craft brewing with live tunes, expert brewers and over 100 beers to try. Hands-on education + workshops, live demonstrations, produce markets and a Twilight Picnic dining experience.
- **Rylstone Artisan and Produce Markets** (second Saturday of each month) at the Community Hall in Rylstone, the Markets welcome visitors and stall holders in order to promote locally produced items from art, jewellery, cosmetics, candles, giftware as well as fresh, locally grown produce, fruit + vegetables.

b) Sport tourism events

- **Mudgee Classic 2021** (each May): Attracting **3,000 participants to Mudgee and Rylstone,** the cycling event for Bicycling Australia, caters for all riding abilities and offers three unique courses that showcases the spectacular scenery of Lue and Rylstone on the 170km and 120km routes. Funded by NSW Government tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.
- **Rylstone Classic (cars)** (each August) The spiritual home of the Classic Minis is the Globe Hotel, Rylstone. This long running classic car club event offers stunning driving roads from the north and the south, taking in some of the breathtaking scenery.
- **Aviation:** Rylstone is a venue for ultralight aviation, gyrocopters, and paragliding enthusiasts. The Rylstone Airstrip is used for the Aviation Training Institute in Rylstone.

4.2.3 Heritage Tourism

Rylstone was settled in the 1820's, making it one of the oldest settlements west of the Great Dividing Range with large pastoral properties being established along the river. With the assistance of convict labour, these large holdings produced fine merino wool, fat cattle and bloodstock horses.

Rylstone was originally known as Dabee after the local Aboriginal tribe. By 1842, local residents were petitioning the Governor to have the locality named Tong Bong, meaning platypus. Governor Gipps opted to call the village Rylstone instead. There is speculation as to the origin of the name, Rylstone. This includes a Scottish weapon, a village in Yorkshire where local wool was sent, or simply an Irishman referring to the *royal stone* of the area.

The arrival of the railway in June 1884 changed the status of Rylstone from a village to a town. The timber railway station was built with the assistance of Neils Hertzberg Larson, famous Australian poet, Henry Lawson's father.

Figure 9 Rylstone Railway Station opened in 1884

Rylstone's 19th century heritage streetscape includes beautiful sandstone buildings, public houses, cottages, and government buildings constructed in the Victorian and Interwar period from the local sandstone and cedar. Rylstone has retained its original character buildings. Most were constructed between 1865 and 1895.

Rylstone and Kandos are both steeped in history and have self-guided heritage walks, and interesting museums. Rylstone has a number of heritage-listed sites for tourists to visit:

- **1871 Bridge View Inn**· A heritage-listed sandstone building at 28-30 Louee Street, open to the public, offers specialty shops and bed and breakfast accommodation upstairs, the Slab Shed, Cottage Museum and a Community Garden.
- **The Cottage Museum:** a simple 1890's weatherboard home built for local blacksmith, James Nash. It contains the museum and office of Rylstone and District Historical Society.
- Wallerawang-Gwabegar railway: **Rylstone railway station**
- A few other buildings of note are the Globe Hotel, the post office, the police station, the courthouse, and the shire hall. The old town granary was built in the early 1840s.

Importantly, many of the local businesses operate out of these heritage buildings and it is an important contribution to the character of our town.

4.2.4 Arts and culture including Kandos Art scene

- **Convent and Chapel wool shop:** Set in a stunning historic sandstone building in Rylstone, the most iconic rural wool shop in Central West NSW acquires wool from arguably one of the world's most famous sheep areas to provide luxury yarns to discerning knitters and a selection of hand knits.. (Convent and Chapel relates to the Good Samaritan Convent in nearby Kandos which is the proprietor's home.)
- **Kandos Gardens Fair**: popular biennial garden fair held in Autumn, hosted and supported by the Kandos Branch of the Country Women's Association.
- **Kandos Museum** Kandos is the town that made the cement that made Sydney. Established by the cement works in 1914, Kandos thrived as a modern 20th century town in a spectacular rural setting. With the cement works closing in 2011, Kandos Museum has a

vital role in preserving the town's industrial and social history. The museum is a community-run permanent home for a collection of stories, objects and photographs that bring this history to life.

- **Cementa program:** an annual program of Kandos residencies and special projects culminate in our major production, Cementa Festival.
- **Cementa festival:** a four-day biennial contemporary arts festival in Kandos that brings together over 60 regional and urban artists for a celebration of Australian contemporary art and the small town that hosts it.
- **Kandos School of Cultural Adaptation:** a group of artists and writers who support creative activities concerned with cultural change in real-world contexts in areas like farming, urban planning, rural industry, food production and infrastructure development.

4.2.5 Natural Environment Tourism

Rylstone and Kandos are the gateway to the World Heritage-listed Wollemi National Park and the beautiful Bylong Valley, boasting some of the most spectacular natural heritage in the region. Many tourists make Rylstone and Kandos a base to visit nearby natural attractions including:

- **Ferntree Gully:** a stunning rainforest area 17 kms north of Rylstone. Containing large fig trees, the *Pandora pandoreana* with its entangled maze of roots and unique rock orchids Ferntree Gully also shelters lyrebirds, rare powerful owls, scrub turkeys and glossy black cockatoos. Echidnas, marsupial mice, and several snake species are also found here, along with grey kangaroos, wombats, and wallabies.
- **Capertee Valley:** Rylstone is the closest town to explore the Capertee Valley, the world's second largest canyon.
- **Wollemi National Park**: the second largest national park in New South Wales, and contains a large part of the Wollemi Wilderness area. It is home to the only known natural stand of Wollemi pines, so-called "dinosaur trees" that fossil records show existed up to 200m years ago and previously thought extinct which firefighters and other NSW Government agencies saved as part of an outstanding operation in 2019-20.
- **Ganguddy** (as known to local Aboriginal people **formerly known as Dunns Swamp**)**:** A camping and picnic area on the banks of the Cudgegong River on the western edge of Wollemi National Park, Ganguddy is 20 kms from Rylstone. Perfect for a range of recreational activities, from birdwatching and fishing to canoeing and swimming, the waterway was created when Kandos weir was built in the late 1920s to provide water for the cement works. Local animals include wallabies, purple swamp hens and, at night, greater gliders, as well as long-necked turtles and platypus in the weir.
- **Nullo Mountain:** is a high mountain plateau to the north of Dunns Swamp with views over the Wollemi Wilderness and the Widden Valley. One of Australia's highest vineyards is also up there. This is part of Louee vineyard, you can sample their wines at Lowe Wines in Mudgee.
- **Lake Windamere/Windamere Dam**: a large water supply dam with camping facilities, used for year-round water sports and fishing located 36km northwest of Rylstone, Windamere is a popular destination for nature lovers, bushwalkers, campers, and picnickers. The dam has a storage capacity of 368,120 ML, more than half the size of Sydney Harbour. The dam supplies water to the Mid-Western Regional Council for town supplies, river flows, stock and domestic needs, irrigated agriculture, industry, flood mitigation and environmental flows.

Environmental Note: Windamere Dam operates in conjunction with Burrendong Dam to supply water to the Cudgegong and Macquarie valleys. The Cudgegong River is the major drainage feature within the Region. The Windamere Dam impedes the flow of the Cudgegong River southeast of Mudgee and is an important regional water source for town water as well as water for agricultural enterprises such as to irrigate grapes, fruit, vegetables, maize, honey, grains and lucerne.

Contamination of the Windamere Dam from close proximity coal mining would have negative effects on tourism from water contamination, and severe health effects and loss of income from crop and fish contamination (see below).

- **Cudgegong Waters Park:** located on Windamere dam. The Golden perch (aka mega yellow belly or callop) one of Australia's most prominent and iconic freshwater species and is readily available year-round for fishing in typically clear water.

Figure 10 Windamere Dam attracts recreational fishers from far and wide

4.3 Nature based tourism

Nature based and agri-tourism in the Rylstone region has significant advantages, based around natural heritage, food, and wine. Agritourist spending can be a major driver of economic activity and the region already has the required tourism infrastructure, such as accommodation, to cater for the growth in the visitor economy. If visitation growth continues to increase like it has over the past few years, agritourism will become an even stronger sector for the Mudgee Region (which includes Rylstone.)

Rylstone offers many delightful farm stay experiences, drawing a broad range of tourists from young to older visitors, often to create a more direct connection between the farmer, the producer of the food and/or drink and the visitor. In addition, the Rylstone region boasts unique nature-based tourism, attracting niche enthusiasts for birdlife and astronomy tourism.

4.3.1 Agri-tourism

As Deloitte Australia reports in their recent *Agribusiness Bulletin,* agritourism, otherwise known as food tourism, is an important sector of the Australian economy, providing direct and indirect benefits to Australian agribusinesses and regional economies.

> ***"Food and wine experiences are being increasingly sought after as consumers desire to better understand where their food comes from, learn how it is produced and experience the ultimate in low food miles by enjoying produce where it is produced."***
>
> ***More broadly, agritourism allows regional economies to showcase what's good about the region, its unique growing conditions and natural resources (pristine air, water and soils) and provides a visitor drawcard from which other regional tourism businesses and experiences can benefit."*** (Deloitte Australia, Agribusiness Bulletin, 2021)

State tourism agency, DestinationNSW reports game changing opportunities from the Western Sydney Airport opening in 2026, by linking Western Sydney to the Central West and growing an east-west visitor economy based on agri-tourism.

> ***"With more visitors likely to begin their NSW visits in Western Sydney due to the development of the Western Sydney Airport, there is a case to be made for the development of the east-west visitor economy based on food and wine, which starts in Western Sydney, via the Blue Mountains and concludes in the Central West.***
>
> ***"Western Sydney can be positioned as a gateway to Orange/Mudgee, packaged as part of a bigger touring route. This east-west trail will be heavily reliant on tourism based on food and wine."*** (Destination NSW 2017/18)

Matt Brand, CEO, of the NSW Farmers' Association further explains the advantages of growing a Central West food economy to transform regional centres into social and economic hubs with opportunity to upscale.

> ***"Central West New South Wales (NSW) can become a shining example of successful decentralisation, where the region's natural advantages in food production are utilised to create new economic opportunities in food manufacturing, provenance- based food and wine experiences, and agri-tourism.***
>
> ***Developing a Food Economy in NSW can be that ambitious vision to spark a step-change within the food and agricultural sectors, and the catalyst for the viable and sustainable revitalisation of regional communities.***
>
> ***The Food Economy refers to activities that are underpinned by the production and consumption of food. This includes traditional activities such as agriculture, food processing, and manufacturing. It also captures services, such as food and wine-based tourism and agri-tourism."*** Growing NSW's Food Economy: Linking Western Sydney and the Central West (2020)

Over the last five years the number of agritourists visiting farms or wineries in Australia has grown significantly. According to data collected by Tourism Research Australia, between 2015-16:

- The number of domestic tourists who visited a farm on their trip increased by 9% per annum on average, while the comparable number of international tourists increased by 11% per annum
- The number of domestic tourists visiting wineries grew by 13% per annum on average, while the number of comparable international visitors increased by 8% per annum.

In some regions, the economic value of agritourism is likely to be bigger than the value of the primary produce.

a) What are the top regions for agritourists?

The maps below show the number of domestic day and overnight visitors experiencing the five main agritourism activities (2015-2016) noting numbers are signficantly increasing since then.

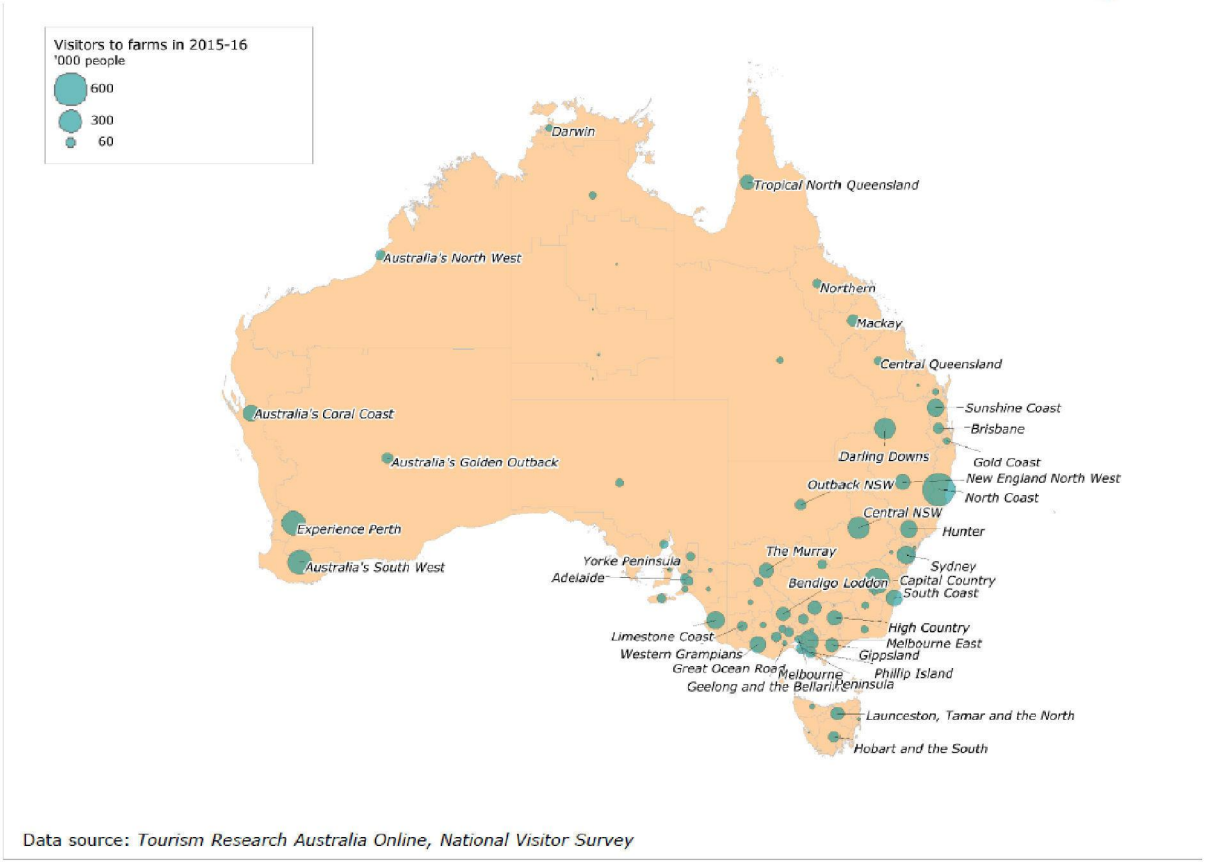

Figure 11 Visitors to farms in 2015-2016

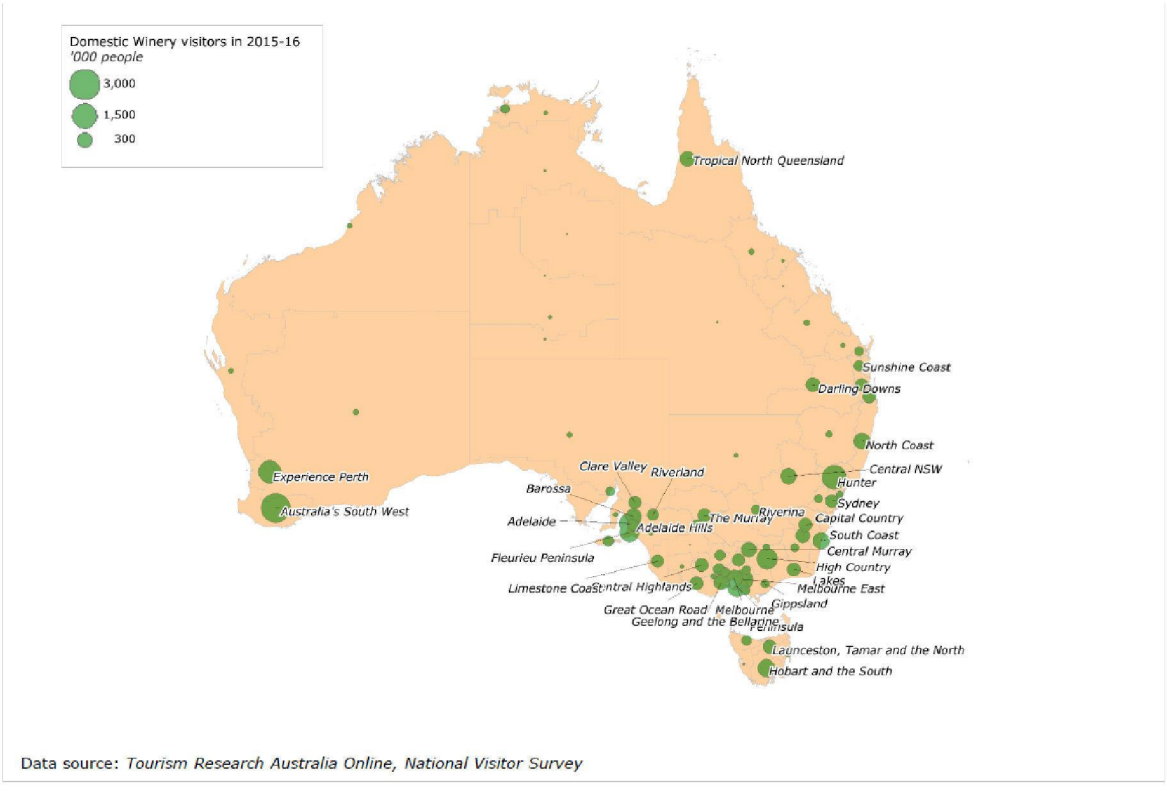

Figure 12 Visitors to wineries in 2015-2016

4.3.2 Farm stays

The increasing interest of consumers to know the origin of their food is leading to strong growth in agritourism in regional areas including the Rylstone region, which is known for its fantastic farm stays. Many are surrounded by trees with large numbers of birds that visit and co-inhabit. Visitors get a little taste of what it's like to live on a farm often with sheep, cattle, chicken and home-grown fruit and vegetables or vineyards.

> ***"Our visitors come to enjoy the farms & farm life - they want their families to have that grounding experience." Cheryl, Franks' Breakaway Farm Stay***

Some of the thriving local Rylstone farm stays that would be severely affected by new coal mines in this area, either taking over their land, causing air pollution for the animals and/or scaring away tourists include:

- https://www.camphillcottage.com.au/
- https://coomberaccommodation.com.au/
- http://www.franksbreakaway.com.au/
- https://www.ridgewoodrylstone.com.au/
- https://www.thecubbyhousefarmstay.com.au/
- https://wallingafarmstay.com.au/
- https://www.wollemiretreat.com.au/

Local Rylstone Farmers, Lindoway Farm, have a growing farm of animals and also spend their time rescuing and rehabilitating native wildlife such as emus, wallabies and kangaroos. Lindoway Farm is located in the proposed coal exploration license zone - a real life example of the potentially devasting impact on both native animals and the landowners who look after them.

4.3.3 Birdlife tourism

Birdlife tourism is a niche market attracting visitors to the Rylstone area. Studies says there are many positive effects of nature on mental well-being from birdsong. A study by Eleanor Ratcliffe, University of Surrey (2021) found that 'Bird songs and calls were found to be the type of natural sound most commonly associated with perceived stress recovery and attention restoration.'

The Frank's family run a busy farm stay called Franks' Breakaway Farm stay, specialising in bird tourism at Olinda, east of Rylstone.

> ***"Many visitors come to our region specifically to see the birds. The twitcher and birders, the photographers and the artists - these visitors came from all over. Bird watchers have found ninety different species around this area. Our birdlife adds to the quality of stay for our visitors/tourists - people come to stay with us to 'recharge their batteries'".***

Photo credit: P. Joseph

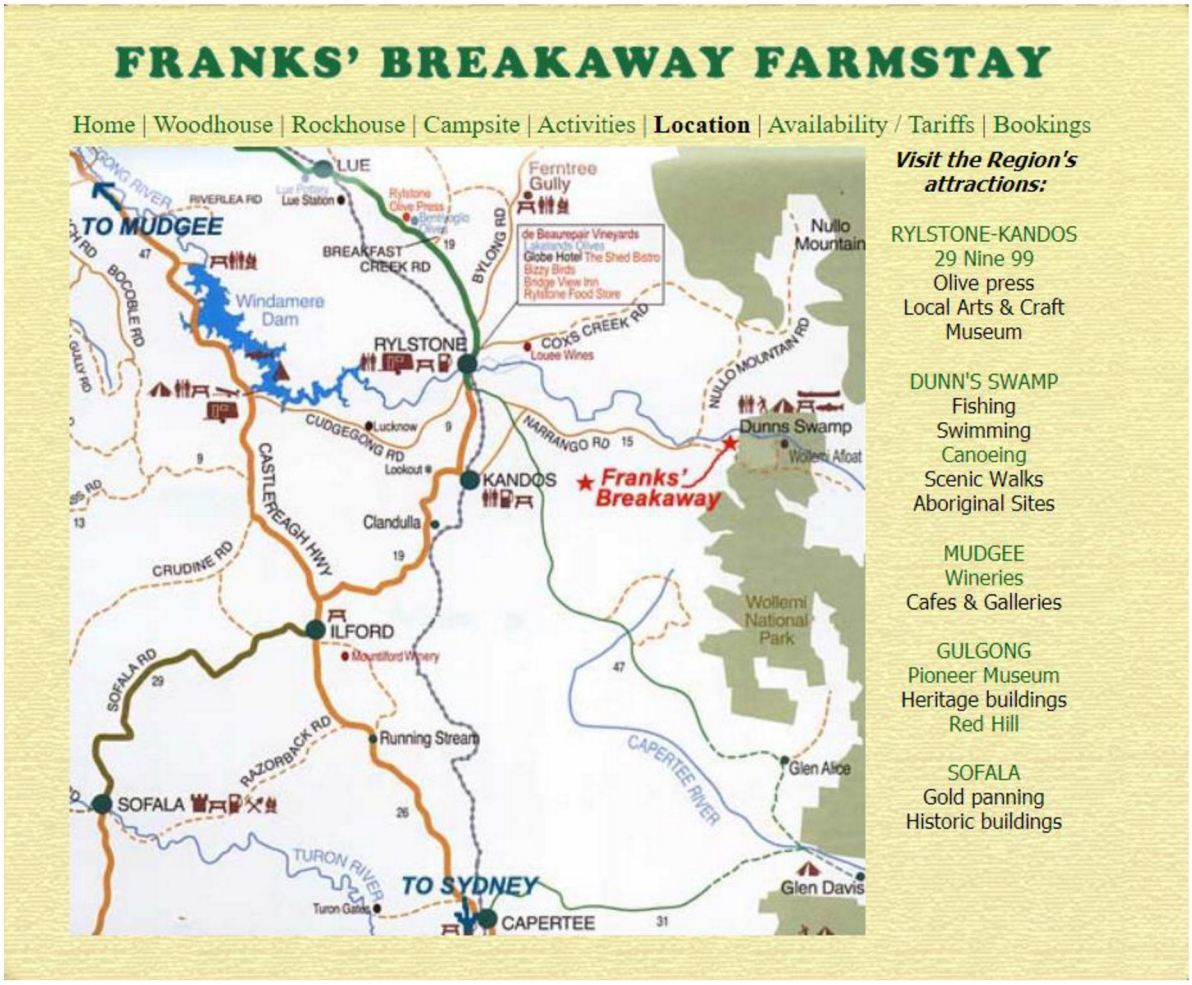

Figure 13 Franks' Breakaway Farm

Enthusiastic bird-watching tourists often come to see and purposely document the local bird species. The local bird data list below reports recent sightings of critically endangered, endangered, and vulnerable bird species in the Upper Cudgegong. The following birds have all been sighted and importantly recorded by birdlife tourists at Gunguddy/Dunns Swamp. A fuller list is attached in Appendix A.

Table 1 Endangered bird species recorded by birdlife tourists

Bird variety	Number	Status
Regent Honeyeater	4	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
Varied Sittella	19	ENDANGERED
Black-necked Stork (Jabiru)	1	ENDANGERED
Barking Owl	1	VULNERABLE
Blue-billed Duck	1	VULNERABLE
Brown Treecreeper	10	VULNERABLE
Diamond Firetail	4	VULNERABLE

ebird (2021) releases the 'Top bird sighting hotspot locations in the Mid-Western Council region', Figure 14, which show many of the places are within the Rylstone region.

Figure 14 Top bird sighting hotspot locations

4.3.4 Astronomy tourism

Astronomy tourism involves 'star parties' where attendees are provided with the chance to meet other amateur and professional astronomers, and observe under dark skies with superb seeing conditions, through all types and sizes of telescopes.

"The Central West boasts some of the darkest skies in Australia and is a wonderful place to appreciate the marvels of the night sky," says John Sarkissian, operations scientist at CSIRO Parkes Observatory and a founding member of the Central West Astronomical Society.

"Visitors to the region are amazed by the number of stars that are visible, which is something they never see from light-polluted city skies."

This statement from one of Australia's top astronomy scientists highlights one of the many reasons we need to keep our air free of pollution from coal mines.

a) Star parties

The Astronomical Society of NSW run a popular observatory on 43 hectares of land at their country property, Wiruna *(Aboriginal for "Sunset")*. This wonderful dark-sky location is near Ilford (on the Castlereagh Highway west of Rylstone\Kandos). Since 1993, they have hosted an annual South Pacific Star Party (SPSP) at Wiruna and new moon observation sessions with facilities on site including 17.5" and 25" telescopes for use by members, plus camping facilities.

The SPSP typically includes daytime talks and workshops, while evening events include observing, socialising, and sky tours (naked-eye and with telescopes). Wiruna is also a birdwatchers and nature-lover's paradise, with an abundance of colourful native Australian birds and possums, wombats, and kangaroos.

The Southern Pacific Star Party attendance has seen visitor numbers in the high 200s, low 300s in recent years which is another reason to cultivate and grow this sector.

"Among the eucalyptus woodlands in New South Wales, Australia, there is 100 acres of land designated for stargazing. Owned by a local astronomy society, each year the society hosts a "South Pacific Star Party," during which [up to 300] people convene for a weekend of ***star watching beneath one of the world's darkest skies.****"* - Forbes.com, 18 June 2008 https://www.asnsw.com/spsp

Figure 15 The Moon, as photographed from Kandos August 2021

Photo credit: M. Vessey

Figure 16 The Astronomical Society of New South Wales hosts South Pacific Star Parties at Ilford

Source: Astronomical Society of NSW 2021

Figure 17 Up to 300 people convene annually at Ilford for the South Pacific Star Party

Source: Astronomical Society of NSW 2021

5 | Conclusion

This report is the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community's (RRCFC's) submission to the PRIA process on *Tourism values*. Separate submissions for a range of other issues are also being submitted by the RRCFC. The RRCFC recognises that coal exploration is a precursor to coal mining, and therefore it is predominantly the mining phase that is considered in this submission. The RRCFC strongly opposes the release of Hawkins and Rumker as coal exploration areas.

The Rylstone and Kandos tourism offerings and attractions demonstrates there is no need for new coal mine developments.

New coal mines in close proximity to the towns of Rylstone and Kandos are a threat to the increasing economic and social prospects that the Rylstone and Kandos region's unique tourism experience offer for residents to prosper and for visitors to enjoy.

Long term, sustainable and healthy alternative industries like food, wine, agriculture, art and culture, and natural environment tourism are valued and help our Rylstone and Kandos communities thrive. As such, they need to be protected and supported.

It is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration and the resulting report, and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

Coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

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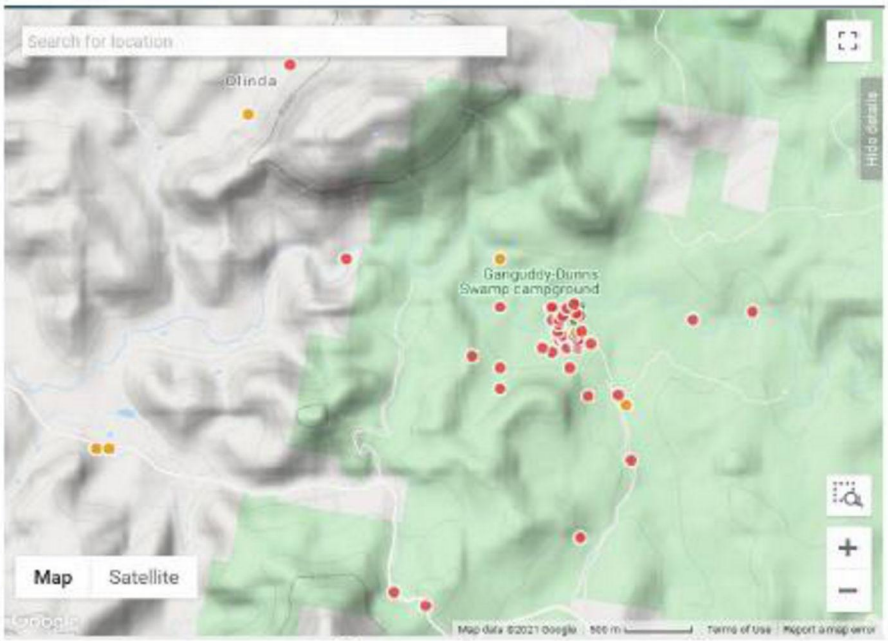
Appendix A | Olinda - Gunguddy/Dunns Swamp Bird List

Olinda - Gunguddy/Dunns Swamp Bird Sp. Jan 1994 to Present

Sp. 205 ... Vulnerable + Sp. 18



COMMON NAME	COUNT	REPORTING RATE	NSW STATUS
Australasian Darter	37	10.19%	
Australasian Grebe	85	23.42%	
Australasian Pipit	8	2.20%	
Australasian Shoveler	13	3.58%	
Australian Brush-turkey	1	0.28%	
Australian Hobby	1	0.28%	
Australian King-Parrot	51	14.05%	
Australian Magpie	135	37.19%	
Australian Owlet-nightjar	8	2.20%	
Australian Pelican	15	4.13%	
Australian Raven	116	31.96%	
Australian Reed-Warbler	65	17.91%	
Australian Shelduck	1	0.28%	
Australian White Ibis	4	1.10%	
Australian Wood Duck	125	34.44%	
Azure Kingfisher	11	3.03%	
Barking Owl	*1*	*0.28%*	*VULNERABLE*
Barn Owl	1	0.28%	
Bar-shouldered Dove	2	0.55%	
Bassian Thrush	5	1.38%	

Bell Miner	3	0.83%	
Black Swan	47	12.95%	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	62	17.08%	
Black-faced Woodswallow	2	0.55%	
Black-fronted Dotterel	17	4.68%	
Black-necked Stork (Jabiru)	*1*	*0.28%*	*ENDANGERED*
Black-shouldered Kite	4	1.10%	
Blue-billed Duck	1	0.28%	*VULNERABLE*
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	0.55%	
Brown Falcon	5	1.38%	
Brown Goshawk	5	1.38%	
Brown Quail	5	1.38%	
Brown Thornbill	122	33.61%	
Brown Treecreeper	10	2.75%	*VULNERABLE*
Brown-headed Honeyeater	15	4.13%	
Brush Bronzewing	1	0.28%	
Brush Cuckoo	4	1.10%	
Buff-rumped Thornbill	63	17.36%	
Channel-billed Cuckoo	9	2.48%	
Chestnut Teal	12	3.31%	
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	6	1.65%	
Cicadabird	4	1.10%	
Collared Sparrowhawk	2	0.55%	
Common Blackbird	1	0.28%	
Common Bronzewing	35	9.64%	
Common Myna	2	0.55%	
Common Starling	14	3.86%	
Crescent Honeyeater	2	0.55%	
Crested Pigeon	20	5.51%	
Crested Shrike-tit	10	2.75%	
Crimson Rosella	135	37.19%	
Crow & Raven spp	5	1.38%	
Diamond Firetail	4	1.10%	*VULNERABLE*
Dollarbird	7	1.93%	
Double-barred Finch	6	1.65%	
Dusky Moorhen	95	26.17%	
Dusky Woodswallow	9	2.48%	*VULNERABLE*
Eastern Koel	3	0.83%	
Eastern Rosella	70	19.28%	
Eastern Spinebill	92	25.34%	
Eastern Whipbird	51	14.05%	

Eastern Yellow Robin	119	32.78%	
Eurasian Coot	187	51.52%	
European Goldfinch	1	0.28%	
Fairy Martin	10	2.75%	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	33	9.09%	
Freckled Duck	1	0.28%	*VULNERABLE*
Fuscous Honeyeater	1	0.28%	
Galah	18	4.96%	
Gang-gang Cockatoo	67	18.46%	*VULNERABLE*
Gilbert's Whistler	1	0.28%	
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	5	1.38%	*VULNERABLE*
Golden Whistler	44	12.12%	
Golden-headed Cisticola	3	0.83%	
Great Cormorant	95	26.17%	
Great Crested Grebe	1	0.28%	
Great Egret	27	7.44%	
Grey Butcherbird	34	9.37%	
Grey Currawong	11	3.03%	
Grey Fantail	133	36.64%	
Grey Goshawk	1	0.28%	
Grey Shrike-thrush	122	33.61%	
Grey Teal	35	9.64%	
Grey-crowned Babbler	1	0.28%	
Hardhead	7	1.93%	
Hoary-headed Grebe	4	1.10%	
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	4	1.10%	
House Sparrow	1	0.28%	
Intermediate Egret	5	1.38%	
Jacky Winter	20	5.51%	
Latham's Snipe	1	0.28%	
Laughing Kookaburra	167	46.01%	
Leaden Flycatcher	11	3.03%	
Lewin's Honeyeater	7	1.93%	
Little Black Cormorant	82	22.59%	
Little Corella	3	0.83%	
Little Eagle	1	0.28%	*VULNERABLE*
Little Friarbird	2	0.55%	
Little Lorikeet	4	1.10%	*VULNERABLE*
Little Pied Cormorant	53	14.60%	
Little Raven	6	1.65%	
Little Wattlebird	2	0.55%	

Magpie-lark	66	18.18%	
Masked Lapwing	72	19.83%	
Masked Woodswallow	1	0.28%	
Mistletoebird	9	2.48%	
Musk Duck	75	20.66%	
Musk Lorikeet	7	1.93%	
Nankeen Kestrel	22	6.06%	
Nankeen Night-Heron	7	1.93%	
New Holland Honeyeater	59	16.25%	
Noisy Friarbird	108	29.75%	
Noisy Miner	67	18.46%	
Olive-backed Oriole	31	8.54%	
Pacific Baza	1	0.28%	
Pacific Black Duck	125	34.44%	
Painted Button-quail	1	0.28%	
Pallid Cuckoo	6	1.65%	
Peaceful Dove	6	1.65%	
Peregrine Falcon	1	0.28%	
Pied Butcherbird	24	6.61%	
Pied Cormorant	86	23.69%	
Pied Currawong	146	40.22%	
Pilotbird	8	2.20%	
Plum-headed Finch	1	0.28%	
Powerful Owl	2	0.55%	*VULNERABLE*
Purple Swamphen	148	40.77%	
Rainbow Bee-eater	7	1.93%	
Rainbow Lorikeet	1	0.28%	
Red Wattlebird	130	35.81%	
Red-browed Finch	28	7.71%	
Red-browed Treecreeper	13	3.58%	
Red-capped Robin	1	0.28%	
Red-kneed Dotterel	8	2.20%	
Red-rumped Parrot	5	1.38%	
Regent Honeyeater	4	1.10%	*CRITICALLY ENDANGERED*
Restless Flycatcher	7	1.93%	
Rockwarbler	43	11.85%	
Rose Robin	2	0.55%	
Royal Spoonbill	4	1.10%	
Rufous Fantail	4	1.10%	
Rufous Songlark	5	1.38%	
Rufous Whistler	93	25.62%	

Sacred Kingfisher	50	13.77%	
Satin Bowerbird	47	12.95%	
Satin Flycatcher	5	1.38%	
Scarlet Honeyeater	2	0.55%	
Scarlet Robin	39	10.74%	*VULNERABLE*
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	7	1.93%	
Silver Gull	1	0.28%	
Silvereye	41	11.29%	
Singing Honeyeater	1	0.28%	
Sooty Owl (Greater)	2	0.55%	*VULNERABLE*
Southern Boobook	35	9.64%	
Southern Whiteface	1	0.28%	
Speckled Warbler	4	1.10%	*VULNERABLE*
Spotted Dove	1	0.28%	
Spotted Pardalote	116	31.96%	
Spotted Quail-thrush	27	7.44%	
Straw-necked Ibis	9	2.48%	
Striated Pardalote	69	19.01%	
Striated Thornbill	99	27.27%	
Striped Honeyeater	4	1.10%	
Stubble Quail	1	0.28%	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	120	33.06%	
Superb Fairy-wren	178	49.04%	
Superb Lyrebird	83	22.87%	
Swamp Harrier	4	1.10%	
Tawny Frogmouth	9	2.48%	
Tawny Grassbird	1	0.28%	
Topknot Pigeon	1	0.28%	
Tree Martin	5	1.38%	
Turquoise Parrot	1	0.28%	*VULNERABLE*
Varied Sittella	19	5.23%	*ENDANGERED*
Variegated Fairy-wren	13	3.58%	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	27	7.44%	
Weebill	11	3.03%	
Welcome Swallow	68	18.73%	
Western Gerygone	3	0.83%	
Whiskered Tern	2	0.55%	
Whistling Kite	3	0.83%	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	6	1.65%	
White-browed Babbler	5	1.38%	
White-browed Scrubwren	101	27.82%	

White-browed Woodswallow	1	0.28%	
White-cheeked Honeyeater	1	0.28%	
White-eared Honeyeater	80	22.04%	
White-faced Heron	77	21.21%	
White-headed Pigeon	1	0.28%	
White-naped Honeyeater	52	14.33%	
White-necked Heron	24	6.61%	
White-plumed Honeyeater	30	8.26%	
White-throated Gerygone	67	18.46%	
White-throated Nightjar	4	1.10%	
White-throated Treecreeper	154	42.42%	
White-winged Chough	72	19.83%	
White-winged Triller	6	1.65%	
Willie Wagtail	110	30.30%	
Wonga Pigeon	38	10.47%	
Yellow Thornbill	16	4.41%	
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	4	1.10%	
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	158	43.53%	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	34	9.37%	
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	42	11.57%	
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	23	6.34%	

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:10:10 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: hawkins-rumker-submission_clyde_18aug2021.pdf

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Nic

Last name
Clyde

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Sydney, 2206

Submission file
hawkins-rumker-submission_clyde_18aug2021.pdf

Submission
I oppose coal exploration in Hawkins Rumker for the reasons in my attached submission.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

Nic Clyde
Sydney
18 August 2021

Submission - Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Hawkins Rumker PRIA. I **oppose** new coal exploration in this area and elsewhere in NSW for reasons outlined below.

This PRIA process must not be allowed to undermine a far more important policy objective of the NSW Government, which is to take "decisive and responsible action on climate change" (Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-30).

Dr Pep Canadell is a coordinating lead author of a chapter of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment report and the director of the Global Carbon Project based at CSIRO. Dr Canadell was interviewed by the Sydney Morning Herald and was asked about his views on what is required to stabilise the climate and see it start to cool by the end of this century.

> *"First, carbon emissions must be brought to zero quickly, says Dr Canadell. If we hope to keep within the 1.5 degree range – the more aspirational target in the Paris Agreement – this must be done by 2050. Secondly, what new emissions we still allow into the atmosphere must be done within a carefully measured carbon budget, one that will likely be allocated to each country by negotiation. Thirdly, we must then begin the job of withdrawing billions of tonnes of that accumulated carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and burying it back underground where it came from."*[1]

To encourage exploration activity in Hawkins Rumker - which may enable the mining of 910 Mt of coal - would be to take action that is precisely opposite to that recommended by Dr Canadell. If 910 Mt of coal were mined and combusted, this would release approximately 2 billion tonnes of CO2-e into the atmosphere at a time when carbon withdrawal (negative emissions) is required.

Strategic context – much has changed since the NSW Gov't published John Barilaro's 'Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining'

Since the NSW Government published the 'Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining':

- **IPCC published their 'Sixth Assessment Report':** underscoring the urgency of limiting GHG emissions to stay within the 1.5 degree temperature goal.

- **IEA found that no new oil, coal or gas can be developed** anywhere in the world if we are to meet the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degree temperature target

- **NSW Treasury stated that global demand and domestic coal production in NSW will be "significantly weaker"** than predicted five years ago

[1] SMH, Carbon dreaming: how to fix the climate crisis, Nick O'Malley and Peter Hannam, August 14, 2021

- **UN Secretary General called for a phase out of thermal coal generation in OECD countries by 2030**

- **Australian Academy of Science called for an acceleration of Australia's transition to net zero**

- **Major customers of coal produced in NSW announced net zero targets and increasing ambition for action on climate change**

Timeline of key events and announcements which undermine the strategic need for new coal exploration in NSW

August 2021

- On 9 August, the IPCC released it's long-awaited Sixth Assessment Report. "For a given temperature target, there's a finite amount of carbon we can emit before reaching net zero emissions. To have a 50:50 chance of halting warming at around 1.5°C, this quantity is about 500 billion tonnes of CO2. At current levels of CO2 emissions this "carbon budget" would be used up within 12 years."[2]

- On 10 August, Australia's biggest electricity user announced it is aiming to switch to a predominantly renewable power supply by 2029.[3]

July 2021

- Japan announced new draft energy generation and climate targets that would see it's demand for thermal coal fall by about 40% by 2030. Last year, Japan was the top consumer of Australian thermal coal.[4]

- On 30 July, a mine neighbouring the proposed exploration area – Angus Place – withdrew its proposal to extract about 135 Mt of coal out to 2053. The revised Angus Place West project would dig up 12 million tonnes of coal over an eight-year period.

May 2021

- The IEA found that no new oil, coal or gas can be developed anywhere in the world if we are to meet the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degree temperature target

- A technical report informing NSW Treasury's Intergenerational Report 2021 found that global demand and domestic coal production in NSW is projected to be "significantly weaker" than predicted five years ago with the factors underpinning weakening global demand for coal as "technological development and policy settings aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions".[5]

April 2021

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[2] https://reneweconomy.com.au/this-is-the-most-sobering-report-card-yet-on-climate-change-and-earths-future-what-you-need-to-know/

[3] https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/tomago-aluminium-to-go-green-20210810-p58hea

[4] SMH, 22 July 2021, Japan's clean energy push a threat to Australian coal, LNG exports, https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/japan-s-clean-energy-push-a-threat-to-australian-coal-lng-exports-20210722-p58bzq.html

[5] NSW Treasury, May 2021, The sensitivity of the NSW economic and fiscal outlook to global coal demand and the broader energy transition for the 2021 NSW Intergenerational Report

President Tsai Ing-wen announced that Taiwan has begun planning for net zero emissions by 2050.[6]

March 2021

- The UN Secretary General called for a phase out of thermal coal generation in OECD countries by 2030: "Phasing out coal from the electricity sector is the single most important step to get in line with the 1.5 degree goal."[7]

- The Australian Academy of Science called for an acceleration of Australia's transition to net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the next 10 to 20 years.[8]

October 2020

- Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared that Japan will aim for net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.[9]

- President Moon Jae-in announced that South Korea aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.[10]

September 2020

President Xi Jinping announced to the UN general assembly that China would aim to become "carbon neutral" before 2060.[11]

The strategic need for new coal in the PRIA is based on obsolete modelling of future coal demand.

The business case for new coal cited in the PRIA is based on the NSW Government's 'Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining', which was released in June 2020. The coal demand projections in this document are already obsolete.

Coal demand cited in the 'Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining' to justify new release areas is not realistic and is undermined by more recent NSW Government policy documents and subsequent coal mine project approvals.

The 'Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining' acknowledged that 85% of the coal mined in NSW is exported, mainly to Japan, China, South Korea and Taiwan. This PRIA process needs to acknowledge that since this document was published, Japan and South Korea have both pledged net zero by 2050, China before 2060, and Taiwan's President has signalled that a net zero announcement is on the way.

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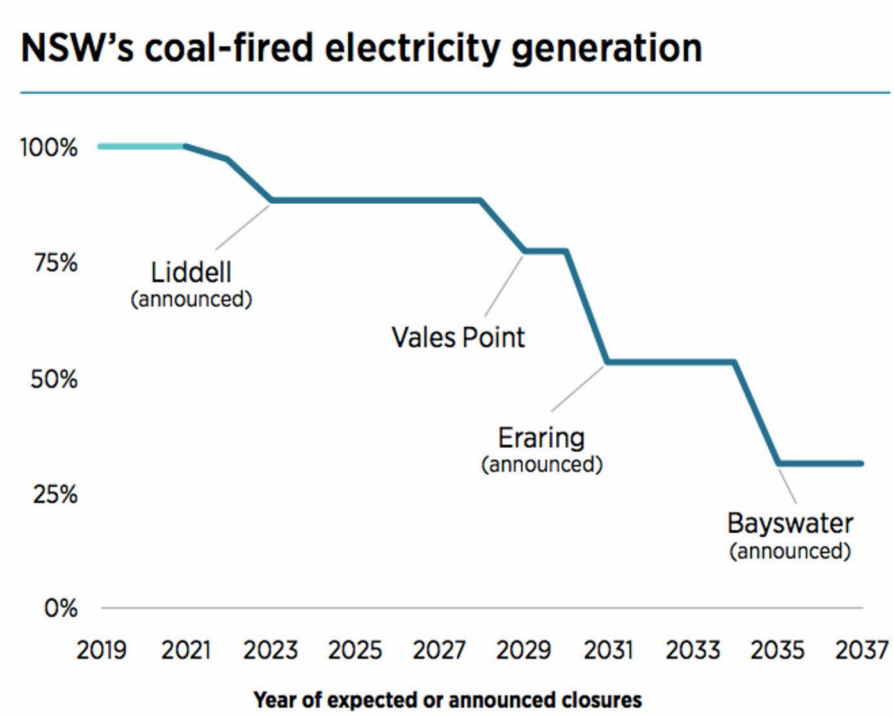
[6] Reuters, 22 April 2021, Taiwan begins to plan for zero emissions by 2050, https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/taiwan-begins-plan-zero-emissions-by-2050-2021-04-22/
[7] UN, 2 March, 2021, Secretary-General urges countries to end 'deadly addiction' to coal, https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1086132
[8] https://www.science.org.au/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/risks-australia-warmer-world
[9] Reuters, 26 October 2020, Japan aims for zero emissions, carbon neutral society by 2050 – PM, https://www.reuters.com/article/japan-politics-suga-idUSKBN27B0FB
[10] Reuters, 28 October 2020, South Korea's Moon targets carbon neutrality by 2050, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-southkora-environment-greenewdeal-idUSKBN27D1DU
[11] The Guardian, 5 October 2020, What China's plan for net-zero emissions by 2060 means for the climate, https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/oct/05/china-plan-net-zero-emissions-2060-clean-technology

Thermal coal demand in NSW is in structural decline

The 'Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining' – upon which the PRIA relies - says the "use of thermal coal will decline in NSW over the coming decades". This is correct, however it is simultaneously optimistic and is obviously not fit for purpose regarding future demand for thermal coal in NSW as a driver of any new release areas. The November 2019 NSW Electricity Strategy states that four of the State's five remaining coal-fired generators "are set to reach the end of their technical lives and close by 2035, starting with the Liddell Power Station in April 2023".[12]

There is reason to believe that these closures will be brought forward as continuing to operate existing coal-fired power plants becomes more expensive than building and operating new wind and solar generation.[13] With coal-fired power generation in NSW in structural decline, there is no need to expand local supply of thermal coal.



Source: NSW Electricity Strategy, November 2019

The 'Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining' found in June 2020, that "under some scenarios", the global demand for thermal coal could be "sustained for the next two decades or more". In May 2021, the NSW Treasury found that global demand for coal is weakening as "technological development and policy settings aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions".

The influential and comprehensive analysis from the International Energy Agency in their Net Zero by 2050 report finds that:

> *The global use of unabated fossil fuels in electricity generation is sharply reduced in the NZE. Unabated coal-fired generation is cut by 70% by 2030, including the phase-out of unabated coal in advanced economies, and phased out in all other regions by 2040.*

[12] NSW DPIE, NSW Electricity Strategy, November 2019, https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/media/1926/download
[13] Mike Foley and Nick Toscano, SMH, 2 July 2021, Falling cost of renewables creates coal test for federal government, https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/falling-cost-of-renewables-creates-coal-test-for-federal-government-20210701-p585xq.html

A sharp reduction by 2030, with all unabated coal globally phased out by 2040 is a very long way from demand that is "sustained for the next two decades or more".

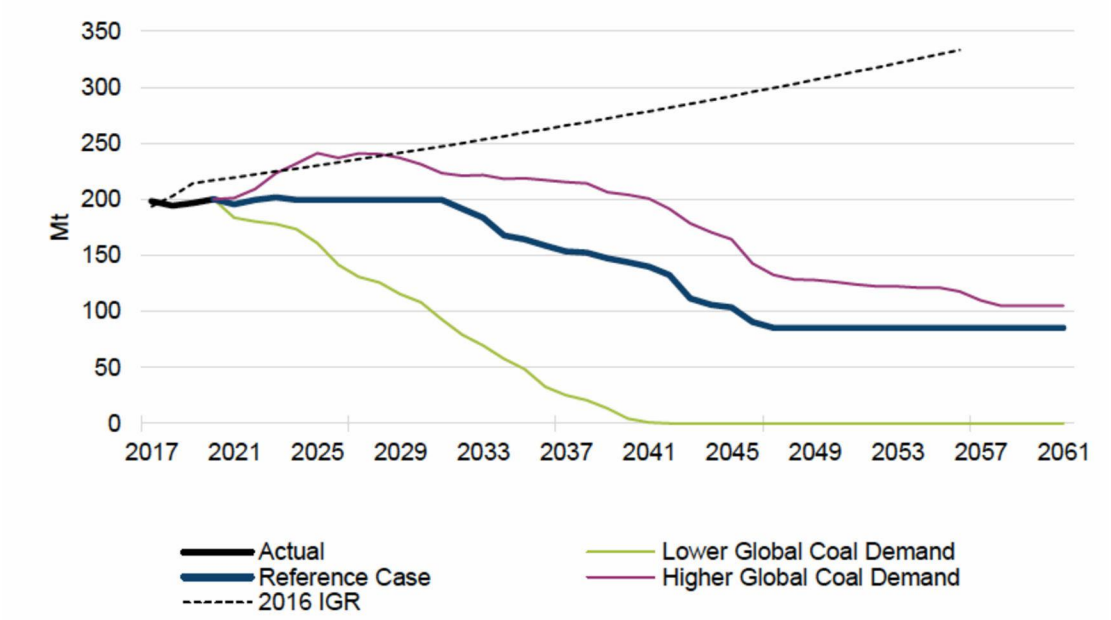
Five new coal projects have been approved to mine more than 400 Mt ROM coal in NSW since the 'Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining' was published.

In excess of an additional 400 Mt of ROM coal extraction has already been approved by the NSW IPC - in the 12 months since the Strategic Statement was published - at the Vickery Coal Project, Russell Vale, Maxwell Underground, Tahmoor South and Mangoola Coal COP. As stated above, these mines – if all the approved projects are built – will already be operating in the context of the structural decline of the coal market. This PRIA process needs to take another look at the most recent coal demand projections and calibrate declining demand against the capacity of existing mines + recently approved coal projects to more than meet declining demand.

Coal projections from NSW Treasury's 2016 IGR provide something of a reality check regarding the present enthusiasm of some in government to entertain the idea of new coal exploration and the ongoing expansion of the NSW coal industry.[14] Just five years ago, Treasury thought that coal production in NSW would continue at a steady, linear rise all the way out to mid-century and beyond. Now – as Chart 3 shows below - noone in Treasury thinks that's going to happen.

Reviewing the events and policy announcements over the last twelve months, together with the emphatic statements from the UN Secretary General and the IEA regarding the urgent need to end new coal supply and phase out existing coal use, I have no doubt that the 2026 IGR will project forward coal volumes on a trajectory more accurately characterized by the Lower Global Coal Demand scenario below.

Chart 3 NSW Treasury and Department of Regional NSW projected coal volumes (total tonnage)



Source: NSW Treasury; Department of Regional NSW.

[14] NSW Treasury, May 2021, The sensitivity of the NSW economic and fiscal outlook to global coal demand and the broader energy transition for the 2021 NSW Intergenerational Report

The value of this coal is not as a fuel, but as carbon sequestered by the natural carbon cycle and buried – for free - underground

This coal is valuable not because it can be combusted for thermal coal generation, but because it sequestered – eons ago – more than 2 billion tonnes of CO2 into a coal deposit underground.

The recent IPCC Sixth Assessment Report talks about carbon dioxide removal (a process of removing CO_2 from the atmosphere). This is increasingly being discussed as a process that will likely be required if the world gets serious about doing what we can to stay as much as possible under 1.5 degrees of warming.

"Allowing the global temperature to temporarily exceed or 'overshoot' 1.5°C would mean a greater reliance on techniques that remove CO2 from the air to return global temperature to below 1.5°C by 2100. The effectiveness of such techniques are unproven at large scale and some may carry significant risks for sustainable development …"[15]

Not only are such techniques unproven at unproven at large scale, they are also expensive.

NSW DPIE's statements about mining method are misleading – the gov't cannot control if a proponent will submit plans for open cut, bord and pillar or longwall mining.

Under the current regime, the only way to exert any control over the mining method is not to release the area for mining exploration at all. The NSW Government is not in control of whether or not a coal mining company will lodge plans for open cut, bord and pillar or longwall mining.

<u>The following statements by DPIE are misleading</u>

1. *"coal resources … could be mined by underground mining methods"*

   The Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins and Rumker Information Paper (may 2021) says:

   "An initial assessment of resource potential undertaken by the Division of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience within the Department of Regional NSW has identified coal resources within the Hawkins and Rumker areas that could be mined by underground mining methods."[16]

   DPIE officials told locals during consultation that if mining were ever to go ahead, it would likely be underground mining, but they did not rule out the possibility of open cut.

2. *During the public consultation, a DPIE official suggested that any underground mining would be conducted by the bord and pillar method, therefore locals should not be too concerned about the impact of subsidence on water.*

[15] https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/
[16] https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Bulletins-and-Community-Updates/Hawkins-Rumker-Information-Paper.pdf?la=en

This statement is very misleading. Many coal companies view bord and pillar as uneconomic. In any case, as per Point 1 above, the government is in no position to make any promises on the mining method that a company may propose as this is not something regulated by the NSW Government.

Conclusion

Please find a way to ensure that DPIE does all it can to ensure that the Department's handling of this PRIA process is consistent with the NSW Government's commitment to take "decisive and responsible action on climate change".

The 'frank and fearless' spirit of NSW public service requires all government employees working on this PRIA process to do all you can to recommend against coal exploration in Hawkins Rumker. I believe such a course of action would be consistent with your duty of care. In regard to this, please note Justice Bromberg's statement from a recent judgement in the Federal Court of Australia on duty of care and the climate issue.

> *"As Australian adults know their country, Australia will be lost and the World as we know it gone as well. The physical environment will be harsher, far more extreme and devastatingly brutal when angry. As for the human experience – quality of life, opportunities to partake in nature's treasures, the capacity to grow and prosper – all will be greatly diminished. Lives will be cut short. Trauma will be far more common and good health harder to hold and maintain. None of this will be the fault of nature itself. It will largely be inflicted by the inaction of this generation of adults, in what might fairly be described as the greatest intergenerational injustice ever inflicted by one generation of humans upon the next."*[17]

Climate change report from IPCC a 'code red for humanity', United Nations chief warns

Michael Slezak and Penny Timms
9 August 2021

ABC NEWS

- The Earth could be just 10 years from heating by more than 1.5 degrees
- United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres
  - The new report was a "code red for humanity" "This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet.
- In all scenarios, getting the world back under that extra 1.5C would require massive reforestation, or technology to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

[17] Sharma & Others v Minister for the Environment [2021] FCA 560, https://equitygenerationlawyers.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sharma-and-Others-v-Minister-for-the-Environment-2021-FCA-560.pdf

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:04:52 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: 11.-rrcfc-submission-gge-intergenerational-equity-final.pdf

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Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Coxs Crown 2849

Submission file
11.-rrcfc-submission-gge-intergenerational-equity-final.pdf

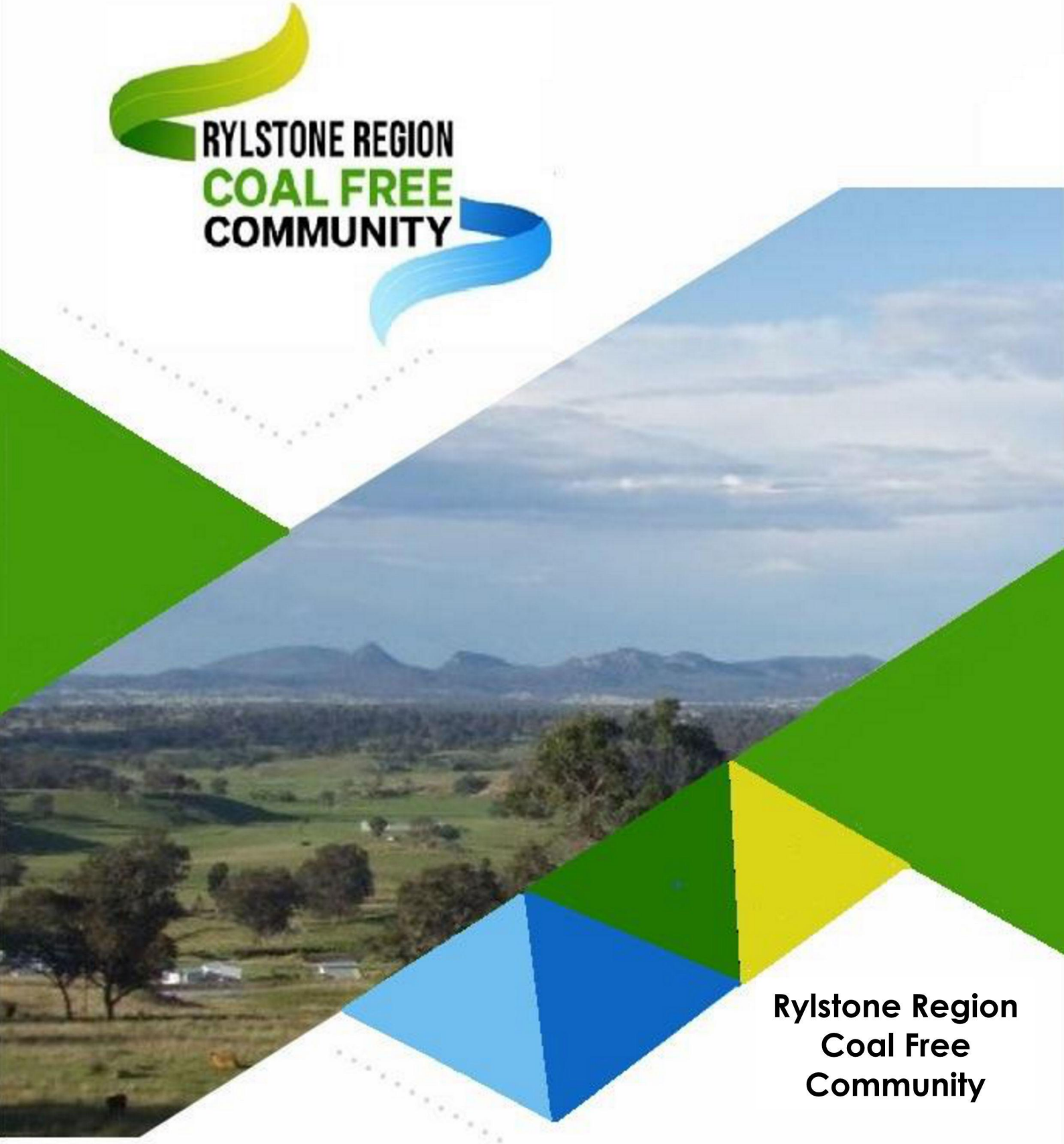
Submission
This report (attached) is the RRCFC's submission to the PRIA process on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Intergenerational Equity. Separate submissions for a range of other issues are also being submitted by the RRCFC.

The RRCFC recognises that coal exploration is a precursor to coal mining, and therefore it is predominantly the mining phase that is considered in this submission.

This submission considers the greenhouse emissions that would be generated by exploitation of the coal resources understood to be present in the Hawkins and Rumker coal exploration release areas. It clearly demonstrates there is growing momentum globally for decisive action to stop coal expansion and to accelerate the necessary transition away from coal production and consumption. To prevent another wrong mine in the wrong place at the wrong time, no new exploration areas should be opened. This is the only decision that can be consistent with the NSW Government's "responsible approach to the global transition to a low carbon future, consistent with Australia's ambition under the Paris Agreement" (NSW Government, 2020).

It is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and it and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

I agree to the above statement
Yes



Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Intergenerational Equity

Final

Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Intergenerational Equity

Final

Prepared by:
Rylstone Region Coal Free Community
Parkinsons Road, Coxs Crown NSW 2849

August 2021

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Document Control

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Document Type	Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Intergenerational Equity
Author	Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

Acknowledgement of Country

The RRCFC acknowledges that we live and work on Wiradjuri Country.

We acknowledge the Wiradjuri peoples as the traditional custodians of the land, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Executive Summary

2020 Strategic Statement and the PRIA process

The NSW Government's June 2020 Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining outlines the NSW Government's approach to transitioning to renewable energy and supporting the economy and aims to improve certainty about where mining should not occur. It identified 14 potential future coal exploration release areas (NSW Government, 2020). The Hawkins and Rumker potential release areas were identified in this Statement; the Ganguddy-Kelgoola area, which sits adjacent to Hawkins and Rumker, is also identified in this statement.

Following the release of the Strategic Statement, the NSW Government Advisory Body for Strategic Release has requested the Hawkins and Rumker areas be put through the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) process (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), 2021a). Ganguddy-Kelgoola is expected to go through the PRIA process in the near future once further exploration is completed.

The PRIA process, also set out in the Strategic Release Framework (NSW Government, 2020), is an initial assessment of social, environmental and economic matters relating to areas that could be released for exploration. In theory, it involves engaging with interested and potentially impacted stakeholders to identify issues for consideration.

RRCFC's Greenhouse Gas Emission Submission

This report is the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community's (RRCFC's) submission to the PRIA process on *Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Intergenerational Equity*. Separate submissions for a range of other issues are also being submitted by the RRCFC. The RRCFC recognises that coal exploration is a precursor to coal mining, and therefore it is predominantly the mining phase that is considered in this submission. The RRCFC strongly opposes the release of Hawkins and Rumker as coal exploration areas.

Consistency of NSW's Government commitments on climate change and the Paris Agreement

The proposal to release the Hawkins and Rumker for coal exploration is inconsistent with the aims of the Paris Agreement, that no new fossil fuel projects can reach production stage.

There is growing momentum globally for decisive action to stop coal expansion and to accelerate the necessary transition away from coal production and consumption. The highly conservative IEA report Net Zero by 2050 makes it clear that no new fossil fuel projects should be approved and to do so risks, not enhance, Australia's and NSW's future economic prosperity. Key milestones identified by the IEA in the pathway to net zero emissions by 2050 include "no new coal mines or mine extensions" approved for development by 2021.

The Rocky Hill Coal Project in NSW was refused on grounds including the proposed production of approximately 38 Mt CO_2-e greenhouse gas emissions from the mine (LEC, 2019).

It is possible that a mine within the Hawkins and Rumker areas could result in in excess of 2182 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. To prevent another wrong mine in the wrong place at the wrong time, no new exploration areas should be opened. This is the only decision that can be consistent with the NSW Government's "responsible approach to the global transition to a low carbon future, consistent with Australia's ambition under the Paris Agreement" (NSW Government, 2020).

It is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and DPIE and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

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1 | Introduction

1.1 Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) Process

The NSW Government's Advisory Body for Strategic Release has asked the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to prepare a Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) (DPIE, 2021a) to consider the benefits, opportunities, risks and constraints of releasing two adjacent areas located near Rylstone in the Mid-Western Regional local government area.

These areas are shown in Figure 1 and include:

- Hawkins - an area of 14,900 ha located directly north of Rylstone, and
- Rumker - an area of 17,800 ha located directly north east of Rylstone.

An initial assessment of resource potential undertaken by the Division of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience within the Department of Regional NSW has identified coal resources within the Hawkins and Rumker areas that could be mined by underground mining methods (DPIE, 2021a). It is noted that these areas could just as well be mined using aboveground methods.

In June 2020, the NSW Government released the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining (NSW Government, 2020). The Strategic Statement "outlines the NSW Government's approach to transitioning to renewable energy and supporting the economy and aims to improve certainty about where mining should not occur." It identified 14 potential future coal exploration release areas (NSW Government, 2020).

Adjacent to Hawkins and Rumker is the area of Ganguddy – Kelgoola, which is slated to go through the PRIA process once further exploration is completed (NSW Government, 2020).

1.2 PRIA Preparation

The PRIA process is also set out in the Strategic Release Framework (NSW Government, 2020). It is an initial assessment of social, environmental and economic matters relating to areas that could be released for exploration. In theory, it involves engaging with interested and potentially impacted stakeholders to identify issues for consideration.

DPIE has engaged Resource Strategies to undertake 'preparation of a Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment document in relation to a defined area that could be released for coal exploration' for a sum of $167,156 (NSW Government eTendering, 2021).

On its website Resource Strategies (2021) says it facilitates development approvals for major mining and associated infrastructure projects and prepares comprehensive and timely environmental assessment documentation with the assistance of recognised experts across all environmental fields.

The DPIE undertakes the PRIA and submits this to the Advisory Body for Strategic Release, which considers potential release areas, reviews reports and recommends assessment of the release of an area for resource exploration. The Advisory Body for Strategic Release makes recommendations to the Minister for Regional NSW and these are considered by Cabinet and, if approved, the Minister for Regional NSW releases an area for exploration and invites companies to apply for a prospecting title.

1.3 Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

1.3.1 RRCFC

The Rylstone Region Coal Free Community (RRCFC) is a group of self-funded, like-minded local residents, and supporters, of the Rylstone Region committed to stopping further exploration of coal and approval of mines in our region. Our aim is to protect the land, heritage, culture and community for now and future generations.

1.3.2 Purpose of this report

This report is the RRCFC's submission to the PRIA process on *Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Intergenerational Equity*. Separate submissions for a range of other issues are also being submitted by the RRCFC.

While "the granting of an exploration licence does not give any right to mine, nor does it guarantee a mining lease will be granted with the exploration licence area." Granting an exploration permit, however, is part of a larger process under the *Mining Act 1992* (NSW Mining, Exploration and Geoscience 2021). "The exploration phase is aimed at proving the technical, economic, and environmental feasibility of a new mining operation." "...coal exploration is the first part of a continuous process, that if successful leads to the establishment of a new coal mine or the extension of an existing mine into a previously unexplored area" (Ward, C. R. n.d.).

The RRCFC recognises that coal exploration is a precursor to coal mining, and therefore it is predominantly the mining phase that is considered in this submission.

This submission considers the greenhouse emissions that would be generated by exploitation of the coal resources understood to be present in the Hawkins and Rumker coal exploration release areas. It clearly demonstrates there is growing momentum globally for decisive action to stop coal expansion and to accelerate the necessary transition away from coal production and consumption. To prevent another wrong mine in the wrong place at the wrong time, no new exploration areas should be opened. This is the only decision that can be consistent with the NSW Government's "responsible approach to the global transition to a low carbon future, consistent with Australia's ambition under the Paris Agreement" (NSW Government, 2020).

It is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and it and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

"Mudgee will not have the same winter by 2050… there will be 10 to 20 per cent less rain compared with the long-term average from 1960-1990." (Makkar, S. 2019)

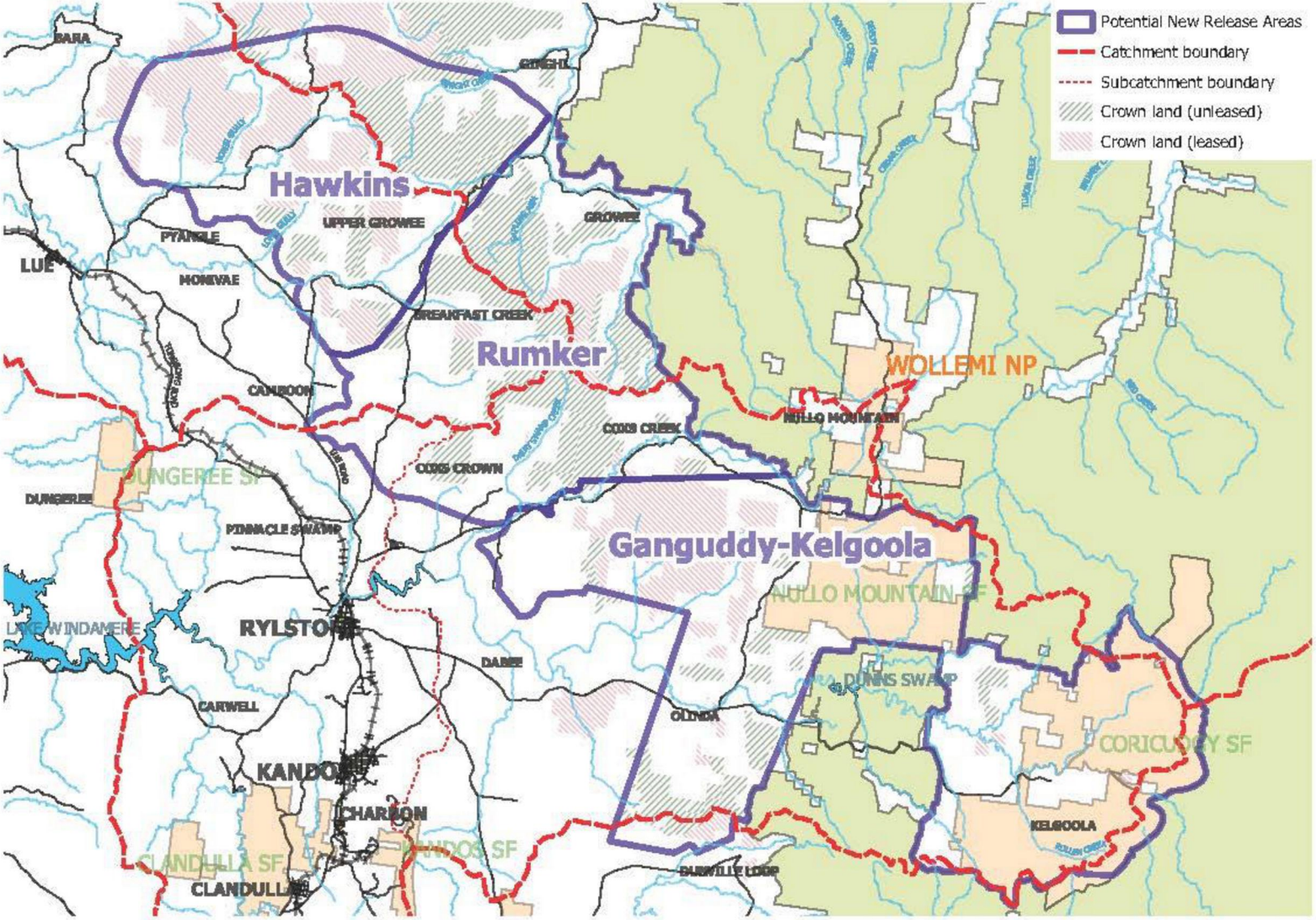

Figure 1 The proposed exploration areas (note only Hawkins and Rumker being considered in this PRIA)

2 | International trend of reducing carbon emissions

In making its recommendation, the Advisory Body for Strategic Release is to be guided by the Government's "published objectives, priorities and desired outcomes in relation to the allocation and development of NSW's coal and petroleum resources" (NSW Mining, Exploration and Geoscience n.d.).

The NSW Government's Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining includes an assertion that, "the NSW Government will be proactive in its preparation to adapt to the international trend of reducing carbon emissions by building resilient regional communities that can transition to new economic opportunities." It includes an objective to improve certainty about where coal mining should not occur.

In support of this submission, attached (Appendix A) is a copy of a report prepared by Mr Tim Buckley, Director Energy Finance Studies, Australia/South Asia of the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis examining the International Energy Agency (IEA) report Net Zero by 2050 (IEA, 2021).

Mr Buckley notes:

> "The International Energy Agency's (IEA) Net Zero by 2050 energy sector roadmap out today says the world should add "no new oil and gas fields approved for development in our pathway, and no new coal mines or mine extensions are required"
>
> The IEA models that the shift to zero emissions-industry solutions will drive 16 million new jobs in the energy sector, a 40% expansion in the workforce globally. New jobs in zero emission industries offset the 5 million existing jobs lost during the energy transition three to one."

The highly conservative IEA report *Net Zero by 2050* makes it clear that no new fossil fuel projects should be approved and to do so risks rather than enhances Australia and this state's future economic prosperity.

3 | The impacts of the continued accretion of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere

The proposal to release the Hawkins and Rumker for coal exploration is inconsistent with the aims of the Paris Agreement, that no new fossil fuel projects can reach production stage.

The scientific consensus is clear that expansion of fossil fuel production must be stopped in order to reduce global GHG emissions and avoid the potentially catastrophic impacts of unmitigated global warming and climate change (UNEP, 2020).

One hundred and ninety-seven countries, including Australia, agreed under the Paris Agreement to limit "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursu[e] efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels" (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015).

The Paris Agreement also recognises (RRCFC's emphasis) "the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge."

The New South Wales Government accepts the science of climate change and supports the Paris Agreement (AdaptNSW 2021a).

The accretion of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as a result of human activities has already caused changes in the climate system with tangible impacts, including in (CSIRO 2021):

- exacerbation of heatwaves;
- long-term increase in extreme fire weather and length of the fire season;
- changes in rainfall patterns resulting in severe flooding events;
- mass bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef; and
- worsening drought conditions.

"Mudgee will not have the same winter by 2050… there will be 10 to 20 per cent less rain compared with the long-term average from 1960-1990." (Makkar, S. 2019)

On current trajectories, the impacts of the changes in the climate system will be significantly exacerbated. The Federal Court in *Sharma by her litigation representative Sister Marie Brigid Arthur v Minister for the Environment* (FCA 2021) accepted evidence put forward in respect of the future impacts of climate change and found (at [293]):

> "It is difficult to characterise in a single phrase the devastation that the plausible evidence presented in this proceeding forecasts for the Children … The physical environment will be harsher, far more extreme and devastatingly brutal when angry. As for the human experience – quality of life, opportunities to partake in nature's treasures, the capacity to grow and prosper – all will be greatly diminished. Lives will be cut short. Trauma will be far more common and good health harder to hold and maintain. None of this will be the fault of nature itself. It will largely be inflicted by the inaction of this generation of adults, in what might fairly be described as the greatest intergenerational injustice ever inflicted by one generation of humans upon the next."

There is growing momentum globally for decisive action to stop coal expansion and to accelerate the necessary transition away from coal production and consumption.

In May 2021, the International Energy Agency (IEA) called for an end to new fossil fuel investments in order to achieve Net-Zero emissions by 2050 in alignment with the aims of the Paris agreement, stating "*If governments are serious about the climate crisis, there can be no new investments in oil, gas and coal, from now – from this year*" (Harvey, F. 2021) (Faith Birol, IEA Executive Director). The IEA's *Net Zero by 2050* report concluded that "*there is no need for investment in new fossil fuel supply*" under a Net-Zero by 2050 scenario (IEA 2021).

Since February 2021, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has repeatedly called for the cancellation of all new coal projects globally (Carrington, D. 2021), stating that existing coal use must be phased out in the OECD by 2030, and in the rest of the world by 2040 in order to achieve the aims of the Paris Agreement (United Nations 2021).

In April 2021, U.S. special climate envoy John Kerry called for the abandonment of coal use "now" in order to avoid catastrophic climate change (O'Malley, N. 2021). In the same month, 101 Nobel Laureates called for an immediate end to coal and fossil fuel expansion, endorsing a global Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty (2021).

In 2019, approximately 500 billion tonnes of CO2e could be emitted before emissions will cause the 1.5°C threshold to be exceeded. "Committed emissions" from existing infrastructure amounted to 800 billion tonnes of CO_2-e (Tong, D., Zhang, Q., Zheng, Y. et al. 2019).

As a result, the proposal to release the Hawkins and Rumker for coal exploration is inconsistent with the aims of the Paris Agreement and is contrary to the public interest.

The Rocky Hill Coal Project in NSW was refused on grounds including the proposed production of approximately 38 Mt CO_2-e greenhouse gas emissions from the mine. In the NSW Land and Environment Court (LEC) (2019) Chief Judge Preston has found that:

> "…the exploitation and burning of a new fossil fuel reserve, which will increase GHG [greenhouse gas], cannot assist in achieving the rapid and deep reductions in GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions that are necessary in order to achieve "a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century" (Article 4(1) of the Paris Agreement) or the long term temperature goal of limiting the increase in global average temperature to between 1.5°C and 2°C above pre-industrial levels (Article 2 of the Paris Agreement)."

This is the case regardless of the type or quantity of the coal produced, or the location of its production (LEC, 2019). This also holds regardless of whether a proposed project is classified as an 'extension' or as a greenfield development.

The NSW Land and Environment Court held that (Covington, C. & Lee, L., 2019) (RRCFC's emphasis):

- **scope 3 emissions should be taken into account**, in accordance with clause 14(2) of the Mining SEPP and precedents set in other decisions of the Court, as well as in the United States;
- **there is a causal link between the Project and climate change** and its consequences, as all of the Project's direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions would contribute cumulatively to total greenhouse gas emissions. Cases cited were: Australian Conservation Foundation v Latrobe City Council (2004), Massachusetts v Environmental Protection Agency (2007) and the Urgenda Foundation v The State of the Netherlands (2018). These decisions demonstrate that this point has now been recognised in many courts;
- as there was no specific proposal to offset the Project's impacts by removing greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere, **the argument regarding carbon sequestration as an alternative measure should be rejected**; and

- the argument that coking coal is critical for the production of steel was overstated, as the **demand** for coking coal from steel production in Australia **could be met by existing and approved mines**.

Chief Judge Preston (LEC, 2019) referred to statements made in evidence by Professor Will Steffen on behalf of the local community action group, Groundswell Gloucester Inc, that in order to reach emissions reductions targets **"most fossil fuels will need to remain in the ground unburned"**. Deciding which fossil fuel reserves should be allowed to be exploited and burned requires evaluating the merits of each potential fossil fuel development by considering its greenhouse gas emissions and the likely contribution to climate change, as well as the development's other impacts.

Chief Judge Preston also found **that greenhouse gas emissions are a relevant consideration for the principle of intergenerational equity**. He concluded:

> "In short, an open cut coal mine in this part of the Gloucester valley would be in **the wrong place at the wrong time**. Wrong place because an open cut coal mine in this scenic and cultural landscape, proximate to many people's homes and farms, will cause significant planning, amenity, visual and social impacts. Wrong time because the GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions of the coal mine and its coal product will increase global total concentrations of GHGs [greenhouse gas emissions] at a time when what is now urgently needed, in order to meet generally agreed climate targets, is a rapid and deep decrease in GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions. These dire consequences should be avoided. **The Project should be refused**."

Key milestones identified by the IEA in the pathway to net zero emissions by 2050 include "no new coal mines or mine extensions" approved for development by 2021. This milestone is consistent with a carbon budget approach which determines the magnitude and rate of emissions reductions required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. This is done by mapping the approximately linear relationship between the cumulative increase in carbon dioxide emissions from human activities since pre-industrialisation against the increase in global average surface temperature, and developing a carbon budget; the amount of carbon that may be used before the target temperature is exceeded. In accordance with the carbon budget approach, **a rapid phase out of fossil fuel combustion is required such that no new fossil fuel projects or extensions can reach production.**

Consistent with the NSW Government's "responsible approach to the global transition to a low carbon future, consistent with Australia's ambition under the Paris Agreement" (NSW Government, 2020) no new exploration areas should be opened. This would also be consistent with the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020 - 2030 announced by Minister Kean (DPIE, 2021b). This included five renewable energy zones in regional NSW for new jobs to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050.

As of 2020, 21 Coal projects in various stages of development have been identified by the Minerals Council of Australia, including six greenfield developments (Minerals Council of Australia 2020). As of February 2021, the total number of coal titles in NSW was 563, comprising 154 exploration titles, 4 assessment leases and 405 mining leases (NSW Mining, Exploration and Geoscience 2020).

Coal combustion alone produces 53.5 million tonnes of emissions annually or 41% of all of NSW's greenhouse gas emissions and coal mining also causes 93% of all fugitive emissions (AdaptNSW 2021b).

The National Greenhouse Gas Inventory reported emissions for the year to December 2020 were an estimated 499.0 Mt carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2-e) (Australian Government, 2021).

In the Hawkins and Rumker areas, it is anticipated that the volume of coal could be 910 megatonne (DPIE, 2021a). Given the rapidly diminishing world market for coal, it is reasonable to assume that any company seeking to mine this deposit and receive a commercial return would be exploiting the resource as rapidly as possible. On this basis, it is assumed that 20 million tonnes per annum would be extracted. Even at this rate, it would take 45 years to deplete this deposit, around the year 2075

(allowing a 10 year lead time for this hypothetical mine to be developed). However, as the NSW Treasury's low global coal demand scenario for the 2021 Intergenerational Report is showing coal production reaching zero by 2042, it is possible that extraction may need to be even higher than 20 million tonnes per annum to be economically viable. Nevertheless, taking the figure of 20 million tonnes per annum and that one kilogram of coal burnt gives 2.40kg of carbon dioxide, this would yield 48.5 million tonnes per annum of greenhouse gas emissions. Over the life of a 910 megatonne coal mine this would yield 2182 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, or four times Australia's 2020 greenhouse gas emissions. The hypothetical mine's construction and operating emissions – inclusive of fugitive emissions – would be in addition to this.

4| Conclusion

In making its recommendation, the Advisory Body for Strategic Release is to be guided by the Government's "published objectives, priorities and desired outcomes in relation to the allocation and development of NSW's coal and petroleum resources."

The proposal to release the Hawkins and Rumker for coal exploration is inconsistent with the aims of the Paris Agreement, that no new fossil fuel projects can reach production stage.

There is growing momentum globally for decisive action to stop coal expansion and to accelerate the necessary transition away from coal production and consumption. The highly conservative IEA report Net Zero by 2050 makes it clear that no new fossil fuel projects should be approved and to do so risks rather than enhances Australia and this state's future economic prosperity. Key milestones identified by the IEA in the pathway to net zero emissions by 2050 include "no new coal mines or mine extensions" approved for development by 2021.

The Federal Court in Sharma by her litigation representative Sister Marie Brigid Arthur v Minister for the Environment (FCA 2021) accepted evidence put forward in respect of the future impacts of climate change and found (at [293]):

> "It is difficult to characterise in a single phrase the devastation that the plausible evidence presented in this proceeding forecasts for the Children … The physical environment will be harsher, far more extreme and devastatingly brutal when angry. As for the human experience – quality of life, opportunities to partake in nature's treasures, the capacity to grow and prosper – all will be greatly diminished. Lives will be cut short. Trauma will be far more common and good health harder to hold and maintain. None of this will be the fault of nature itself. It will largely be inflicted by the inaction of this generation of adults, in what might fairly be described as the greatest intergenerational injustice ever inflicted by one generation of humans upon the next."

The Rocky Hill Coal Project in NSW was refused on grounds including the proposed production of approximately 38 Mt CO_2-e greenhouse gas emissions from the mine (LEC, 2019), with the NSW Land and Environment Court (LEC) finding the greenhouse gas emissions of the coal mine and its coal product would increase global total concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions at a time when what is now urgently needed, in order to meet generally agreed climate targets, is a rapid and deep decrease in greenhouse gas emissions. That was in 2019. Two years on, the global transition away from coal has rapidly accelerated and the situation is more urgent.

It is possible that a mine within the Hawkins and Rumker areas could result in in excess of 2182 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. To prevent another wrong mine in the wrong place at the wrong time, no new exploration areas should be opened here. This is the only decision that can be consistent with the NSW Government's "responsible approach to the global transition to a low carbon future, consistent with Australia's ambition under the Paris Agreement".

It is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration under the Strategic Framework and it and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas. Coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

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Appendix A | IEEFA: IEA's net zero emissions by 2050 maps the huge increase in global ambition

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May 2021

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IEEFA.org

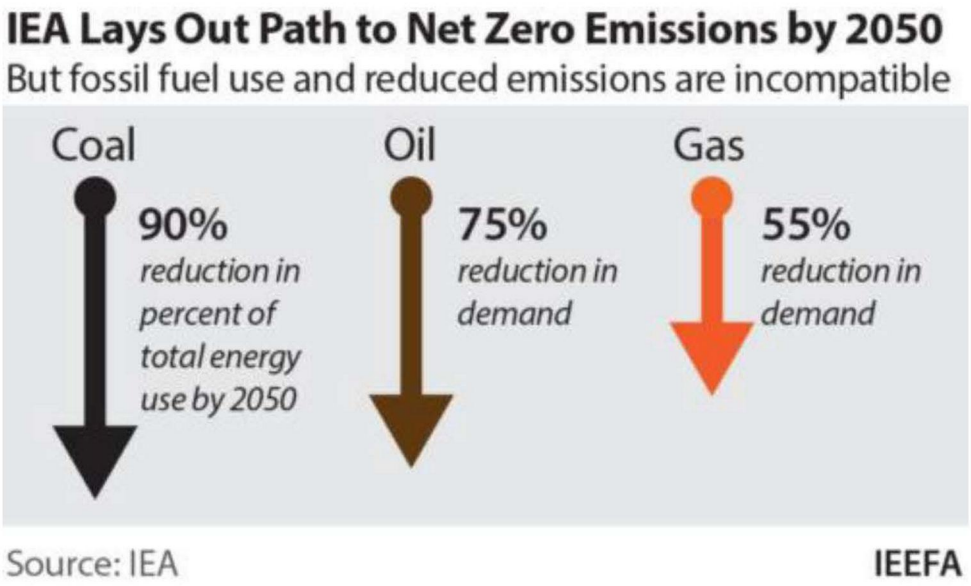
IEEFA: IEA's net zero emissions by 2050 maps the huge increase in global ambition

Collective global government and corporate pledges, accelerating financial flows and straight economic gains make this a necessary, realistic and achievable outcome

TIM BUCKLEY

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) Net Zero by 2050 energy sector roadmap out today says the world should add "no new oil and gas fields approved for development in our pathway, and no new coal mines or mine extensions are required".

Simply put, more fossil fuels are entirely inconsistent with reduced emissions.



Existing unabated coal use declines by 90% to just 1% of total energy use globally by 2050. Fossil gas demand declines by 55% whilst oil use declines by 75% by 2050.

There is no 'gaslit recovery' in a net zero emissions world.

The IEA's roadmap highlights the huge role that energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification of everything, electric vehicles (EVs) and reduced methane emissions will have to play.

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May 2021

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IEEFA.org

The IEA also highlights the ratcheting up of global ambitions, both by leading governments, financial institutions and corporates.

Critically, collective pledges to-date only put the world on a 2.1°C trajectory, rather than the Paris target of 1.5°C or below.

The next phase is to accelerate interim policy actions by 2030 to drive a step-change, a complete transformation of how we produce and consume energy.

There is zero scope for new fossil fuel developments if the world is to get onto the right trajectory.

Staggering changes are upon us.

The climate science is clear and getting clearer. And the remaining global carbon budget for the growing dominance of 1.5°C pledges is less than 60% of that required for a 2.0°C world.

The new IEA modelling assumes:

- Clean energy investment trebles to US$5 trillion p.a. by 2030, accelerating global economic growth in the process;
- Energy efficiency needs to deliver a 4% annual improvement globally by 2030;
- Global installs of variable renewable energy (VRE) need to quadruple from 2020 levels to 1,020 gigawatts (GW) annually through to 2030;
- EVs need to rise from 5% of global new car sales to 60% by 2030, with new internal combustion engine (ICE) car sales ceasing entirely by 2035;
- Global battery production for EVs needs to increase fortyfold to 6,600GWh annually;
- Global investment in grid transmission and distribution needs to treble to US$820bn annually; and
- Methane emissions globally from fossil fuel supplies must reduce by 75% by 2030, assisted by independent satellite tracking and incumbent players' belated efforts as transparency increases.

Critically, the IEA has stopped buying the fossil fuel industry smokescreens of offsets and unfeasible technologies like carbon capture and storage (CCS) when talking about the global energy sector's efforts over this coming decade, suggesting it will play only an immaterial role (the IEA still references this figleaf post 2030).

We applaud this move to consider only commercially proven and likely technologies.

The IEA continues to highlight that the perverse incentives of massive fossil fuel subsidies need to be phased out, while the benefits of a price signal on carbon is a key opportunity.

Beyond 2030, the IEA notes that technology breakthroughs might allow advanced batteries, hydrogen (particularly via heavy industry demand precincts), bioenergy, CCS and/or direct air capture and storage to each play a role, if research, development and deployment (RD&D) is invested in at scale.

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May 2021

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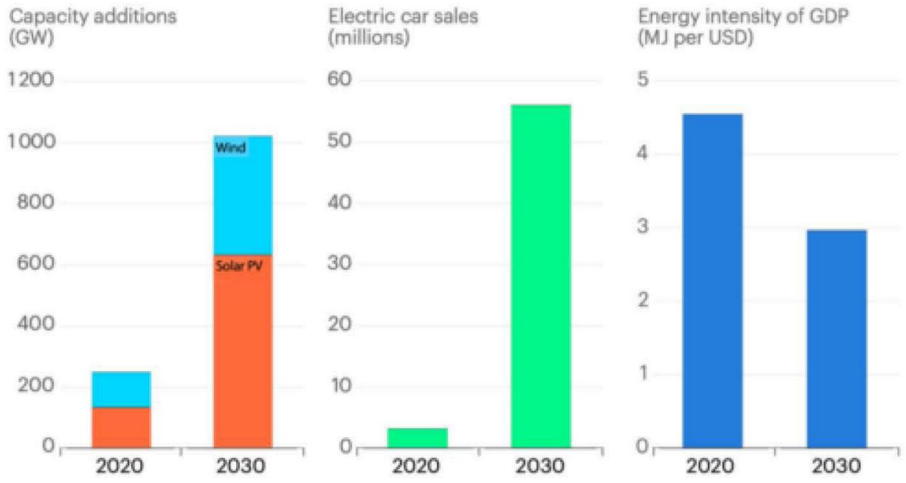
The IEA models that RD&D investment needs to treble to US$90bn annually vs current levels. For advanced batteries, this pathway to commercialisation is being funded by capital markets. For others like CCS and hydrogen, serious investment rather than talk is required.

Key Clean Technologies Ramp up by 2030 in the Net Zero Pathway



Note: MJ = megajoule; GDP = gross domestic product in purchasing power parity.

Source: IEA, Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector, 18 May 2021

Given the actions required by 2030 will be predominantly driven by technologies known and in operation today, the IEA models that 55% of cumulative emissions reductions will come from initiatives linked to consumer choices, assisted by enabling policy frameworks e.g. moving to EVs, retrofitting housing with energy efficiency technologies and installing heat-pumps to clean cooking.

The role of zero carbon-ready building codes to drive decarbonisation of the built environment will also be key.

The IEA models that the shift to zero emissions-industry solutions will drive 16 million new jobs in the energy sector, a 40% expansion in the workforce globally. New jobs in zero emission industries offset the 5 million existing jobs lost during the energy transition three to one.

The key political message in IEEFA's view is that there are risks and opportunities, but countries need to embrace opportunities for new investment, employment and net exports (i.e. boosted by reduced imports of coal, gas, oil, diesel and ammonia).

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May 2021

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The IEA modelling shows the power of electrification in driving decarbonisation, with electricity forecast to account for half of all energy needs by 2050 globally.

Two-thirds of total energy use globally is forecast to come from renewable energy by 2050 – wind, solar, hydro, bioenergy and geothermal.

Solar is forecast to increase twenty-fold.

Consistent with the flight of global capital already evident, the IEA models that no new final investment decisions should be made to build unabated coal power plants, effective immediately.

Given there are precisely zero CCS coal-fired power plants in the U.S., Japan, Korea or Australia operational today, and none under construction, this means the IEA modelling is finally consistent with the IEEFA position that thermal coal use globally is in a slow, steady terminal decline.

The IEA models that the accelerated closure of all subcritical coal-fired power plants must be completed by 2030 – consistent with the Japanese government's July 2020 commitment to shut 100 of their 140 coal plants, but replicated by every country globally.

This energy transition will need to happen a decade faster in the developed world, in recognition of the core Paris Agreement "Common But Differentiated Responsibility" clause.

The great news is global finance is moving, and this tipping point will drive exponential change, led by the unexpected likes of BlackRock, JPMorgan Chase, Korea Development Bank and the Japan Bank of International Cooperation – four of the largest private and public financiers of fossil fuels in the world, until 2021.

IEEFA has tracked a 40% acceleration year-on-year year-to-date 2021 in new or improved formal coal exit policies by globally significant financial institutions (GSFI), with the past two weeks seeing new announcements by Mizuho Financial Group Inc, Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc, Manulife, Prudential Plc, Asia Development Bank, Macquarie Group and Maybank, plus the Reserve Bank of India joining the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).

The domination of greater Asia here is telling, and key.

As BlackRock says, there is now a global tsunami of capital flowing to support the science of climate change, and the required infrastructure solutions.

IEA's roadmap shows the global energy landscape is set to change profoundly, and at an unprecedented pace, as world leaders – governments, GSFI and corporates move to align with net zero emissions by 2050 and a 1.5°C limit.

We live in exciting times. Get ready for exponential change in the global energy landscape!

This article was published by Renew Economy and IEEFA

Tim Buckley
Director Energy Finance Studies, Australia/South Asia
May 2021

Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis
IEEFA.org

About IEEFA

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis conducts research and analyses on financial and economic issues related to energy and the environment. The Institute's mission is to accelerate the transition to a diverse, sustainable and profitable energy economy. www.ieefa.org

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:03:20 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: submission-template-online-1.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 13:00

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
Richmond

Submission file
submission-template-online-1.pdf

Submission
I opposed to the destruction of land, culture and the continued blatant disregards for first nations peoples

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

[Full Name] [redacted]

[Suburb] Richmond **Postcode:** 3121

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

Select	Issue	How it affects or concerns me
☑	Lack of consultation	- The Government has not informed the community properly. - There is no transparency in how the Government will evaluate the submissions.
☑	Loss of our water	- Coal exploration and mining disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways. - Springs and bores can disappear through mining drilling and digging activities. - The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong waterways are our town's water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong. - Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bushfires with.
☑	Air & noise pollution	- Coal mines operate at above normal recommended noise levels all day every day. - Traffic from trucks will increase and coal trains will run through our towns. - The dust and particulate matter from the mine and trucks/trains travels for kilometres. - Pollution is inevitable, e.g. the Hunter valley is now one of the most polluted areas in Australia
☑	Impacts on our tourism	- Our community has worked very hard to build a thriving tourism industry. Tourism has sustained, long-term impact; mining is short term. Many of our local businesses are incompatible with mining; tourists do not come to see coal mines. - The landscape may change irreversibly if it is mined
☑	Aboriginal heritage	- Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk. - Even if not mined directly, these can be damaged with subsidence.
☑	Town life	- The threat of coal exploration and mining creates uncertainty for people. This results in people leaving, people no longer investing in the region, and towns declining as people lose their jobs. Bylong is the perfect example. - Very few if any jobs are created by new mines. Properties and associated infrastructure are built for miners by their own people, not locals - Locals struggle to compete with high wages of miners which drives up housing and other costs.
☑	Agriculture	- Farms would be lost with up to ~ 32,700 ha of land becoming coal mines. - Our farms and food will sustain us for much longer than a coal mine.
☑	Climate change and carbon emissions	- Coal produces 2.42kg of carbon per kg of coal burnt. An underground mine also produces methane emissions. - The world is moving away from coal – Australia must encourage innovation and renewables

I Have not made any political donations in the last two years. (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
info@rylstonecfc.com or to pria@planning.nsw.gov.au

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)* (PPIP 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 PPIP 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.

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- any other personal information contained on your submission.

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

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

Complaints

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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]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:01:34 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: sub210818_preliminary-regional-issues-assessment_hawkins-rumker.pdf

---

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 12:57

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Justin

Last name
Field

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Sydney, 2000

Submission file
sub210818_preliminary-regional-issues-assessment_hawkins-rumker.pdf

Submission
Director Energy and Resources Policy

Please find attached submission from Justin Field MLC opposing the release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration.

Regards

Office of Justin Field

I agree to the above statement
Yes

[redacted]
NSW Parliament, Macquarie Street Sydney
JUSTINFIELD.ORG
JustinFieldIndependent
JustinRField
JustinFieldMLC

Justin Field
Independent

18 August 2021

Director Energy and Resources Policy
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
[redacted]
via: https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/hawkins-rumker

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment of the proposed release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration.

I oppose the release of these areas for coal exploration. It is unacceptable that any further new coal exploration or production be approved in New South Wales. New coal exploration and production would be entirely inconsistent with the state's commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and achieve the stated interim target of 35% emissions reduction by 2030 from 2005 levels.

I also consider it inappropriate to open-up a new region for coal exploration and potential future development given the significant negative impacts it would have for the local environment and surrounding communities.

COAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The most recent report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted the alarming impacts that human-induced global warming is already having around the world and the dire consequences of projected future emissions trends. The report indicates that an average 1.5℃ warming of global surface temperatures by 2040 is expected to occur under each of their modelled scenarios, with significant further rises during the remainder of the century only likely to be averted under a scenario of rapid emissions decline, where net zero emissions are reached globally around 2050.[1]

Whilst the New South Wales government announced a net zero by 2050 target in 2016, subsequent decisions, including the approval of eight coal and gas projects since March 2018,

[1] Summary for Policymakers, p18 (https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM)

create significant doubt surrounding progress towards this target. I note with considerable dismay that a recently published independent analysis of these eight approved projects concluded that the emissions generated through their development and operation alone will be equivalent to the emissions reductions the government is aiming for up to 2030 through its Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. This 89 million tonnes of new scope 1 and 2 emissions, which is locked in as part of the conditions of approval of these projects, represents almost 65% of the total current annual emissions for NSW. That is a massive additional domestic source of emissions that would only be increased as a result of further coal exploration and production.

These scope 1 and 2 emissions are dwarfed by the 1.3 billion tonnes of CO_2 the burning of the coal and gas produced from these projects is estimated to generate. These are the equivalent of three times Australia's total annual emissions. These emissions are especially unjustifiable in the context of the IPCC report's estimates of the 'carbon budget' of further emissions before a 1.5°C increase in global temperatures is reached.[2] The report estimates that for an 83% chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, only 300 billion tonnes of CO_2 emissions can be generated globally from 2020 onwards. This 1.3 billion tonnes contributed by NSW from new projects approved in the last 3 years alone represents 0.43% of that 300 billion tonnes global carbon budget, an amount approximately 4 times NSW's share of the global emissions budget on a per capita basis. In short - NSW has well exceeded its carbon budget even before new coal and gas exploration and production is considered.

Furthermore, the International Energy Agency has stated that for the world to achieve net zero by 2050, no new coal or gas projects should be approved after this year.

It is completely untenable for the state to be considering the approval of any additional coal or gas exploration which would inevitably lead to future development proposals, if it is indeed committed to a net zero by 2050 target, or willing to play a responsible role in limiting global emissions and avoiding the extreme consequences of further warming.

The economics of new coal exploration are also highly dubious. The government's own Intergenerational Report acknowledges a likely fall in international demand for coal and consequent decline in revenue from coal royalties. The report also predicts that if the global shift to renewable energy takes place at a faster rate than currently anticipated, coal production in NSW could be expected to cease by 2042. The viability of opening up entirely new coal mining areas in this context must be extremely doubtful.

IMPACT ON LOCAL AREAS

In addition to the unacceptable climate change impacts that would result from the development of new coal mines in this, or any other area of NSW, I find it unfathomable that a large coalfield would be opened up in this proposed exploration area. Such a development would have dramatic impacts on the local environment and communities. The development of large

[2] Summary for Policymakers, p38

coalfields in the release areas would cause drastic change for the surrounding communities and their generally small-scale rural-based economy.

Coal exploration and potential future development would also likely conflict with existing local land uses, especially agriculture.

Air, water, soil, and noise pollution that would be generated by mining is a significant concern for local communities. Concerns have also been expressed about the inadequacy of local infrastructure to cope with large-scale mining development.

Concerns over potential impacts from mining or exploration on local water resources have also been raised. These include concerns that the proposed release areas include the catchment area for the Rylestone Dam, and may impact the water supply for the towns of Rylestone and Kandos.

Additionally I understand concerns have been raised that Aboriginal heritage sites in the proposed release area have been overlooked in environmental assessments.

Furthermore, a study covering these two proposed release areas as well as the adjoining Ganguddy-Kelgoola release area identified a range of potential ecological impacts should the areas be opened to mining. The study found native vegetation covers 84% of the three release areas, including significant remnant vegetation. 6,634ha of potential Threatened Ecological Communities, 22 threatened fauna species, and 6 threatened flora species were identified as occurring within the three release areas. Key fauna species identified include the Koala, Regent Honeyeater and the Spotted-tailed Quoll. There are also concerns regarding waterways in the area and potential loss of fish habitat, as well as concerns over the potential loss of riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek, and the unique swamp grassland and sphagnum bog in the central part of Coxs Creek.

In conclusion, I reiterate that it is unacceptable, and entirely incompatible with the stated net zero policy goal of the NSW Government, for the release of this or any other new areas for coal exploration. In the context of the untenable nature of any such development, it is totally unjustifiable to threaten the communities of the Rylstone area with a potential new coalfield, and the considerable negative consequences such an eventuality would have on that area.

I strongly urge the Advisory Body to **not** recommend the release of these areas for coal exploration.

Kind regards,

Justin Field MLC

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 1:01:27 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.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 12:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
kell

Last name
derkenne

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
hinton 2321

Submission file
submission.pdf

Submission
To say NO and protest against the NSW Government's consideration to release the Hawkins and Rumker areas, just outside of Rylstone for coal exploration.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

[Full Name] Kell Derkenne

[Suburb] Hinton **Postcode:** 2321

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

This Country is sacred and holds the ancestors, the history, the stories, the culture, the identity of the traditional owners.
It is time to wake up to our climate crisis. We need to focus on renewable energy and save our planet for now and future generations.

Select	Issue	How it affects or concerns me
☑	Lack of consultation	- The Government has not informed the community properly. - There is no transparency in how the Government will evaluate the submissions.
☑	Loss of our water	- Coal exploration and mining disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways. - Springs and bores can disappear through mining drilling and digging activities. - The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong waterways are our town's water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong. - Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bushfires with.
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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: No

Save this form and then email it to

[redacted]

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Email: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 12:59:42 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: 10.-rrcfc-submission-gbmwha-impacts-final.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 12:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Coxs Crown 2849

Submission file
10.-rrcfc-submission-gbmwha-impacts-final.pdf

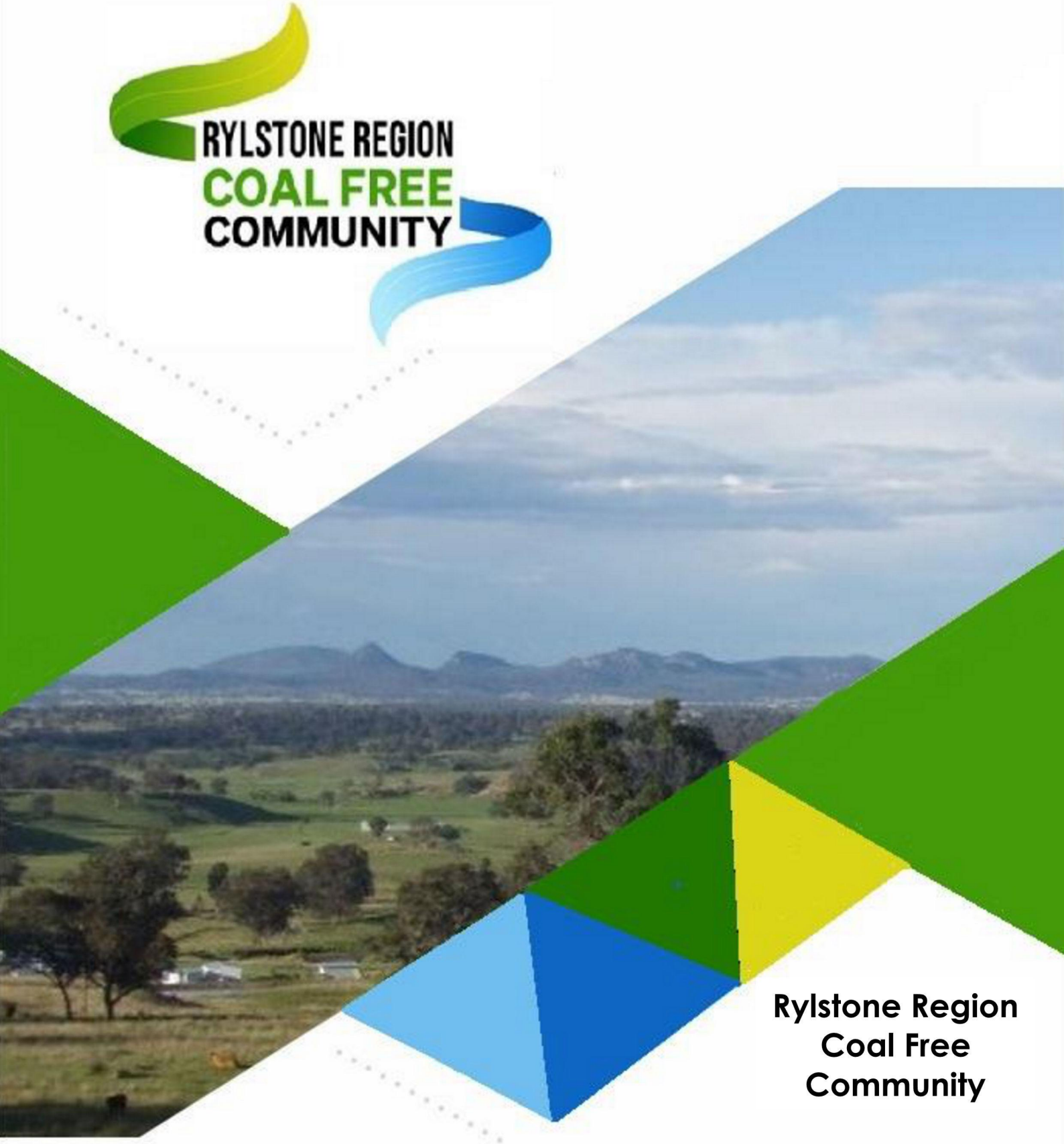
Submission
The report attached is the RRCFC's submission to the PRIA process on Impacts on Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the impact a coal mine would have on the Wollemi National Park. Separate submissions for a range of other issues are also being submitted by the RRCFC.

The RRCFC recognises that coal exploration is a precursor to coal mining, and therefore it is predominantly the mining phase that is considered in this submission.

Given that the NSW Government has thus far failed to meet its obligations in regards to its approach to managing its interactions with the international agencies and it has not fully considered impacts through a rigorous appraisal process, and that the impacts from mining are direct, indirect, cumulative and profound, it is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration and the resulting report, and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

Coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

I agree to the above statement
Yes



Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Impacts on World Heritage

Final

Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Impacts on World Heritage

Final

Prepared by:
Rylstone Region Coal Free Community
Parkinsons Road, Coxs Crown NSW 2849

August 2021

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Document Control

Document Reference	RRCFC Submission GBMWHA Impacts FINAL.Docx
Project	Rylstone Region Coal Free Community PRIA response
Document Type	Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Impacts on World Heritage
Author	Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

Acknowledgement of Country

The RRCFC acknowledges that we live and work on Wiradjuri Country.

We acknowledge the Wiradjuri peoples as the traditional custodians of the land, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Executive Summary

2020 Strategic Statement and the PRIA process

The NSW Government's June 2020 Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining outlines the NSW Government's approach to transitioning to renewable energy and supporting the economy and aims to improve certainty about where mining should not occur. It identified 14 potential future coal exploration release areas (NSW Government, 2020). The Hawkins and Rumker potential release areas were identified in this Statement; the Ganguddy-Kelgoola area, which sits adjacent to Hawkins and Rumker, is also identified in this statement.

Following the release of the Strategic Statement, the NSW Government Advisory Body for Strategic Release has requested the Hawkins and Rumker areas be put through the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) process (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), 2021a). Ganguddy-Kelgoola is expected to go through the PRIA process in the near future once further exploration is completed.

The PRIA process, also set out in the Strategic Release Framework (NSW Government, 2020), is an initial assessment of social, environmental and economic matters relating to areas that could be released for exploration. In theory, it involves engaging with interested and potentially impacted stakeholders to identify issues for consideration.

RRCFC's Impacts on Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Submission

This report is the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community's (RRCFC's) submission to the PRIA process on *Impacts on Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area*. Separate submissions for a range of other issues are also being submitted by the RRCFC. The RRCFC recognises that coal exploration is a precursor to coal mining, and therefore it is predominantly the mining phase that is considered in this submission. The RRCFC strongly opposes the release of Hawkins and Rumker as coal exploration areas.

Failure to meet international obligations

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has noted that extractive projects outside World Heritage properties should not, under any circumstances, have negatives impacts on the outstanding universal value of the properties. To prevent negative impacts, **projects must be subject to appropriate and rigorous appraisal processes prior to the grant of licenses that specifically assess likely effects on outstanding universal values of the property including 'direct, indirect and cumulative effects'**.

In addition, given the proposed release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas would affect the Outstanding Universal Value the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, as outlined in this submission, there is an obligation on the NSW Government to inform the World Heritage Committee as a stakeholder during the PRIA process and fully consider its response. In addition, to properly consider the potential impacts, **prior to the granting of licenses** projects must be subject to appropriate and rigorous appraisal processes that specifically assess likely effects on outstanding universal values of the property including 'direct, indirect and cumulative effects'. In short, this PRIA process, which only seeks to identify potential social, environmental, and economic constraints and opportunities of exploration and mining, is insufficient to meet Australia's international obligations in relation to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Further, DPIE has at no point indicated that it has yet informed the World Heritage Committee or intends to undertake a rigorous appraisal process to properly consider the range of impacts. These steps must be taken to meeting Australia's responsibility as custodian of world heritage.

Coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

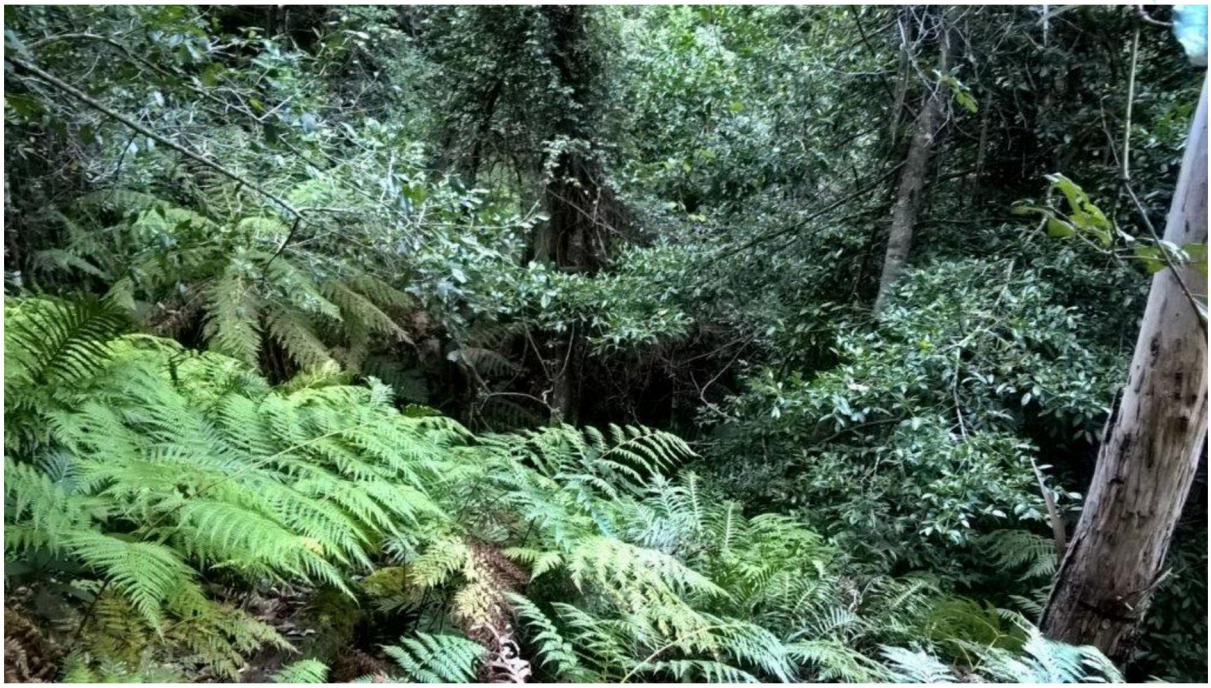
Photo credit: M. Vessey

Impacts are direct, indirect, cumulative and profound

There is a growing body of expert evidence detailing the negative indirect and cumulative impacts of five existing coal mines on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for potential coal exploration and mining would further impact the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

As was demonstrated by the KEPCO proposal in Bylong, these impacts **are widespread and exist at a profound level through the nature of a coal mining development**. It is extremely disappointing that the NSW Government is considering mining adjacent to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. It seems nothing is too sacred to be sacrificed for coal.

The NSW Government has thus far failed to meet its obligations in regard to its approach to managing its interactions with the international agencies and it has not fully considered impacts through a rigorous appraisal process, and that the impacts from mining are direct, indirect, cumulative and profound. Therefore, it is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration and the resulting report, and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas. Coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.



Coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

Photo credit: S Baguley

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1 | Introduction

1.1 Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) Process

The NSW Government's Advisory Body for Strategic Release has asked the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to prepare a Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) (DPIE, 2021a) to consider the benefits, opportunities, risks and constraints of releasing two adjacent areas located near Rylstone in the Mid-Western Regional local government area.

These areas are shown in Figure 1 and include:

- Hawkins - an area of 14,900 ha located directly north of Rylstone, and
- Rumker - an area of 17,800 ha located directly northeast of Rylstone.

An initial assessment of resource potential undertaken by the Division of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience within the Department of Regional NSW has identified coal resources within the Hawkins and Rumker areas that could be mined by underground mining methods (DPIE, 2021a). It is noted that these areas could just as well be mined using aboveground methods.

In June 2020, the NSW Government released the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining (NSW Government, 2020). The Strategic Statement "outlines the NSW Government's approach to transitioning to renewable energy and supporting the economy and aims to improve certainty about where mining should not occur." It identified 14 potential future coal exploration release areas (NSW Government, 2020).

Adjacent to Hawkins and Rumker is the area of Ganguddy – Kelgoola, which is slated to go through the PRIA process once further exploration is completed (NSW Government, 2020).

1.2 PRIA Preparation

The PRIA process is also set out in the Strategic Release Framework (NSW Government, 2020). It is an initial assessment of social, environmental and economic matters relating to areas that could be released for exploration. In theory, it involves engaging with interested and potentially impacted stakeholders to identify issues for consideration.

DPIE has engaged Resource Strategies to undertake 'preparation of a Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment document in relation to a defined area that could be released for coal exploration' for a sum of $167,156 (NSW Government eTendering, 2021).

On its website Resource Strategies (2021) says it facilitates development approvals for major mining and associated infrastructure projects and prepares comprehensive and timely environmental assessment documentation with the assistance of recognised experts across all environmental fields.

The DPIE undertakes the PRIA and submits this to the Advisory Body for Strategic Release, which considers potential release areas, reviews reports and recommends assessment of the release of an area for resource exploration. The Advisory Body for Strategic Release makes recommendations to the Minister for Regional NSW, and these are considered by Cabinet and, if approved, the Minister for Regional NSW releases an area for exploration and invites companies to apply for a prospecting title.

1.3 Rylstone Region Coal Free Community

1.3.1 RRCFC

The Rylstone Region Coal Free Community (RRCFC) is a self-funded group of like-minded local residents, and supporters, of the Rylstone Region committed to stopping further exploration of coal and approval of mines in our region. Our aim is to protect the land, heritage, culture and community for now and future generations.

1.3.2 Purpose of this report

This report is the RRCFC's submission to the PRIA process on *Impacts on Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area* and the impact a coal mine would have on the Wollemi National Park. Separate submissions for a range of other issues are also being submitted by the RRCFC.

The RRCFC recognises that coal exploration is a precursor to coal mining, and therefore it is predominantly the mining phase that is considered in this submission.

Given that the NSW Government has thus far failed to meet its obligations in regards to its approach to managing its interactions with the international agencies and it has not fully considered impacts through a rigorous appraisal process, and that the impacts from mining are direct, indirect, cumulative and profound, it is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration and the resulting report, and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

Coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

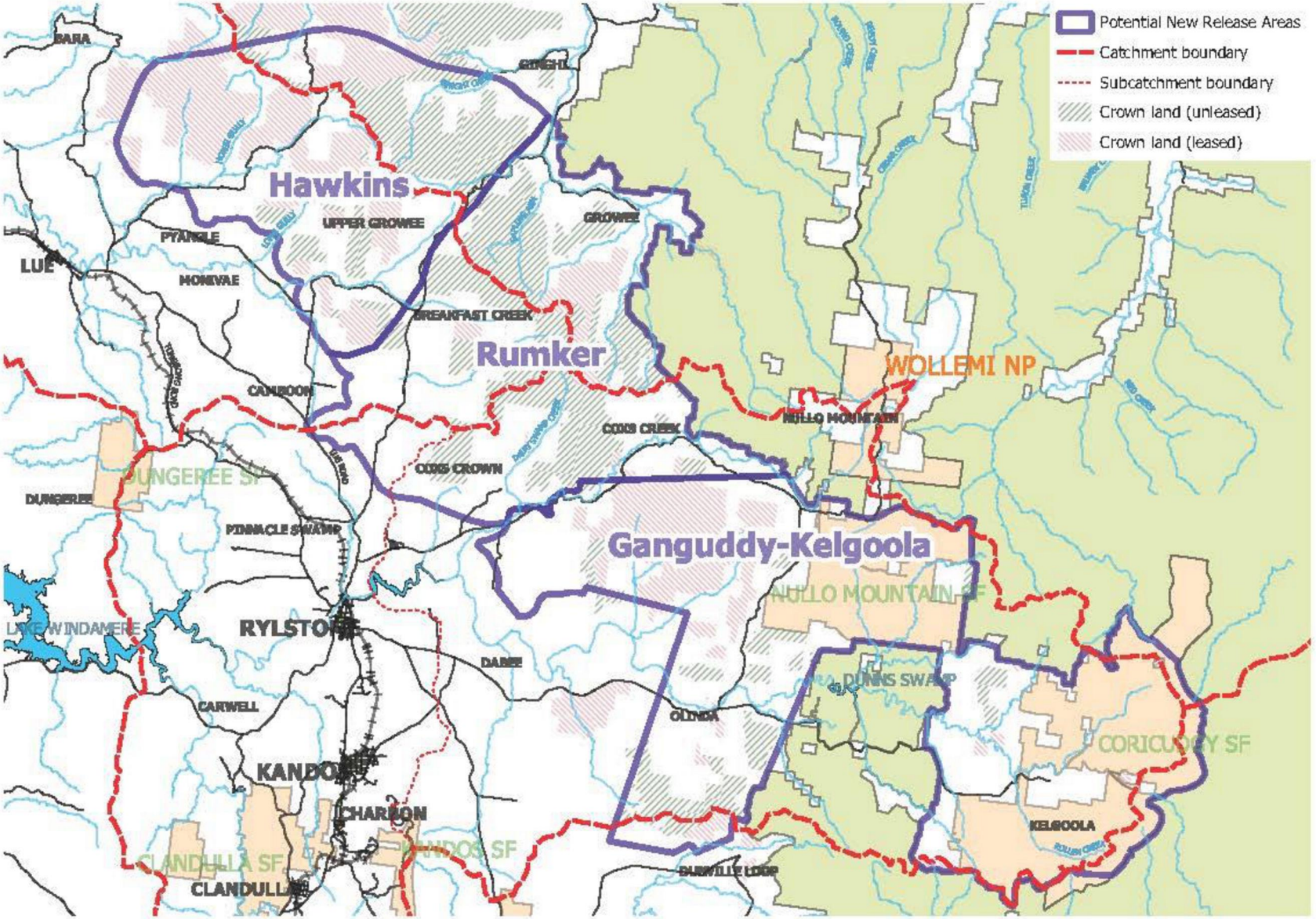

Figure 1 The proposed exploration areas (note only Hawkins and Rumker being considered in this PRIA)

2| Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

2.1 Context

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is made up of eight conservation reserves across a million hectares of spectacular sandstone plateaux, escarpments and gorges dominated by temperate eucalypt forest.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has noted that extractive projects outside World Heritage properties 'should not, under any circumstances, have negatives impacts' on the outstanding universal value of the properties(2013, pg. 1) and that to prevent negative impacts, projects must be subject to appropriate and rigorous appraisal processes prior to the grant of licences that specifically assess likely effects on outstanding universal values of the property including 'direct, indirect and cumulative effects' (International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2013, pg. 2).

In addition, paragraph 172 of the World Heritage Committee's operational guidelines is referenced, which requests countries to inform the Committee in advance of any proposed project that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of a property (UNESCO, 2019). The World Heritage Committee's decision at its 2018 meeting, which requested that state parties ensure that potential impacts of large-scale developments, whether direct or indirect, are assessed through Strategic Environmental Assessments at an early stage and before approvals are given (World Heritage Committee, 2018) is also of relevance in matters that will have direct or indirect and cumulative impacts on World Heritage Areas.

Figure 2 The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is dominated by temperate eucalypt forest

Photo credit: S Baguley

2.2 Mining impacts

2.2.1 Cumulative effects

In 2018, there were five coal mines adjoining the World Heritage Area which are having significant, indirect impacts on it.

Evidence suggests these mines are having a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Values of the World Heritage Area. The impacts described below in relation to the existing mines and the proposed Bylong project include hydrogeological change, water pollution, impacts on flora and fauna, damage to wetlands, aesthetic impacts and potentially undermining the integrity of the WHA including impacts on geological structures.

2.2.2 Australia's state of conservation reports for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

It is notable that the 2004 state of conservation report (UNESCO 2021) available on the World Heritage Committee's website for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area states that mining and surface water pollution are particular threats to the World Heritage Area.

This raises major concerns, particularly in light of the number of coal mining projects currently causing indirect impacts to the site. This would be greatly exacerbated by the development of a mine in the Hawkins and Rumker areas. It is noted that after the 2004 report, the World Heritage Committee adopted a decision encouraging '*the State Party to prevent any developments that could have adverse effects on the World Heritage property*'. We contend there is no doubt that a coal mine in the Hawkins and Rumker areas would have adverse effects on the property.

An updated state of conservation report was submitted in 2019 by the Australian government (UNESCO 2021), triggered by, amongst other matters, Lock the Gate raising concerns in relation to the Bylong mine, again raises mining as a threat to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Following analysis by the World Heritage Centre, the following points in relation to coal mining were included in the decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO, 2021b):

The World Heritage Committee:

- notes with concern that several mining projects exist in the vicinity of or adjacent to the property, and that some mining activities have resulted in impacts on the property, as evidenced by the incident at the Clarence Colliery, and also requests the State Party to undertake an assessment of potential cumulative impacts of all existing and planned mining projects in the vicinity of the property through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or a similar mechanism;
- Reiterates its position that mineral exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) Position Statement to not undertake such activities within World Heritage properties;
- Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.

2.2.3 Environmental Assessment and World Heritage

It is the RRCFC's reading of the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Heritage Advice Note: Environmental Assessment and World Heritage (2013) is that the NSW Government was obligated to have completed a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the 'landscape scale' assessment of potential impacts at the time it was developing the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining (NSW Government, 2020), given it was identifying areas for potential mining at a landscape scale. As the Advice note says (p8), '*development proposals located outside the boundaries of a World Heritage Site may have serious negative impacts on Outstanding Universal Value depending on the nature and scale of the proposals. For example, a mining proposal located 30km away from a site may, depending on the terrain, have serious implications for the hydrology of a site and also cause secondary effects, such as demographic changes.*'

The Strategic Environmental Assessment should have included consideration of cumulative impacts at a landscape scale and the identification of 'high level' strategic alternatives to development proposals. The NSW Government has failed to do this, and it appears failed to have even notified the World Heritage Committee.

Now that one of the projects, the release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration, is being considered from this Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining, it is obligate on the NSW Government to complete an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. The Advice note says (p8), '*all proposals which may adversely affect a World Heritage Site, whether they are located within or outside its boundaries, should be subject to a comprehensive and rigorous environmental assessment process, such as an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment or Strategic Environmental Assessment, prior to considering whether to grant consents and licenses'* and (p5), *'Environmental Assessment reports for developments that will, or may, impact a natural World Heritage Site should include* ***a separate chapter presenting clear conclusions on the proposal(s) potential negative impacts on all relevant aspects of Outstanding Universal Value****, including on values, integrity and protection and management. Such conclusions should also consider* ***social issues*** *(displacement of populations, creation of new settlements, reduction of local people's livelihoods etc).*

Figure 3 The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area has spectacular sandstone plateaux, escarpments and gorges

Photo credit: P Joseph

3 | Impacts from Existing Coal Mining

3.1 Direct and Cumulative Impacts

There is a growing body of expert evidence about the negative indirect and cumulative impacts of five existing coal mines on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Below is a summary of the impacts of five existing coal mines on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. These mines are:

- Tahmoor Colliery
- Clarence Colliery
- Springvale coal mine
- Wambo coal mine
- Invincible Colliery

3.2 Tahmoor Colliery

The activities of the Tahmoor Colliery, adjacent to Thirlmere Lakes National Park, is posited in recent research as the likely cause of the loss of water in Thirlmere Lakes. The Thirlmere Lakes are a chain of five natural freshwater lakes in the eastern part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, near the town of Thirlmere. Two research papers have highlighted the likely link between nearby underground coal mining and the drying up of the Thirlmere Lakes, with significant implications for the ecological character of the site (Schädler, S. and Kingsford, R.T., 2016). For at least 50 years, up to about 2008, the lakes were used for recreation by the community; including swimming, water skiing and canoeing. Then the water levels started to drop rapidly, and most of the lakes have been effectively dry since about 2011 (Pells, P and Pells, S., 2016). The Tahmoor Colliery completed mining of 29 longwall panels by 2010, the closest only 600m from the lakes. One of the reports concludes that '*the only reasonable scientific conclusion is that extraction of an average of 1200ML/year of groundwater by the mine since about 1995 has impacted on the water levels in the lakes*'.

3.3 Clarence Colliery

The Clarence Colliery is permitted to discharge wastewater to the upper Wollangambe River, which flows into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Wastewater is generated through underground coal mining operations, coal washing and stockpiling at the mine surface. In 2014, research found that this discharge caused water pollution and ecological degradation in the Wollangambe River (Belmer, N., Tippler, C., Davies, P., and Wright, I., 2014). In addition to the regular discharge of water from the Clarence Colliery, in July 2015 more than 2,300 tonnes of coal material escaped from a coal storage area at the Clarence mine and caused significant impacts on the Wollangambe River and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Fine coal particles affected a 10 kilometre stretch of the river, turning the water black in places. The company was prosecuted and found guilty of serious environmental offences (Environment Protection Authority v Clarence Colliery Pty Ltd, 2017).

3.4 Springvale coal mine

The Springvale coal mine was given approval to extend its operations in 2015, including allowing the mine to continue to discharge large amounts of mine water into the Coxs River, which flows into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The approval allowed the proponent, Centennial Coal, to extract 4.5 million tonnes of coal from the Springvale mine every year for a further 13 years. It permitted millions of litres of highly saline mine water to be discharged every day into the Coxs River. Water discharged from the mine also contains nitrates, phosphates, zinc, nickel and other contaminants (Environmental Defenders Office, n.d.) A legal challenge against the approval argued that it was unlawful because the decision maker could not be satisfied the development would have a 'neutral or beneficial' effect on water quality in the catchment. The challenge was successful on appeal (4nature Incorporated v Centennial Springvale Pty Ltd, 2017), but the NSW Parliament passed a new law to retrospectively validate the original approval (Environmental Defenders Office, n.d.).

3.5 Wambo coal mine

In the north of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, the South Bates extension of the Wambo coal mine in the Hunter Valley (EPBC ref 2016/7816) consists of seven new longwall panels approved under the EPBC Act in 2018, one of which will come within 120m of the Wollemi National Park in the northern end of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. There are eight escarpment cliffs associated with the National Park ranging in length from 20 to 200 metres that are within 300 metres of the longwall operations. The company has admitted that some of these could experience cliff instability as a result of the new longwalls (Peabody Energy, 2017).

3.6 Invincible Colliery

In 2018, the NSW Independent Planning Commission granted consent to re-open the Invincible Colliery with an expanded open cut operation called Southern Extension. This will bring open cut mining to within 210m of the pagoda rock formations of Ben Bullen State Forest (NSW IPC 2018). Though not part of the World Heritage Area, Ben Bullen is contiguous with it and the mine will mar the aesthetic values of the forest and impact on biodiversity.

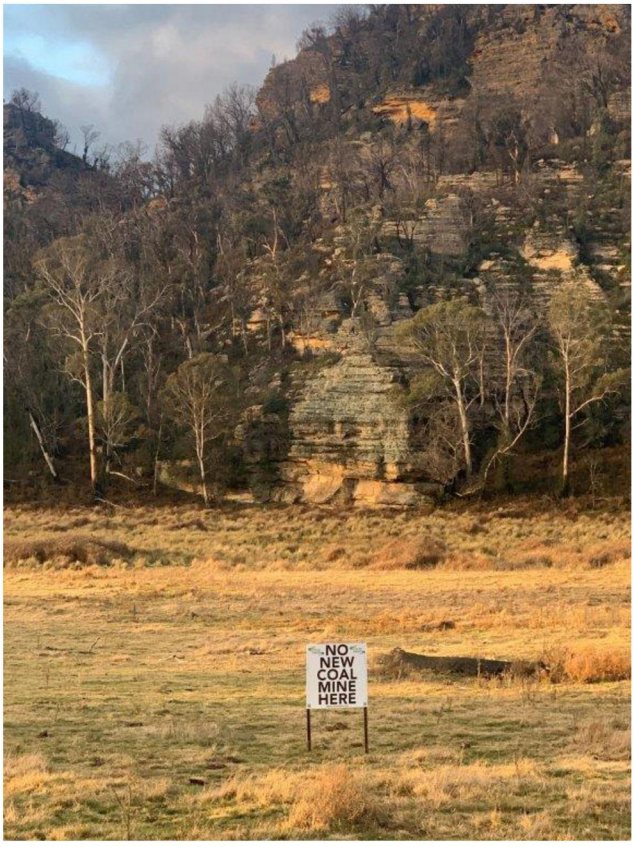

Figure 4 Mining damages pagoda rock formations

Photo credit: D. BaguleyP

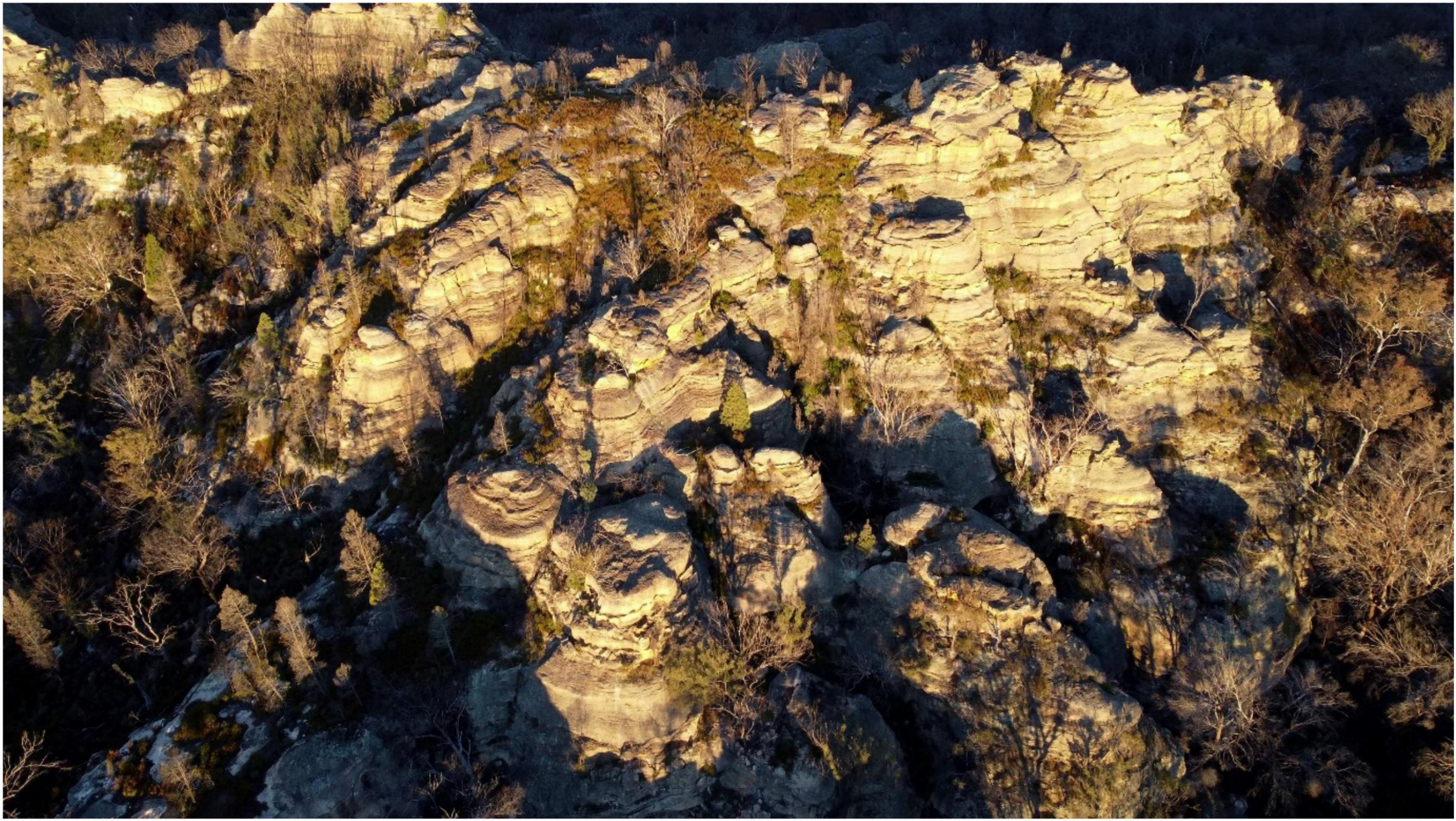

Figure 5 Breathtaking pagoda rock formations in the coal release areas

Photo credit: P. Joseph

Figure 6 Rock formations in the coal release areas after the Black Summer fires

Photo credit: P. Joseph

4 | Impacts from a potential coal project

4.1 Context

In addition to the five existing coal mines described above, any mine within the Hawkins and Rumker areas would represent an additional threat to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. To understand how these threats may manifest, Bylong Coal Project which was proposed by KEPCO Bylong Australia Pty Ltd to develop a coal mine in the Bylong Valley east of the Hawkins and Rumker is considered. KEPCO proposed to use both open cut and underground mining methods to extract up to 6.5Mtpa of thermal coal for 25 years (KEPCO, 2015). This contrasts with Hawkins and Rumker areas, where it is anticipated that the volume of coal could be 910 megatonnes per annum (DPIE, 2021). Given the rapidly diminishing world market for coal, it is reasonable to assume that any company seeking to mine this deposit and receive a commercial return would be pulling it out of the ground as fast as it possibly could. Given this, it would be reasonable to assume that 20 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) could be extracted.

The Hawkins and Rumker areas adjoin the Wollemi National Park which is part of the Greater Blue Mountains Area World Heritage Area.

This information relating to the Bylong mine that is considered includes:

1. Regional modelling of the hydrological impacts of mining contained in the Bioregional Assessment for the Hunter sub-region of the Sydney Basin bioregion, which was conducted by the Department of Environment and Energy
2. Noise modelling contained in the Environmental Impact Statement produced by KEPCO.
3. Extracts of heritage assessments undertaken or commissioned by the Heritage Council of NSW and the NSW Planning Assessment Commission

4.2 Hydrological Impacts

For the Hunter sub-region, the Bioregional Assessment found that 'There are 137 km^2 of the Greater Blue Mountains Area World Heritage Area within the zone of potential hydrological change in the Hunter subregion" from new mining proposals (Herron N.F., Macfarlane C., Henderson B.L., Post D.A., et al, 2018). The maps produced showed that the vast majority of this was in Wollemi National Park and was likely to occur as a result of the proposed Bylong coal mine which was planned in an area adjoining the Wollemi National Park.

Appendix A provides the relevant map from the Bioregional Assessment outlining the extent of the potential hydrological changes predicted in the Greater Blue Mountains Area World Heritage Area. This identified a large area of the Greater Blue Mountains Area World Heritage Area adjoining the eastern edge of the Bylong project as potentially experiencing hydrological change.

Given that regardless of the type of mining contemplated in the Hawkins and Rumker areas, there would be considerable impacts on the ground and surface waters of the region, this has strong parallels for the Hawkins and Rumker areas. However, it cannot be ruled out given the differences in scale between the Bylong proposal and the quantum of coal being considered in the Hawkins and Rumker deposit, that the impacts would be more severe.

4.3 Noise Impacts

The Noise Assessment conducted for KEPCO's Environmental Impact Statement also provides an indication of the impacts on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area from a coal mine. The noise contours produced for the Noise Assessment indicates incursion of noise of between 35-40 dB(A) into Wollemi National Park in the day and night (EIS Appendix Q E5-E10).

The Ecological Assessment of the EIS admitted that "The noise created by the construction and operation of the Project is likely to affect native species and affect the value of the habitats that remain" (EIS Appendix J 6.17). But there was no assessment that quantifies this impact, and its significance is dismissed by the proponent in the EIS.

A parallel approach was observed in the case with the NSW Government's proposal to raise Warragamba Dam wall, which would also impact the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. In its recent consideration of the Warragamba Dam proposal, the Commonwealth Government has questioned the claim made by the NSW government that the proposal would have no significant environmental impacts on the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Federal officials took issue with the environmental impact statement claim that important ecosystems would not be negatively impacted — a claim which had "no supporting evidence" (Slezak, M. 2021).

Figure 7 Noise from mining impacts World Heritage Values

Photo credit: M. Vessey

4.3.1 Case Study: Anthropogenic noise impairs owl hunting behaviour

Research by Mason, McClure and Barber (2016) found that anthropogenic noise impairs owl hunting behaviour. For or each decibel increase in noise, the odds of hunting success decreased by 8%. The odds of prey detection and strike behavior also decreased with increasing noise, falling up to 11 percent. These results suggest that unmitigated noise has the potential to decrease habitat suitability for acoustically specialized predators, impacts that can reverberate through ecosystems. A mine would have impacts on a range of owl species found in this area, including the endangered powerful owl (Figure 7)

4.4 Heritage Impacts

The Bylong coal mine was also identified to pose risks to the heritage values of the area, including the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The NSW Planning Assessment Commission, which is tasked with considering approval of the Bylong coal project under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, identified major failings with the heritage assessment by KEPCO.

In its July 2017 Assessment Report for the Bylong Coal Project the Planning Assessment Commission concluded that the properties targeted for mining '*have greater heritage significance than has been previously documented by the applicant*'. The Planning Assessment Commission further noted that KEPCO's "*assessment of the values of, impacts to and mitigation measures for the setting of the properties, which is currently part of the proposed disturbance area, is largely absent*".

They went on to state that "The importance of the landscape setting is moreover elevated by the value placed on it by the community…. As the natural beauty of the area is widely recognised, the extent of its interruption by the project requires evaluation".

Figure 8 The importance of the landscape setting is moreover elevated by the value placed on it by the community

Photo credit: C. Nielsen

The NSW Heritage Council subsequently determined to undertake a heritage assessment of the Bylong Valley as a cultural landscape and to assess its significance value. The Heritage Council (NSW Heritage Council, 2018) noted that the '*Significance of the site's proximity to the western side of the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains'* was an issue. The Council also noted that "*The Aboriginal cultural context is fundamental and needs more consideration. The forms discussed are significant to the Wiradjuri people and cutting in to them could be extremely significant*".

This is indicative of the substantial risks to the aesthetic values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and to the heritage significance of the entire landscape where a coal mine is proposed adjoining the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. These risks should be contemplated by the PRIA to properly inform a decision regarding both those risks arising from a mine in the Hawkins and Rumker areas and the cumulative impacts arising from the continuation of mining developments in proximity to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Figure 9 Mining threatens the heritage significance of the entire landscape

Photo credit: S. Baguley

5 | Conclusion

There is a growing body of expert evidence detailing the negative indirect and cumulative impacts of five existing coal mines on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for potential coal exploration and mining would impact the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has noted that extractive projects outside World Heritage properties should not, under any circumstances, have negatives impacts on the outstanding universal value of the properties and that to prevent negative impacts, **projects must be subject to appropriate and rigorous appraisal processes prior to the grant of licences that specifically assess likely effects on outstanding universal values of the property including 'direct, indirect and cumulative effects'**.

In addition, there is an obligation on the NSW Government as set out in the World Heritage Committee's operational guidelines to inform it given the proposed release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas would affect the Outstanding Universal Value the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Additionally, the potential impacts of this proposal must be assessed through an environmental impact assessment at an early stage and **before approvals are given**. This is of relevance for coal exploration, as there is the expectation that exploration will lead to development.

Therefore, the NSW Government has an obligation in relation to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area to inform the World Heritage Committee as a stakeholder during the PRIA process and fully consider its response. In addition, to properly consider the potential impacts, this proposal must be subject to appropriate and rigorous appraisal process prior to the granting of any licenses. The appraisal process must specifically assess likely effects on outstanding universal values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area including 'direct, indirect and cumulative effects'. This PRIA process, which only seeks to identify potential social, environmental, and economic constraints and opportunities of exploration and mining, falls short of what must be done to meet Australia's international obligations in relation to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

DPIE in its PRIA consultation presentations has at no point indicated that it has informed the World Heritage Committee and has rejected the notion that it should undertake a rigorous appraisal process to properly consider the range of impacts. As was demonstrated by the KEPCO proposal in Bylong, these impacts are **widespread and exist at a profound level through the very nature of a coal mining development – especially one of this scale**. It is extremely disappointing that the NSW Government is considering the potential for mining adjacent of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. It seems nothing is too sacred to be sacrificed for coal.

Given that the NSW Government has thus far failed to meet its obligations in regard to its approach to managing its interactions with the international agencies and it has not fully considered impacts through a rigorous appraisal process,

it is the RRCFC's strongly held view that the PRIA should find that the proposed exploration areas should not be opened for exploration and the resulting report, and the Advisory Board recommend against release of the proposed areas.

Coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas.

Figure 10 Coal exploration should not proceed in the Hawkins and Rumker areas

Photo credit: M. Vessey

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Appendix A | Bioregional Assessment

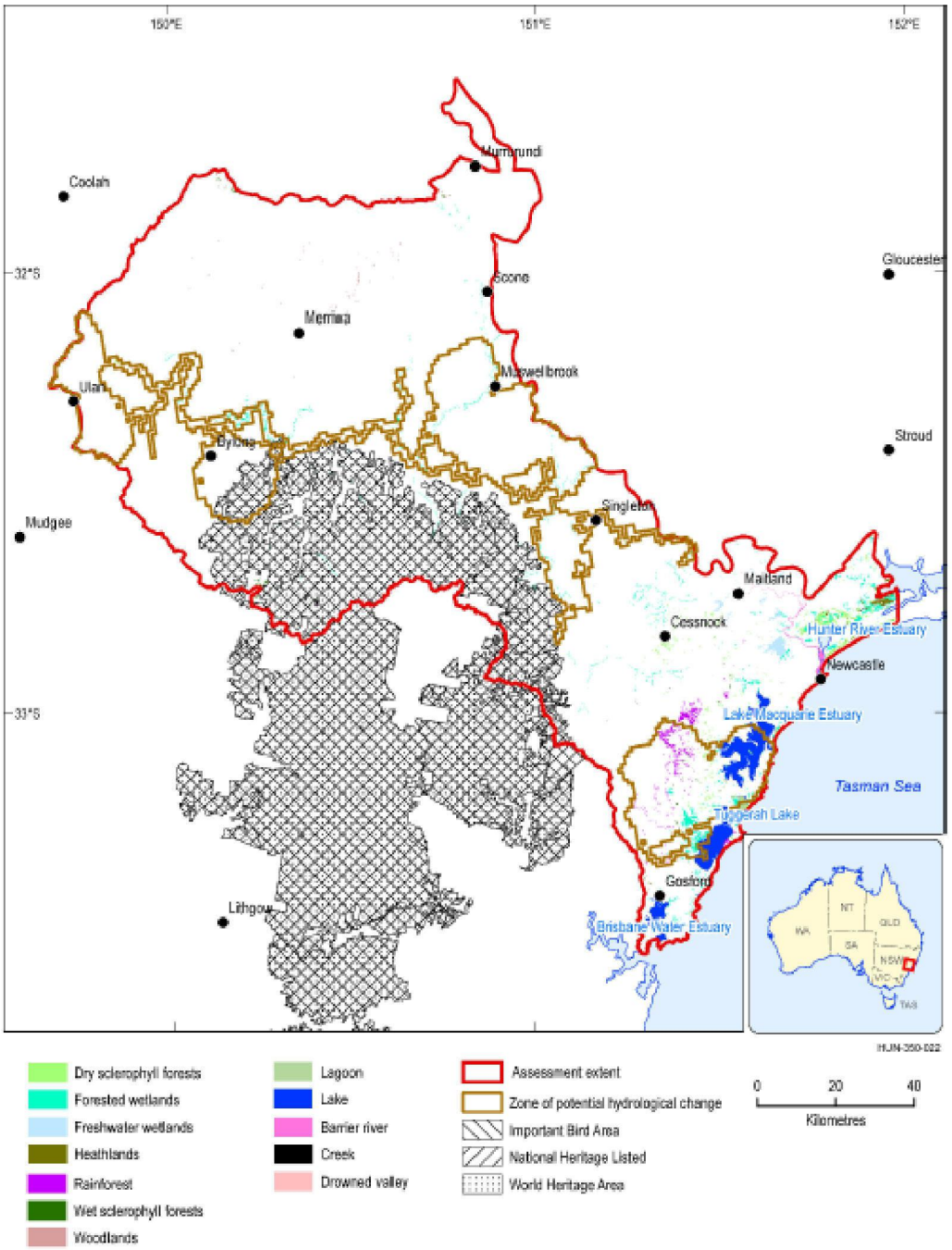

Figure 74 Distribution of selected National Heritage-listed, World Heritage-listed and the Important Bird Area assets associated with the Greater Blue Mountains Area in the zone of potential hydrological change, overlaid with groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE) and coastal lakes and estuaries landscape classes

Data: Bioregional Assessment Programme (Dataset 4, Dataset 6, Dataset 7, Dataset 8, Dataset 9)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 12:14:48 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: schutze-h---hawkins-rumker-pria-submission.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 12:14

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Heike

Last name
Schutze

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Coxs Creek

Submission file
schutze-h---hawkins-rumker-pria-submission.pdf

Submission
Dear Kaitlyn,

Please find my submission attached.

Kind regards,

Heike Schutze

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 Heike Schütze
Coxs Creek NSW 2849

17 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

My family and I live in Coxs Creek and our property falls within the Rumker area, as well as the not yet released Ganguddy-Kelgoola area. Our property is very dear to us, and ashes of loved ones are scattered over the property.

I am against the proposed Hawkins Rumker Proposal for coal exploration (the Proposal) for reasons outlined below. Whilst I have covered some areas in greater detail in other professional and or community organisation submissions, they are included here also as they directly impact my family and myself.

1. The PRIA process

1.1 Community notification and reach

The PRIA process is as a result of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Report, *Reducing the opportunities and incentives for corruption in the state's management of coal resources 2013*[1]. This included recommendations that there should be community consultation. Whilst the NSW Government has been aware of the Proposal for a year, notice of it to landowners was only issued in June 2021, with submissions due six weeks later on 28 July 2021. The notification also advised that DPIE community consultations had been scheduled for 29 and 30 June 2021. Interestingly, the portal for online submissions opened on 14 June 2021, two weeks before the community consultation meetings. The only people who directly received notification of the Proposal and the community meetings, were 181 landowners who properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration zones. Apart from this, the only other notifications provided were one-off advertisements in a few newspapers. The community quickly realised that only 181 landowners had been notified, and those residents in the adjacent or surrounding areas of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabee, Olinda and Kelgoola (population approximately 3000 residents[2]) had not. In essence, this limited notification in terms of time and scope, sent this message: that although the Government knew of the Proposal for over a year, they had decided that only those landowners whose properties were at risk of being mined deserved to be notified of the Proposal, and that they only deserved six weeks notice on a matter that could potentially end their current lives as they knew it. I highly doubt that this was the intended message.

This affront quickly spread to the surrounding areas. Residents in adjoining properties were offended that they hadn't been informed of the Proposal. People in neighbouring towns whose businesses depend on the regional landscape were also offended. People whose drinking water could be affected, whose air could be affected, or who didn't want to see the many negative social impacts that a mine can bring to a community were also offended, as were people who simply enjoy the quiet of rural living. To add to the already building unrest, was the advice that the DPIE face-to-face community consultation meetings were capped at four groups of 50 people, with one of these to be held in Mudgee. At the time the meetings were organised, the venues for these meetings safely housed 150 people under the COVID-19 social distancing and maximum capacity rules. Therefore, capping the meetings to one third of their capacity only served to give the appearance that the

Government was trying to keep community consultation to a minimum, further fuelling community concern and unrest.

1.2 The impact of the Proposal announcement on the community

Due to the limited reach of the Proposal notification, the onus of informing all residents that could be impacted by the Proposal was left to the community. This is inherently wrong. A small group of concerned residents and landowners were left to mobilise physical and human resources to inform adjoining landowners and the neighbouring towns that public meetings were being held in less than three weeks time and that the last opportunity the public would ever have to provide input was in six weeks time. This all without any funding. This placed an inordinate amount of pressure and stress on these individuals and their families, forcing many of them to halt everything else in their lives in order to do this. These very people and their families are already at high risk of negative health impacts due to dealing with the cumulative impacts of multiple natural disasters (drought, bushfires, floods and then COVID-19)[3-5], as are the people they were informing. This has negatively impacted community health and wellbeing[6, 7] and one questions the appropriateness of the timing of this Proposal announcement.

There is sufficient evidence that the negative impact on communities commences at the time of an mining announcement and that processes should be put in place prior to the announcement to mitigate these[7]. Sadly none were implemented prior to the announcement of this proposal, and the way in which the community received limited notification and limited opportunity for input raises serious concerns about the lack of the duty of care extended by the Government. This proposal has already impacted significantly on the health and wellbeing of many residents, as mentioned many who are dealing with the cumulative effects of multiple disasters, with some simply crying, “I just cannot cope with anything else.” Furthermore, a lot of the information the DPIE is receiving on the local ecology, flora, fauna and culture could have been sourced from desktop reviews. The environmental, health, social and economic factors are readily available in the literature. Therefore, the stress, pressure and angst many in the community have had to suffer in order to ‘make their case’ could also have been avoided. The increased cost and strain to the healthcare system as a result is still to be realized.

1.3 Inequitable community consultation

Due to lockdowns in Sydney and the DPIE team being Sydney-based, the community consultations moved to Zoom meetings. However, this only served to further disadvantage those community members who were not familiar with or comfortable with new technology. Indeed, several people I personally assisted by providing instructions for how they could attend by telephone, became overwhelmed simply with seeing how many different number combinations they needed to input in order to just enter the meeting. Others simply stated that telephone attendance was not a suitable alternative to face-to-face consultation, and that they did not have the connectivity for online participation.

Many people experienced connectivity issues during the meetings. One meeting I attended, I dropped out over a dozen times and finally resorted to phoning in. In another meeting, with only approximately 20 participants, the DPIE requested that everyone turn off their cameras in order to facilitate the sound quality.

As an experienced public health researcher, and one who teaches research methods, I cannot find any justification for capping the originally scheduled face-to-face meetings at 50 people. Any experienced researcher or consultant could easily facilitate a meeting of 150 people to enable frank and open consultation. Furthermore, whilst I understand that the DPIE team themselves could not attend face-to-face meetings as they came from suburbs in lockdown in Sydney, I cannot understand why the face-to-face meetings were cancelled and converted to online meetings for the sake of accommodating a team of four DPIE staff at the expense of nearly 3000 residents. Surely a more equitable solution would have been for the DPIE to attend the face-to-face sessions by Zoom and for them to employ a local facilitator at the face-to-face meetings.

I also question the way the meetings were run. Surveys are designed to gather feedback from anyone who wants to provide it. Community consultation forums are not; they are designed to facilitate open and frank

discussion. Whilst controlling open discussion via Zoom meetings is much more challenging than face-to-face meetings, the numbers present at the Zoom meetings were never such that open discussion could not have been facilitated. The initial meetings were run like surveys: the facilitator purposely prevented open exchange of dialogue between participants and instead sought feedback from each participant individually at the conclusion of the DPIE presentation. Whilst the facilitator's role is absolutely to create an environment where the less outspoken people have an opportunity to speak, it is NOT their role to purposely shut down all other open and frank discussion and dialogue exchange. As such, the community meetings were not what they were advertised to be. Rather they were an information session with people being afforded the opportunity to provide their feedback, which again could have been better achieved via survey.

1.4 Lack of transparency in the decision-making process

The entire point of the Independent Commission Against Corruption[1] was to reduce opportunities for corruption. Yet there is no transparency in how the Government will weight and evaluate the submissions during the PRIA process[8]. 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 important role of public officials in providing frank and independent advice to Ministers, and how public officials remain vulnerable to demands to change their recommendations to align with a Minister's wishes. The way to avoid this is to release the PRIA recommendations before it goes to Cabinet. The PRIA process as it stands now, therefore seems to have a tokenistic step included at the beginning of a process whereby the public are afforded a say (even though what weight this carries is unknown), whilst the rest of the process and any decision-making remains shut behind closed doors.

2. Negative impacts on the social determinants of health

2.1 Clean air

Air pollution is the world's largest environmental health risk[9]. Particulate matter pollution is strongly associated with hospitalisation and death for a range of cardio-pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases, including lung cancer, lung disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiac arrhythmia, heart attack, and stroke[10-12]. There are no safe levels of exposure for particulate matter $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}[11, 13, 14] and even short-term exposure can have adverse effects on health[11, 14]. The neighbouring Hunter Valley is now one of the most polluted regions in Australia[15, 16] due to increasing particulate matter primarily from mines and mining-related activities, with average levels of PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ well above benchmark standards[16]. I cannot accept that my health, my families health, and mu communities health can be protected with correct monitoring when PM_{10} national standards have been exceeded 118 times in the Hunter region[15] in a four year period.

The approval of the Proposal would be out of step with the Paris Agreement[17] on action to address climate and ecological crises, and the international Net Zero by 2050[18] targets. Coal combustion is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions and accounts for over 30 percent of the global temperature increase[19]. Coal use is a major contributor to climate change and accounted for approximately 44 percent of worldwide CO_2 emissions in 2016[19]. Over the coal continuum (extraction, processing, use, and waste disposal), coal mining and processing has significant direct health impacts on pollution in residential communities[19]. Coal combustion generates more particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and heavy metals per unit of energy than any other fuel source[19]. Approval of the Proposal would directly contradict the known evidence linking coal and health outcomes[19-21].

2.2 Clean water

The Proposal has the potential for significant loss of water, destruction of water capturing ecosystems, and destruction of carbon capturing ecosystems. The Rylstone Dam is the sole water supply for my neighbouring townships of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla (population ca 2400[2]) and is fed by the many creeks and natural springs in the Hawkins and Rumker area. The capacity of the Rylstone Dam is 3038 megalitres[22].

The water required to extract 20 million tonnes of coal per annum would be 12,000 megalitres per annum, four times the capacity of the dam. Additionally, both open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination[19, 23-25], and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways[24]. Underground aquifers can be cracked and drained, even in the exploratory stage[26], resulting in springs and bores disappearing, or becoming cross-contaminated. There are several natural springs on my property, which feed into Coxs Creek (which runs the entire length of my property), and these are at risk. This water feeds into the Rylstone and Windamere Dams (the latter which feeds into Mudgee's water supply).

2.3 Mental health

The Proposal can result in substantial mental health issues. Rural communities, particularly those based on farming or ecotourism are subject to psychosocial distress caused by climate change, drought, floods and bushfires[4]. Changed landscapes, including altered visual appearance of landscapes such as those that occur with natural disasters or with large scale developments including mining, can have significant negative psychological impacts[5, 27-30]. As mentioned earlier, evidence shows that the announcement of a mining proposal can result in psychological stress[7]. This has already been observed in this region, as well as directly impacting my family, friends, neighbours and myself.

2.4 Housing and access to services

The Proposal could negatively impact housing and availability of services at the community level. These impacts will not be outweighed by the promises of investment in the local community through claims of employment opportunities. An influx of workers will result in a high demand for housing coupled with limited housing supply, which will increase housing prices and rental prices[25, 31-36]. This can have disproportionate impacts on low-income households and often forces them out of the community or results in them becoming homeless[33, 37]. Rapid population growth often leaves communities with insufficient infrastructure and local services to meet the increased demand [25, 31, 33, 38]. Local governments and businesses are often hesitant to invest in increased services for what is considered a short term venture[39, 40]. The local hospital does not have the capacity in terms of human or physical resources to deal with any serious emergencies.

2.5 Employment and economic impacts

Mines provide a flow of revenue to governments and the mines' (mostly foreign) owners, however, the flow-on to local businesses and local communities is generally not seen[41]. The Hunter in the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas[42]. Mining is a specialist industry and there is likely to be very limited hiring from the local population[39]. Mining is becoming increasingly automated which results in fewer on site roles, particularly manual and semi-skilled roles.[43] This will likely reduce local opportunities to supply mines with services[39, 43]. Furthermore, existing businesses and services will struggle to compete with the high wages mining companies offer, finding it difficult to fill positions or retain staff[33, 34]. These will impact the very fabric of this region.

The Reserve Bank of Australia anticipates international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable[44]. The Hunter mines are already operating well under capacity due to the lack of demand[45] and enough resources are already approved to meet future demand. Over the next five years, mining is predicted to create just 0.4 percent of new jobs across all of Australia[46]. The global shift away from coal to renewable sources will result in decreased demand for coal[44, 47]. This Proposal will result in injecting additional coal mining capacity into a market that is declining, which will result in a loss of the market share for existing operations, ultimately putting existing coal mining jobs at risk[48]. It makes no sense to open new mines.

The Proposal has the potential to create major employment losses in the region. The Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing industry sector is the largest employer in the Hawkers Rumker area and accounts for 22 percent of jobs and Tourism nine percent; mining accounts for only two percent[49]. These long-term sustainable industries are incompatible with mining. Developing a coal mine in the area is not fostering a sustainable economy and is putting the current sustainable economy of the region at risk.

The uncertainty of a new mining proposal has negative impacts on local economies: businesses stop investing[50], new industries are difficult to attract[50], and property values decrease as people cannot sell[51]. This can be evidenced locally in nearby Ulan, Wollar and Bylong. Apart from my families own property, we have several investments in the region which are likewise at risk.

2.6 Living conditions

The Hawkins Rumker proposal has potential negative impacts on living conditions. Increased non-resident transient male workforces, with good incomes and large blocks of down time, can lead to increased alcohol and substance abuse, and increased violent crime including physical and sexual assault[32, 33, 39, 52] in nearby communities. Areas with large non-resident workforces have reported a decline in community networks, community identity and community cohesion[25, 33, 34, 53]. These again will impact the very fabric of this region.

Environmental noise pollution is a threat to health and well-being[54]. Detrimental health impacts include hearing impairment, increased blood pressure, ischemic heart disease, sleep disturbance, and psychosocial effects such as annoyance and reduced performance[54-56]. At the lower frequencies, people commonly report pain or pressure in the ears and head, sleep disturbance, pressure in the chest cavity, body vibration and nausea[57]. Nocturnal environmental noise pollution is thought to be the most significant form of noise pollution in terms of health consequences, due to its interference on biological systems through sleep disturbances[56]. Noise and vibrations from mining are increasingly impacting neighbouring townships[25] and are likely to impact the neigbouring townships of Kandos, Rylstone and Lue in the Hawkins Rumker Proposal area. Noise generated from transporting coal in trucks and then trains will also undoubtedly impact these towns. My family will be impacted regardless of whether the mine is open cut or underground.

2.7 Cultural heritage

Aboriginal Australians are the oldest continuous living culture in the world[58]. Country is of great significance to Aboriginal peoples is fundamental to identity[59]. Aboriginal people are owned by the land and have a deep responsibility to protect the land. *Yindyamarra* is a key way of being for the Wiradjuri peoples, to respect and honour everything and is interconnected with identity, belonging, culture, spirituality, language, law and kinship[59]. There are currently 28 publicly listed Aboriginal cultural sites in the proposed Hawkins Rumker release area[60]. It should be noted that this is a gross underestimation of sites in the area: the Traditional Custodians have for some time been connecting with residents in order to access sites on private land, and to help protect any further destruction to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites[61]. The Traditional Custodians recently visited my property. It was noted that the land was a special place and held several important resources in terms of springs and swamps. Considering that time has not permitted for the property to be explored and that important sites have been identified on neighbouring land, it is reasonable to assume that these extend onto this property and/or additional sites will be identified.

Cultural sites are interconnected and each site represents only one part of a bigger picture. Mining operations of any kind, risk disturbing sites. Moving, damaging, or destroying one site, destroys the meaning of the sites and their interconnectedness. Even if the usual 10-metre buffer zones are applied around these sites during mining operations, this is inadequate to protect them from the environmental impacts which will extend far beyond a 10-metre border. Furthermore, disrespect, damage or destruction of land leads to significant negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples, impacting their identity, sense of belonging, culture and spirituality, and results in continued intergenerational trauma[59, 62]. Small buffer zones around sites do not protect Country from being transformed and/or destroyed, or prevent culture from being destroyed[62, 63].

The Wiradjuri peoples have already seen massive destruction to Country through mining and other activities in the local government area. Songlines[64] which have been passed down over tens of thousands of generations have been broken through blocked or altered land routes[62]. As Aboriginal people consider themselves and the land to be one and the same, the Proposal would add to the countless individuals that have already been disturbed, which affects the spirituality of the land[62] and thereby culture, identity and wellbeing.

3. Flora and Fauna

My property borders the Wollemi National Park, which is part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The idea of a proposed coal mine in an area that adjoins a World Heritage Area, is beyond belief. Noise, air and water pollution do not stay within the boundaries of a mine. There is a growing body of evidence about the negative indirect and cumulative impacts of five existing coal mines on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. It is without doubt that any new mining operations would serve to increase this impact.

Coxs Creek runs the length of my property and includes thoroughly unique swamp grassland and sphagnum bog[65].
There are several endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost[60, 66], including: three plant species; 12 bird species; three mammal species including koala, and two reptile species[66]. In fact a verified siting of the Rosenberg's goanna (*Varanus rosenberi*) was found on my property confirming a range extension for this species[67].

There are a further eight flora species, 11 bird species and 11 mammal species that have been recorded in the local government area and for which suitable habitats occur in the Hawkins and Rumker areas. Considering the paucity of data in the Hawkins Rumker area (data collection has mainly concentrated in State Forest and National Parks), it is reasonable to assume more species may exist in the Hawkins Rumker area than are recorded.

4. Conclusion

The level of opposition to the Proposal includes: concerns raised with the PRIA process; negative impacts on the community's physical and mental health, access to clean air and water, employment, housing and services and living conditions; decreased social capital; continued intergenerational trauma though negative impacts on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Country; and negative impact on flora and fauna, including threatened and thoroughly unique species. The world is shifting to renewable energy, resulting in existing mines operating well under capacity due to a lack of demand, and there is already enough resource approved to meet future demand. It simply does not make sense to open a new mine. All the above clearly indicate that a social license for the Proposal has not been achieved. The Proposal should be denied.

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 12:14:14 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: hawkins-rumker-coal-areas-18-aug-21.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 12:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name
Francis

Last name
Breen

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Gladesville 2111

Submission file
hawkins-rumker-coal-areas-18-aug-21.pdf

Submission
We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed release for coal mining of the Hawkins and Rumker areas located near Rylstone in the Mid-Western Regional local government area.

Please refer to the attached letter.

Francis Breen
President
Ryde Hunters Hill Flora & Fauna Preservation Society
[redacted]

I agree to the above statement
Yes

RHHFFPS

Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society

Member of Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.

[redacted]

Gladesville 1675

Director Energy and Resources Policy
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Parramatta NSW 2150

Re: **Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker**

We are a local environment group established over 55 years ago. The aims and objectives of the Society include-

- Respect for the land and its flora and fauna and original custodians:
- The education of the membership and the community, particularly in the local area, in nature conservation and protection of the environment.
- The promotion of ecologically sustainable land use and development at the local, state, national and international levels.
- Advocating measures at the local, state, national and international level necessary to safeguard the environment from all forms of pollution to ensure, clean air, clean water and a healthy environment and address climate change.

The Society has been actively campaigning over many years on the mitigation of climate change, ceasing further exploitation of fossil fuels, supporting renewable energy, protecting native forests and wildlife, opposing destructive land clearing and preserving our precious biodiversity.

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed release for coal mining of the Hawkins and Rumker areas located near Rylstone in the Mid-Western Regional local government area. We are concerned about the detrimental impact of the proposed release on water supply, flora and fauna and aboriginal heritage. Most importantly we are concerned that the proposed release is entirely inconsistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report 6 August 2021 (IPCC report).

Water impacts

The Hawkins and Rumker areas contain high value waterways, covering over 63km of creeks in good or moderate stream condition and which are fragile to disturbance. Coal mining can have significant impacts on the water resources of a local area. Drilling can crack and drain underground aquifers.

We are concerned that the Rylstone Dam catchment is in the Hawkins Rumker 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

Flora and Fauna

We are concerned about the detriment to endangered flora and fauna species as well to endangered ecological communities caused by mining operations. 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 NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. 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.

There are several records of Koalas in the Hawkins area.

The disturbance to waterways would impact on fish habitat and fish species. The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek would be impacted and the Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Cox's Creek would be under threat.

The Rumker release area runs along 33km of the border of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area We are concerned about the potential impacts of mining operations on the boundaries of the World Heritage Area.

Aboriginal Heritage

There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the proposed release areas that are at risk. The 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.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report

With the release of the latest report by the IPCC the UN secretary-general Antonio Guterras stated that *'the IPCC report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet'.*

There is an estimated 910 million tonnes of coal located beneath the Hawkins-Rumker area. Australia's total annual emissions are currently around 528 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. Fully mined, this new coal area would release four times that amount (ie2.2 billion tonnes).

The IPCC report states in Limiting Future Climate Change (section D of headline statements)

From a physical science perspective, limiting human-induced global warming to a specific level requires limiting cumulative CO2 emissions, reaching at least net zero CO2 emissions, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions.

New coal mines are inconsistent in reaching net zero emissions.

Conclusion

We urge that the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment recommend that the Hawkins and Rumker areas not be released for coal mining owing the detrimental impacts on water supply, flora and fauna and aboriginal heritage. Most importantly the assessment should recommend that the areas not be released as such release is entirely inconsistent with the IPCC report findings that *limiting human-induced global warming to a specific level requires limiting cumulative CO2 emissions, reaching at least net zero CO2 emissions.*

The NSW Government must stop new coal projects now.

Francis Breen
President

18 Aug 2021
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 12:05:57 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: 20210817_hawkins-rumker_submission.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 12:01

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Don Morris

Last name
Lyda

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
AVALON BEACH

Submission file
20210817_hawkins-rumker_submission.pdf

Submission
I strongly object to granting exploration licenses to the Hawkins-Rumker Region on the basis it is unnecessary, ill-conceived, unlikely to benefit the regional environment, economy or populace, and, in this transitionary time, completely contradictory to the preferences of 75% of ALL Australians.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Don Morris Lyda
[redacted]
Avalon Beach, NSW 2107

16Aug.2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

A majority of Australians, myself included, feel this is NOT THE TIME TO APPROVEI coal exploration in the the Hawkins and Rumker areas. The recent IPCC strongly contests the importance of added coal mining projects given the clear and present danger it represents to reducing global emissions. There may be a time when further coal exploration is required, but it is NOT NOW. Would it not be more intelligent to wait until the Nation can react to the IPCC report and determine whether additional coal mines are genuinely required.

I am 72years of age and have visited the Hawkins and Rumker areas numerous times since I relocated from the USA 25 years ago. If it becomes apparent Australia needs more coal reserves, then it may make sense to allow the area be opened for mining exploration.

Australia is already one of the biggest coal exporters in the world.
If the IPCC report is correct, and I believe it is, the exploration for added coal reserves in the Hawkins and Rumker region could potentially damage the environment for coal exploration. I think it a profound mistake to grant exploration of the Hawkins Rumker region, and these are my reasons why:

1) No return on value to the voters in Australia. This proposed exploration cannot benefit Australia when the future for coal excavation is questionable, at best, and nonsensical at worst.
2) Nno assurance exploration licenses will include “strict environmental management conditions to protect native flora, fauna, land and water resources.
3) Insufficient community consultations on this proposal.
4) The trend is towards a reduction in coal exports, and this means a new development runs a higher risk of failing, and therein, leaving Taxpayers to fund rehabilitation & unemployment.
5) The Hawkins Rumker proposed release areas threatens water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla; and other downstream reserves.
6) It is a fallacy that a coal mine will improve regional economy and the mere suggestion mining will occur can decimate existing businesses as people stop investing or move away.
7) Coal mining is linked to major health issues and the neighbouring Hunter Valley is now a pollution ‘hotspot’ and has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW.

I give you my permission to use my name on the PRIA submission site.

Thank you for your consideration,

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:56:01 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: hawkins-rumker-personal-submission.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 22:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Janet

Last name
Walk

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2849

Submission file
hawkins-rumker-personal-submission.pdf

Submission
File uploaded

I agree to the above statement
Yes

Submission for Hawkins Rumker 18/08/2021
Janet Walk
[redacted] Camboon 2849 NSW

I have lived in the area for 25 years. I operate an agri-tourist business which offers a unique holiday with horses, accomodation for 16 adults (in two venues) with idyllic landscapes close to national parks, wineries, olive groves. Guests from urban areas arrive on Friday evening to enjoy a weekend with family and friends of bike riding, bush walking and bird watching. It is truly beautiful. All only a three hour drive from Sydney. Mine is one of many such businesses in the area. In town there are cafes, antique shops, Tea Houses, cafes, pubs and restaurants.

Busting the myth about "struggling" country towns glad of mining jobs

Over the last 6 years the tourist industry has boomed, very different from the town I moved to 25 years ago with it's empty streets on the week-end. Today it is hard to get a park on a Saturday morning. The town is vibrant, alive and colourful. There are no boarded up empty shops. The real estate market has few empty residences for sale as more people review the high cost of city living and take the tree changer option as their life style choice. The internet has changed everything as businesses structure their work environment needs and change to avoid high rental on city office space to accommodate rural livingfor their employees "making the break" from centralised urban planning. The same could be said for universities who now offer online degrees, making it possible for young people to stay in country areas, many of whom find work in the hospitality industries with far greater ease than in high cost urban areas.

I often hear proponents of coal mines lamenting the poor, run down country towns in need of employment promising to create jobs, wealth and progress. Nothing could be further from the truth in Rylstone. In fact quite the opposite is true. To make a comparison, in Muswellbrook or Singleton, two towns in the heart of Hunter Valley coalfields, you will find boarded up shops, run down streetscape, and no tourists or street life on a weekend. Tourists, it seems, don't like the culture of a mining town as a destination. I would say that means that tourism and coal mining are incompatible.

Australia's contribution to Greenhouse Gas Emissions on per capita basis

As this submission is being written in a landscape scarred by mega fires, wild fires rage on three continents and four countries and floods wash away entire buildings in nearby tropical countries.

Climate Change is here. The catch cry of the Fossil Fuel industry that “the science is unsettled” has lost it's meaning. We don't need science to tell us this now because the impacts are affecting our daily lives and our Earth, our habitat.

The idea of the NSW Government's “business as usual” proposal for land release for coal mining in the face of catastrophic, runaway climate change can only be described as criminal. The Hawkins Rumker community are fully aware of the impact of climate change having woken daily to the sound of explosions as the bush around us leapt in burning infernos. For our government to ignore this feels for many like a form of 'gaslighting' at scale. Gaslighting, although not listed in the Diagnostics and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (DSM), is described in domestic violence literature “when an abuser manipulates someone to doubt their own perception of reality”.

Of all the reasons for my opposition to the proposed land release of the Hawkins/Rumker community this is the greatest. It lays bare the fact that our elected leaders are not going to protect the community from the harm of runaway climate change, are content to keep the discussion narrow, bubbled and cocooned in “land use conflicts, water allocations, employment opportunities” and are beholden to fossil fuel interests, even at the expense of life as we know it on planet Earth. This land release for coal mining should never have been suggested and must be rejected.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:46:54 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: submission-template-online-1.pdf

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
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Kingville

Submission file
submission-template-online-1.pdf

Submission
Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I do not believe we should be destroying any more of the precious land we have left of first nation's people. They are the rightful owners of this land. I also believe in utilising renewable sources for energy and opening another mine is a step in the wrong direction in the midst of a global climate crisis.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

[Full Name] [redacted]

[Suburb] Kingsville **Postcode:** 3012

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

I do not beliieve we should be destroying any more of the precious land we have left of first nation's people. They are the rightful owners of this land. I also believe in utilising renewable sources for energy and opening another mine is a step in the wrong direction in the midst of a global climate crisis.

Select	Issue	How it affects or concerns me
☑	Lack of consultation	- The Government has not informed the community properly. - There is no transparency in how the Government will evaluate the submissions.
☑	Loss of our water	- Coal exploration and mining disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways. - Springs and bores can disappear through mining drilling and digging activities. - The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong waterways are our town's water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong. - Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bushfires with.
☑	Air & noise pollution	- Coal mines operate at above normal recommended noise levels all day every day. - Traffic from trucks will increase and coal trains will run through our towns. - The dust and particulate matter from the mine and trucks/trains travels for kilometres. - Pollution is inevitable, e.g. the Hunter valley is now one of the most polluted areas in Australia
☑	Impacts on our tourism	- Our community has worked very hard to build a thriving tourism industry. Tourism has sustained, long-term impact; mining is short term. Many of our local businesses are incompatible with mining; tourists do not come to see coal mines. - The landscape may change irreversibly if it is mined
☑	Aboriginal heritage	- Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk. - Even if not mined directly, these can be damaged with subsidence.
☑	Town life	- The threat of coal exploration and mining creates uncertainty for people. This results in people leaving, people no longer investing in the region, and towns declining as people lose their jobs. Bylong is the perfect example. - Very few if any jobs are created by new mines. Properties and associated infrastructure are built for miners by their own people, not locals - Locals struggle to compete with high wages of miners which drives up housing and other costs.
☑	Agriculture	- Farms would be lost with up to ~ 32,700 ha of land becoming coal mines. - Our farms and food will sustain us for much longer than a coal mine.
☑	Climate change and carbon emissions	- Coal produces 2.42kg of carbon per kg of coal burnt. An underground mine also produces methane emissions. - The world is moving away from coal – Australia must encourage innovation and renewables

I Have not made any political donations in the last two years. (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
info@rylstonecfc.com or to pria@planning.nsw.gov.au

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)* (PPIP 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 PPIP 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 PPIP 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 PPIP 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 PPIP 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 PPIP Act, you have the right to make a complaint to the Department or to the NSW Privacy Commissioner, 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]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:35:38 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: jennys-2bluebrochure2015pages.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
jenny

Last name
franks

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2849

Submission file
jennys-2bluebrochure2015pages.pdf

Submission
please see attached file

A currant brochure of our Farmstay business in the Olinda area that was established over 26 years ago. This is another of the examples of what would be disrupted or lost if this currant exploration and potential mine is allowed to progress

This is just one amongst many other business in Olinda, Cox Creek and Nullo Mountains (Hawkins-Rumker, Ganguddy-Kelgoola) area that have diversified their farming operations to includes tourism, they believe they have something great to share
This exploration proposal must stop now!!

I agree to the above statement
Yes

Welcome to Reg & Jenny Franks' Breakaway..

"...Breakaway to peace and tranquility"

Accommodation

Large timber house suits groups 6-14
Rock House for 2-6

Both houses are fully self-contained, very comfortable and well equipped. Table tennis and push bikes available.

Campsite Large, private, near river includes large cement floored shed and bathroom with open fireplace. Sandstone BBQ.

Location 3.5 hours from Sydney and 1 hour from Mudgee on the edge of the Wollemi National Park. It is situated in it's own secluded valley, surrounded by spectacular sandstone outcrops, just 3.5 hours from **Sydney** and 1 hour from Mudgee

The cottages built by the family, offer accommodation for groups of up to 20 and a large private campsite provides bush alternative.

Franks Breakaway is a working farm of over 600 acres located next to the **Wollemi National Park** and with **Cudgegong River** flowing through the property. You can enjoy river walks, bush walks, rock climbing adventures- climb up through the Split Rock -try to spot a platypus, see kangaroos, wombat burrows, a lyrebird, (Bird watching groups have seen over 90 different species in this area).

Take a **walk** to **Dunn's Swamp**, as seen on **Getaway** and **Our Country**, past the unique Pagoda Rock formations to Platypus Point.

Local history includes the Lady Bushranger, Aboriginal Sites, the 1930's construction of the Dunn's Swamp Waterways and of course Reg's own book **"Out of My Tucker Box"**

Photo and painting opportunities abound with the spectacular views, abundant native flora and the wildlife.

Self cater and enjoy local produce - large covered BBQ areas also available or have Jenny cater with her wonderful country cooking.

Relax by the fire or on the verandah sipping a glass of wine and watch the sunset over the valley and take in the peace and tranquility.

..... at Reg and Jenny Franks' Breakaway

Hosts: Reg and Jenny Franks

[redacted]

OLINDA via RYLSTONE NSW 2849

(Via Narrango Road/Dunns Swamp Area)

[redacted]

GPS: Lat -32.842989, Lon 150.170849

Email: [redacted]

Website:www.franksbreakaway.com.au

Mudgee: www.visitmudgeeregion.com.au

Franks' Breakaway

Visit the Regions Attractions

Rylsyone - Kandos

Local Produce	Wine Tasting
Local Arts Crafts	Cafes & Restaurants
Museum	Historical Buildings

Dunn's Swamp

Fishing	Swimming
Canoeing	Scenic Walks
Aboriginal Sites	Wollemi National Park

Mudgee

Wineries	Cafes & Restaurants
Galleries	Historical Buildings

Huge Campsite situated on the banks of the Cudgegong

TARIFF per night (including GST)

Wood House and Rock House

One Night $50 Adult and $25 Child

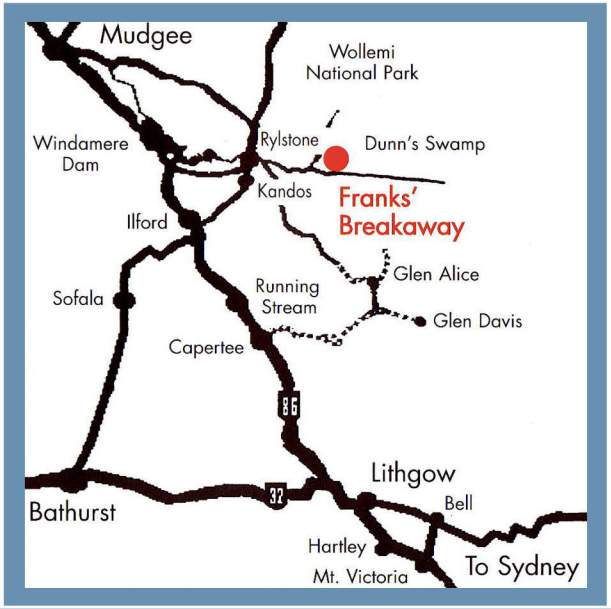
Two nights $45 Adult and $20 Child

Surcharge for long weekends

Campsite $10 Adult and $5 Child

Group booking Rates negotiable

We welcome well behaved children



From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:21:43 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: submission-template-online-1.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:16

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Concetta

Last name
Caristo

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2027

Submission file
submission-template-online-1.pdf

Submission
I want to save Rylestone against coal exploration in this beautiful area!

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

[Full Name] Concetta Caristo

[Suburb] Edgecliff **Postcode:** 2027

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

Select	Issue	How it affects or concerns me
☑	Lack of consultation	- The Government has not informed the community properly. - There is no transparency in how the Government will evaluate the submissions.
☑	Loss of our water	- Coal exploration and mining disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways. - Springs and bores can disappear through mining drilling and digging activities. - The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong waterways are our town's water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong. - Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bushfires with.
☑	Air & noise pollution	- Coal mines operate at above normal recommended noise levels all day every day. - Traffic from trucks will increase and coal trains will run through our towns. - The dust and particulate matter from the mine and trucks/trains travels for kilometres. - Pollution is inevitable, e.g. the Hunter valley is now one of the most polluted areas in Australia
☑	Impacts on our tourism	- Our community has worked very hard to build a thriving tourism industry. Tourism has sustained, long-term impact; mining is short term. Many of our local businesses are incompatible with mining; tourists do not come to see coal mines. - The landscape may change irreversibly if it is mined
☑	Aboriginal heritage	- Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk. - Even if not mined directly, these can be damaged with subsidence.
☑	Town life	- The threat of coal exploration and mining creates uncertainty for people. This results in people leaving, people no longer investing in the region, and towns declining as people lose their jobs. Bylong is the perfect example. - Very few if any jobs are created by new mines. Properties and associated infrastructure are built for miners by their own people, not locals - Locals struggle to compete with high wages of miners which drives up housing and other costs.
☑	Agriculture	- Farms would be lost with up to ~ 32,700 ha of land becoming coal mines. - Our farms and food will sustain us for much longer than a coal mine.
☑	Climate change and carbon emissions	- Coal produces 2.42kg of carbon per kg of coal burnt. An underground mine also produces methane emissions. - The world is moving away from coal – Australia must encourage innovation and renewables

I Have not ▾ made any political donations in the last two years. (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: No ▾

Save this form and then email it to
[redacted] **or to** [redacted]

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Phone: 02 9860 1440
Email: [redacted]

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

Attachments: submission-hawkins-rumker-prelim-regional-issues-assessment-aug-21.pdf

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Lesley

Last name
Hodges

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
South West Rocks 2431

Submission file
submission-hawkins-rumker-prelim-regional-issues-assessment-aug-21.pdf

Submission
Please see my attached submission.

Please advise me of the outcome of the assessment process by email

Yours Sincerely

I agree to the above statement
Yes

Submission to the Hawkins and Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

According to the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment, page 1:

"The assessment will focus on:

- collecting relevant data to identify key social, economic and environmental considerations in the areas;
- engaging with the community to gain knowledge on local matters of interest and concern;
- examining potential risks and constraints to the release of the areas for coal exploration (e.g. significant environmental concerns, potential land use conflicts, impacts on existing infrastructure and services); and
- examining the issues to inform the decision makers on whether or not to release the areas for exploration and the terms of any release. "Page 1 of Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Bulletins-and-Community-Updates/Hawkins-Rumker-Information-Paper.pdf?la=en

My submission addresses some of these considerations.

Taking into account the matters of the assessment guidelines above:

1. The NSW Government must not approve any more coal mines;

2. Any coal exploration and mining in these areas would have significant environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts and risks;

3. therefore this release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas must not be approved.

Even though the granting of the approval for release of these areas would not immediately produce the documented impacts, this action would be followed by consequent exploration and coal mining which would have major negative impacts.

These impacts and consequences must be considered at this point in the planning process.

The release of these areas may also have legal implications for subsequent exploration and mining and this should also be considered and documented in the assessment because the NSW Government may have some legal obligations to permitting exploration in the first instance.

Environmental considerations and risks

One of the main reasons that these areas must not be released is the contribution to climate change risks and climate change certainties.

The risks and certainties of climate change are well documented and this body of knowledge must be considered in this assessment. Therefore I have only included an brief overview.

Climate change

It is now understood that the world has a climate budget under which we can hopefully avoid the worst aspects of climate change on our environment, economy and health and lifestyles. But only if we urgently and quickly reduce emissions. Coal and gas extraction and use are leading sources of CO2e emissions.

According to the most recent IPCC report summary (August, 2021), there is a near-linear relationship between cumulative anthropogenic CO2 emissions and the global warming they cause. Each 1000 [gigatonnes] of cumulative CO2 emissions is assessed to likely cause a 0.27-degree to 0.63-degree increase in global surface temperature, with a best estimate of 0.45 degrees. (Ref: Climate Change 2021 The Physical Science Basis Summary for Policymakers *https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf)*

This latest report by the IPCC has therefore highlighted the fact that every tonne of CO2e emission adds to global warming, and that what we do in NSW and Australia does make a difference to our situation.

Australia has already warmed by 1.4 degrees C, and the impacts of this are already evident and getting increasingly dire.

Coal mining releases CO2e emissions, including the highly damaging methane. Burning of coal adds to global emissions whether this is burnt in Australia or overseas.

Australia is one of the highest exporters of coal in the world. We need to reduce this contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, not increase it.

Any release of any of part of these areas for coal exploration and mining would be at direct odds with the aims of the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan.

Therefore the areas must not be approved for release.

The other reasons that this release should not be approved include:

Water

Coal mines have a significant negative impact on local water resources. Drilling for exploration is known to crack and drain underground aquifers; coal mining uses vast amounts of water and also causes contamination and loss of biodiversity.

Water is becoming an even more important and scarcer resource for towns and agriculture and the environment, with the predicted, and already observed, reductions in rainfall, decreased infiltration, and increased evaporation due to climate change.

In this case, the proposed exploration areas are in the catchments of the Rylstone and Windamere Dams. What happens to the town water supplies in the next drought and dependent agriculture?

The high risk and high consequences of reductions to and damage to water resources must not be taken.

It would be irresponsible of the NSW Government to allow scare water resources to be permanently lost and contaminated because of a relatively short-term coal mining venture.

The above also has impacts on *existing infrastructure* (dams) *and services* (water supply) as per the assessment guidelines.

Aboriginal heritage

There are a large number of aboriginal heritage sites in these areas. (Ref: Western Coalfields Strategic Release Mapping and Analysis, May 2021. *https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/7317/attachments/original/1623889487/Western_Coalfields_Earthscapes_ReportV3.pdf?1623889487).*

Despite this, the Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors, which was prepared in 2015 for a specific exploration drill activity, says that there are no aboriginal artefacts of sites in these areas which is not correct.

This 2015 REF specifically for Category 3 exploration drilling is not sufficient for the current proposal and contains major errors.

There must be a proper review and documental of the Aboriginal Heritage in these areas, for the purposes of assessing whether this release be approved. This must be done in consultation with the local Aboriginal representatives and must be included in this assessment before any decision is made on this proposed release.

Impact on flora and fauna

Exploration and coal mining would have a high negative impact on local flora and fauna. This includes many species of endangered and vulnerable flora and fauna and threatened ecological communities. (Ref: Western Coalfields Strategic Release Mapping and Analysis, May 2021. *https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/7317/attachments/original/1623889487/Western_Coalfields_Earthscapes_ReportV3.pdf?1623889487).* Waterways and creeks would be impacted as would their habitats. This also would impact on native fish and invertebrates and any mammal species such as platypus that use these habitats.

Again, note that the Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors, which was prepared for a specific purpose and not this assessment, does not accurately represent the status of endangered flora and fauna which, contrary to the REF do exist in the two areas. The document has merely relied on a search for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Atlas of NSW Wildlife (BioNet) to conclude there is no threatened flora in the areas.* This is not correct. In addition, more recent searches of this data base show a number of endangered and vulnerable species and threatened communities.

* Note: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Atlas of NSW Wildlife does not claim to have a comprehensive coverage of flora and fauna for the affected areas. It only includes data where surveys happened to have been undertaken and if the survey personnel input the data to the Atlas. Therefore, an absence of a record on this system does not mean an absence of any species or community in the field. There is other available data which must be sought before any statements about the presence of absence of endangered flora and fauna is made. And impacts on more common flora and fauna and vulnerable species can also be important.

This REF must not be relied upon for an assessment of impacts on flora and fauna from the proposed release of these areas.

Again, proper information must be made available before any decision on this is made.

Other Environmental and Social Impacts

Health Impacts

Coal mining and the burning of coal has led to the Hunter area being a high-risk area for respiratory and cardiac conditions due to poor air quality. Any more mines would add to the pollution levels. In addition, the extra traffic from construction and exploration and mining, and the loading and unloading and transportation of coal, of would further add to harmful particulate levels in the air including in Newcastle.

Increased bush fires, increased high temperatures, and increases in dust from the ground due to dry conditions, all which are already happening due to climate change, will also have increased negative outcomes on health in the local area.

The health impacts of climate change are less well known, but are very well documented, including by the WHO and Australian authors. This body of knowledge must be considered in this assessment.

Economic and social impacts

Economic benefits

The economic impact of most coal mines can be mostly negative in the local area – apart from those people who are directly employed, however the benefits to multinationals and large corporations can be high. The Government may benefit economically, though is some cases the Government subsidy to mining and exploration outweighs the economic benefits to the Government.

A proper assessment of economic costs and benefits must be available before this decision is made. This must include the costs of any Government subsidies as well as the costs of additional CO2e emissions on the local and national environments and economies.

Amenity and tourism

Tourism is an important industry in the Hunter area. Any coal mines resulting from these proposals would reduce the attractions, and attractiveness (amenity) of this area to tourism. This would be another economic disbenefit.

My Qualifications

I have a BSC (Hons) from Sydney University majoring in Ecology, and a Masters of Management from ANU. I have worked at a senior level for environmental and pollution control departments in both the NSW and Federal Governments.

I have been privately studying the impacts of climate change since 2006.

I have children and a grandchild. The decisions you make here will impact on their lives as well as your own.

Lesley Hodges

18 August 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:05:51 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: submission-against-mining-exploration.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 10:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Footscray

Submission file
submission-against-mining-exploration.pdf

Submission
I have attached a submission listing my objections. I feel deeply that the protection of our environment, our waterways, our native flora and fauna is paramount. I stand up for the preservation of Aboriginal sacred sites and am urging the NSW Government not to go ahead with this mining exploration. The profound negative impacts are manifold. Please protect our beautiful country and put a halt to this degradation. I am a university lecturer and my students are deeply concerned about their future particularly in regard to our natural heritage and climate change. One of my students' family will be directly and severely affected if this is allowed to go ahead. Please take action and stop this going ahead

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

[Full Name] [redacted]

[Suburb] Footscray **Postcode:** 3011

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

Please see all the issues below that constitute my reasons for opposing this exploration. Of major concern for everyone is destruction of the natural environment and aboriginal sacred sites this mining exploration will cause

Select	Issue	How it affects or concerns me
☑	Lack of consultation	- The Government has not informed the community properly. - There is no transparency in how the Government will evaluate the submissions.
☑	Loss of our water	- Coal exploration and mining disturbs, contaminates and destroys waterways. - Springs and bores can disappear through mining drilling and digging activities. - The many creeks and rivers in the Growee, Lawson and Cudgegong catchments are at risk. The upper Cudgegong waterways are our town's water supply, and this also flows into Windamere Dam, impacting Mudgee and Gulgong. - Mining uses extraordinary volumes of water. Without water, there is no agriculture, no communities, no tourism, no environment, nothing to fight bushfires with.
☑	Air & noise pollution	- Coal mines operate at above normal recommended noise levels all day every day. - Traffic from trucks will increase and coal trains will run through our towns. - The dust and particulate matter from the mine and trucks/trains travels for kilometres. - Pollution is inevitable, e.g. the Hunter valley is now one of the most polluted areas in Australia
☑	Impacts on our tourism	- Our community has worked very hard to build a thriving tourism industry. Tourism has sustained, long-term impact; mining is short term. Many of our local businesses are incompatible with mining; tourists do not come to see coal mines. - The landscape may change irreversibly if it is mined
☑	Aboriginal heritage	- Significant Aboriginal sites including art and ceremonial sites are at risk. - Even if not mined directly, these can be damaged with subsidence.
☑	Town life	- The threat of coal exploration and mining creates uncertainty for people. This results in people leaving, people no longer investing in the region, and towns declining as people lose their jobs. Bylong is the perfect example. - Very few if any jobs are created by new mines. Properties and associated infrastructure are built for miners by their own people, not locals - Locals struggle to compete with high wages of miners which drives up housing and other costs.
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From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 11:04:23 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: submission-template-online-1.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 11:02

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Brunswick, Melbourne 3056

Submission file
submission-template-online-1.pdf

Submission
Please accept my submission opposing this proposed coalmine and I wish to register my concern of the desecration of land, culture and environment that this proposed development would cause.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Submission to the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

[Full Name] [redacted]

[Suburb] Brunswick **Postcode:** 3056

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

Select	Issue	How it affects or concerns me
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Complaints

If you feel there has been a breach of your privacy under the PPIP Act, you have the right to make a complaint to the Department or to the NSW Privacy Commissioner, 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: privacy@dpie.nsw.gov.au

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:59:54 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: rdessubmissionhawkinsrumkerpria_august2021.pdf

Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 10:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name
Rylstone District

Last name
Environment Society

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Rylstone 2849

Submission file
rdessubmissionhawkinsrumkerpria_august2021.pdf

Submission
Please see the attached submission from Rylstone District Environment Society Inc.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

Rylstone District Environment Society Inc.
[redacted] Rylstone NSW 2849

18 August 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment:
proposed Hawkins and Rumker coal exploration areas (Rylstone district)

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is seeking input from the community and other stakeholders on the positive and negative environmental, social and economic matters to be considered in making a decision about whether to release the Hawkins and Rumker areas for further coal exploration.

Rylstone District Environment Society requests that the following issues are considered as part of this preliminary regional assessment:

Environmental concerns

Contribution to greenhouse gas emissions

The major environmental issue posed by coal exploration is the urgent need to halt contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Worldwide, we need to transition away from burning fossil fuels, starting now. Granting permission for or even considering further coal exploration implies support for continued use of coal as a fuel source, and ignores the gravity of this major environmental issue.

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Gutierres, referring to the IPCC Report issued 9 August 2021 stated: 'This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels before they destroy our planet … Countries should also end new fossil fuel exploration and production, and shift fossil fuel subsidies into renewable energy'.

Water pollution

Coal mining activity in the Hawkins and Rumker areas would pose a threat to water quality in the Cudgegong River, Coxs Creek and Lawson Creek catchments. Polluted run-off could enter these catchments. The Cudgegong River at Rylstone is the town water supply for both Kandos and Rylstone, and the Cudgegong River flows into Windamere Dam which is Mudgee's water supply.

Many of the rural properties affected by the Hawkins and Rumker mining exploration proposal have springs. Any new coal mining in this area will affect the aquifers which supply these springs. Adverse impacts on aquifers would in turn affect flows into the Cudgegong, which is part of the Murray–Darling system.

Water scarcity

The large amounts of water used in mining activities would threaten our local water resources, making us more vulnerable to drought. Water is a precious, scarce resource and not replaceable.

Air quality

We know from studies conducted in other coal mining areas that mining activity will increase dust pollution, including from increased heavy vehicle traffic in the area. As well as affecting our immediate environment, downstream costs associated with poor air quality will be an extra burden for our government.

Noise pollution

Coal mines operate all day, every day, often causing excessive noise. This can have a negative impact on the local community, especially at night, leading to sleep deprivation and depression.

Flora and fauna

There are many rare and threatened plants in the area. A comprehensive list of these is available in the Rylstone Region Roadside Vegetation Study.

There is also an abundance of wildlife in uncleared areas in our district. Many species are endangered or declining in numbers in NSW. Notable among these is the platypus. Visitors to Rylstone are often treated to a glimpse of a platypus in the Cudgegong River at Rylstone. Also abundant along the river are wombats, echidna and many birds, especially water birds. The Rylstone–Kandos area is a magnet for bird lovers.

The area is also koala habitat, and this needs further study before decisions are made on changes to land use.

Social and cultural concerns

Negative impacts caused by uncertainty

Property owners affected by the potential coal exploration are now worried about their future, and unsure about making improvements to their properties, even though mining activity may not go ahead for years, if ever. Even the threat of mining has the potential to slowly destroy a community, as has been seen nearby in Wollar, Bylong and Dunedoo.

Mining has not been approved in the Bylong Valley, but the small, vibrant community of Bylong has been destroyed by speculation and uncertainty. Landowners started selling up and leaving the area as soon as the threat of mining became apparent.

A small number of local property owners have been aware of the Hawkins and Rumker potential exploration since late 2019. They have been stressed by the uncertainty and threat of exploration for a long time already.

Community division

The prospect of coal mining divides communities and causes confusion and bitterness. This has already impacted our community. Rylstone and Kandos were divided by the Bylong mining proposal, and this new potential exploration would cause even further division as it is even closer to home. Some believe they will profit and prosper, while others believe their livelihoods and quality of life will be destroyed, and our local environment degraded. The local gains, if they eventuate, would be relatively short term and benefit only a few (creating a two-speed economy), but the damage to our collective sense of community and wellbeing would be widespread and long-term.

Damage to Country

There are many Indigenous cultural sites in this area, including on Coxs Creek Road and Bylong Valley Way. Local people know of ancient Indigenous rock art sites within the areas marked for further exploration along Coxs Creek Road. The Dabee Clan (Wiradjuri) lived all along the Cudgegong River, which makes the whole area part of their living culture and sacred to their memory. We have a duty to look after Country, whether we are Indigenous or not. Further study, including site surveys and consultation, is needed to appreciate and protect our cultural heritage for future generations. Once Country is destroyed it is gone forever.

Economic concerns

Damage to local tourism

In addition to agriculture and local services, the Kandos and Rylstone local economy now depends on tourism and much of this is eco-related, attracting visitors who are seeking nature-based experiences and regional food and wine. Ganguddy Dunns Swamp in Wollemi National Park and Fern Tree Gully are close by and offer opportunities for bushwalking and birdwatching. Many new residents have small, tourism-related businesses e.g. offering accommodation or food.

Coal mining activity – noise, dust, heavy vehicle traffic, light pollution – may detract from the quality of experience that attracts people to our area. Potential coal exploration will discourage local businesses from investing in tourism-related infrastructure.

Jobs for a few

Few residents of Kandos and Rylstone would potentially benefit from employment in a coal mine. Mine workers could be drawn from a very wide area.

Transition from fossil fuels

We all know that our economy needs to transition away from activities that generate greenhouse gas emissions. The recent IPCC report stresses the urgency of doing this immediately. We can generate energy via other means that are cheaper and less polluting. Given that existing mines can supply current demand for thermal coal and see us through this transition period, and that demand for thermal coal is falling, and that inevitably we will transition away from the use of this fuel, there is no reason to consider further greenfield exploration sites.

It doesn’t make sense to consider a new greenfield coal mine here when nearby existing mines are operating below capacity, and demand for thermal coal is falling.

Property devaluation

Rural properties, especially those within the potential exploration areas, are likely to decline in value. This could be happening already. Potential new landowners will not want to invest in an area subject to potential coal exploration. Uncertainty affects property values.

Infrastructure damage

Increased traffic due to coal mining exploration will damage our roads. It is already difficult for Mid-Western Regional Council to keep up with local road maintenance.

All for short-term gain?

Profits from coal mining largely go to overseas companies, and while the royalties paid to our government are welcome, and a few enjoy well-paid jobs, this does not compensate for the long-term depletion of our water resources, damage to air quality, and loss of biodiversity and habitat that inevitably result from mining activity.

Yours faithfully,

Carolyn Barlow
on behalf of Rylstone District Environment Society

Rylstone District Environment Society Inc. [redacted] Rylstone NSW 2849
[redacted] www.envirorylstone.org.au

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18/08/2021 10:59:50 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: social-impact,-intertwined-with-economic,-employment,-aboriginal-culture,-environmental-and-heal.pdf

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Submitted on Wed, 18/08/2021 - 10:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Cheryl

Last name
Nielsen

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2849

Submission file
social-impact,-intertwined-with-economic,-employment,-aboriginal-culture,-environmental-and-health-impacts.pdf

Submission

This is a personal submission exampling just one person in this community – The social impact, intertwined with economic, employment, aboriginal culture, environmental and health impacts. They are inextricably linked

Most people have little inkling of the challenges involved in fending off a major development, such as the governments proposed release of areas in our region for Coal & Coal Seam Gas Exploration (Although it's been stated as coal only, please forgive me for my mistrust – NSW government doesn't have a good record for transparency). I was definitely one of those people until May 2021, where the news came out that our region; Hawkins Rumker, followed by Ganguddy-Kelgoola was being release for coal exploration. This type of announcement complete shatters your world.

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So, then you are here, your back is against the wall – the only options left is either: throw up your hands and give up ….. or …..fight.

The fight process begins.

Although we are not opposed to mining, opposition to this project portrays our newly formed, self-funded, small group of landholders and community supporters as "out-of-towners, greenies, a rent-a-crowd, environmental terrorists (as stated by our local councillor and representative Peter Shelley) or not-in-my-backyardists," dividing our community that have already suffered the assaults of drought, 72 days fighting the Black Summer Bushfires, floods, COVID in 2020, and now Delta-COVID 2021. We are portrayed as people obstructing the progress of the government's pursuit of an honest and honourable project that will provide employment for the hard-working local community, especially apprenticeships for our young people.

The reality is, that few jobs will be made available to our local community, most will be given to a set with specialized skills that will come across from other mines and form a transient population – the like of a 4 days on 4 days off schedule. The political rhetoric of "jobs, jobs, jobs" is a deceit. No mention or consideration is given to the job losses, the small business failures, the displaced farmers, tourist operator closures and the resulting economic losses.

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For the nucleus of this group, this involves a devotion of hours, weekly meetings, putting up signs, PRIA Meetings - I've attend 9 PRIA Zoom meetings, canvasing people to see if they are aware of the proposal, organising media opportunities, running a social media campaign, mailouts, newsletters, reading reports and papers, searching the data to back substantiate claims, compiling more information to rewrite an inadequate Review of Environmental Factors (REF), writing submissions, helping the illiterate community members write their submissions, it is, an all-encompassing task – one that none of us signed up for and it has certainly taken its toll.

It is a very stressful process. An unexpected consequence is to find yourself almost providing a counselling service for those people that have been so struck by this proposition, they are almost inconsolable. Their sadness and their powerlessness of the position is completely unaccounted. This raises a red flag in mental health. Regional areas are already disadvantaged regarding medical services. This highlights that they also have increased exposure with circumstances beyond their control.

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Our Farm: the Aboriginal Culture & Heritage, The History of our region

I grew up in the Ganguddy-Kelgoola region, moved to Sydney for tertiary education and come back to the family farm. As landholders, we would always check rock outcrops and caves for aboriginal paintings and evidence of their activities.

We have several rock shelters on our property with evidence of occupation, including artefacts, fresh-water middens (accumulation of shells produced by aboriginal people collecting, cooking, and eating fresh-water mussels) and ceremony grounds. We have other shelters with Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD). We also have the Cudgegong River which, for aboriginal people, the River equals Life sources.

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Additionally, we have attended "cool burning" sessions to learn how the aboriginal people have managed fuel loads to prevent the massive bushfires that we experienced in the 2019-2020.

Regarding our farming operation, we are employing regenerative agricultural practices which nurture the land and improve biodiversity. These practises encourage the value of community and indigenous farming methods.

Out of the adversity of the fires, we have built connections with the people and the land. It has become a personal goal to strengthen these relationships and develop programs where we work together to create greater understanding, to share skills and provide experiences for our visitors. I believe that we can walk together, learn together and that this can be shared to build a better Australia by the connection of people to this land.

Our vision for our community, in conjunction with our aboriginal friends, is to build an educational, cultural and environment hub to celebrate the unique environmental and cultural qualities of our region. This vision was born out of the Bushfire Recovery Project, and we have currently secured funding for the investigative work for this hub.

Our diversity, born out of hard times, increases resiliency – multiple income streams provide stability and financial security, and have inadvertently woven the fabric of a resilient community. Initially, predominantly a farming community, but faced with fluctuating markets, seasonal influences, farmers sought diversity of income by way of off-farm incomes working in the service sector or developing a tourism business, in agro and or eco-tourism.

For us our Farmstay business was developed. Being positioned in a secluded valley with the Cudgegong River flowing through it, surrounded by sandstone pagoda outcrops, and bordering the Wollemi National Park and Ganguddy Waterways (Dunn's Swamp) puts us in a unique location to share with visitors.
With cottage accommodation for groups of up to 20 persons and private camping grounds available for family and friend groups, we are positioned to offer the visitor various activities and experiences. Some come to experience farm life, especially young families wanting their children to have opportunities to feed animals and pick fresh fruit and vegetable from the garden, seeking a "grounding" experience. Families have created a ritual annual holiday here, where we have watched children grow up and come back, bringing their children to experience what they enjoyed in their childhood.

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Individuals also come just to relax, have some "me time" and "recharge their batteries." Being in nature has proven health benefit and is restorative to the nervous system. The aboriginals tell us that these lands still hold the magic. Others have told us that there an intrinsic energy in this country. Unquantifiable this concept maybe, and perhaps very difficult to put a dollar value to, however, undeniably valuable to our visitors. They leave rejuvenated, with capacity to go back and handle the stresses of modern day living and workplaces and more recently the unrelenting CoVID updates.

I believe our enterprise presents many aspects of what will be impacted should the proposed Coal Exploration and subsequent Coal mines proceed:
• We will lose our community – a community that our government needs to support and encourage for the benefit of all Australians.
• We will lose an agricultural enterprise that provides food and fibre in a sustainable and respectful way to both land and animals.
• We will lose our natural native environment that provides refuge to our animals, our birdlife and our people
• We will lose the health restoring environments so desperately needed in these high stress times
• We will lose aboriginal cultural sites, ceremony places and opportunity for ceremony, their connection and ability to care for country, and our opportunity to work together, and share that learning with our visitors, creating a greater reach of understanding – again very needed in our country. Working together and embracing the learning, goes way beyond a "government apology."
• Families will lose their opportunities to create "grounding" experiences for their family, their holidays away from screens and man-made noise, where they are able to nurture their relationships
• We will lose the "time out" opportunity, time to "chill," and take stock
• We will lose our visitor group – our connections to their world and their connection to this world
• And we will lose this tourist business – another small business failure, job losses. Australia's largest employer is small business. The knock-on effect are the other small businesses, the contracted service providers will lose their businesses
•

There are so many reasons why this Coal Exploration Release should be abandoned:

• The critical risk to waterways, streams, springs, swamps, wells, and bores
• The extraordinary loss of water for this community and all downstream towns and enterprises – 653 litres/tonne of coal
• The pollution with the noise, light, and dust
• The extra heavy traffic in what is currently a rural region and a rural region embraced by tourist for those qualities – unlike the Hunter Valley
• The damage to Country and it's connections
• The destruction of habitat to wildlife especially endangered and threaten species
• The loss of pristine natural environments
• The annihilation of aboriginal culture with the destruction of country – you give them another funeral, continuing the trauma leaving no sacred land unscathed
• The displacement of people, especially generational families who represent the history or this region
• The displacement and upheaval of people who have come recently, moving away from cities for lifestyle reasons
• The job losses, the small business failures
• The increased emissions and Climate change
• The medium-term impacts of relying upon new coal activity to generate income. In a few years, governments will need to develop transition plans to re-employ workers into new jobs not related to the closed mines
• The unsuitable timing, given people are in Lockdown, focused on their health & safety, many will be completely unaware this opportunity for consultation has come and gone, almost stealthily
• The unsuitability of the consultation for this community with poor connectivity and low technology skills

This just to name a few, but I go back to drawing your attention to the value of people. This submission isn't referenced with data and case studies. I simply ask that you NOT proceed with this project because of the people.

Above all, please place value on the people. As a reference, please come and meet the people, talk to the people, and develop an understanding of an asset far greater than the Coal Reserves.

I am offering our place for those making the decision to come and experience why this region should remain Coal Mine Free.
.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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- We will lose an agricultural enterprise that provides food and fibre in a sustainable and respectful way to both land and animals.
- We will lose our natural native environment that provides refuge to our animals, our birdlife and our people
- We will lose the health restoring environments so desperately needed in these high stress times

- We will lose aboriginal cultural sites, ceremony places and opportunity for ceremony, their connection and ability to care for country, and our opportunity to work together, and share that learning with our visitors, creating a greater reach of understanding – again very needed in our country. Working together and embracing the learning, goes way beyond a "government apology."
- Families will lose their opportunities to create "grounding" experiences for their family, their holidays away from screens and man-made noise, where they are able to nurture their relationships
- We will lose the "time out" opportunity, time to "chill," and take stock
- We will lose our visitor group – our connections to their world and their connection to this world
- And we will lose this tourist business – another small business failure, job losses. Australia's largest employer is small business. The knock-on effect are the other small businesses, the contracted service providers will lose their businesses
-

There are so many reasons why this Coal Exploration Release should be abandoned:

- The critical risk to waterways, streams, springs, swamps, wells, and bores
- The extraordinary loss of water for this community and all downstream towns and enterprises – 653 litres/tonne of coal
- The pollution with the noise, light, and dust
- The extra heavy traffic in what is currently a rural region and a rural region embraced by tourist for those qualities – unlike the Hunter Valley
- The damage to Country and it's connections
- The destruction of habitat to wildlife especially endangered and threaten species
- The loss of pristine natural environments
- The annihilation of aboriginal culture with the destruction of country – you give them another funeral, continuing the trauma leaving no sacred land unscathed
- The displacement of people, especially generational families who represent the history or this region
- The displacement and upheaval of people who have come recently, moving away from cities for lifestyle reasons
- The job losses, the small business failures
- The increased emissions and Climate change
- The medium-term impacts of relying upon new coal activity to generate income. In a few years, governments will need to develop transition plans to re-employ workers into new jobs not related to the closed mines
- The unsuitable timing, given people are in Lockdown, focused on their health & safety, many will be completely unaware this opportunity for consultation has come and gone, almost stealthily

- The unsuitability of the consultation for this community with poor connectivity and low technology skills

This just to name a few, but I go back to drawing your attention to the value of people. This submission isn't referenced with data and case studies. I simply ask that you **NOT** proceed with this project because of the people.

Above all, **please place value on the people.** As a reference, please come and meet the people, talk to the people, and develop an understanding of an asset far greater than the Coal Reserves.

I am offering our place for those making the decision to come and experience why this region should remain Coal Mine Free.

.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23/08/2021 12:36:45 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Attachments: phaa-submission-on-hawkins-rumker-proposed-coal-mining-release-areas.pdf

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Submitted on Wed, 11/08/2021 - 11:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name
Terry

Last name
Slevin

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Deakin, ACT 2600

Submission file
phaa-submission-on-hawkins-rumker-proposed-coal-mining-release-areas.pdf

Submission
See attached file

I agree to the above statement
Yes

Public Health Association of Australia submission on Hawkins Rumker potential release areas for coal mining

Contact for recipient:
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Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW
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8 August 2021

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Public Health Association
AUSTRALIA

The **Public Health Association of Australia** (PHAA) is recognised as the principal non-government organisation for public health in Australia working to promote the health and well-being of all Australians. It is the pre-eminent voice for the public's health in Australia.

The PHAA works to ensure that the public's health is improved through sustained and determined efforts of our Board, National Office, State and Territory Branches, Special Interest Groups and members.

We believe that health is a human right, a vital resource for everyday life, and a key factor in sustainability. Health equity and inequity do not exist in isolation from the conditions that underpin people's health. The health status of all people is impacted by the social, cultural, political, environmental and economic determinants of health. Specific focus on these determinants is necessary to reduce the unfair and unjust effects of conditions of living that cause poor health and disease. These determinants underpin the strategic direction of the Association.

Our mission as the leading national organisation for public health representation, policy and advocacy, is to promote better health outcomes through increased knowledge, better access and equity, evidence informed policy and effective population-based practice in public health. Members of the Association are committed to better health outcomes based on these principles.

Our vision is for a healthy population, a healthy nation and a healthy world, with all people living in an equitable society underpinned by a well-functioning ecosystem and a healthy environment, improving and promoting health and wellbeing for all.

The reduction of social and health inequities should be an over-arching goal of national policy, and should be recognised as a key measure of our progress as a society. Public health activities and related government policy should be directed towards reducing social and health inequity nationally and, where possible, internationally.

Introduction

PHAA welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) for the Hawkins and Rumker proposed coal exploration and mining release areas, in the Mid-Western Regional Council local government area in NSW. The Hawkins area is an area of 149km^2 located directly north of Rylstone, NSW; the Rumker area is an area of 178km^2 located directly north east of Rylstone, NSW.

Initial recourse assessments undertaken by the Division of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience within the Department of Regional NSW have identified thermal coal resources within the Hawkins and Rumker areas. Whilst underground methods could be used, the area is known for several shallow deposits of coal, which would be better suited to open cut mining techniques.

The PHAA notes that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's information paper[1] states that the PRIA aims to collect relevant data to identify key social, economic and environmental considerations, however, **health is not considered**. Without people's health, all social and economic factors are moot.

Health issues relating to the proposal

Inconsistency with current policies and international agreements to address climate change

PHAA opposes the Hawkins and Rumker potential release areas due to the projected contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions further reinforce climate change and its concomitant ecological crises.

The estimated volume of coal in Hawkins Rumker is 910 megatones[2]. Estimating extraction at 20 million tonnes per annum, equates to the mine having a life span of 45 years. Approval of mining operations would increase greenhouse gas emissions by adding an average of 48.5 million tonnes of CO_2 per annum (2182 million tonnes over 45 years) to the atmosphere. The total estimated emission are over four times Australia's total emissions for 2020. The life span of 45 years of mining operations is inconsistent with the need for global gas production to peak this year, to meet the 1.5° C of warming targets, and at worst, by 2030, to meet the 2°C of warming targets as outlined in the Paris Agreement. Therefore, the approval of mining would be out of step with the Paris Agreement concerning action to address climate and ecological crises. The PHAA notes recent decisions in the NSW Land and Environment court where mining projects that do not consider their climate impacts are rejected.

Furthermore, the declining coal price and constraints on foreign exports indicate that the global market is transitioning to renewable energies. The proposal therefore represents unsustainable economic planning.

Health impacts of climate change

The health impacts of heat waves, bushfires, and droughts are significant and cannot be remediated by any mining operator. The 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires in Australia clearly demonstrated what the impact of climate change will be if Australia and the world continue on their current path. The 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires burnt across five states for seven months. The resultant smoke directly affected more than half of Australia's population and led to an air quality index exceeding 5,000 (more than 25 times the hazardous level), claimed 33 lives directly, with an estimated additional 417 deaths from the smoke, and

nearly 4,500 hospitalisations[3]. The Royal Commission into the bushfire disasters made explicit links between the fires and climate change, with record breaking drought for area, intensity and duration, coupled with nationwide record temperatures leading to extreme Forest Fire Danger Index ratings[4]. This is entirely consistent with the predictions of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports[5].

Australia is highly vulnerable to heat exposure, and heat-related presentations to hospital will continue to increase. Human heat tolerance and heat-adaptive capacity are not unbounded, and we are rapidly approaching the limits[6]. Adults aged over 65 years, and people with underlying cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases are particularly at risk of heat-related morbidity and mortality. In 2018, there were over 1.35 million hours of labour in the agriculture, industry and service sectors lost due to heat[7].

In 2016, the World Health Organization estimated that 23% of global deaths, 22% of disability adjusted life years, and 26% of deaths among children under 5 are due to modifiable environmental factors[8]. The mining and burning of coal is one such modifiable environmental factor. The Hawkins Rumker proposal would directly contradict the known evidence linking fossil fuels and health[9, 10].

Undermines ecological determinants of health

PHAA is strongly opposed to the proposal due to the impact mining techniques and coal extraction have on the environmental determinants of health: clean air, clean water, a safe and sustainable food supply, and a stable climate.

Public health cannot be maintained or enhanced if the proposal is granted due to the potential for water losses, destruction of water capturing ecosystems, and the resulting destruction of carbon capturing ecosystems. The provision of clean water will be affected by mining activities. The townships near the Hawkins and Rumkins areas are Rylstone, Kandos and Charbon (population ca 2200[11]). The Rylstone Dam is fed by the many creeks and springs in the proposed area and it is the sole water source for these townships. The capacity of the Rylstone Dam is 3038 megaliters[12]. Therefore, using previous estimations of extracting 20 million tonnes per annum, the water required to achieve this extraction would be 12,000 megaliters per annum, four times the capacity of the dam. Additionally, both open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination[13, 14], and underground aquifers can be cracked and drained even in the exploratory stage[15], resulting in springs and bores disappearing, or becoming cross-contaminated with other water sources.

Public health cannot be maintained or enhanced if the proposal is granted due to the potential impact on air quality from particulate matter (PM). The World Health Organisation has declared air pollution to be the world's largest environmental health risk[16]. Particular matter pollution is strongly associated with hospitalisation and death for a range of cardio-pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases, including lung cancer, lung disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiac arrhythmia, heart attack, and stroke[17, 18]. There are no safe levels of exposure for particulate matter $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}[19] and even short-term exposure can have adverse effects on health[18].

The neighbouring Hunter Valley is now one of the most polluted regions in Australia[20, 21] due to increasing particulate matter primarily from mines and activity related to mining, with average levels of PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ well above benchmark standards[21]. The PHAA rejects any notion that public health can be maintained with correct monitoring when PM_{10} national standards were exceeded 118 times in the Hunter region[20] in a four year period.

Negative impact on social determinants of health – employment, housing and cost of living

PHAA also opposes the Hawkins Rumker potential release proposal due to its potential negative impacts on social determinants of health at the individual and community level in the region. The PHAA believes these impacts will not be outweighed by the promises of investment in the local community through claims of employment opportunities.

The PHAA is highly concerned about the impacts of the Hawkins Rumker proposal on employment, housing, and food affordability, including healthy food choices in the region. The initial development phase of the mine is likely to cause an influx of workers into the region, limiting employment opportunities for residents, decreasing housing availability, increasing rental and food prices[22-24], and placing increased pressure on local services[22, 24]. This has disproportionate impacts on low-income households and often forces low income locals out of the community or to become homeless[24]. As the labour-intensive period of development ceases, opportunities for employment also decrease, exacerbated by the initial population influx[22]. Previous mining developments have seen changes to the built environment, including an increase in food outlets selling unhealthy food choices and an increase in liquor stores outlets, infringing on residents ability to make healthy lifestyle choices[22].

The PHAA is also highly concerned about the impacts of the Hawkins Rumker proposal on mental health. Changed landscapes, including altered visual appearance of landscapes, such as those that occur with natural disasters or with large scale developments including mining, can have significant negative psychological impacts[25-28]. Evidence shows that people can experience high levels of anxiety and stress about the threat to their region, economic stability and devaluing land values even the stage when a mine is proposed[29].

Negative impact on social determinants of health – cultural heritage

There are currently 28 publicly listed Aboriginal cultural sites in the proposed Hawkins Rumker release area[30]. Residents in these areas are currently coming forward to disclose additional sites and have these documented in a hope to protect them[31]. Even if the usual 10 meter buffer zones are applied around these sites, this is inadequate to either protect heritage sites from the environmental impacts which will extend far beyond a 10 meter border. The recent contemptible destruction of Aboriginal sacred sites in Western Australia in the name of mining serve as constant reminder of the potential disastrous impacts of mining[32].

Furthermore, these small buffer zones offer no protection to maintain connection to country for the Dabee and Wiradjuri peoples. Country and access to country has highly significant cultural, spiritual and social importance to Aboriginal peoples. Small buffer zones around individual sites do nothing to protect the disruption and/or transformation to land caused by mining.

Conclusion

PHAA strongly opposes the proposed Hawkins Rumker potential release areas for the following reasons:

- Inconsistency with international, national and state climate change policy commitments and targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and halt global warming;
- Public health risks in the local communities arising from projected water losses;
- Negative impacts on social determinants of health in the region, due to the potential contribution to climate change, experienced in bushfire risk, heatwaves and droughts;
- Negative impacts on social determinants of health in the region, due to the impacts on cost of living, housing affordability, employment, and connection to country, with disproportionate impacts on low-income households and First Nations people.
- Disproportionate impacts on First Nations people through the destruction of cultural sites and reinforcement of the exclusion of Aboriginal people from accessing their cultural heritage.

The level of community opposition to the Hawkins Rumker potential proposed release area, with concerns raised regarding the impacts on the community's physical and mental health, access to water, housing and food, and impacts on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, clearly indicate that a social license to operate for this project has not been achieved.

The PHAA appreciates the opportunity to make this submission and the opportunity to ensure social and ecological determinants of health are given the highest priority and urgency in the consideration of planning decisions in NSW.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information or have any queries in relation to this submission.

Terry Slevin
Chief Executive Officer
PHAA

Dr Heike Schütze
PHAA Branch Executive Committee
New South Wales

Dr Patrick Harris
PHAA Branch President
New South Wales

8 August 2021

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 08/08/2021 6:03:27 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Sun, 08/08/2021 - 06:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Jack

Last name
Dunbar

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2049

Submission
Jack Lanagan Dunbar
[redacted]
Lewisham NSW 2049

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

COAL–kills plants, kills animals (humans are animals), dirties clean water, ruins the local environment, contributes to climate change, disrespects Indigenous sites, disrespects local residents, disrespects potential future tourists. For what? A few jobs that'll be gone in less than a generation. What we're looking at here is very short term benefit to a privileged few at the expense of untold numbers of others; an obvious symptom of corruption at some level in the decision making process.

I have just spent the last 2 years living in Germany and let me tell you, there is little to no nature left. Why? In many instances Germany neglected to care for its natural environment instead electing to utilise many of its resources for economic gain. Now Germany stands as a pillar or economic success in the European Union but at what cost? There is no 'wild' land in Germany, nature is limited to a few regions in the very south of the country, everywhere else has been utilized in resource gathering and production, natural environment stripped, diversity gone. German's seeking to experience the natural world tend to travel overseas to places like Australia, where nature still exists. You'd be far better off putting your money into the protection of the local environment and the development and promotion of the tourism industry than destroying that opportunity by digging up coal that no body wants to buy.

Don't be stupid; stop thinking about tomorrows meagre profits and start thinking about the future of your environment and that of your children's!

Sincerely,

Jack Dunbar

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07/08/2021 8:35:47 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 07/08/2021 - 20:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Name

First name
Sally

Last name
Kennedy

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Longueville1234

Submission
Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

The Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch (LCCGW) a sub committee of the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society (The Society) is against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration. The reasons are outlined below.

About The LCCGW
The Society which turns 50th this year has been continuously active in advancing ecologically sustainable development for the environment not only within Lane Cove but state-wide. The LCCGW was set up seven years ago with a specific focus on taking action to protect our environment and communities in NSW impacted by existing and potential coal mining and Coal Seam Gas.

Who do we represent
This submission represents not only members of the LCCGW but also the voices of people who live hundreds of kilometres away from the Hawkins Rumker coal release area in the suburbs of Sydney. People who are opposed to opening up new areas for coal exploration and mining.

The sentiment of Lane Cove LGA, Sydney
On Saturday 22nd May the LCCGW held a stall asking the general public to sign a petition to the NSW Government to abandon plans to release areas for coal mining in and around Rylstone. The response was over-whelmingly in favour of the petition. People didn't think it made any sense to start up the process of developing new coal mines. There was no hesitation to sign the petition. There was almost disbelief that the NSW government was even contemplating the idea! For some there was solace knowing that by the time it took for a project to come to fruition, coal would have truly passed its use by date. A broad cross section of young, old and multi cultural passers-by signed the petition. It was interesting to see that the general public in Lane Cove LGA have a strong understanding that coal is a problem. This was not the case when we started campaigning seven years ago. Coal mining was seen to have economic benefits and limited environmental concerns but this has changed especially since the summer bushfires of 2019.

Reasons against the Hawkins Rumker coal release area
Burning coal to produce energy is old technology, govt and industry have a role to play encouraging investment in new technology and finding new opportunites for economic growth. The long term financial viability of coal mining is questionable. The economics no longer make sense. It is not what Australia should be focused on. This year, the G7 has committed to end public support for unabated coal generation by end of 2021. That's right now! The International Energy Agency Roadmap for the global energy sector states the world's coal will decline to just one fifth of current levels by 2040, and to one tenth by 2050. The Reserve Bank of Australia anticipates international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable.
Finding and exploiting new coal reserves is out of date and doesn't make sense for:
1) Regional communities which are currently not dependant on coal
2) The environment (surface water, ground water, agriculture, flora and fauna, National Parks)
3) Energy production when there are cheaper sustainable alternatives
4) The Climate
5) The protection of Aboriginal heritage

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. Why then is it proposing the opening up of new thermal coal mining areas. This doesn't make any sense. It will only create new coal reliant economies which will need to be phased out.

The above bullet points are expanded on below.

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 aquifers10, 11. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.
Open cut and underground coal mines have caused water contamination and have destroyed biodiversity in waterways.
The Rylstone Dam catchment is in the proposed exploration areas. The upper catchment of the Cudgegong River feeds into the water supplies of Rylstone Dam and Windamere Dam. The Hawkins Rumker proposed release areas threaten the water supply for the towns of Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; water flow to Mudgee may also be negatively impacted.
Without water, there is no life. There are no communities. There is no agriculture, no tourism, nothing to fight bushfires with.

Flora and Fauna
There are a lot of endangered flora and fauna species as well as endangered ecological communities which could be lost. NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.
Waterways would be disturbed or destroyed, and this would lead to a loss of fish habitat and threatened fish species.
The riparian meadows along Reedy Creek and Breakfast Creek16 could be lost. The Swamp Grassland and Sphagnum Bog in the central part of Coxs Creek is thoroughly unique16 and would be under threat.
Mines would transform the region into an unsightly, industrialised landscape and negatively impact the value of the adjacent World Heritage area.

Aboriginal Heritage
There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk. We have a duty as a nation to protect these sites. Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining and our laws are inadequate to protect these sites.

Impact on current local economy
Large areas would become coal mines. The proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas cover approximately 32,000 ha of land and would directly affect 180 landholders. There will be a loss of agricultural lands, farms would disappear or lose their water, and productive agricultural lands would be dug up or left fallow.
The people in the region have built long-term sustainable economic stability for this region. This revenue stays in the pockets of our local businesses. Businesses that have helped build the tourism industry in the region include vineyards, olive groves, horse studs, beef and sheep farms, eco-tourism, short stay accommodation, restaurants, cafes, antique shops, soft furnishings and knick-knacks for example. These businesses are incompatible with mining: tourists do not come to see coal mines.
Mines provide a flow of revenue to governments and their (mostly foreign) owners, however, the flow on to local businesses and local communities is generally not seen. The Hunter in the biggest coal export terminal, yet they only contribute to two percent (2%) of State Revenue; the rest goes overseas.
Mining is a specialist industry. People with the skills tend to follow the mines and very few additional local jobs are created. Like many industries, mining is becoming more automated, requiring fewer people. Over the next five years, mining is predicted to create just 0.4 percent of new jobs across all of Australia.
Just the threat of new mines being developed decimates many of the existing businesses as people stop investing or move away – even if the mine ultimately does not get approved. This has already happened in nearby Ulan, Wollar and Bylong.
The cost of living, especially housing, is often driven up to levels locals can no longer afford, as they cannot compete with the high wages miners receive.
Local towns close once the mines move on as they no longer have the income from the mines they were dependent on; and unemployment and associated issues such as crime, increase. This is the very reason strategies such as transitioning communities dependent on coal mining in NSW are required.

Social & health implications
Air, water, soil and noise pollution, do not stay within the boundaries of the coal mining sites.
The neighbouring Hunter Valley is now a pollution ‘hotspot’ and has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW.
There would be a lot more traffic, including heavy vehicles on our local and rural roads. Traffic incidents increase from mine workers travelling to and from work. The quality of our roads is already very poor and they are not suited to increased or heavy load traffic. Historically, mines in this council area have been loath to put money into fixing any traffic issues created by their presence.
Noise and vibration will dramatically increase with blasting, heavy earthmoving equipment and machinery operating in the mines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and by coal being transported out on trains and trucks running through our towns.
Trains and trucks are not covered and the coal dust and associated pollution from transporting the coal can travel for kilometres.
Mines can be associated with increased rates of alcohol and drug abuse, violence, sexual assaults, and other crimes in adjoining communities.
Health effects are already being felt as people experience anxiety and stress about the threat to their region28 and economic stability.

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

Yours sincerely,

Sally Kennedy
On behalf of the Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch, a sub committee of the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07/08/2021 1:22:40 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 07/08/2021 - 13:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Astrid

Last name
Bell

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2515

Submission
I am opposed to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. This is a precursor to coal mining and another step in the wrong direction for our country. Specifically, effecting aboriginal land and communities for the sake of coal. As an Australian it is tiring to see our government continue entrenching themselves in a favouring of coal as the future of energy when it's effects on the planet are demonstrably detrimental. Furthermore, to continue to take land from the traditional custodians of our country, is deeply upsetting and disappointing.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07/08/2021 12:38:26 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 07/08/2021 - 12:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Melanie

Last name
Sparke

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Mangerton

Submission
Going ahead with this release would be near-sighted and irresponsible - a guaranteed way to cement the decision-makers involved and the Hawkins and Rumker areas on the wrong side of history. Coal mining is unnecessary and destructive. This area has already been through so much stress and disruption with the recent bushfires and adding to that with an unwelcome coal mine is unethical at best. Any argument around the jobs that this will create is flawed, due to potential disruptions and possible ensuing loss of productivity for the working farms in the area. We have several close family friends in the area, who are very distressed at the possibility of this release going ahead.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07/08/2021 10:45:24 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 07/08/2021 - 10:45

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2500

Submission
I don't think that this is a good idea. You are looking at coal exploration and as a result you will ruin and contaminate the surrounding environment.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07/08/2021 10:13:46 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 07/08/2021 - 10:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Laura

Last name
Bonafoux

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Horsfield Bay

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

Laura bonafoux
[redacted]
Horsfield bay
Nsw 2256

07/08/21

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 31 years of age and have been visiting the area for 5 years (after moving to Australia 5 years ago). After coming to Australia and seeing the natural beauty and enjoying adventuring it's become a passion of mine.

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 fauna. One questions how the government can assure that any future exploration licenses would include “strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values” , when their own exploration 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 who properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration zones. Apart from this, the only other notification provided were one-off advertisements in a few newspapers. This is not notifying the nearly 3000 residents in surrounding areas on Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabbe, Olinda and Kelgoola. Why is it that these people would not be notified of potential new coal release areas when they receive their water from the potential release areas, and the coal would be transported through these areas?

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

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

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 awav from fossil fuels. which will result in decreased demand for coal.

committed to move away from fossil fuels, which will result in declining 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 aquifers10, 11. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Laura bonafoux

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07/08/2021 9:11:37 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 07/08/2021 - 09:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Liesje

Last name
Jansen van Rensburg

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Erskineville, 2043

Submission
I'm writing to oppose to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration. The only reason to conduct coal exploration is as a precursor to coal mining and it needs to be stopped now.

Endorsing further coal exploration and eventually coal mining just doesn't make sense when looking at global commitments to reach net zero emissions and move away from fossil fuels. Why invest in something that increases our emissions, pillages our natural resources and for which there will no longer be any demand in the future? Waning demand for coal means jobs in coal are short term jobs. We need to support Australians and create jobs families can rely on for decades to come.

The reasons why I say demand for coal is declining are:
1) The NSW government has set a net-zero goal plus the NSW government's 2021 Intergenerational report forecasts decreased royalties from thermal coal as international demand falls both globally and from two of our major coal customers, Japan and South Korea.
2) Similarly, the Reserve Bank of Australia anticipates international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable.
3) Even the International Energy Agency, called for an immediate ban on new oil, coal and gas development.
4) The G7 agreed to end government support for new coal power by end of 2021.
Who are we going to sell this coal to in future if everyone is already moving away from fossil fuels?

The premise supporting the release of these areas undermines and contradicts more recent government policies. It even contradicts its own strategic statement about the future of coal. Opening up the Hawkins and Rumker areas is diametrically opposed to the stated intent of "giving our coal-
reliant communities time to adapt". This region is not reliant on coal. Why even start down this path of coal mining in a region that isn't reliant on it now? How are you simultaneously supporting coal-reliant regions to adapt away from coal but also introducing coal mining to new regions? This makes no economic sense and is a very short termist approach. We need to think longer term when we're planning how to create jobs, look after families and set our economy up for success.

We can do better than this. We can invest more sensibly with our eyes and minds focussed on the future we can all see so clearly before us. We need to step away from fossil fuels and make the decarbonisation of our economy our primary goal. Australia is in a perfect position to be a global leader in the transition to renewable energy. Let's rather spend our time and money to create jobs to decarbonise our economy and set ourselves and our economy up for the future.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07/08/2021 9:03:12 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 07/08/2021 - 09:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
max

Last name
dinten

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
rylstone 2849

Submission
I am against the project on environmental grounds. The proposed area is largely covered by virgin bush with an abundance of native wildlife, some threatened by extinction or protected. As we are already seeing the effects of climate change, why would we encourage to burn even more coal? What will happen to the thousands of tons of coal seam gas? To be release into the atmosphere as seems to be the practice in most coal mines. Transport to ports will be an additional for farms and residents. Also, what will happen to our aquifers and natural springs that are feeding into all our local water supply rivers. Every coal mine has a coal washery. Where will the waste water go from the settling points?

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07/08/2021 7:50:24 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 07/08/2021 - 07:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
William

Last name
Suttor

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Olinda

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

William suttor
[redacted]
Olinda 2849

6th August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 24 years of age and have been living here the whole time.

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 fauna. One questions how the government can assure that any future exploration licenses would include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values" , when their own exploration 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 who properties fell within the boundaries of the exploration zones. Apart from this, the only other notification provided were one-off advertisements in a few newspapers. This is not notifying the nearly 3000 residents in surrounding areas on Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon, Clandulla, Lue, Dabbe, Olinda and Kelgoola. Why is it that these people would not be notified of potential new coal release areas when they receive their water from the potential release areas, and the coal would be transported through these areas?

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

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

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 awav from fossil fuels. which will result in decreased demand for coal.

committed to move away from fossil fuels, which will result in declining 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 aquifers10, 11. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

William suttor

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06/08/2021 1:29:39 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Fri, 06/08/2021 - 13:29

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Tim

Last name
Schaare-Weeks

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2785

Submission
Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

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

I am 29 years of age and have been visiting the area for over 10 years.

Cycling Tourism

The proposed zone takes in Cox's Creek Rd, a gravel road near Rylstone that will form part of the (in development) Blue Mountains 1000 route, and takes you all the way through to the Upper Hunter Valley at Denman. The impact that mining will have on this road and the surrounding areas is unclear, though it's well known that mining leads to severe degradation of drinking water, the loss of native plants and animals, as well is increased traffic and road damage due to mining vehicles travelling through this area.

With the modernisation of train services to Lithgow, as well as further investment in cycling routes in the Central West (see the Central West Cycle Trail), this area is poised to see a huge boom in tourism over the coming years, especially with international borders remaining closed for the foreseeable future.

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.

Fishing

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.

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

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

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

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.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Schaare-Weeks

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06/08/2021 8:29:24 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

Submitted on Fri, 06/08/2021 - 08:29

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Marie

Last name
Sitter

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Blaxland

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

From Marie Sitter
[redacted]
BLAXLAND 2774

6 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 75 years of age and have been living in and visiting the area for 30 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 fauna. One questions how the government can assure that any future exploration licenses would include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values" , when their own exploration process couldn't get it right.

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

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

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

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

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committed to move away from fossil fuels, which will result in declining 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 aquifers10, 11. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,
Marie Sitter

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 05/08/2021 10:50:54 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Thu, 05/08/2021 - 22:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Bathurst NSW 2795

Submission
Does it always have to be about coal, gold and how to make money. Can we not leave our country in one piece as much as possible, for our children and their children
Ferntree Gully.and surrounding areas are such beautiful pristine fauna and flora. I personally oppose any plans to tie this land up....haven't we done enough. Thank you for your time. [redacted]

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 05/08/2021 5:11:51 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Thu, 05/08/2021 - 17:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Rylstone NSW 2849

Submission
I strongly object to the release for exploration for coal. 1) Coal is a "dead" industry. All governments and the people of NSW would be better served through the development and implementation of sustainable industries and production.

2)Environmental degradation are a major concern. The high use of limited water resources, loss of native habitat and degradation of agricultural land are inevitable results of coal mining.

3) There will be few new jobs if mining were developed in the area. History shows this.

4) This area is a unique but fragile landscape. It must be preserved for future generations to enjoy and to maintain an ecological balance for fauna and flora in NSW.

Please Make the right decision, not the politically driven one: PRESERVE THIS BEAUTIFUL ALNDSCAPE.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 05/08/2021 2:35:56 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Thu, 05/08/2021 - 14:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
KATOOMBA 2780

Submission
Coal submission Rylstone Aug 2021
I am writing to appeal against the proposed Hawkins-Rumker coal exploration.
I am a wildlife artist from the Blue Mountains with of over 40 years' experience studying local nature. I have also spent many years researching and painting detailed and accurate regional bird art posters for the forests of the Blue Mountains and for woodland and rural birds of the Capertee Valley and inner western slopes.
I am well read on flora, fauna and natural ecosystems of my local area. Over the decades I have personally observed the decline of many species from commonplace to threatened. I am already aware of the loss of swamplands and subsidence in the Newnes Plateau/ Gardens of Stone areas from coal mining leases. Loss of habitat, degradation of habitat and now climate change is pushing many species to the brink of extinction. Because of the essential and intricate interconnectedness of natural ecosystems, species loss "snowballs" and leads to further and eventually catastrophic biodiversity loss. The ecosystems that drive our planet's sustainability and liveability collapse.
I care enough to personally invest in more sustainable life choices. Despite a modest income, at our home we are early adopters of solar panels, home battery power, water tanks, and now a hydrid-electric vehicle. I want to lead by example, but I realise I am only a small player. We need governments and corporations to lead on sustainable lifestyle too. The world is pulling away from fossil fuels - as we all need to urgently. I am ashamed to be a part of a country that still pushes fossil fuel exploration and development.
Please see beyond short term gain for a few to long term sustainability. There are alternatives.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 05/08/2021 12:37:29 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Thu, 05/08/2021 - 12:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2074

Submission
Hawkins Rumker Proposed Coal Mining Exploration

Submission against the the proposed exploration

I am writing this submission as someone who visits the Rylstone-Kandos area regularly. I stay there to get away from the city. I spend time at local farm stays. I am a regular tourist of the area and love the quiet rural environment.

From my years of visiting it's apparent how important tourism is for the area. There are many farm stays and local business, both in and out of the towns of Rylstone and Kandos, that rely on tourism for survival

One of the reasons I visit is the natural beauty of the area. I fear that with coal mining, this natural beauty will not remain.

This area is full of endangered species. NSW BioNet has recorded 239 threatened of endangered species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. There are several records of koala, a species listed as vulnerable nationally, in the Hawkins area. There is also habitat in the area for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and the endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll (see the Earthscape Report, May 2021: https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lockthegate/pages/7317/attachments/original/1623889487/Western_Coalfields_Earthscapes_ReportV3.pdf?1623889487).

Apart from the affect on the flora and fauna, coal mining will create noise and pullation. Studies show that the Hunter Valley is now considered a pollution hotspot (see p14 of 'Clearing the air', Environmental Justice Australia: https://www.envirojustice.org.au/sites/default/files/files/Submissions%20and%20reports/Envirojustice_air_pollution_report_final.pdf). One of the reasons I visit the area is to enjoy the quiet. This will be lost should coal mining proceed in the area.

In addition to the effects caused by pollution on the natural environment and the health of the people living there, coal mines would transform this area into an unsightly, industrialised place. This would completely change the face of the region.

For these reasons, it's unlikely I would ever visit again if coal mining became a reality in the area.

I strongly oppose any mining or mining exploration in this area.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 05/08/2021 11:38:59 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Thu, 05/08/2021 - 11:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Turramurra 2074

Submission
As a NSW resident I am writing to state my firm opposition of coal exploration in the Hawkins Rumker area.
This is a region that I frequent numerous times a year for its beauty and rural tranquillity. If coal were to become a part of this region not only would it affect my personal relationship with the area but would have far reaching consequences for the community and beyond.
As a member of the NSW community, as an Australian citizen and as an international citizen I am dumbfounded that the NSW government is even proposing to extend exploration of coal. There is no future in coal!

At a local level, new coal contradicts the states own policy.
In the NSW government's own Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020 - 2030 it states that "The plan aims to enhance the prosperity and quality of life of the people of NSW, while helping the state to deliver a 35% cut in emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels." (https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/climate-change/net-zero-plan).
Exploration for new coal mines goes directly against all aspects of this stated goal.
Coal mining would be disastrous for the local community.
Very few additional local jobs are created through coal mining and many communities are destroyed through the rise in housing and other costs.
The above plan states that it also aims to enhance quality of life. Coal mining DOES NOT promote quality of life for the people in NSW. It is well know than coal significantly increases noise, air and water pollution, not to mention the significant social upheaval that it leaves in its wake.
The Hunter Valley is a good example of the impacts that can be felt by coal. It is now considered a pollution hotspot and many local residents have been significantly impacted across all aspects of their lives - health, social, emotional and economic.
With a stated goal to cut emissions by 35% by 2030, how can the government rationally consider a further exploration to generate more coal.

In a briefing paper written in Jan 2021 by NSW Parliamentary Research Service it explicitly states:

"Several regional communities in NSW and Australia are highly dependent on the coal mining industry. These communities could be disproportionately impacted by a global shift away from thermal coal as action is taken to meet the emissions reduction targets agreed to under the 2016 Paris Agreement."

How can the NSW government in good conscience consider subjecting further regional communities to this forecasted impact knowing that the global trend it turning away from coal.

At a national level, in the class action Sharma & Ors v Minister for the Environment [2021] FC 560, eight young Australians brought a class action against the Federal Minister for the Environment stating that they have a duty of care in relation to the future harm that is inflicted by carbon emissions. This was brought about specifically in relation to the proposed Vickery Extension Project in NSW where, if the project were to go ahead, 100 million tonnes of carbon emissions would be released into the atmosphere over the next 25 years. Justice Bromberg found that this duty existed and on the 8th July 2021 the court made a declaration to this effect (Sharma & Ors v Minister for the Environment (No 2) [20201] FCA 774).
Future generations will suffer from further coal mining and with this new ruling it creates a direct link of this duty of care to the government.

"The Federal Government's current Direct Action Plan for managing climate change involves establishing funds or grants to support projects and emerging technologies which contribute to reducing carbon emissions." (https://www.allens.com.au/insights-news/insights/2020/05/climate-change-guide/the-big-picture-australias-commitments-under-the-paris-agreement/). Why is the government wasting the funding, time and human resources that has already gone into and could continue to go into this PRIA process in relation to the coal exploration in the Hawkins Rumker area, when it could instead contribute towards these sustainable resource and technology grants. The government is saying one thing and acting in a completely different direction.

On an international level, Australia is a member of The international Energy Agency. In a peer reviewed road map for the Global Energy Sector (Net Zero by 2050), it states the need for direct action to take place now if the goal of reaching net zero is to be achieved by 2050 to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees c, that doing so "requires nothing short of a total transformation of the energy systems that underpin our economies" (Net Zero by 2050- A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector, IEA). As an international citizen Australia has committed itself to take part in this goal, extending explorations of coal irrefutably contradicts this.

On June 12 2021, the White House released a fact sheet stating 'G7 to Announce Joint Actions to End Public Support for Overseas Unabated Coal Generation by End of 2021'. Given the fact that Australia exports an estimated 70% of its coal overseas, it makes no sense to continue further exploration. In light of this, the provisional assessment in the Hawkins Rumker region becomes mute.

There is too much at stake on a local, regional, national and global level to legitimise the NSW government continuing any further coal exploration in the Hawkins Rumker area. It completely contradicts the NSW and Federal governement's own stated goals and policies and completely disregards the health and prosperity of its local, national and international residents.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 05/08/2021 9:43:59 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Thu, 05/08/2021 - 09:43

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Lily

Last name
Halliday

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Marrickville

Submission
This proposal is incredibly near-sighted and irresponsible.

Coal mining is unnecessary and destructive, to both the local communities (voters!) and the environment. The NSW Government knows this. This area has only recently been through monumental stress and disruption with the recent bushfires and adding to that with an unwelcome and unsustainable coal mine is unethical at best.

Australia should be moving away from coal and I am frankly disgusted this is being considered. It is embarrassing, the rest of the world is laughing and Australia is falling behind. Any argument regarding jobs that this will create is flawed, due to potential disruptions and possible ensuing loss of productivity for the working farms in the area. What may create some jobs in the next 5-10 years will have substantial negative repercussions - the environment will be destroyed, the local communities and micro-economies will be devastated, and the money will go directly back into the pockets of the mining companies that pay little to no tax.

Not to mention the proximity to the Wollemi national park & Nullo mountain state forest. The surrounding region relies heavily on tourism which the mine would certainly disrupt. Tourism is one of Australia's largest sectors, and plays a vital role in our economic growth. For years research has shown how tourism boosts our local and national economies, and how this money goes back into the community. Any argument this release for coal exploration will do the same is laughable.

The NSW Government should be ashamed.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04/08/2021 4:49:29 PM
To:
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Wed, 04/08/2021 - 16:49

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Trin

Last name
Helene

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2096

Submission
28th July 2021

Katrina Helene

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am writing to you as I am firmly against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration and the potential of it leading to coal mining - therefore destroying the precious water resources in this region. So the exploration needs to stop.

I am 49 years old and have been coming to this region for nearly 20 years to help friends on farms – particularly near Rylstone and Kandos. I am friends with several farm owners and it concerns me greatly that coal exploration (and potentially mining) may take place in this area, particularly as it poses a risk to the precious water supply that will affect ALL farms and towns in that area.

My understanding is that the overall water supply can be severely and permanently affected by:

- The amount of water used in coal exploration is phenomenal (approx. 653 litres per tonne – ref: https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2020-04/apo-nid303605.pdf .

Where is this water going to come from in an already struggling-for-water and drought stricken region?

- Cracking and draining the supply. Refer to this resource: https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/8a22c56a-3c83-4812-aa2f-9d0bc40ac718/files/monitoring-management-subsidence-induced-longwall-coal-mining-activity.pdf,
which indicates that coal exploration can crack and drain underground aquifers; as well as water tables. This not only will affect farms but also the tourism industry that attracts a lot of people (including myself) to the precious dams.

- Polluting/contaminating and affecting the biodiversity of waterways (ref this resource: https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/8a22c56a-3c83-4812-aa2f-9d0bc40ac718/files/monitoring-management-subsidence-induced-longwall-coal-mining-activity.pdf)

which again indicates the potential to impact not only the quality of the water, but also the dams within the region that bring a lot of tourism to the area.

If the water supply is depleted and damaged due to the significant coal exploration water use; there is a great deal more at stake eg farms, tourism, nature, wildlife, families, towns, small businesses.

This water is irreplaceable. There are many towns and farms including Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and Clandulla; that rely on this water supply and I understand that the water flow to Mudgee (a major tourist and winery town) may also be affected.

I therefore really appeal to you, that this exploration does not go ahead.

Thanks kindly in advance for your attention to this.

Yours sincerely

Trin Helene

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04/08/2021 1:13:00 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Wed, 04/08/2021 - 13:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Christopher

Last name
Williams

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Picnic Point 2213

Submission
I am the owner of the property known as Spring Log Lots 2, 33, 158, 202. where I ageist the property to those in the community in times of drought.
This property has three natural springs and always has water available.
I am concerned that any underground exploration may affect the quality of this my only water supply.
I do not want any traffic connected to the with the exploration to transverse my property as damage to the environment is of major concern to me.
I have many concerns in regard to the exploration of this area and I will be attending the meeting in Rylstone
Christopher Williams

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04/08/2021 9:43:13 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Wed, 04/08/2021 - 09:43

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Beverley

Last name
MacKenzie

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2541

Submission
I thing this proposed Coal Mine would be disastrous in this area. The Wollemi Pine forest would suffer greatly. They would still be recovering from the 2019 devastating bush fires.
Why are we still using fossil energy instead of renewable energy. We don't want more Coal mines!!

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04/08/2021 9:13:14 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Wed, 04/08/2021 - 09:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Harry

Last name
Dunbar

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Mangerton 2500

Submission
I am writing to express my deep opposition to the release of the Hawkins and Rumker areas for coal exploration.
As recognised by the State Government, coal has a “finite lifespan as an energy source”. It speaks of great arrogance to lock these rural communities - many still recovering from bushfires in 2019/20 - into such a shortsighted coal based future, only to line the pockets of mining companies.
The Hawkins and Rumker areas are home to many native species and hold great ecological value that will no doubt be irreparably damaged by coal exploration and extraction.
The area has such high potential for economic development in eco and adventure tourism, it would be a huge missed opportunity for state govt to lock them into coal mining - nobody wants to visit a coal mine.
With upgrades to the Great Western Highway and the Sydney-Lithgow rail line the area is going to see a huge boom in tourists from Sydney eager to travel, and with international borders closed for the foreseeable future, they’re going to be travelling west. There are far better opportunities to provide long lasting and more meaningful investments in tourism that empower these communities, rather than putting them at the mercy of multinational corporations looking to make their money and get out.
With the effects of the climate crisis being so strongly felt in these areas, it would be a huge slap in the face to these communities to be so blatantly contributing.
I have spent a lot of time in these areas, and would be absolutely horrified to see it decimated by coal mining. The communities would suffer, as would all our native flora and fauna.
I implore you not to open these areas to any form of mineral exploration and instead combine all 8 leases in the area with Wollemi National Park - the economic benefits are far clearer, far greater, and far, far more sustainable.
I look forward to seeing a positive outcome from this process that properly considers the environment, the climate crisis, and the effects this proposal would have on these communities.
Thank you.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04/08/2021 4:23:57 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Wed, 04/08/2021 - 04:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Oliver

Last name
Cox

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
North Berwick, UK

Submission
My name is Oliver Cox, and I have been coming to the Rylstone area as a tourist for nearly ten years now.

During this time, I have fallen in love with the area for its wildlife and incredible natural beauty.

To hear that the Hawkins Rumker area may be being opened up for coal exploration is deeply upsetting to me - I am strongly opposed to this for a number of different reasons.

Firstly, there are precious and unspoilt natural habitats throughout this area and this proposed exploration could threaten these pristine landscapes, and endanger already rare local flora and fauna species.

Secondly, coal mining could very easily disturb and destroy the area's water resources. This could be catastrophic to local residents and businesses, as well as regular overseas visitors such as myself.

Finally, given the clear, present and very real climate emergency the entire world is currently seeing a scarily fast escalation of, it seems at the very least short-sighted, and in the extreme money-grabbing and neglectful, that the NSW Govt would even consider such a venture.

How about some more investment in solar power for example? Coal mining is of the past. That this is even being considered is a pretty appalling indictment of the NSW leadership.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 11:13:55 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 23:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Paul

Last name
Yeoh

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Singapore

Submission
I am strongly against the proposed Hawkins Rumker coal exploration.

I am 40 years of age and have been visiting the area annually for 5 years. It is a particularly beautiful and raw area and I appreciate it's natural landscapes and wildlife very much - the area has become a sanctuary for me.

History has shown that there is no way to preserve this pristine environment and mine coal for consumption at the same time.

As a species, we have systematically destroyed our earth's ecosystem in the search and use of fossil fuels - this is well documented now. I am in disbelief that in 2021 when nations are pledging to move AWAY from fossil fuels and accelerating the move towards clean and renewable energy, that Australia is considering coal exploration. Yet, it is clearly being considered.

Please place your priorities in order. We have one planet, already on the brink of destruction. Any further resource put towards coal or fossil fuel projects cannot be allowed to proceed.

Thank you for safeguarding Australia and the planet.

Paul Yeoh

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 10:48:27 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 22:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Scarlett

Last name
Smout

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Tempe, 2044

Submission
Going ahead with this release would be near-sighted and irresponsible - a guaranteed way to cement the decision-makers involved and the Hawkins and Rumker areas on the wrong side of history. Coal mining is unnecessary and destructive. This area has already been through so much stress and disruption with the recent bushfires and adding to that with an unwelcome coal mine is unethical at best. Any argument around the jobs that this will create is flawed, due to potential disruptions and possible ensuing loss of productivity for the working farms in the area. We have several close family friends in the area, who are very distressed at the possibility of this release going ahead.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 10:29:28 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 22:29

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Olga

Last name
Karlsson

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Stockholm, 16838

Submission
Some ten years ago I was lucky enough to spend 8 months in the area that is now considered for coal exploration. I found the area to be very special. The silence, the life on the land including animals and the flora made it a sacred experience. Friends living in the area made me aware of the plans to put this area out for coal exploration. I SINCERELY hope that this will not come to pass. If you have considered it, please reconsider. Coal is of the past. Coal will not be part of a humanity's future. Any initiative to explore coal mining at this point would be for short term monetary gain only. Please do not sacrifice this land for profit, but consider the value it has in itself and the value it gives people who can go there to experience it!

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 5:09:48 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Branko

Last name
Petronijevic

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
St. John's park 2176

Submission
I am not giving up my farm, I am not ready to give up the beautiful flora and fauna in the area of Hawkins. I have spent so many memories at my farm as a child and I do not want it to be tainted by coal mines. I as an Australian have the right to own this land and it's not up to these coal mines to take away my farm.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 5:08:02 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Zaga

Last name
Tesic

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2849

Submission
Please do not take this land! Do not release it to the coal companies.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 5:07:23 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 17:07

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Radmila

Last name
Petronijevic

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2849

Submission
Please do not take this land! Do not release it to the coal companies.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 4:56:51 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 16:56

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Allan

Last name
Petronijevic

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2849

Submission
Please do not let these lands go to the coal mines. These lands are more than just coal fields. My childhood was here, I was hoping my child would experience the same beauty of these lands as I did. It's a special place, this land, this community, the flora and fauna, more than just dollars for oil companies. Once it's pillaged it'll never be the same. My house is located in Breakfast Creek, it's my sanctuary and now it's under siege. I urge everyone to stand together and oppose this oil exploration.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 3:21:52 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 15:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Sean

Last name
Harwood

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Dunmore 2529

Submission
I wish to express my concern for proposed coal exploration and mining in the Rylstone / Wollemi National park region . I have been visiting this beautiful area since childhood and come back to hike and fish a couple of times a year . I know many locals do not want coal mining here . There are obvious health and environmental risks attached . One of the biggest concerns is water security as only one major river flows through this area . This area has become more popular for tourism now more than ever along with the influx of demand for properties in regional areas . There is far too much at risk to go ahead with this operation . Most people in the area oppose this . Listen to their voices and leave the area to benefit from tourism and agriculture

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 2:10:22 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 14:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Bathurst

Submission
I would like to see this pristine area remain untouched by exploration.

It is a beautiful wild environment to be enjoyed by the traveller on the road.

Please consider before going ahead.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 1:13:02 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 13:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Fiona

Last name
Leslie

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Running Stream 2850

Submission
In a climate that needs to be moving towards a cleaner future for all I believe this is a blatant waste of time, money and resources to allow these areas to be released for exploration. We owe it to past, present and future generations to preserve and regenerate the current environment.
Sure it may bring jobs to the area in the short term. However for an area that has, in recent times, built a lot of business on the tourism dollars it will devastate the local economy. The local environmental attractions like Ganguddy and Ferntree gully will become significantly decimated or completely destroyed. Let's face it no one will come to a town to go look at a coal mine, definitely not a tourist attraction.
If this is allowed by the NSW government I believe that the younger generation will be well within their rights to bring a lawsuit against you just as they have elsewhere for considering these prehistoric business ventures and endangering their futures.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 1:01:30 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 13:01

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Bing

Last name
Bingley-Pullin

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Surry Hills/ Sydney 2010

Submission
I strongly object to any decision being based on out of date and incorrect research.
A number of subjects were raised some years ago and the information is now well out of date and should not be the basis for any decision made by your department.
As for the raping of our beautiful countryside, as can be witnessed in the Hunter Valley and so many other areas simply to subject the area to the behest of the mighty dollar is simply woeful.
When the world is moving against fossil fuel , any decision to open new mines is so out of date and against world thinking.
RJ Bingley-Pullin.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 9:26:47 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 09:26

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2756

Submission
Please just stop!!!!! Stop ruining what beautiful nature we have left.
Mining is greed, stop feeding the greed and hunger for money and power.
The damage caused by these operations is irreparable and we know this because we see it over and over again like huge scars across our country.
Nature has everything sorted and humans come along and change even just one thing will cause a butterfly effect. Stop messing with it. Leave it be to continue in peace and let that land serve a better purpose to those that already live and thrive from it without the destruction that a mine would cause

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 1:08:46 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 01:08

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Marion

Last name
Degel

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
49536 Lienen, Germany

Submission
I have been a tourist from Germany in the area and would have liked to return in the future. Hearing about possible coal mining made me worry about ecological damage and negative impact on the environment. As it's beauty was the main reason for my visits I would be very sad to not return to this amazing part of the world.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 12:15:27 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 00:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Dunstable. LU6 1QL. UK

Submission
As a UK citizen, I have visited the Rylstone Region on holiday twice, while staying with friends in the area, and have very much enjoyed the nature, wildlife and heritage it has to offer.

I'm therefore alarmed to discover that coal mining is being considered in the region.

I'm a qualified Architect and Building Biologist in the UK, working in health and the environment, and as a professional working in this field I need to stress most strongly that coal mining is not a good thing to do.

There are issues of air, water and soil pollution, leading to direct health impacts in the community, particularly respiratory health and food/agricultural health. There are concerns for the water supply and contamination also having a drastic effect on wildlife and the natural habitat of hundreds of endangered species, as well as the flora and forna of the region that I have personally enjoyed.
Also there would be an increased likelihood of drought, which in turn further increases the prevalence of bush fires in the region, and the health and homes of many people and natural habitats.

With the coal mining process, this well-loved World Heritage area would be transformed into an ugly and unhealthy industrial region. Not desirable for residents and certainly not attractive for tourists like myself.

At a time when climate change is an immediate and direct emergency affecting the entire planet, fossil fuel derived power is a major contribution to greenhouse gases and should be stopped. The mining and burning of coal is in direct contradiction to the carbon net-zero policy of NSW.

To support the necessary carbon reduction, it is understood that the use of non-renewable energy sources needs to be reduced and stopped. Here in the UK, coal mining has been phased out since the 1980s and the last coalmine closed in December 2015. The UK is gradually introducing a range of renewable and sustainable energy sources as a viable and future-proof policy to reduce the impact of climate change.

Renewable power is now cheaper to produce than coal power.
According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (https://www.irena.org/newsroom/pressreleases/2020/Jun/Renewables-Increasingly-Beat-Even-Cheapest-Coal-Competitors-on-Cost), renewable power generation costs in 2019 show that more than half of the renewable capacity added in 2019 achieved lower power costs than the cheapest new coal plants. And it continues to get cheaper.

For all these reasons I consider coal mining to be a backward and negligent step, and wish to register my profound concern and strong objection to coal mining being considered for the Rylstone Region.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 03/08/2021 12:09:55 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Tue, 03/08/2021 - 00:09

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Abbotsford 3067

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

Are you nuts? Have you not heard about climate change? You must stop this coal exploration before it starts. This is the worst proposal for people, creatures and the planet. Explore solar or wind farming for goodness sake, get a grip.

Leave coal in the ground!

Yours sincerely,
[redacted]

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02/08/2021 11:34:31 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 02/08/2021 - 23:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Scott

Last name
Cowan

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Edinburgh

Submission
I am totally against the Hawkins Rumker coal exploration, because I believe once something as big as the mining industry begins exploration it is very hard for there to be a turn around.

I have purposely visited the region around Wollemi National Park for a number of years as a tourist. You can't help but appreciate the silent unspoilt scenery, and the indigenous wildlife. The thought of a vast area adjacent to the National Park being considered for open cast mining is troubling, & why coal in this day and age?
In my experience the area becomes known as a Mining area, not a tourist destination. Roads constantly being used by a flow of heavy lorries transporting coal quickly changes an unspoiled area into another heavily polluted industrial nightmare with no consideration for the environment.
Yours in objection,
Scott Cowan

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02/08/2021 6:23:58 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 02/08/2021 - 18:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
jasmine

Last name
stokes

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Sydney, NSW, Australia

Submission
I love this area and the environmental impact of this project has potential to be vastly damaging to local ecosystems. It will also negatively effect tourism and contribute to climate change.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02/08/2021 3:36:37 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 02/08/2021 - 15:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
George

Last name
Catsi

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
petersham 2049

Submission
I am against these leases being allocated.

I have been a regular tourist visitor to the region for more than 25 years and have developed strong connections there both with businesses and the people who run them and with the area itself. I am drawn to its naturalness - with the Wollemi national Park co-habitating with the local communities that have built successul eco and sustainable tourism. The proposed coal exploration lease goes against the the needs and vialbiltiy of these business that survive and are currently thriving by being tourist locations. Putting cioal mining needs over the top of the current users needs plays one group over another - both can not exist together. They are mutually exclusive. The NSW government has enough current leases and mines operational to serivce the mining and export needs of the state for the forseeable future, with all indicators showing decrease demand over time. However there is growing need for sustainable tourism that the current communities have been developing. The fertile agricultural and viticultural lands and the old growth forests of the national park are valuable resources taht nire than offeset any perceived mining benefit.

Please do not approve these leases.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02/08/2021 11:36:29 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 02/08/2021 - 11:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Lin

Last name
Johnston

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Cox's Crown 2849

Submission
I have lived at 3 Parkinsons Road on and off for 40 years, during which time I have considered myself a custodian of the land for my own descendants and future generations, rather than a primary producer. We have spent large amounts of time and money on eradicating weeds, making significant improvements such as water access and preserving the almost virgin bush on our hill. This bush also contains several sites of a significant Aboriginal heritage in the form of rock shelters with hand prints. Any intrusion by mining interest would seriously disturb the area.
In addition the valley is watered by several springs originating in the mountains on the west side of the Wollemi National Park which would be contaminated by mining activities.
It seems to me that any further ventures into coal production and any continued use of fossil fuels would make a mockery of the government avowed policy of reaching zero emissions by 2050, as the increased emissions would probably equal any reduction made.
China, our major importer, has also stepped up their phasing out of fossil fuel use and reduction of emissions, making it less likely to want to import the second grade coal from this area by the time it was out of the ground.

In conclusion this area has become a refuge for many of us leaving the noise, pollution and health risks of the city - don't destroy one of the rapidly decreasing numbers of these places.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

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

---

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Kensington 2033

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

[redacted]
Kensington NSW 2033

02 August 2021

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I write to express my strong opposition to NSW government's proposed coal exploration of Hawkins Rumker.

The decision to proceed is completely in contradiction to the NSW government's own Intergenerational Report, which states "the future of the [coal] industry is largely dependent on global demand". By its own admission, the report indicates that NSW's three top thermal coal export markets – Japan, South Korea and China – "all announced their intention to achieve net zero emissions by the middle of the century" (p.94).

This point illustrates the declining market for thermal coal. This is not a contentious point, rather a fact that is widely agreed across the board. The Reserve Bank of Australia for instance anticipates international thermal coal demand to decline in the long-term as renewable electricity generation becomes more viable.

Moreover, 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.

Given the declining global demand for thermal coal, there is little economic incentive to pursue coal exploration. The proposal is also in complete contradiction to the NSW's own commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In its Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW released in June 2020, the NSW Government expressed how it is supporting diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phase-out of thermal coal mining

Coal is clearly no longer our energy future. It is unconscionable to allow this coal exploration to proceed – future generations will not enjoy any economic benefit. Action on climate change will be further delayed. And the environmental devastation to a pristine greenfield environment can never be undone.

I do not reside in the Hawkin Rumkins region but I am an Australian deeply concerned about the future of our country. It is difficult to understand how coal exploration in the Hawkins Rumker region makes any economic, environmental, or moral sense, except to serve the political interests of a few.

I implore the NSW government to rethink this coal exploration. It is a decision that will reveal the NSW government's true commitment to lasting action on climate change. We face a critical juncture in history – will we continue to condone reckless coal exploration, or will we take responsibility for our actions and future generations? This is a decision that requires bold action and courageous leadership. Our future depends on it and I trust the NSW government to make the right decision on behalf of its constituents.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02/08/2021 10:15:24 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 02/08/2021 - 10:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Bryce

Last name
Kennedy

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Brooklyn, NY USA

Submission
Hello, my name is Bryce. I am strongly opposed to this potential mining release. Australia, for me, has been an amazing place to escape to. Especially the areas that the proposed mining are to take place. When we leave NYC we purposely want to dive into something that is pristine and untouched. Sydney is an incredible city but our journey out further is where we love to visit. The last thing we want is more industry. We love camping at Ganguddy-Dunns, kayaking on the Cudgegong river. But if this becomes somewhere where industry is going to be sullying up, we will have to move on. I appreciate you hearing our responses and hopefully we will be able to continue visiting for years to come.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02/08/2021 9:25:17 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 02/08/2021 - 09:25

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Kandos. 2848

Submission
I have been in the Rylstone area for most of my life, and travelled throughout Australia extensively, Rylstone area is one of the most pristine and diverse places you will find. I don't want it ruined by a coal mine, please take a look at the Hunter valley

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02/08/2021 1:09:38 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 02/08/2021 - 01:09

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Clint

Last name
Mckellar

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2795

Submission
I do not support the exploration of coal in the Hawkins or Rumkar areas.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02/08/2021 1:01:04 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Mon, 02/08/2021 - 01:01

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Heidi

Last name
Freeman

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
7307

Submission
Save this area from deforestation!

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 10:10:34 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 22:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Riverstone

Submission
I completely object to opening these beautiful towns and national parks for coal exploration. My family and I have been visiting these Beautiful tourist towns Rylstone and this area for years. In winter and summers I've taken trips there to get away from the city and go for bush walks and explore the Corricudgy State Forest. Go down to Dunn's swamp and been swimming in there in summers. We stay in local accommodation in bed and breakfasts around the area go t the local pubs and visit de beaurepaire winery. Every time we're there it's a thriving little tourist town and seems to only get busier for the 6 plus years I've been going there. In winter and summer. How a coal
Mine could make more economic sense a tourism town that's thriving is beyond me. I trust that you will do the right thing and look at the long term future of the region and it's not a coal
Mine. Will be visiting there as long as I can.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 10:04:37 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 22:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Alexandra

Last name
Grocholsky

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2133

Submission
We visit and stay at Rylatone on holidays.

We love the area. We visit Dunn's Swamp, Fern Tree Gully and go walking in the local area. De Beaurepaire Wines are also very lovely.

I would not visit the area if Coal Exploration is on the table is on the table.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 9:24:35 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 21:24

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Yellow rock 2777

Submission
Coal is an outdated mode of power and fuel, while the rest of the world moves on and implements regenerative and clean power such as solar, wind and hydro alongside battery storage Australia continues to put itself on the back foot by proposals such as this. Left behind in every which way this is just another example of an outdated policy designed to line the pockets of those proposing it as opposed to being good in the long term for the health of the land, population and economy. The damage to sacred and important land in mining will add to the already spiralling climate change causing further bush fires and burning summers. We need forest and natural land more than anything now to be nurtured and protected - we absolutely do not need another coal mine

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 7:37:38 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 19:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
MILPERRA

Submission
I am not currently a resident in the effected area. However, there is farm land in the area owned by family members, that will be bequeathed to my children.
I am opposed to the prospect of potential coal mining in this area. There must certainly be a diminishing demand for coal supplies, and expansion into such beautiful countryside would be disastrous to the ecology of the area. Additionally, I have seen first-hand the impact of coal mining demand on water resources in the Capertee area. There is insufficient 'spare' water in the Rylstone district. Water diverted to the coal industry will adversely impact ALL farmers in the district.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 6:12:27 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 18:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Alanna

Last name
Somers

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Penrith

Submission
Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am writing to express my opposition to Hawkins Rumker coal exploration for the reasons outlined below.

Flawed PRIA Process

The Hawkins Rumker REF that the Government prepared incorrectly asserts that there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area, and no threatened fauna and fauna. As someone who has visited family in the area for many years I know this to be false.

There was inadequate community consultation, lack of transparency and a lack of notice for consultation and submissions from DPIE. Many of these processes fly in the face of findings from the Independent Commission Against Corruption Report, Reducing the opportunities and incentives for corruption in the state's management of coal resources 2013.

Worldwide trend to move to sustainable energy sources

The international demand for thermal coal is declining according to the G7, the RBA and the International Energy Agency. The NSW Government - in its Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW released a year ago - lists one of its four actions as supporting diversification of coal-reliant regional economies to assist with the phase-out of thermal coal mining.

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 aquifers10, 11. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

lands would be dug up or left fallow.

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

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

Mining is a specialised 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 will leach into surrounding areas. For instance, the Hunter Valley is now a pollution 'hotspot' and has some of the highest rates for respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW.

There would be an increase of heavy traffic on already poor roads, along with associated coal dust and pollution, noise and vibration with blasting, heavy earthmoving equipment and machinery operating in the mines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More coal mining is the last thing this region needs.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 4:16:47 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 16:16

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Luke

Last name
Keanan-Brown

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Denistone 2114

Submission
I am writing this submission to express my stern opposition to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for mining. As a precursor to mining this must be stopped immediately and any further openings for mining be abandoned.

In a previous submission I raised the environmental, health and tourism impacts, as well as the alarmingly contradictory nature of the proposal in relation to the global movement towards renewable energy and electricity and the NSW government's own strategic statement on the future of coal. My primary aim in this submission is to highlight the various problems inherent to the PRIA process itself in relation to the Hawkins-Rumker proposal.

The PRIA process does not adequately address the stark environmental impact that this exploration is likely to have on the area. Without a complete Environmental Impact Statement, any decision to go ahead with the proposal is based on incomplete information. Water is a massive part of this - and is likely to be severely impacted by the exploration outlined in this proposal (particularly the Cudgegong River and its downstream areas).
The 'Hawkins Rumker Review of Environmental Factors' report is insufficient and severely flawed in a number of ways. The Hawkins Rumker area is not adequately represented. It states zero threatened flora or fauna, despite NSW BioNet having recorded 293 threatened or endangered wildlife species in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA. In addition it states that there are no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal sites in the area. This is in stark contrast to both local knowledge and documented official records stating the opposite.

Personally, I strongly question how the NSW government can assure that exploration licences for this area will include "strict environmental management conditions to protect native vegetation, fauna, land, water resources, heritage and community values" when the PRIA process fails to do this in the first place.

There has been a lack of transparency and insufficient community consultation of this proposal. Firstly, there has not been any provision of a transparent method to how submissions will be weighted or evaluated. This is in addition to the fact that this is the only time the community will have any say in this process until the NSW Cabinet presents their decision. However, the Independent Commission Against Corruption states there should be adequate community consultation. Why did the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment issue consultation notices in June 2021 despite knowing about the release areas over a year? For in-person meetings, they were capped at four groups of 50 people, despite the greater rylstone region having a population of 3000 people! All of the above demonstrates a lack of transparency and a disrespect for a fair consultation process that the community deserves.
I strongly oppose this proposal and hope that the NSW government ceases to release these areas for exploration and abandons any future proposals.

Regards
Luke Keanan-Brown

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 4:10:39 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 16:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Vanessa

Last name
Honzatko

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Albany Creek, 4035

Submission
To put a coal mine in this area of historical Australian heritage and wildlife goes against the constitution and environmental best interests of our country.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 4:09:11 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 16:09

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Eric

Last name
Cother

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Orange 2800

Submission

1 August 2021

Dear Sirs

Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

I am writing to lodge my opposition to the proposed coal exploration of Hawkins Rumker area.

I am a biologist who has visited the area for many years, both in a professional capacity and as a tourist with my family. It is an area that is significant biologically and socially.

Like so many places now, this particular area has flora and fauna species that are endangered and any disturbance of their habitat pushers them further to the edge of extinction.

Furthermore, you would be aware that water is a diminishing resource on this planet and coal mines have a notorious history of detrimental effects on water tables and surrounding aquifers. These would be adversely affected by exploration and mining.

Given the momentum in planning and building alternative energy sources, it makes no sense to be further exploring for coal, whose use is acknowledged by scientists worldwide as facing an inevitable death knell.

Permission must not be given for exploration to occur.

Yours faithfully

Dr Eric Cother
[redacted] Orange NSW 2800

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 3:23:07 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 15:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Luke

Last name
Keanan-Brown

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Denistone 2114

Submission
I am writing this submission to express my stern opposition to the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for mining. As a precursor to mining this must be stopped immediately and any further openings for mining be abandoned.

I have been a Sydney resident since birth and have travelled to the Rylstone region multiple times a year for the last 12 years. I consider myself a regular visitor and am highly fond of the region. I am highly concerned about the negative impacts of mining (or any kind of exploratory drilling in general) and believe that it is unacceptable for this to take place.

To begin with the most basic and fundamental: the negative impact of mining or exploratory drilling on water sources is well known. Not only can underground aquifers be cracked and drained, the local and surrounding waterways get contaminated and the biodiversity is destroyed. The proposed release areas threaten water supply for the local towns of Charbon, Kandos, Rylstone and Clandulla, as the Rylstone Dam catchment is part of the proposed exploration areas and this catchment feeds into the Rylstone Dam and Windamere Dam water supplies.
Water is THE most precious resource and one of the many negative impacts from mining. Once this resource is destroyed, it can never return. This will negatively impact not only the flora and fauna, but the future of the community, tourism and agriculture of the region. In the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA, NSW BioNet has recorded 293 threatened or endangered wildlife species. Not to mention the disastrous health implications of mining. Noise, air, water and soil pollution are standard. Look at the Hunter Valley - it now has some of the highest rates of respiratory and cardiac conditions in NSW. There is simply no logic as to how the introduction to the region of the above shortlist of negative impacts is a good idea.

Why is the NSW government even considering this in the first place?
The Reserve Bank of Australia has already anticipated that as renewable electricity becomes more viable, the international demand for thermal coal will decline. Even from the NSW Governments' own 2021 Intergenerational report forecasts that as international demand falls, royalties will decrease globally. The International Energy Agency has called for an immediate ban on new oil, coal and gas development and the G7 agreed to end government support for new coal power by the end of 2021. But doesn't the NSW Government have it's own Net-zero emissions goal? The openings of these areas are a complete contradiction to any emissions goals of any kind and even the NSW Government's Strategic statement on coal exploration and mining as listed on their website. Responding to global demand does not equal opening a new coal mine in a region that is not coal reliant in any way.

I firmly oppose the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker proposal and any coal exploration or mining in this region.

Regards,
Luke Keanan-Brown

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 2:57:25 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

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Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 14:57

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2849

Submission
I strongly oppose the proposal to open this area for coal exploration.

I am a local resident, and resolutely stand against the prospect of new coal mines in this region.
Aside from the many important issues at stake, such as the long-lasting environmental impacts and health risks, I object to the very premise of new mining here.
The critical question here is - Why is the government looking to open more new coal mines here?
I was present for one of the PRIA zoom consultations, and although this question was raised by many, it was not clearly addressed.
We were pointed to the fact that the government had made the decision to release these areas and start the PRIA process, but this is not answering the question. Rather than trying to defend our position of why we should object to this, the government should be providing us with their case as to why they should be considering coal mining in this area.
The NSW government has released a 'Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW' which recognises the need to transition coal reliant communities moving forward, as there is a transition to different energy sources. So while the government recognises that the coal industry will need to transition, it still endeavours to create new mines? We know that current mines are not running to capacity, that international demand is falling - including our two major coal importers Japan and Korea, and even the Reserve Bank of Australia suggests a decline in international coal demand as renewables advance. There is just so much stacked against new coal mining in todays climate, it is hard to understand any logic behind this direction when everything is pointing away from coal. For example, the G7 leaders agreed to accelerate the global transition away from coal generation and end government support for new coal power by the end of 2021, and even the NSW government itself has a net zero goal.
The proposition of economic gain for the community is also based on a false rationale. It is well recognised that the mining industry today has changed, it does not create many local jobs but rather is the field for specialist people who are outsourced, or for automated machinery. Our local economy is thriving from tourism, many businesses are flourishing as a result of this. If mining operations were to come into this region, we have no doubt that would have a serious and devastating impact on our businesses. Not only would locals see little economic benefit, but they would infact suffer great financial losses as tourists will not travel to mining towns.
So we return to the question - what is the logic behind creating new coal mines? The only logic we have to turn to is the economic benefit it brings the government and the coal companies they support. It asks big questions around why coal companies have the favour of politicians?

It would be such a tragedy if this area was pillaged for coal, forever destroying the pristine landscapes and water sources, wiping out our local businesses, ruining our health and destroying our aboriginal heritage sites, for...what? For whose benefit exactly?

No matter how much I weigh it up, I cannot concieve a reality where coal mining will benefit us long term. It will destroy our region, and contribute to the growing climate crisis. Even if there was an economic gain (which there is not for us), it comes at a cost that dramatically outweighs any benefit. How can we possibly put a price on the future of our land and our lives?

Please understand the seriousness of the scales you are weighing in your recommendations to the government.
The repercussions of this will determine whether this region, and all of us who love it, has a future or not.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 12:20:02 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 12:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Jennifer

Last name
Beadell

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2117

Submission
To whom it may concern

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.

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

With what will we fight bushfires?

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

THE EFFECTS ON ABORIGINAL HERITAGE:
 There are a significant number of Aboriginal heritage sites within the areas, including art and ceremonial sites, that are at risk.
 Many of these are not yet officially documented. T
Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places in the area. This is despite the documented official records as well as local knowledge pointing to many more sites.
 Significant sites have already been destroyed by mining and our laws are inadequate to protect these sites

These points are from a pro forma but this does not diminish the importance I place on the points. If Australia is to play it's part in slowing down climate change coal mining has to be controlled. There are already so many project in the pipeline it does not make any sense to continue exploration particularly in environmentally sensitive areas. This area is well know to me over any years camping and exploring the area.

Your very sincerely

Jennifer Beadell

[redacted]

Oatlands

NSW 2117

[redacted]

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 11:39:18 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 11:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Katoomba 2780

Submission
It is outrageous the NSW government is even considering the thought of opening up more coal mining operations when it is patently clear coal is being phased-out globally as a source of energy. Just in the last few weeks a number of powerful nations, all Australian trading partners, have committed to reducing their carbon emissions, and one of their strategies includes abandoning or heavily reducing coal as an energy source. Why is NSW, and Australia as a whole, still investing taxpayers' money in supporting, or at least entertaining the thought of furthering an industry that is set to become obsolete, instead of investing in new ideas and new prospects for economic growth?? It just makes no business sense, nor does it help this nation gain credibility or traction as a trading partner to other nations who have publicly committed to reducing their carbon footprint. This proposition is wasteful and irresponsible, to say the least. And clearly detrimental to an area of significant ecological and cultural importance. Please reconsider this and invest in our collective future! Thank you.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01/08/2021 9:06:34 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sun, 01/08/2021 - 09:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Natalie

Last name
Beak

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Katoomba 2780

Submission
The area marked for coal exploration is of cultural significance to the First Nations people on our country. Over 45 Aboriginal Heritage sites are within this area, land of the Wiradjuri people. The vegetation and animal life is also of great significance, with many threatened species including the platypus, koalas, spotted-tailed quolls and the critically endangered regent honeyeater. The area marked for development borders more than 100 kilometres of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, an area that I and my young family call home. I oppose this development due to the environmental, cultural and community impacts it will pose.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31/07/2021 11:33:12 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 31/07/2021 - 23:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Christiana

Last name
O'Regan

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2849

Submission
No New Coal Mines In Rylstone NSW

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31/07/2021 11:31:40 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 31/07/2021 - 23:31

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Maria

Last name
Bradley

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2034

Submission
OBJECTION Submission for the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed Hawkins Rumker Mine - I have visited this area for several years and oppose this mine because the impacts on environment, water and community is too great.

The world is moving 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 aquifers10, 11. Once the water is gone, it is lost forever.

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

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

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

Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

Aboriginal Heritage

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

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

Impact on current local economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social & health implications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maria Bradley

[redacted]

Coogee NSW 2034

I agree to the above statement

Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31/07/2021 8:16:31 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 31/07/2021 - 20:16

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2074

Submission
Hawkins Rumker Proposed Coal Mining Exploration

Submission against the the proposed exploration

I am writing this submission as a concerned resident of NSW who opposes the proposed opening up of this area for coal mining exploration.

I have been visiting this area regularly for the last 10 years. It is beautiful part of our state and one that is very special. There are many good reasons, some macro and some micro, why coal mining in this area, if not the whole of NSW or Australia, is a terrible idea.

I am particularly aggrieved by the short sightedness of Government when it comes to water.

Water is the most precious resource we have and there is abundant evidence that open cut coal mining risks causing water contamination and destroys the biodiversity of waterways. Moreover once underground aquifers are cracked, which can happen with merely exploratory drilling (see 'Monitoring and management of subsidence induced by longwall coal mininig activity', Department of Environment, Aus 2015), they can drain and never refill. Destroying this most precious resource in the aid of short term gain is not good government.

The history of coal mining in Australia also indicates that after the mining is complete the waterways are not rectified, if indeed this is possible, and instead areas are left to become a wasteland.

From my own research I also understand that coal mining itself consumes vast amounts of water. 653 litres of water are used to produce 1 tonne of coal (see 'The Conversation', 4 May 2020, https://theconversation.com/arent-we-in-a-drought-the-australian-black-coal-industry-uses-enough-water-for-over-5-million-people-137591#:~:text=Collated%20water%20use%20%E2%80%94%20both%20water,tonne%2C%20from%20research%20in%202010).

From my travels in the area, water is particularly precious given the very long drought the area has been in. The land was tinder dry in 2019-2020 and thus the bush fires that tore through Wollemi National Park and affected this area. The land is dry and risking the one resource that could keep these communities going through short term gains of coal mining is...short sighted.

I strongly oppose any mining or mining exploration in this area.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31/07/2021 7:23:53 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 31/07/2021 - 19:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Neville

Last name
Mattick

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Hargraves, NSW 2850

Submission
It beggars belief that the NSW Government is putting life on our Planet at further risk by planning to dig Coal and send it off to be burnt by some foreign corporation!

The Hawkjns-Rumker PRIA itself illustrates substantial risks (which defy logic) that will enhance the rapid advancement of Climate Change for a short term profit.

To case in point in the PRIA itself:

Preliminary Issues Identification

• Land Use Compatibility interactions with existing land uses including subsidence on agricultural and residential uses.

• Water Resources Growee River, Cudgegong River, wetlands and lake systems (expert advice).

• Biodiversity predominant land use is nature conservation proximity to Blue Mountains WorldHeritage Area.

•Aboriginal Cultural Heritage high potential for cultural heritage, including shelter and art sites.

•Transport and access opportunities and constraints associated with the nearby railway.

•Amenity including potential for noise, air quality and visual impacts.

We don't need any more evidence.

NO to this expansion/ exploration disaster and I thought a moderately progressive Government in NSW would consider environmentally friendly energy sources BEFORE a 19th century technology.

NO TO HAWKINS-RUMKER COAL EXPANSION.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31/07/2021 4:11:25 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 31/07/2021 - 16:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Peter

Last name
Rowed

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
CAMMERAY

Submission

Dear Minister Kean,

(2) I am a member of the Wilderness Society's local Sydney North team. (3) I am writing to express my concern that the NSW Government may allow the exploration and development of coal mines in forested landscapes bordering the World Heritage Area of Wollemi National Park.

(4) Your government's 2020 Coal Strategy has identified eight areas for coal exploration and coal mining leases. I am asking you as minister with responsibility for the natural environment in NSW to withdraw these areas from proposed coal exploration and mining.

(5) (Choose one or more of the following issues - the ones that mean the most to you personally)

(Endangered species)
The impact of coal mining on the biodiversity of the area would be significant. Ganguddy-Kelgoola, one of the proposed coal leases bordering Wollemi National Park and Wilderness Area, covers a precious area of bush known as Coricudgy State Forest. The forest is home to the critically endangered regent honeyeater and the endangered glossy black-cockatoo and spotted tailed quoll.

(World Heritage)
Corricudgy State Forest is amongst a number of areas currently being assessed by the Australian Heritage Commission with a view to inscribing them on the National Heritage List; a step towards including them in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area itself. The areas under current assessment are effectively of World Heritage value and should be treated as such.

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

(Biodiversity)
Some of the identified areas fall within the catchment for Wollemi Creek, one of the most important wild rivers in the state. These ancient rivers, flowing through the deep gorges of the pristine wilderness would be exposed to toxic runoff from coal mining operations. The Wollemi Wilderness Area is home to the last remaining native stands of the Wollemi Pine, a species that has survived 60 million years. Until it's discovery by Western science in 1994, the Wollemi Pine was only known in the fossil record. The potential coal leases also surround Ganguddy-Dunns Swamp, a culturally significant site to local Aboriginal peoples.

(Climate change - bushfires)
As I know that you are well aware, during the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-2020, one of the largest and most devastating fires of the season, the giant Gosper's Mountain fire, started only 20kms from the last remaining stands of Wollemi Pine. It is only through emergency action by your government and a specially deployed team of remote area firefighters that these critically endangered trees were saved from the fire. With the local environment and biodiversity devastated by fire, it's now more important than ever that we protect our wild places and unique plants and animals from coal expansion.

(Climate change - fossil fuels)
Neither Australia nor NSW needs more coal resources; renewable energy sources are rapidly displacing the need for coal fired power. Coal is the most significant single contribution to the climate crisis. We are already experiencing more extreme weather events directly caused by a warming world due to the burning of fossil fuels.

(6) Burning more fossil fuels is only going to make the climate crisis worse, producing more unprecedented storms, floods, droughts, heatwaves and fires, not to forget devastating sea-level rise in many South Pacific nations, some of our nearest international neighbours.

The catastrophic 2019/2020 bushfire season witnessed the loss of over one billion native animals and six million hectares of some of the most biodiverse forests in the world. Without urgent action, the situation will get exponentially worse—especially for our most vulnerable communities. For a safe, liveable climate, we need to keep fossil fuels in the ground. For clean air, clean water and a safe future we need a just and equitable transition away from coal. This will bring us closer to the clean and abundant energy future all Australians deserve.

(7) Please intervene urgently with the Premier, Deputy Premier, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and your Cabinet colleagues to cancel the development of coal exploration and mining in the eight areas identified by the NSW Coal Strategy — before our world heritage is auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Important Points:

Titles are important.
Make sure you look up the title for the minister or the MP you're writing to on the parliamentary website. The title "The Hon." (short for The Honourable) should be used for all federal and NSW Government ministers (and, sometimes, former ministers) and all current Members of the Senate and Legislative Council (NSW upper house). Note that Greens NSW members of the Legislative Council, who are eligible for the Honourable title, have chosen to refrain from using it.

Briefly introduce yourself.
If you're writing to your MP, a sentence identifying yourself as a constituent gives you a lot of power - local politicians are more likely to listen to people in their electorates.

Dive right into the issue with a clear statement of purpose.
Be sure to let the minister or your MP know the reason you're writing and what you want them to do straight off the bat. Phrases such as "I am writing to urge your support for / opposition to..." or "I am writing to ask you to support / oppose …" are straightforward and highly effective.

Make sure you're writing to the right person.
It sounds silly but ministers will try to duck responsibility for as many letters as they can. If you're writing to a state minister or MP, make sure you're writing about a matter of state responsibility. Similarly, if you're writing to a federal minister make sure it's a matter of federal responsibility. Be it federal or state, make sure you're writing to the minister with responsibility for the issue you're writing about.

Say why the issue matters to you personally.
Politicians are used to hearing numerous complaints every day, and adding personalization helps them to see the real person behind the letter. Including a story on why you care about the topic, information on how it impacts your life, or describing how it impacts family or people you care about will leave a strong impression.

Do some research, and state your informed opinion on why the issue is a problem.
Be sure to provide some facts and/or statistics on why you think your MP should take the actions you request of them. You may need to do a bit of digging on your own, but taking the time to ground your request in facts shows passion and gives you more credibility.

Ask for something to be done and/or for a reply.
Restate or detail the request you made in the beginning of your letter. Remind them that this is not a complaint, but a call to action. By requesting a response, you will know that your letter or email got through and ensure that your MP will have to take some time out of their day to actually address the issue. The more time they are forced to spend on a particular problem, the more likely it is to be fixed or changed.

Additional tips:
Keep it brief - Try to limit your letter to a page or, at most, two pages. Staying short also helps your letter sound more concise.
Manners are important - Although the issue may anger and upset you, be sure to stay respectful and courteous. Threats and rude remarks only detract from your argument.
Use your own words - Again, politicians receive numerous letters every day. Form and template letters are easy to skim through and forget about.
Even if you think your letter may not sound as strong as one from an organisation, it will still carry far more weight.
Don't forget to include contact information - Make it easy for the minister or your MP to get back to you. Include your address, email and phone number at the top of the page or under your name if you are sending your letter by email.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31/07/2021 3:40:23 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 31/07/2021 - 15:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Gillian

Last name
Mountwinter

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Chatswood West

Submission
I am an Australian resident of NSW and am making this submission because I believe the preservation of our natural spaces is of increasing importance globally.
Even if done with consideration to the environment as far as possible, the impact of coal mining on this pristine area would be significant. Just one example is the Ganguddy-Kelgoola, one of the proposed coal leases which borders Wollemi National Park. This covers the invaluable Coricudgy State Forest, which is home to the regent honeyeater(critically endangered, as you would know), and myriad other fauna including the endangered glossy black-cockatoo and spotted tailed quoll.
It is becoming increasingly obvious that coal is an outmoded and damaging fuel source and is a massive contributor to the climate crisis. We are already experiencing the frightening results of living in a a warming world as I am sure you are aware.
May I ask you to seriously consider the long-term impact, and to cancel the development of coal exploration and mining in the eight areas identified by the NSW Coal Strategy — for the sake of the next generations.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this matter.

I look forward to your reply,

Kind Regards,
Gillian Mountwinter

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31/07/2021 2:43:00 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 31/07/2021 - 14:43

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Indooroopilly 4068

Submission
I am against the use of this land for mining purposes based on its ecological value, and existing use impacts. This is in addition to the opinion that coal based activities should be reducing and efforts refocused on alternative industries for regional areas, and energy options. On a personal basis, I know the bushland in this area and have seen firsthand the amount of wildlife that would be severely impacted. Please do not allow any consideration to progress further.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31/07/2021 2:39:55 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 31/07/2021 - 14:39

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Sydney 2096

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

I have been a tourist to this beautiful area of NSW for over a decade, and the people in the region have proudly built long-term sustainable economic stability.

Businesses that have helped build the tourism industry in the region that I have visited include vineyards, olive groves, eco-tourism, short stay accommodation, restaurants, cafes and antique shops. These businesses are incompatible with mining: tourists do not come to see coal mines..

There are huge areas that would be affected by coal mines. The proposed Hawkins Rumker coal release areas cover approximately 32,700 ha of land and would directly affect 180 landholders.

There will be a loss of agricultural lands, farms would disappear or lose their water, and productive agricultural lands would be dug up or left fallow.

Above all this, there is a huge question as to why coal mining is continuing in this very different day and age.

The International Energy Agency has called for an immediate ban on new oil, coal and gas development

The G7 agreed to end government support for new coal power by the end of 2021.

There is clearly a world wide trend to move towards sustainable energy sources, and frankly Australia is going to go under if it doesn't wake up to these changing times.

The premise supporting the release of these areas undermines and contradicts more recent government policies.

It even contradicts its own strategic statement about the future of coal. 'Opening up the Hawkins and Rumker areas is diametrically opposed to the stated intent of "giving our coal-reliant communities time to adapt".

This region is not reliant on coal. This reasoning is analogous to stating drug rehabilitation is needed while introducing heroin to a community.'

Sincerely
[redacted]

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31/07/2021 2:20:15 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Sat, 31/07/2021 - 14:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Terry

Last name
Wilson

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Mudgee 2850

Submission
We are long term owners of property 17km from Mudgee. My wife's family were amongst the earliest setters in this region. We both absolutely oppose the release of any areas of the Bylong valley for coal exploration. This is a magnificent and productive valley that offers potential not as another coal reserve but as a world class tourist destination. Bylong is an intimate landscape of magnificent sandstone cliffs, hidden streams and valleys and incredible birdlife.
It is simply unimaginable that with the decline of coal and the priority on clean energy to meet climate emission targets, that we are even contemplating exploratory coal studies in this beautiful region.
Coal exploration should be refused on the following
1. World co2 emissions generated from coal sourced from this area
2. Proven limited ground water Availability.
3.Impacts on future potential tourism opportunities
4. Social and community impacts resulting from coal movements, coal dust and displacement of generational farming activities.
5.Impacts on listed Treatened species.
6. The Mudgee region is already subject to existing coal mining activities. Addition of further mines will result in further intolerable cumulative impacts.
Thank you

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 30/07/2021 9:51:09 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Fri, 30/07/2021 - 21:51

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Putney 2112

Submission
I am opposing the Hawkins and Rumker areas being opened for coal exploration!

This is a very special part of NSW and I have many fond memories of visiting close friends who live in the area. During these visits, I have spotted birds and other wildlife which I've never seen in other areas of NSW. These include Lyrebirds, Diamond Firetails and various unique species of Cockatoos. There are beautiful eucalypt forests and woodlands which I have spent many hours exploring on bush walks. It is an area of NSW which needs preservation and protection. The recent bushfires have severely impacted the regions unique flora and fauna, and I am aware of the further impact coal mining will have on the natural habitats, water supply and air pollution.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 30/07/2021 6:48:39 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Fri, 30/07/2021 - 18:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2849

Submission
I am writing to vigorously oppose the proposal of the Rylstone region being opened for coal exploration and mining.

I am concerned about the long term impacts mining and exploration will have on many fronts; the potential ruination of our water sources, the significant health repercussions that result from pollution, the threat to our native wildlife and indigenous heritage sites.

I live in Rylstone, and deeply value the incredible natural surrounds here. The landscape is stunning, and thriving with a rich biodiversity. The birdsong that is always so vibrant through the day, the many species - some endangered - that inhabit our land, these are all at risk of being devastated if coal mining operations were to happen here. On our land alone, we have Spotted-tailed Quolls, Gang-gang Cockatoos, Regent Honeyeaters, Powerful Owls, and Yellow Box Gums - all endangered. There is no question that the impact mining would have on our waterways and landscape will have a detrimental effect on these endangered species, and all our precious flora and fauna. It is inconceivable given the pressure our natural habitat is already under, suffering from the effects of climate change, that the government would willingly allow for the destruction of this environment. We are risking the extinction of so much native wildlife, for what outcome? How can the economic gain of mining even compare to the ruin and destruction of our native wildlife, and the beautiful environment that comprises this part of the world.

Coal mining would be nothing short of catastrophic to our stunning habitat. Please do not allow this consideration to go any further.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 30/07/2021 9:18:52 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Fri, 30/07/2021 - 09:18

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Berkeley California

Submission
Hello Director of Energy and Resources Policy,

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

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

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

Of the effects that coal mining would have on this region, one is the long-lasting damage to water sources. Mines have a significant negative impact on water resources of the local areas where they are found. This is a well documented phenomenon. In particular:

1. Exploratory drilling can damage underground water resources. It should go without saying that once this damage is done, it cannot be undone. This risk clearly outweighs any short-term and frankly uncertain gains for a dying industry.

2. Coal mining places extraordinary demands on water usage. In a region now prone to drought and fires given global changes in climate, this usage of precious water resources is irresponsible and dangerous.

3. Coal mines have historically caused water contamination and destroyed the wildlife that relies on local water resources. Biodiversity is one of the primary draws for this region and any impact on it would be a tremendous loss.

Given the overwhelming evidence of risk to water resources posed by mining exploration and related operations and the need, now more than ever, for water to sustain and preserve local communities, I simply cannot see any reason to move forward with the exploratory proposal.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29/07/2021 11:30:57 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Thu, 29/07/2021 - 23:30

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Ann

Last name
Kelly

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2749

Submission
Dear Director

Re: Rylstone proposed coal exploration

From photos Rylstone's beautiful scenery in Blue Mountains Heritage Area is nature at its best.

Coal exploration with a view to mining is unthinkable.

It will only bring the consequences of air, water and land pollution. Co2 emissions are detrimental to health and livelihood of residents in and around site of dirty fossil fuel.

Unthinkable.

Your faithfully,

Ann Kelly

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29/07/2021 8:40:01 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Thu, 29/07/2021 - 20:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

I would like my submission to remain confidential
Yes

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2017

Submission
Hi,

I am aware that a large mining development project has been proposed in the region of Mudgee. I oppose this project on the grounds of environmental concerns, as well as negative effects on farms, residents and visits to the beautiful Mudgee region. For a long time, Mudgee has been a spotlight in the north western NSW, a beautiful place with so much local produce from fruit to honey to wine. The beautiful vistas are a delight for locals and visitors alike. The place is also naturally home to thousands of native wildlife, both flora and fauna. Furthermore, the entire region is a huge centre for production of fresh and locally-grown/sourced produce.
Introduction of a large mining project will doubtlessly impact all these aspects - disrupting the careful ecological balance of the area, which will consequently lead to far reaching impacts (it is impossible to keep major ecological changes localised, there will be bleeding to other areas at all levels in the ecological chain. Aside from physical disruption of the environment, mining also brings huge amounts of pollution, which will add to the huge negative effects it will have on the environment and wildlife. This will also affect residents, and particularly farmers and producers.
Leaking and leeching of toxic waste and gas output, not to mention noise and light pollution which will accompany any mining project, will disrupt the ambience, environment and quality of life enjoyed by locals for decades.
This mining proposal will hurt the residents and locals, particularly with regards to their livelihoods, from direct producer-based incomes to tourist-based incomes as such a project will certainly lead to a decline with the destruction of the beautiful landscapes of Mudgee. The wildlife and environment will also not recover from such a project and the impact will be felt for years down the line, especially in the current climate which has again and again shown that chances of survivability is decreasing with every passing year. We are running out of time.
I strongly urge the reconsideration of this proposal and hope that a decision is made that can benefit the good people of Mudgee and protect the land which has given us so much already.
Thank you.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29/07/2021 8:22:16 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Thu, 29/07/2021 - 20:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Siam

Last name
Harris

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
3759

Submission
I am
Against this proposal as I see it dangerous for our beautiful wild life !

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29/07/2021 7:27:41 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Thu, 29/07/2021 - 19:27

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Mick

Last name
Boller

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Lue..2850

Submission
I live in Hawkins, adjoining the Barigan reserve.
I have a number of points of objection to this proposal. My objections include the effects on Koala habitat, underground aquifers, Aboriginal heritage sites, existing rural enterprises, the global decline in demand for coal and the use of public funds to promote developments such as this. The above objections do not encompass the entire range of serious environmental and personal issues this proposed development would raise.

(1) Koala habitat. There are vast expanses of Koala habitat within the Hawkins, Rumker area. I have personally logged five Koala sightings to Sydney University Dr. Kellie Leigh in recent years. Much Koala habitat has been lost through development activity and bushfires . Preservation of known Koala habitat is vital.
(2) Underground water supplies are critical to many agricultural enterprises in Hawkins and Rumker, including my property. The massive sandstone storages is this area cannot be ruined by mining coal which is in decline.
(3) Hawkins contains many examples of Aboriginal heritage sites, including rock art, grinding grooves, rock shelters and stone flakes. I am personally aware of a site with over 70 grinding grooves, as well as 2 rock art sites and numerous areas where stone flakes exist. This was clearly an area of extensive Aboriginal importance and activity and it remains so to this day. Recording and protecting such sites appears to have been very limited in the Hawkins area and very significant sites are yet to be found.
(4) Hawkins and Rumker contain many existing businesses and rural enterprises. A cursory view of coal mining in the Hunter Valley demonstrates without question that these enterprises cannot co exist with extensive open cut coalmining activities. They will disappear forever.
(5) Overseas countries are turning away from coal and closing down coal fired power stations. Renewable energy sources are proving to be a far more efficient way to spend taxpayer dollars.

This proposal ignores global trends in the coal industry. It is not sensible to proceed and destroy forever productive farmland and agricultural enterprises.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29/07/2021 7:07:08 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Thu, 29/07/2021 - 19:07

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
Julia

Last name
Clark

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
Pennant Hills 2120

Submission
This area of NSW is such a beautiful, idyllic location for relaxing weekend holidays. I'm a visitor who went to the region to soak up the local food, including renowned wineries and vineyards, and other farmers and their produce. It would be a real loss to sacrifice the region to a mine when it is already a thriving and attractive tourist destination.

I agree to the above statement
Yes

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29/07/2021 6:38:07 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Webform submission from: Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment Hawkins Rumker

---

Submitted on Thu, 29/07/2021 - 18:38

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type
I am making a personal submission

Name

First name
John

Last name
Robles

I would like my submission to remain confidential
No

Info

Email
[redacted]

Suburb/Town & Postcode
2042

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

I agree to the above statement
Yes