



Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch

Rylstone Stall 22nd May 2021

Land Cove Plaza



Since 2014 The Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch have been actively supporting NSW community groups who are impacted by coal and gas projects by holding stalls, public forums, movie screenings and visiting local MPs to raise awareness of the issues and garner support from the general public.



On Saturday 22nd May we held a stall on behalf of the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community 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 be starting up the process of developing new coal mines for the future. When we told people what the

petition was about they said straight away "where do I sign". There was almost disbelief that the government would even be 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, but still signed the petition anyway. There were still those who supported coal and would not sign, but they were few and far between and in some cases employed in the industry and agreed a just transition was required.

A broad cross section of young, old and multi cultural passers-by signed the petition. It was interesting to see that people have a strong understanding that coal is a problem. This was not the case when we started campaigning 7 years ago. Previously it was coal seam gas which people were very anti (they still are). Coal mining was seen to have a more limited impact on the environment and had economic benefits. This seems to have changed and the change seems to have happened over the last 18 months since we did stalls prior to the summer bushfires of 2019.

Often people in general don't take time to read the blurb on our stalls, but the big maps hanging at the front showing the coal release areas and the proximity to national park drew a lot of attention. People were interested to understand where the release areas were. Particularly people who used the area for recreational use.

Over five hours in a fairly busy plaza we collected 240 signatures and after a long COVID – 19 enforced break we certainly got our stall mojo back. It truly feels like the tide has turned against coal in Lane Cove and surrounds.

