

## Rylstone Region Coal Free Community (RRCFC)

The NSW Government has commenced the Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) for the Hawkins and Rumker exploration areas around the Rylstone region. This is the first step in the process for issuing exploration licences. The RRCFC are a local community group concerned that new coal mining in our community will damage our agriculture, thriving tourism industries, health, and destroy heritage sites and precious water supplies.

### What we have achieved so far

It has been a whirlwind of activity since we first come together after the first HRGK meeting on 24 April 2021. In order to move forward as an independent organisation, we have been busy preparing the organisation's constitution to register it, and to raise awareness for affected residents and neighbouring towns. Activities over May and June 2021 included:

- RRCFC group meetings: 24 April 2021, 15 May 2021, 26 June 2021
- RRCFC weekly steering committee meetings
- RRCFC website and Facebook page created, and Twitter account opened
- RRCFC corflute gate signs made available
- Letterbox drops: - Mailout 1 June 2021 - raising awareness about PRIA and RRCFC  
- Mailout 2 June 2021 - raising awareness about PRIA information sessions on 29 & 30 June
- Meet the candidates in Bylong, Merriwa and Rylstone between 28 April and 23 May 2021
- Lane Cove Coal & Gas Watch ran a stall to help support us and raise awareness
- RRCFC constitution written and registration of corporation
- Midwestern Regional Council public forum address on 16 June 2021 regarding the PRIA, especially water concerns
- Work on the RRCFC's PRIA submission underway
- Media coverage from our first meeting on 24 April, media follow up from the Lock the Gate report and the PRIA notifications being issued by Department Primary Industries and Environment.

### What's next

There's a lot of on the ground work beginning, and there are lots of great opportunities for those of you who want to get involved at this stage. We need ideas and help to organize:

- Getting signage up on your gates or in your windows, and getting your neighbours involved
- Attendance at the PRIA meetings with the Department of Planning Industries and Environment on 29 and 30 June 2021
- Getting the message out about the need for everyone to lodge submissions (particularly the need for more time as one month is simply not enough)
- Volunteers for submission subcommittees – anyone welcome!
- Volunteers to assist other members and the broader community with submissions
- Volunteers to man the Mudgee Field Days RRCFC booth (this will be on a roster system so you can still enjoy the day)
- Volunteers to drive the signage trailer around Rylstone and nearby areas
- Fundraising ideas and champions
- Volunteers to get petition signatures
- Your ideas on what else you think we need to do

### How can I put my hand up to volunteer and become more involved with RRCFC?

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📘 www.facebook.com/rylstonecfc/

🐦 @NoCoalRylstone



**Stay tuned to RRCFC for more critical information and developments!**