**RRCFC – More than 1,000 submissions lodged against Hawkins Rumker PRIA**

**Rylstone, Australia, August 18, 2021 –** With only one day to go, more than 1,000 submissions have been lodged since the Hawkins Rumker PRIA process commenced on 14 June.

The NSW Government is currently undertaking the first stage of the Hawkins Rumker Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA) process that, along with the yet to be announced Ganguddy-Kelgoola PRIA, is intended to open up the area around Rylstone, Kandos and Lue for coal exploration and exploitation.

According to the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment, more than 1,000 submissions had been lodged as part of the PRIA process as of Monday, 16 August with more ‘coming in every minute’ according to the senior policy officer working on the project. The vast majority of the submissions are against opening up the area Rylstone, Kandos and Lue areas, she added.

In addition to taking submissions online, via email, paper hard copy and via voicemail, DPIE held seven Zoom consultation sessions and more than 90 percent of the participants in the online consultation sessions expressed opposition to the mine.

During those consultation sessions the message DPIE received from Rylstone, Kandos and Lue communities was very clear. “The Hawkins Rumker PRIA represents the wrong mine in the wrong place at the wrong time,” said an RRCFC spokesperson.

“The impressive number of submissions for a PRIA is the culmination of weeks of incredible work by the RRCFC and other organisations such as the Lock the Gate, The Wilderness Society, the National Parks Association and the Nature Conservation Council.”

“To get 1,000 plus submissions in two months has been a terrific response, however, we think it could go even higher. Given the momentum, 1,500 submissions are well within the bounds of possibility.”

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**About RRCFC**

The Rylstone Region Coal Free Community (RRCFC) is a self-funded, non-politically aligned community group committed to protecting the region around Rylstone, Kandos and Lue by stopping further exploration of coal and approval of new coal mines in our region. Our aim is to protect the land, heritage, culture and community for now and future generations by fully informing our community of the implications of the Hawkins, Rumker and Ganguddy-Kelgoola coal exploration releases. For more information about the RRCFC, visit [www.rysltonecfc.com](http://www.rysltonecfc.com); follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/NoCoalRylstone) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rylstonecfc/).