



**RYLSTONE REGION
COAL FREE
COMMUNITY**



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Rylstone Region Coal Free Community
Hawkins Rumker PRIA Submission: Tourism Values
Final



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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 providers, 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.

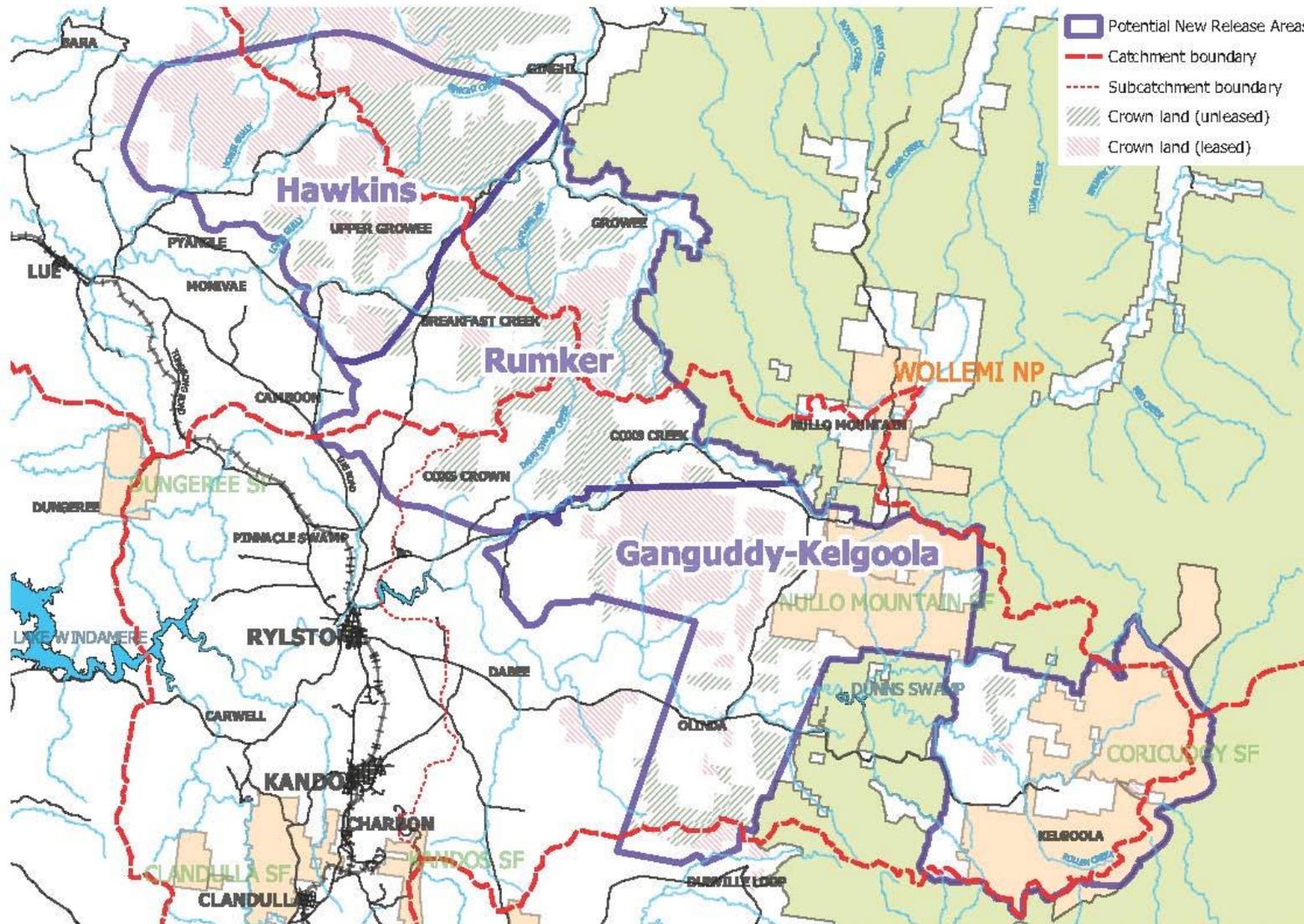


Figure 1 The proposed exploration areas (note only Hawkins and Rumker being considered in this PRIA)



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.

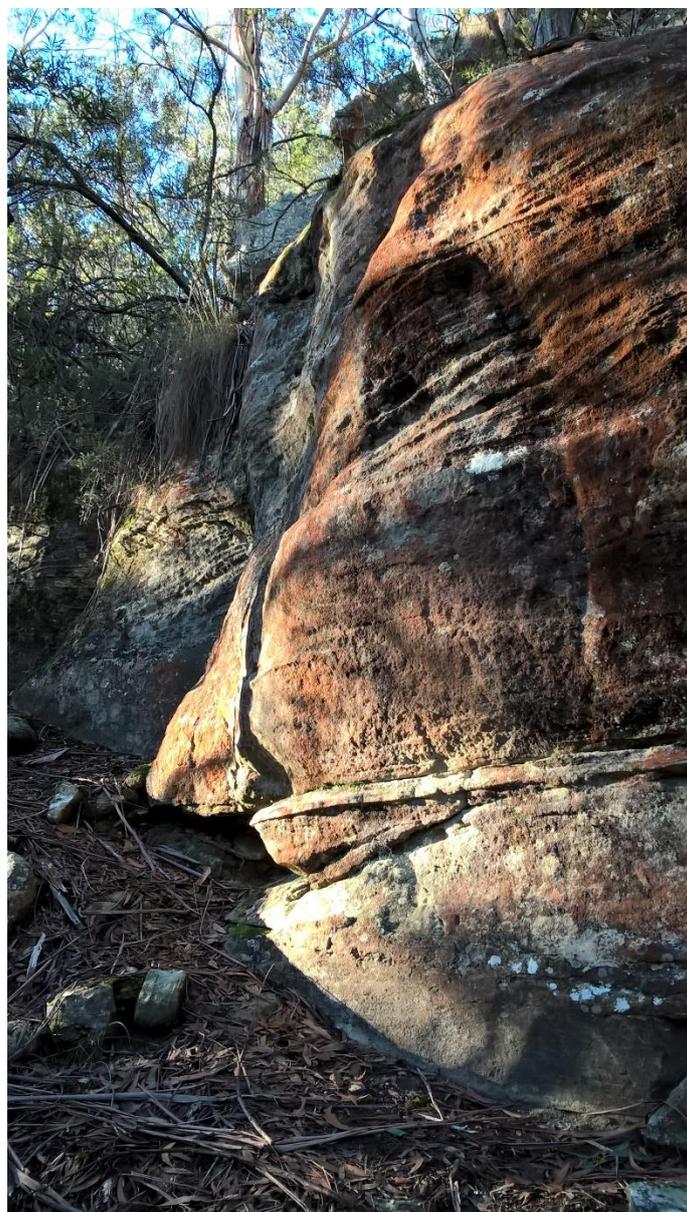


Photo credit: S. Baguley



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



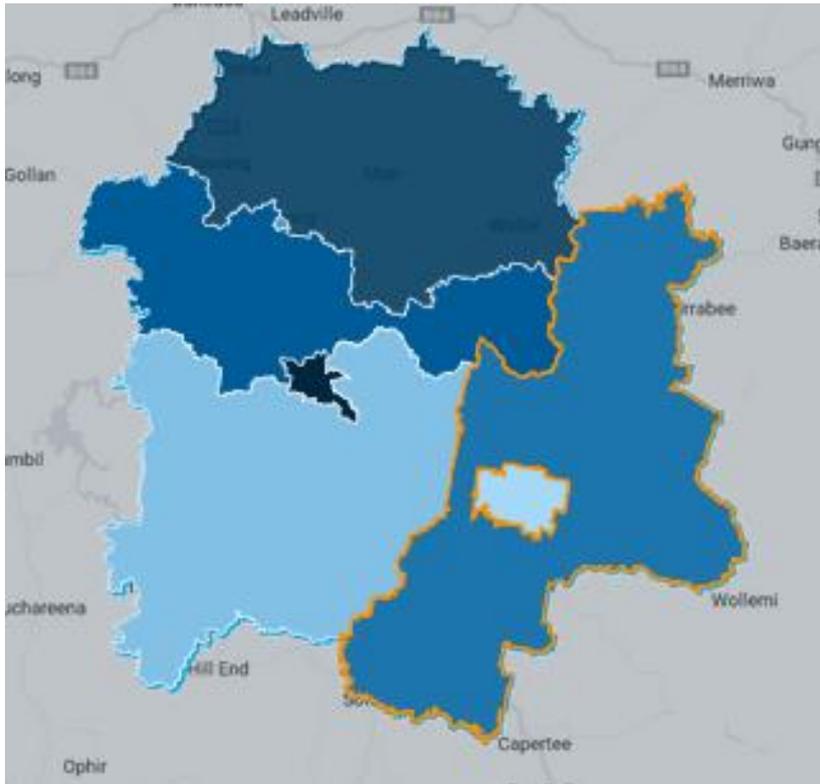


Figure 2 The Mudgee East area
(Source: Remplan 2021)

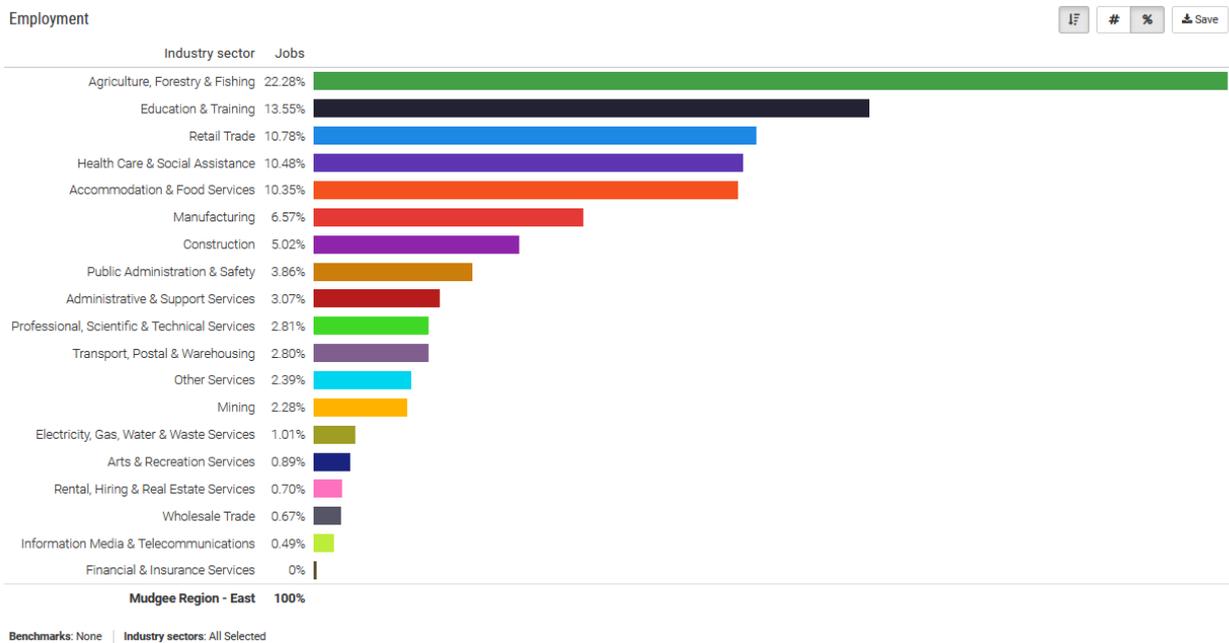


Figure 3 Employment breakdown in the Mudgee East area
(Source: Remplan 2021)

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Explore our TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Mudgee to Gulgong	= 29km
Mudgee to Rylstone	= 57km
Mudgee to Kandos	= 64km
Mudgee to Hill End	= 75km
Mudgee to Capertee	= 81km

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT MUDGEE

DOWNLOAD OUR POCKET MAP

DOWNLOAD

MUDGEE 45 MINS
3.5 HOURS SYDNEY

WINDAMERE DAM
ILLFORD
SYDNEY

Figure 4 Mudgee Region Tourism promotion of Rylstone and Kandos

Source: Mudgee Region Tourism 2021a



HOME / EXPLORE LOCAL EXPERIENCES / TOWNS + VILLAGES / RYLSTONE

RYLSTONE

One of those charming country towns, boasting an extraordinary heritage streetscape and unexpected foodie delights, that you just can't wait to tell your friends about.

In the rustic heritage town of Rylstone, via the famous Bylong Valley Way, a broad range of exceptionally tasty modern food awaits.

Fast becoming known for its wineries, yum cha + tea house, olive estates and local gastronomic delights, Rylstone is sure to impress the fussiest of foodies. All this, coupled with some of the most spectacular scenery in the region, we guarantee you will be surprised and delighted with what you find.



Figure 5 Mudgee Region Tourism promotion of Rylstone

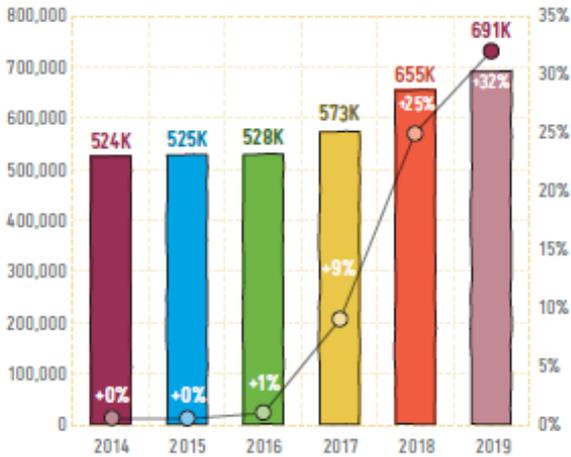
Source: Mudgee Region Tourism 2021a

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

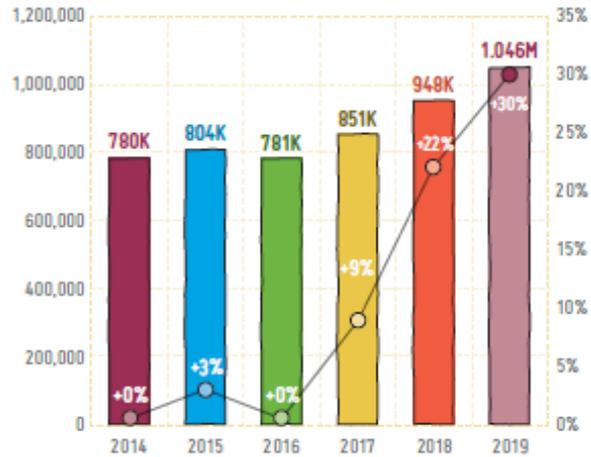
Tourism Research Australia, on behalf of Destination NSW, prepare 4-year average reports for each NSW local government area. The 2019 LGA Profile for Mid-Western Regional Area reported 691,000 total visitors (1,046,000 overnight visitor stays) in the Mudgee Region, worth a whopping \$199M to our local economy! That's an astronomical 32% increase in visitors over 6 years. The average length of stay in our region is 3 nights and average spend per night, per visit is \$223.

Congratulations to all partners for being an important part of this success. This is a phenomenal result and testament to the collaborative nature of our destination.

LGA PROFILE – TOTAL VISITORS (4 YEAR AVERAGE)
INCLUDING % CHANGE SINCE 2014



LGA PROFILE – OVERNIGHT VISITORS (4 YEAR AVERAGE)
INCLUDING % CHANGE SINCE 2014

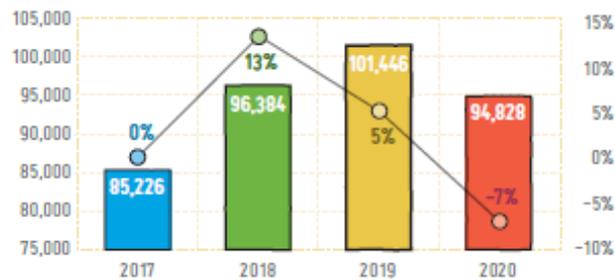


Mudgee Region Tourism also sources visitor nights from a select group of accommodation providers, representing a sample size of 35% of the region's total accommodation membership inventory.

The following graphs indicate our presence in market was resonating well, with an upward trend and also supports TRA's broader research – until the drought, bushfires and COVID-19 impacted visitation negatively in 2020.

The graph at right shows overall results from our sample, and below tracks visitation trends, by month.

OVERNIGHT VISITATION – 35% SAMPLE IN REGION
INCLUDING % VARIANCE YEAR ON YEAR



OVERNIGHT VISITATION BY MONTH – 35% SAMPLE IN REGION ■ 2017-18 ■ 2018-19 ■ 2019-20

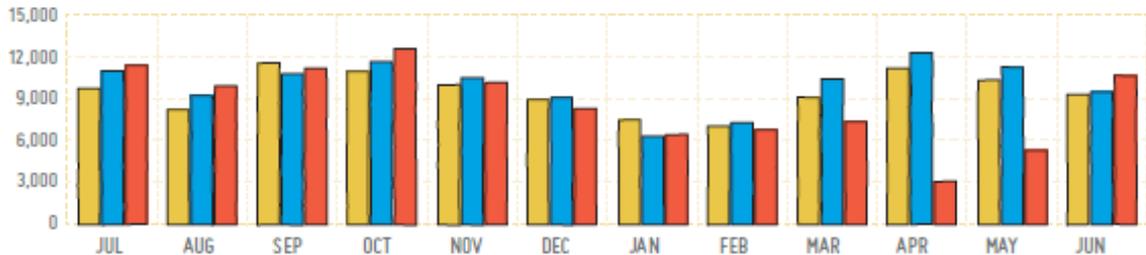


Figure 6 Destination Visitation Growth

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:

Low Unemployment Rate in Region

The Mid-Western Region's unemployment rate has remained under 5% following record tourist visitation in the second half of 2020, and strong construction activity establishing in the region. The region's unemployment rate decreased by 0.6% for the March 2021 quarter to 4.1% according to latest data released from the National Skills Commission.

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 Beaupaire 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:

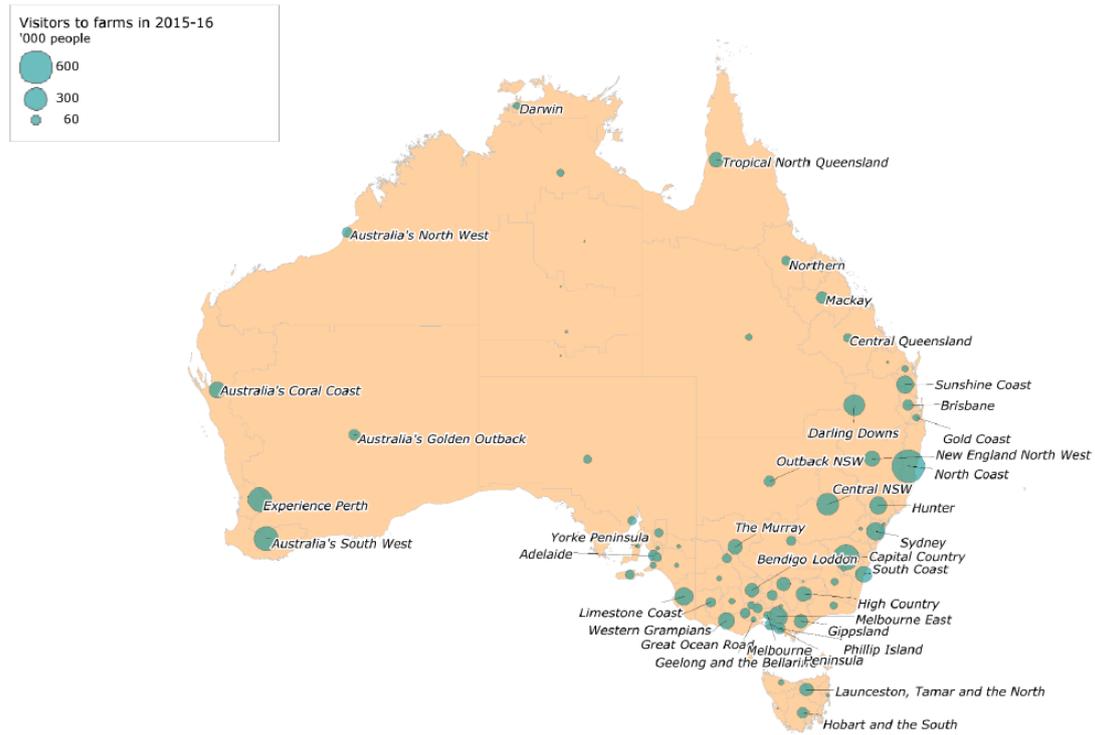
- The number of domestic tourists who visited a farm on their trip increased by 9% per annum on average, while the comparable number of international tourists increased by 11% per annum
- The number of domestic tourists visiting wineries grew by 13% per annum on average, while the number of comparable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

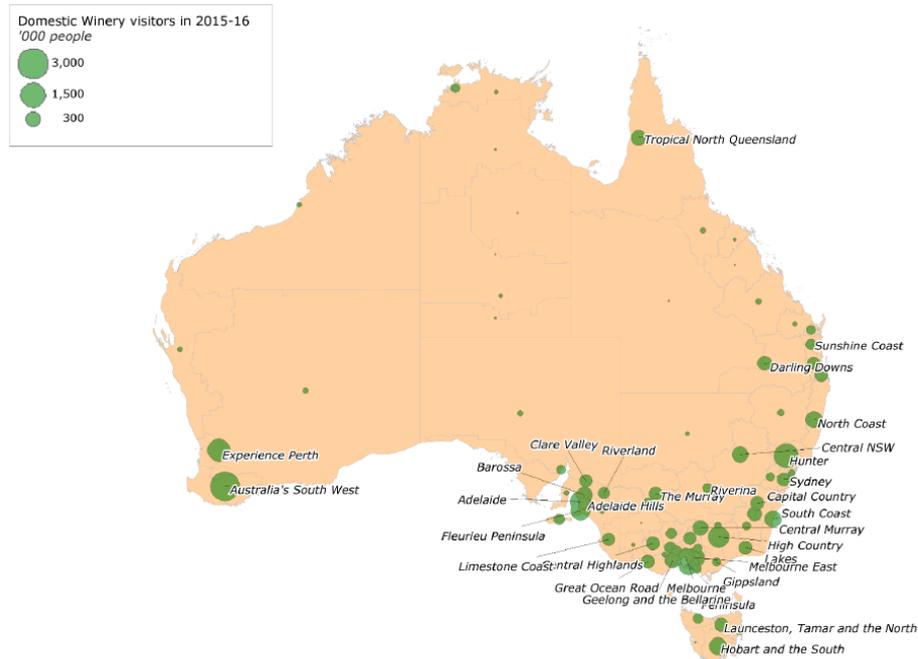
The maps below show the number of domestic day and overnight visitors experiencing the five main agritourism activities (2015-2016) noting numbers are significantly increasing since then.





Data source: Tourism Research Australia Online, National Visitor Survey

Figure 11 Visitors to farms in 2015-2016



Data source: Tourism Research Australia Online, National Visitor Survey

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 devastating 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



FRANKS' BREAKAWAY FARMSTAY

Home | Woodhouse | Rockhouse | Campsite | Activities | **Location** | Availability / Tariffs | Bookings



Visit the Region's attractions:

- RYLSTONE-KANDOS**
 - 29 Nine 99
 - Olive press
 - Local Arts & Craft Museum
- DUNN'S SWAMP**
 - Fishing
 - Swimming
 - Canoeing
 - Scenic Walks
 - Aboriginal Sites
- MUDGEES**
 - Wineries
 - Cafes & Galleries
- GULGONG**
 - Pioneer Museum
 - Heritage buildings
 - Red Hill
- SOFALA**
 - Gold panning
 - Historic buildings

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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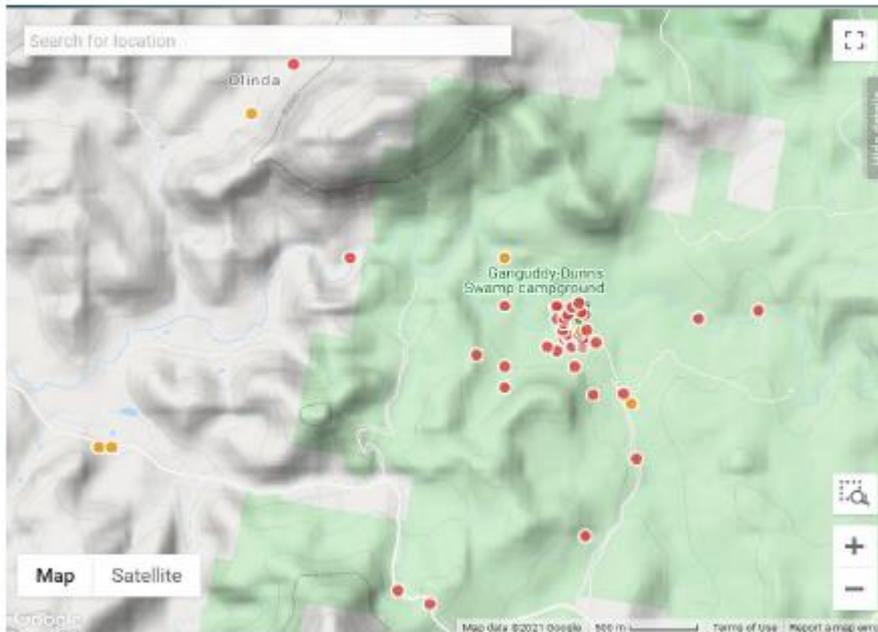
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Appendix A | Olinda - Gunguddy/Dunns Swamp Bird List



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%	
<i>Barking Owl</i>	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%	
<i>Black-necked Stork (Jabiru)</i>	1	0.28%	ENDANGERED
Black-shouldered Kite	4	1.10%	
<i>Blue-billed Duck</i>	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%	
<i>Brown Treecreeper</i>	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%	
<i>Diamond Firetail</i>	4	1.10%	VULNERABLE
Dollarbird	7	1.93%	
Double-barred Finch	6	1.65%	
Dusky Moorhen	95	26.17%	
<i>Dusky Woodswallow</i>	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%	
<i>Freckled Duck</i>	1	0.28%	<i>VULNERABLE</i>
Fuscous Honeyeater	1	0.28%	
Galah	18	4.96%	
<i>Gang-gang Cockatoo</i>	67	18.46%	<i>VULNERABLE</i>
Gilbert's Whistler	1	0.28%	
<i>Glossy Black-Cockatoo</i>	5	1.38%	<i>VULNERABLE</i>
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%	
<i>Little Eagle</i>	1	0.28%	<i>VULNERABLE</i>
Little Friarbird	2	0.55%	
<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	4	1.10%	<i>VULNERABLE</i>
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%	
<i>Powerful Owl</i>	2	0.55%	<i>VULNERABLE</i>
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%	
<i>Regent Honeyeater</i>	4	1.10%	<i>CRITICALLY ENDANGERED</i>
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%	
<i>Scarlet Robin</i>	39	10.74%	<i>VULNERABLE</i>
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	7	1.93%	
Silver Gull	1	0.28%	
Silvereye	41	11.29%	
Singing Honeyeater	1	0.28%	
<i>Sooty Owl (Greater)</i>	2	0.55%	<i>VULNERABLE</i>
Southern Boobook	35	9.64%	
Southern Whiteface	1	0.28%	
<i>Speckled Warbler</i>	4	1.10%	<i>VULNERABLE</i>
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%	
<i>Turquoise Parrot</i>	1	0.28%	<i>VULNERABLE</i>
<i>Varied Sittella</i>	19	5.23%	<i>ENDANGERED</i>
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%	

