

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [ramsar](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed gas terminal and its potential effects on the wetlands of Westernport  
**Date:** Sunday, 24 November 2019 7:31:50 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

The 2016 Victorian Auditor General's report "Meeting Obligations to Protect Ramsar Wetlands" raised some key deficiencies, and I'm pleased to see the Parliament following up to review the Government's response.

Wetlands are essential to the functioning of global ecosystems, from migratory bird and fish breeding to storing carbon from the atmosphere. We have a responsibility to defend Victoria's diverse wetland environments, with their unique characteristics, plants, animals, fish and insects.

While I look forward to following the work of this committee with regard to all Ramsar wetlands in our beautiful state, I'm writing to make a submission focused on the wetlands in Westernport Bay.

I am concerned by the current AGL proposal to bring a Floating Storage and Regasification ship to Westernport Bay. This ship presents a real threat to Westernport's fragile mangrove ecosystem.

This is the most southerly mangrove system in the world and is home to threatened migratory birds like the Eastern Curlew.

I am concerned about AGL's proposal for two main reasons.

1. I'm worried about the proposed ship's direct impact on the mangroves, fish, birds and other life in the bay if it is permanently parked in the bay and dumping cooled and chlorinated water. I'm also worried about increased boat traffic to fill the ship, and the impact this may have on marine animals like whales.
2. At a time when the impacts of climate change are more and more felt, I'm deeply troubled that our state is considering a new fossil fuel project, let alone in a sensitive and precious mangrove wetland. I cannot understand the need for Victoria to consider importing gas, when we should instead be supporting households, business and industry to transition to renewable energy alternatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to make the committee aware of my concerns about the proposed AGL ship and also to share my passion for wetland conservation across Victoria.

I look forward to great outcomes for our wetlands as a result of this inquiry.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,  
R0semary Glaisher

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