

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [ramсар](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the wetlands of Westernport from AGL's proposed gas terminal  
**Date:** Sunday, 24 November 2019 10:48:45 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to protect Western Port Bay. This is such a special habitat. It is a rare wetland sanctuary for Weedy Sea Dragons, Australian fur seals, and migratory birds like the Eastern Curlew. This is NOT the place for a gas import terminal. This wetland must be preserved at all costs and the coal, oil and gas must stay in the ground and the wetlands allowed to continue to store carbon. AGL cannot be allowed to build this ship and operate within Western Port Bay.

Victoria's elected representatives have a chance to protect our mangroves, birds and marine life from irreversible damage through this Wetlands Inquiry. I call on you all to put community and wildlife first, not the interests of corporate and polluting energy giants like AGL.

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

Wetlands play a vital role in the functioning of global ecosystems, from migratory bird and fish breeding to storing carbon from the atmosphere. Victoria is blessed to have diverse wetland environments, all with unique characteristics, plants, animals, fish and insects.

I am deeply concerned by this AGL proposal to bring a Floating Storage and Regasification ship to Westernport Bay. I feel this ship presents a huge and real threat to Westernport's fragile mangrove ecosystem.

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

I have two main concerns.

Firstly, I am worried about the proposed ship's direct impact on the mangroves, fish, birds and other life in the bay due to it being parked in the bay and dumping cooled and chlorinated water. There will be significant impact on the marine animals due to increased boat traffic to fill the ship.

Secondly, we are in a period where the impacts of climate change are more and more evident so I am very worried that our state is considering a new fossil fuel project, let alone in a sensitive and precious mangrove wetland. It is unbelievable that Victoria needs 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 for the opportunity to share my concerns for the fragile wetlands across Victoria and the need to protect them.

I look forward with hope that there will be a positive outcome for the wetlands as a result of this inquiry.

Kind regards

Robyn Gray  
[REDACTED]

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Please reply to Robyn Gray at [REDACTED]

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