

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ramсар](#)
Subject: Protect the wetlands of Westernport from AGL's proposed gas terminal
Date: Monday, 25 November 2019 9:11:03 AM

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 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.

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 deeply concerned by the current AGL proposal to bring a Floating Storage and Regasification ship to Westernport Bay. This potential ship threatens Westernport's fragile mangrove ecosystem, the most southerly mangrove system in the world and home to threatened migratory birds like the Eastern Curlew.

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

First, the proposed ship will directly impact the mangroves, fish, birds and other life in the bay as a result of being permanently parked in the bay and dumping cooled and chlorinated water. Increased boat traffic to fill the ship will disturb and actively harm local marine life.

Second, 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- an ecosystem that holds more carbon than any other, and an ecosystem that literally provides the fish we rely upon for food and industry. The relative need for Victoria to import gas is a moot point, especially when we should instead be supporting households, business and industry to transition to renewable energy alternatives. Build Victoria up to be in line with the rest of the world's environmentally responsible governance, rather than falling in line with the Australia's deplorable climate response. We can choose to do better- it's up to you to make that choice clear and show that the people's, my, concerns have been heard and responded to. You can do this by rejecting AGL's proposal.

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,
Rebecca Korossy-Horwood
[REDACTED]

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