

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [ramsar](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the wetlands of Westernport from AGL's proposed gas terminal  
**Date:** Thursday, 28 November 2019 8:54:03 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 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. I feel 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. It is also an amazing gem so close to Melbourne. The bird life is something to behold.

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

First, I'm worried about the proposed ship's direct impact on 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 into what is now a very healthy environment. I'm also worried about increased boat traffic to fill the ship, and the impact this may have on water quality as well as marine animals like whales, seals and dolphins.

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. I cannot understand the need for Victoria to consider importing gas, when we should be able to access Australian gas. Regasification quite honestly, when we have good clean gas, seems just insane. Pollution is a real threat to this wonderful world recognised wetland area.

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,  
Gayle Ebery  
[REDACTED]

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