

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ramсар](#)
Subject: Protect the wetlands of Westernport from AGL's proposed gas terminal
Date: Friday, 29 November 2019 2:06:59 PM

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 which effects all of the 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.

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. I'm also worried about increased boat traffic to fill the ship, and the impact this may have on marine animals like whales and dolphins. Already the effect of the water warming is effecting the seaweed, fish stocks adding extra stress on the environment is unconscionable.

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 which as you know is the nursery for so many marine creatures. I cannot understand the need for Victoria to consider importing gas- stop sending OS for next to nothing. we should instead be supporting households, business and industry to transition to renewable energy alternatives and increasing the number of marine parks.

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,

Sue Leitinger

[REDACTED]

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