

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ramsar](#)
Subject: Protect the wetlands of Westernport from AGL's proposed gas terminal
Date: Saturday, 23 November 2019 2:10:35 PM

Dear Committee Members,

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

As 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 having unique characteristics of plants, animals, fish and insects.

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

We are deeply concerned by the current AGL proposal to bring a Floating Storage and Re-gasification ship to Westernport Bay and believe that this ship presents a real threat to the fragile mangrove ecosystem of Westernport Bay. This is the most southerly mangrove system in the world and is home to threatened migratory birds like the Eastern Curlew.

We are concerned about AGL's proposal for two key reasons.

Firstly, worrying concern 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 there. Also, of serious concern is the increased boat traffic to fill the ship, and the impact this may have on marine animals like whales.

Secondly, at a time when the impacts of climate change are more and more felt, we are extremely troubled that our state is considering a new fossil fuel project, let alone in a sensitive and precious mangrove wetland. We 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 giving the opportunity to make the committee aware of our concerns about the proposed AGL ship and also to share our passion for wetland conservation across Victoria.

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

Kind regards and yours sincerely,
Ken and Roberta Crawford-Condie

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