

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ramсар](#)
Subject: Wetlands over gas
Date: Saturday, 23 November 2019 11:58:46 AM

Dear Committee Members,

Thanks for following up on the 2016 Victorian Auditor General's report "Meeting Obligations to Protect Ramsar Wetlands". It raised some key deficiencies.

The Westernport wetlands, like other wetlands, are vital for migratory birds and breeding fish and for storing atmospheric carbon. These vital wetlands of Victoria contain diverse and unique plants, animals, fish and insects.

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.

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 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 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,
Kathryn Gray

[REDACTED]

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Please reply to Kathryn Gray [REDACTED]

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