

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [ramсар](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the wetlands of Westernport from AGL's proposed gas terminal  
**Date:** Saturday, 23 November 2019 2:19:35 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

This submission is focused on the wetlands in Westernport Bay, which constitute the southernmost mangrove system in the world and provide a home to threatened migratory birds like the Eastern Curlew.

The AGL's current proposal to introduce a Floating Storage and Regasification ship to vicinity of these wetlands presents a real threat to Westernport's fragile mangrove ecosystem.

The proposed ship will have a 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.

Wetlands are vitally important 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.

Furthermore, I simply 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. It does not make sense that our state is considering a new fossil fuel project, let alone in a sensitive and precious mangrove wetland, at a time when our environment is being increasingly devastated by the impacts of climate change.

In view of the key deficiencies highlighted by the the 2016 Victorian Auditor General's report "Meeting Obligations to Protect Ramsar Wetlands", I commend Parliament for following up to review the Government's response.

Thank you for the opportunity for me as a member of the public to make this submission.

I look forward to hearing that as a result of this inquiry, further protections are put in place for our vital wetlands.

Yours faithfully,

Marion Gray  
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,  
Marion Gray  
[REDACTED]

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Please reply to Marion Gray [REDACTED]

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