

MEDIA RELEASE
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Biosphere opposes the EES for AGL's Gas Import Jetty and APA's Pipeline Project

The Mornington Peninsula & Western Port Biosphere Foundation, which supported the need for an EES in late 2018, has finalised its submission on the AGL proposal for a Gas Import Jetty at Crib Point. "The regional community looks to the Western Port Biosphere Foundation to act as an informed steward on its behalf in monitoring and protecting the environmental values of Western Port" said Biosphere Chair Jo McCoy.

"It is important that projects such as this are subjected to real scrutiny, the environment of Western Port cannot be treated lightly", Jo continued. "Quite apart from investing in a fossil fuel project rather than renewables in the first place, a huge gas-filled ship permanently moored in the middle of an internationally protected Ramsar wetland is not a good idea."

Staff and volunteers have waded through thousands of pages in the main EES and the technical reports, and have unanimously concluded that the Biosphere should not support the project. This view has been formed in response to the many omissions, short-comings and misrepresentations in the documentation, particularly:

- selective evaluation of the Crib Point site against alternative sites that would have less environmental impact
- limited analysis of the effects of removal of biota from the food chains of Western Port
- downplaying of the effects of discharge of chilled and chlorinated water into Western Port
- risks to ecological communities and threatened and listed species, including plants, fish and birds
- the impacts of disturbance of coastal acid sulfate soils
- limited consideration of climate change impacts regarding infrastructure and bushfires, and
- managing negative impacts on local communities and public safety.

The Biosphere's complete response to the EES is posted on the website <https://www.biosphere.org.au/hot-topics/our-response-to-the-agl-ees/>

Biosphere Executive Officer Greg Hunt commented that "Biosphere representatives have asked to appear before the panel that is hearing objections to the EES. The marine and terrestrial biodiversity of Western Port does not have a voice, so we have to be their voice," Greg said.

Concluded Jo McCoy, "the marine and terrestrial life along with regional communities would have to bear the costs if the project, as set out in the EES, goes ahead."

"In the view of the Foundation, these costs are unacceptable."

More information: Greg Hunt, 0400 948 546

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