

# Geelong Community Group calls on Government to reject gas terminals

Terminals would pose a major environmental threat

Community group Geelong Sustainability (GS) says the Victorian Government's rejection of a floating gas terminal in Westernport on environmental grounds shows why proposals for similar terminals in and near Corio Bay should also be rejected.

Spokesperson Sally Fisher says "Not only do these proposals point to how damaging such terminals can be to Corio Bay and the nearby Ramsar Wetlands off Avalon but the demand for gas is falling and may virtually disappear because it can't compete with renewables or green hydrogen."

"The State Government's decision is a clear pointer to how damaging these terminals can be and we are very concerned for Corio Bay," she said.

A summary of the Government's report says that marine discharges from the proposed floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) will result in ongoing stress to the environment over the 20 year life of the project.

The report says the adverse direct and indirect effects of that discharge on environmental values, fundamental to the Ramsar status of Western Port are not compatible with the level of protection required in a wetland of recognised international significance.

The two terminals proposed in Geelong are also close to, or situated within, Ramsar sites at Point Wilson/Limeburner's Bay and the shoreline of Avalon.

Meanwhile the Australian Energy Market Operator, in its annual gas statement of opportunities, says future demand for gas does not list a single situation where gas demand increases over the next 20 years.

"Rather the report says it is more likely that small and large consumers will choose electric options powered by renewables, rather than gas," Ms Fisher said.

About Geelong Sustainability

Geelong Sustainability is a dynamic and passionate community group focused on sharing information, building community resilience, advocating for the environment and supporting effective action for a low carbon future. For more information visit [www.geelongsustainability.org.au](http://www.geelongsustainability.org.au)

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