

MEDIA BACKGROUND

Crib Point terminal inquiry hearings



Example of a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU)

This brief includes essential info on the hearings, appearance dates, access links and contact details for spokespeople.

THE PROJECT

AGL is proposing to build a 290-metre floating gas import terminal at Crib Point in Westernport Bay, south-east of Melbourne. Westernport Bay is recognised as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It is home to vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered whales, turtles, fish and waterbirds.

The terminal, known as a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), would receive liquefied natural gas (LNG) via shipments from interstate or overseas, then convert this LNG back into gas for distribution via a new pipeline (to be built by APA) running 60 kilometres from Crib Point to Pakenham.

AGL's description of the project is at www.gasimportprojectvictoria.com.au

THE HEARINGS

Two energy companies, AGL and APA, have proposed the project. In October 2018, the Victorian Minister for Planning [required](#) the companies to submit an environment effects statement (EES).

AGL took two years to create the [11,000 page EES](#), and the community was given 40 days to respond during a public exhibition phase from 2 July to 26 August. This coincided with stage four lockdown restrictions.

A joint Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) was appointed to consider the EES and submissions and give advice to ministers and government agencies on the project. All documents relating to the hearings, including public submissions, are at: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/crib-point-IAC>

The hearings will be held online from Monday 12 October to 17 December. The timetable [is here](#).

Zoom details for the hearings:

Meeting ID: 810 4993 0543

Passcode: 771844

[Link >>](#)



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THE SUBMISSIONS

The environmental assessment for this project has generated an unprecedented number of public submissions. More than 6058 submissions are publicly available on the [IAC website](#), and more than 9,000 were attached to Environment Victoria's submission. The previous record for most submissions to a Victorian EES was the Mornington Safe Harbour project with 2018 submissions.

WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS?

Submissions opposing include federal MP Greg Hunt, several shire councils (Bass Coast, Mornington, Cardinia), recreational fishing peak bodies, tourism operators, local business owners, environment and climate groups. All submissions can be searched at

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/crib-point-IAC/submissions>

Links to submissions from conservation and community groups:

[Environment Victoria](#)

[Victorian National Parks Association](#)

[Save Westernport](#)

[Westernport & Peninsula Protection Council \(submission 3149\)](#)

[French Island Community Association \(submission 2937\)](#)

[Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc \(submission 2915\)](#)

For a summary of concerns related to tourism, fishing and local businesses, contact Environment Victoria Media and Content Manager Greg Foyster on 0410879031 or g.foyster@environmentvictoria.org.au

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE HEARINGS?

The committee has 30 days to send a report to the Victorian Planning Minister Richard Wynne. The Minister has 30 days to respond and make his decision. The committee's report is not public until after the Minister has decided, and the Minister has discretion to ignore the committee's recommendations. In the recent North-East Link EES, the Minister approved the project and [dismissed key findings](#) of the panel.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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SEE KEY HEARINGS DATES NEXT PAGE



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KEY HEARINGS DATES (SEE [DIRECTIONS](#))

Date	Group or expert appearing
12 Oct	Opening submission from AGL and APA
13 Oct	Opening submissions from Minister for Planning, Minister for Environment, EPA, councils, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Environment Victoria, Save Westernport and Victorian National Parks Association, instructed by Environmental Justice Australia
14 Oct - 6 Nov	Expert witness statements from AGL and APA covering economics, environment impacts, pipeline etc
9 Nov - 16 Nov	Mornington Shire and Bass Coast Shire with expert witnesses on greenhouse gas emissions, groundwater, marine ecology, water birds, traffic etc
17 Nov	Cardinia Council expert witness on groundwater
18 Nov	City of Casey, EPA Victoria, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
19 Nov	Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council with expert witness Mary Cole on Phytophthora cinnamon, Amphiboulus Chytrid Fungus G & K O'Connor Pty Ltd with expert witness Peter Ramsey in Engineering
23 Nov	Environment Victoria, Save Westernport Inc and Victorian National Parks Association with expert witness Bruce Robertson on energy finance and Perran Cook of Monash University on environmental chemistry
24 Nov	As above with expert witness Matt Edmunds on marine ecology and ecological assessments
25 Nov	As above with expert witness John Wardrop on environmental science (oil spills) and Tom Baldock of the University of Queensland on hydrodynamics
26 Nov	As above with expert witness Bonnie Rosen on social impacts and Vanessa Wong of Monash University on soil science
30 Nov	Environment Victoria, Save Westernport Inc and Victorian National Parks Association continued
1 Dec - 2 Dec	Save Westernport and Environment Victoria continued
3 Dec	Expert witnesses on animal wildlife rescue, green retrofits and climate/energy French Island Community Association
7 Dec - 15 Dec	Approximately 340 individual submissions, each allotted 5 to 8 minutes
15 Dec	Discussion on Mitigation Measures/Environment Performance Requirements
16 Dec	Closing submissions from Minister for Planning, Minister for Environment, EPA, Councils, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Environment Victoria, Save Westernport and Victorian National Parks Association, instructed by Environmental Justice Australia
17 Dec	Closing submissions from AGL and APA



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