



Response to stakeholder concerns regarding AGL's proposed Gas Import Jetty Project

Thank you for contacting us regarding AGL's proposed Gas Import Jetty Project.

We fully recognise your concerns, particularly about the strongly held views about the unique environmental significance of Western Port Bay. We agree it is an environmentally sensitive area and are committed to undergoing all the reviews necessary to ensure the proposed project will be safe and environmentally responsible.

We also agree that climate change is a critical issue facing the global community. AGL is committed to helping shape a sustainable energy future for Australia. We operate the country's largest renewable electricity generation portfolio. However, we also operate the largest coal portfolio in Australia. We are therefore integral to any move towards non-renewable energy and decarbonisation.

While we are investing extensively in renewable energy, to ensure stability in the transition we will require more flexible energy sources such as quick start gas generation. These will be able to be turned on whenever renewables are not available or do not meet demand.

This mix of renewable and gas technologies can replace AGL's Liddell coal plant when it closes, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 7.5 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per annum. Our customers want to be assured that they will have stable and reliable energy supply and gas is needed for this transition to occur without power supply shortages.

The proposed project would provide a reliable supply of lower emission fuel needed to make an effective transition to renewable energy. Modern gas fired power plants can start up very quickly, stepping in to generate energy when renewables can't. As storage technologies like batteries mature, we'll be able to rely more on wind and solar, but in the meantime, gas is an essential part of the transition as coal fired power stations begin to close.

Our coal-fired power stations are our biggest single sources of emissions. A secure gas supply is also crucial to ensure there are no supply problems when we start to close coal generators, such as Liddell Power Station in 2022-2023. Any major electricity supply problems could set back community support for a well-managed move out of coal-based generation. Due to the extent of these assets, gas will become an important enabler of our energy transition as we begin to shut down our coal fired power plants alongside low emission renewable sources of energy.

Although there may be an increase in the usage of gas for peaking power generation as coal fired power stations begin to close, there will be a net benefit reduction in greenhouse gas emissions due to gas having approximately 50 percent less greenhouse gas emissions compared to coal.

Meeting the expectations of the community and our potential customers is a priority for AGL to ensure its social licence. However, AGL has many communities to satisfy and we also need to meet the expectations of our existing customers. AGL has an obligation to provide energy to our 1.4 million gas customers who are facing significant gas shortages from 2024 or possibly sooner. As an energy company, the Australian community rely on us to ensure a reliable and affordable supply of gas to their homes and businesses.



We recognise for many in the community the proposed project has more downside than upside and there is committed opposition. It's rare for any community to want more industrial development, even if it is proposed at an existing industrial site that currently imports petroleum products.

The community have made their concerns known to the government and have been successful in making sure the proposed project is assessed independently through an Environment Effect Statement (EES) process. The EES is Victoria's most rigorous and transparent planning process and we are willing to be held accountable to this process. Once we have completed the full environment assessment required by the government, we will have a better understanding of these impacts. The EES will investigate a variety of matters, including the impact the proposed project may have on the marine environment, local businesses and greenhouse gas emissions.

We will follow all assessment requirements that are asked of us by the Victorian Government and all regulatory bodies. We are willing to be held to these standards. A final EES assessment is made by the Minister for Planning, not AGL. The project is still in the feasibility study stage, AGL's Board has yet to decide if the proposed project will go ahead.

We are sorry to hear you do not feel like we are effectively listening to the community. We have been consulting with key stakeholders including people living and working near the site, community groups and the Victorian and Australian governments since July 2017. There have been over 30 public community consultations, held in locations including Crib Point, Hastings, Balnarring, Blind Bight, Cowes, Cardinia, and Nar Nar Goon with both supporters and those who oppose the project.

We are also sharing information online and answering questions received from supporters and opponents.

We will continue to provide opportunities to engage and involve any stakeholders in the assessment process – it will be an ongoing activity. Throughout the EES process there are many opportunities for the community to provide feedback that will be considered in the ongoing refinement of the project design, including construction and operational stages.

If you would like to sign up to our mailing list, we can keep you up to date with all community consultation efforts.

Send us an email at AGLCommunity@agl.com.au.