Email example 1

If you need some help getting started with your email, here is an example.

Please don’t copy it exactly - personalise it and tailor it to the MP you are writing to.

In addition, when writing to a Minister or Shadow Minister, start by saying that you’re writing to them in their role as Minister for xxxx, otherwise they will probably just forward your email to your local MP.

[MP name]

[Member for …. or Minister for ….]

Dear …

[personal statement - who you are and why you care]

I am writing to outline my objection to proposals by Viva Energy and Dutch company, Vopak, to build floating natural gas terminals in the Geelong area.

I strongly believe the future of Victoria’s second largest city lies with the fast adoption of renewable energy sources and embracing the new employment opportunities which will result from the transition to renewables.

In line with what is accepted as best practice in other countries, LNG facilities elsewhere in Australia have been located at least 3.5kms away from residential areas. In Viva’s proposed LNG import terminal, Geelong residents will be living within 2kms of the LNG terminal and within 250m of LNG tankers in the Corio channel, at North Shore (NRZ1). This is not in line with best practice LNG safety regulations and exposes many Geelong citizens to unnecessary risk.

Additionally, I am extremely concerned about the potentially adverse environmental impacts that will result from the dredging required for the Viva proposal and for the impacts on Ramsar wetlands adjacent to the proposed Vopak terminal off Avalon Beach. The Victorian government has already rejected a gas terminal in Western Port Bay because of "unacceptable" risks to the marine environment. We don't want that in Geelong either.

Australia is the world's biggest gas exporter so we shouldn't need to import it. Gas is a fossil fuel and not a “bridging fuel” to lower carbon emissions. It emits about half the CO2 of coal when burnt for energy and because gas is essentially methane it is worse than coal over a 20-year period. The latest official gas forecast shows we have more than enough supply till 2026, after which the programs to reduce gas use will have kicked in.

It's now cheaper and better for the environment to get off gas and use efficient electric heating and appliances instead. Government programs can help households make the switch and save money.

Respondents to a survey held after the recent Geelong Energy Futures Forum were 100 per cent behind wanting all levels of government to prioritise the transition to renewable energy sources. Between 16,000 and 20,000 jobs would be created in Geelong in such a transition.

Will you use your influence to reject Viva Energy’s and Vopak’s proposals for floating gas terminals in the Geelong area?

What will you do to actively promote a transition to a clean energy infrastructure without gas?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

Phone

(Note: your contact details are required if you want a reply)