Email example 2

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 …

I am writing to outline my objection to the proposal by Viva Energy to build a floating Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import terminal in Geelong’s Corio Bay and to express my very real concerns about the threats such a terminal would pose to the safety of residents, public infrastructure, and the marine environment.

I do not accept that there has been sufficient consideration to public safety of the consequences of accidents or intentional acts on LNG tankers in Corio Bay.

LNG is hazardous by nature, and despite, best engineering and procedures, accidents do happen, and when they do occur the consequences are catastrophic. This happened in the 2004 Skikda LNG facility explosion in Algeria which killed 27 people, the 1973 Staten Island explosion in the USA which killed 40 people and the 1944 Cleveland LNG facility in the USA which killed 130 people, to name but a few examples.

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks demonstrated that coordinated terrorist attacks on high impact targets such as LNG facilities were not only possible, but they are credible and increasingly likely. As recently as last month, the Minister for Home Affairs, Karen Andrews announced that the current Australia terrorist threat is “probable.” The threat of targeted terrorist acts against LNG tankers is real, and consequences of any attack, however probable, need full consideration before allowing LNG facilities into our city and Corio Bay.

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.

The proposed facility will simply be too close to public infrastructure, residential areas and the two existing Major Hazard Facilities (MHF). Shell Parade, a major arterial road which already carries hundreds of heavy vehicles each day and which from mid-2022 will become the designated northern vehicle route to and from the Spirit of Tasmania, is within metres of the proposed above-ground high-pressure gas pipeline. Any run-away vehicle has the potential to impact this pipeline and cause not only a local large gas release and fire but an escalating incident at either of the adjacent MHFs. Geelong’s renowned Bay Trail Cycling Path attracts visitors from across Geelong and beyond is wedged between the busy Shell Parade and the above ground pipeline.

Protecting the public from LNG facility accidents can be achieved, by ensuring any such facilities are remotely located. Viva’s proposal is far from being remotely located.

The Victorian government has previously rejected an LNG Import terminal in Westernport Bay because of "unacceptable" risks to the marine environment. We don't want to create a significant risk legacy in Geelong simply because we failed to adequately assess the consequences of Viva’s LNG terminal before it is constructed.

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.

Will you use your influence to reject Viva Energy’s proposal for a floating gas terminal in Corio Bay 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)

Suggested substitute questions for non-government parties and independents:

● What can you do to influence government to reject the Viva Energy’s floating gas terminal proposal ?

● What have you done to influence the government on this issue already?