



# Geelong Energy Hub

## UPDATE



**16 June 2021**

Viva Energy is moving ahead with planning for a new Gas Terminal at Geelong Refinery. We have a number of technical studies and assessments already underway, which will provide important input into the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) and inform the plans for the project. A recent [video](#) outlines the EES process and discusses the studies that we will be undertaking.

### **LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY**

Community consultation is an important part of the EES process, and we are holding regular public meetings and information sessions to provide an opportunity for local residents to learn more about the project. On May 13<sup>th</sup> we held a lunchtime meeting to discuss issues concerning the marine environment and the Ramsar wetlands (you can view the video of the meeting [here](#)).

The draft EES Scoping Requirements document was available for public comment from 26 April until 17 May 2021 - the first formal opportunity for the community to provide input to the EES process. Thirteen submissions were received by DELWP (as the lead State Government regulator) and are currently being reviewed. Once the Minister releases the final EES scoping requirements, Viva Energy will finalise and release its study program outlining all proposed studies and investigations to be undertaken for the EES.

### **PROTECTING THE RAMSAR WETLANDS**

The Ramsar site is a sensitive wetlands area of international significance which is located around 1.3 km away from the refinery and the terminal site. While the floating terminal will not be built inside the Ramsar site, the project team has identified the site as a priority watch-point. Expert assessments will be conducted to ensure there are no unintended indirect impacts on birds or other wildlife. A shorebird survey along the coastline of Corio Bay and Limeburners Bay took place in March 2021, to understand the presence of bird species within the study area. Our [Ramsar Fact Sheet](#) provides more information on this sensitive area and the steps we are taking to mitigate any potential impacts.

### **FOCUS ON SAFETY**

We know that Safety is another important topic for local residents. Safety is Viva Energy's number one priority, and as an experienced operator of Major Hazard Facilities like the Geelong Refinery, we are confident that we can safely build and operate the new floating gas terminal. We will be holding a special community session on July 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss safety and allow local residents to ask questions and raise any issues of concern (details below).

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Viva Energy recognises the interest from local community and business groups in this important project for Geelong and Victoria, and we are committed to providing multiple opportunities for community engagement at various stages in the project timeline. We are constantly updating our [website](#) to provide information about the project and the studies underway, and encourage you to provide feedback or raise any questions you might have via the website or via return email.

Below you will find details of some upcoming opportunities to be involved. In the meantime, please find answers to two important questions we were asked at our most recent forum which may be of interest.

*Q. Why does Victoria need a new gas supply when renewable supply is growing and efficiency measures are reducing gas demand?*

Victorians need a new source of gas to replace declining supply and avoid future shortages— it is a critical source of energy for homes and businesses. Renewables are growing fast - but forecasts show that Victoria and south eastern Australia will still need gas for many years to come. Today's national power grid can't run on 100% renewables. Gas is needed as part of the energy mix as our population grows, and to support the electrical grid as it transitions away from coal. See the ["Case for Gas" Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

*Q. What is a "floating gas terminal" and is it safe?*

A Floating Gas Terminal is basically an LNG ship which is continuously moored, with extra facilities on board to receive and regasify LNG (liquefied natural gas). LNG is brought in by ship as a very cold liquid and transferred to the floating terminal. As the LNG flows through pipes it is warmed up and turns into a gas, then it is sent onshore via pipeline. It is a relatively simple operation - there are no boilers, electric heaters or complex processing involved. The warming process involves circulating seawater through pipes. Natural gas is not stored onboard (there are no gas storage tanks); the LNG is stored as a cold liquid until it is needed. In this state it is not flammable.

LNG receiving terminals currently operate worldwide in over 35 countries, and these facilities have proven to be a safe and efficient means of supplying gas into local markets. Safety features are built into the design of the gas terminals to avoid, mitigate and manage potential hazard events. They are specially designed and constructed to prevent leakage or rupture, with a double-hull storage system. This also enables the LNG to stay cold without the need for pressurisation.

LNG is odourless, non-toxic and non-corrosive. It will vaporise quickly if exposed to air, and quickly evaporates if released to water. As a liquid it is non-flammable. (See the ["LNG Safety Fact Sheet"](#) for more information.)

**Have your say and get your questions answered**

## **Attend our next Community Sessions**

### *Gas Terminal Safety*

Monday 12 July, 5:00-6:00pm  
Geelong West Town Hall  
153 Pakington St, Geelong

### *Community Meeting*

Thursday 12 August, 5:00-6:00pm  
Corio Library, Cox Rd (Cnr Moa St), Norlane

Registration via email at [energyhub@vivaenergy.com.au](mailto:energyhub@vivaenergy.com.au) is required for COVID-Safe compliance

### *Community Booth*

\*June 17th session rescheduled due to COVID limitations.

### *Meet the team & ask a question*

Thursday 29 July, 12:00-1:30pm  
Westfield Shopping Centre  
95 Malop St, Geelong

## **Visit our website and follow us on social media**

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Contact us – send your questions to:

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