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**From:** ceo@biosphere.org.au  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 July 2022 4:35 PM  
**To:** Permissioning Engagement: Development Approvals  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EPA Application number: APP09563 and DELWP Approvals: PA2201533 and PA220153 - Esso ethane gas turbine project

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Hello,

The Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation (the Biosphere Foundation) has heard from a number of community members and organisations that they would like to participate in a more fulsome community consultation process for the Esso ethane gas turbine project at Long Island Point, Hastings before a decision is made by EPA or DELWP. The Esso ethane gas turbine project relates to Planning Approvals PA2201533 and PA220153 and EPA Development Licence APP09563.

The Esso ethane gas turbine project is within the UNESCO-designated Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve. The Reserve is recognised internationally by the UNESCO due to its significant population base within an area of outstanding natural value. The Reserve spans from the Mornington Peninsula around Western Port to Phillip Island and includes all of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, parts of the Cities of Frankston and Casey and the Shires of Cardinia and Bass Coast, along with French Island and Western Port itself. All levels of government and the community have recognised the unique values of the Western Port region by supporting its designation as a Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO Global Biosphere Program.

The Biosphere Foundation plays an important role in facilitating sustainable development and conservation whilst appreciating the livelihoods and economy that depend on Western Port's industry. The Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organisation governed by a skills-based Board. We have recently signed a four year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the five local councils within the Reserve and also have an MoU with the three Landcare networks. We are actively working with a range of schools, businesses, community groups and industrial partners on projects within the Reserve.

The Biosphere Foundation is a science-based organisation and advocates for robust and transparent processes of enquiry and consultation before approvals on projects are made. Comprehensive consultation processes help ensure that decision makers are fully informed of the scientific, social and economic implications of projects. Consultation also helps to ensure that the communities surrounding projects are informed of the facts and have the opportunity for their questions and concerns to be addressed.

I wanted to make both EPA and DELWP aware of the feedback we are hearing from our community within the Biosphere Reserve and hope that there is an appropriate mechanism for further consultation to occur.

Warm regards,  
Mel

**CEO, Western Port Biosphere**

Email: [ceo@biosphere.org.au](mailto:ceo@biosphere.org.au)

Website: [www.biosphere.org.au](http://www.biosphere.org.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/westernportbiosphere](http://www.facebook.com/westernportbiosphere)



*The Biosphere acknowledges the Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work and pays respect to their elders past, present and emerging.*

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