From:	
Sent:	Wednesday, 6 July 2022 12:02 PM
То:	Development Approvals; Permissioning Engagement
Subject:	Development Licence Application APP09563 Hastings Generation Project

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Dear DELWP & EPA,

We write in relation to the Hastings Generation Project (Development Licence Application APP09563), in response to community concern for the potential environmental impacts of the project on Western Port Bay.

The VNPA is a leading community conservation organisation and has been advocating for the protection of Victoria's biodiversity for over 60 years.

It has been brought to our attention by the local community (*Objection by Save Westernport*), that there has been inadequate community consultation conducted by Esso or DELWP to inform local residents and businesses on the Mornington Peninsula about the Project, its implications and its environmental and social effects.

The VNPA too has questions on the potential impacts this project may have on the internationally significant Ramsar wetland of Western Port Bay, and the biodiversity the Bay supports.

To honour these concerns, we request for DELWP and/or the EPA to undertake a thorough environmental and risk assessment with a fulsome community consultation process before any decision is made. Whether this is an Environmental Effects Statement Process under the Environmental Effects Act, or another suitable process under the EPA legislation or other.

We also note the opposition by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, voting 6-3 to oppose the plan. See the Mornington Peninsula News from the 27 June, 2022.

Thanks for your time.

Cheers,

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The Victorian National Parks Association acknowledges the many First Peoples of the area now known as Victoria and honours their continuing connection to and caring for Country. We support Traditional Owner joint-management of parks and public land for conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

Our office is located on traditional land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We offer our respect to Elders past, present and future.