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Prof George Razay MP
Independent Member for Bass
Email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Prof Razay

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 13 August 2026 in Parliament, regarding the AI data centre at St Leonards and in your electorate.

Firmus Technologies is an Australian-owned technology company that has operated in Launceston since 2019, when it established its original artificial intelligence (AI) research, development and data centre operations in Launceston.

In relation to your questions:

1. How will the St Leonards Firmus factory operate?

The St Leonards facility is proposed to operate as an AI factory, which is a specialised data centre designed to host high-performance computing infrastructure used for training AI. The facility will contain servers and graphics processing units (GPUs) that provide computing capacity for AI workloads, including machine learning and other digital services. Firmus has advised that the facility will use liquid-cooling technology and be connected to high-speed telecommunications infrastructure.

2. How many hours will it be manned and unmanned?

Publicly available information from Firmus indicates the development is designed for continuous operation and would include on-site staffing arrangements to support operations, maintenance and security requirements.

Specific details regarding staffing levels, shift arrangements and periods of attended or unattended operation are matters for the proponent.

3. What are its specific benefits for the community?

Firmus' St Leonards project is expected to drive economic growth across the local community and Tasmania. In addition to providing significant benefits during the construction phase, the AI factory will create ongoing direct employment opportunities in the technology sector, helping to grow Tasmania's skilled workforce and expand the State's digital infrastructure capability. The project is also expected to support growth in technology,

engineering and related service industries, while stimulating the local supply chain through ongoing demand for maintenance, operations and other supporting services.

4. Are there any concerns for people living at St Leonards or the wider community?

The St Leonards AI Factory has successfully completed the planning approval process. The project remains subject to all relevant approval conditions and regulatory requirements designed to protect the community.

5. Can you please publish the following guidelines, expectations, policies and procedures around the AI factory?

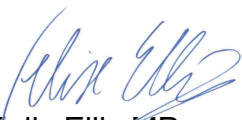
The Tasmanian Government recognises the strong community interest in data centre and AI infrastructure developments and the importance of ensuring that these projects are developed in a way that delivers benefits for Tasmania while addressing community expectations.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to ensuring emerging industries develop in a way that delivers benefits for Tasmanians while appropriately addressing impacts on communities, infrastructure and the environment. To support this objective, the Government will soon release Draft Expectations for Data Centres and AI Infrastructure Developers for community consultation. The draft document will provide Tasmanians with an opportunity to consider and comment on the Government's proposed expectations, helping to ensure data centre and AI infrastructure developments are planned, constructed and operated in a way that benefits all Tasmanians.

Further information regarding the St Leonards AI Factory can be found on Firmus' website: <https://firmus.co/tasmaniancommunity>.

Thank you for raising these matters in Parliament, I trust this information is helpful.

Yours faithfully



Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

31/8/2026