

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House of Assembly - GAA](#)
Subject: Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Rapid Expansion of AI and Data Centres in Tasmania
Date: Thursday, 1 October 2026 6:59:14 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Rapid Expansion of AI and Data Centres in Tasmania

Prepared by: Resident of [REDACTED]

Address of Impact: [REDACTED]

To the Committee Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a formal submission regarding the systemic risks posed by hyperscale data centre developments in northern Tasmania, with specific reference to Firmus Technologies' "Project Southgate" at Wesley Vale.

As a resident living approximately 3 kilometres from the proposed Mill Road site, I request that the Committee thoroughly investigate the following infrastructure and community impacts:

Inadequate Noise and Emission Regulations: The flat topography between the Wesley Vale site and East Devonport means that low-frequency sound waves travel across the plains unimpeded. The inclusion of 40 industrial diesel backup generators introduces substantial localized air and low-frequency noise pollution. Current Tasmanian planning rules assess "design intentions" rather than active operational realities. The inquiry should mandate real-time, enforceable noise and emissions monitoring at nearby residential boundaries like Iluka Avenue.

Lack of Inter-Council Consultation: Because the project site sits in the Latrobe Municipality but directly impacts East Devonport (Devonport City Council), residential stakeholders have been structurally excluded from early planning phases. Large-scale data infrastructure projects must require formal regional cross-boundary impact assessments.

Resource Accountability: A private commercial enterprise seeking to consume up to 30% of the state's baseline electricity supply must be subject to public grid-accountability mechanisms. If Hydro Tasmania is forced to generate or import higher-cost electricity to maintain grid integrity, data operators must be legislatively banned from passing those structural costs onto retail consumers.

I urge the Committee to recommend strict legislative caps on industrial data center water allocations, mandatory transition timelines away from diesel backup generation toward alternative storage, and a higher threshold of corporate governance scrutiny for prospective proponents.

Thank you for considering the impacts on the East Devonport and Wesley Vale communities.

Sincerely,

Gordon Forster
30 September, 2026