

From: [Kate McLaughlin](#)
To: [Michael Barnier](#)
Cc: [Energy Matters](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters
Date: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 8:20:57 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Michael

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you
Kate

Q: What is the total number of construction workers required for the construction of Firmus Technologies' Launceston site? Where are the locations these construction workers are, or will be, bussed in from?

During May we averaged 90 contractors on site each day with around 6 on average from interstate. Our biggest day in May was 118 contractors on site. We expect total contractor numbers to ramp up shortly with more than 120 contractors expected on site each day later this month, peaking this year at around 400 contractors on site and around 1,000 contractor employees supporting off-site fabrication and major equipment production.

Q: What are the volumes of water required for Firmus Technologies' sites or projects at Launceston, George Town, and Wesley Vale? Who is Firmus having discussions with to provide water for each location – TasWater or Tas Irrigation?

(see pp. 15-16, and 18 of the hearing transcript)

The Launceston AI Factory is designed to operate without using any water for most of the year. Water is only used for cooling on hot days above 26°C, which, based on historical weather data in Launceston, is around 10 days per year. We have also designed the facility to capture and reuse rainwater within the facility.

Over one year, the Launceston AI Factory water usage is predicted to be up to 99% lower than a typical data centre.

For Wesley Vale, Firmus is in discussions with Tas Irrigation and Tas Water regarding its water supply. For George Town, an in-principle agreement has been reached with a letter of support from Tas Water accompanying our Development Application. Similar to our Launceston AI Factory, we don't expect water use at these sites to be significant.



Kate McLaughlin

General Manager, Corporate Communications



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From: Energy Matters <energymatters@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Date: Tuesday, 26 May 2026 at 5:03 PM

To: Kate McLaughlin 

Cc: Energy Matters <energymatters@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Subject: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters

Confidential

Hi Kate

Please find attached a letter from the Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC, Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters, dated 26 May 2026, together with attached confidential draft transcript.

Kind regards

Michael

Michael Barnier



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