

AI Data Centres – Approval Processes

Ms ROSOL question to MINISTER for HOUSING and PLANNING

My question is to the Minister for Planning on behalf of dozens of people in Bass who have raised concerns with me about AI data facilities approval processes. Last week, George Town Council approved the Firmus development application for an AI factory at Bell Bay. This approval came despite enormous levels of public concern and huge numbers of submissions opposing the development on many grounds, including energy and water use and considerable noise impacts of diesel generators. Concerns have also been expressed by councillors over such development assessments being beyond the ordinary expectations of local government decision makers. It's clear in the community's view that the current planning and environmental laws are failing in regard to the AI data facilities in Tasmania. Minister, how have you let this happen? What will you do to ensure community voices are genuinely considered in planning decisions on AI factories?