



Government Administration Committee A
Inquiry on AI Data Centres in Tasmania

The House of Assembly Standing Committee on Government Administration A has resolved to inquire into and report upon the construction and operation of AI data centres in Tasmania.

Members of the public may use this form as a template to provide comment on the Committee Inquiry Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference are set out below and comments should be limited to these areas.

Submissions become Committee documents that may be published on the Committee website and quoted in the Committee's report to Parliament. Should you not wish whole or parts of your submission to be published, please clearly indicate this in your submission. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are protected by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not.

Submissions should be received by the closing date of **Monday, 21 September 2026** and should be emailed to assemblygaa@parliament.tas.gov.au, or posted to: Secretary, Inquiry into AI Data Centres in Tasmania, Parliament House Hobart, 7000.

Submitters contact details:

Name:

Email:

Contact number:

(The above information is used by the Secretariate to verify submissions and to contact the submitter should the Committee wish to seek further information. Should you not provide the above information, the Committee may not accept your submission to the Inquiry.)

Terms of Reference:

Inquire into and report upon the construction and operation of AI data centres in Tasmania, including recommending future legislation and regulations necessary to:

1. Protect public resources and the environment;

Tasmania is a currently considered a sustainable, carbon neutral state. Part of this is due to our relatively small power usage. I am concerned that by significantly increasing our power usage it will impact other businesses in the state that support and benefit from our sustainable reputation.

Additionally, the hydro electric and other power systems have been developed and paid for by Tasmanian tax payers. Yet a huge benefit of this system seems to be given to AI data centres despite there being little apparent benefit to Tasmanians or the local community.

There has been a push to increasing the energy efficiency of Tasmanian houses through programs like the energy audit through council, building standards requiring efficiency measures and solar and other generation programs. However, why should any Tasmanian make changes to minimise their power usage if the government is supporting private organisations to use massive amounts of power that dwarf any hard earned power savings at home?

Although Tasmania is an island, climate change impacts all people and we must work to others to create change. If it is decided that Tasmania's energy production should be substantially increased should this not be used to support other Australian states to use green

2. Ensure Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System adequately recognises and addresses the specific impacts of the development and construction of AI and data facilities;

There appears to be minimal information and guidelines about what the impact of building these centres will. Significant consideration should be given to the amount of sound, heat and traffic they produce.

There should be a significant minimum distance from residential housing, schools, agricultural, environmental and bush areas to ensure that people and animals are not unfairly impacted on. There should ongoing monitoring regarding sound and other concerns.

If data centres are being built and people do not want to live near them it is important that the reduction in property values be considered as Tasmanian family's should not be having the value of their assets reduced to this development.

3. Provide Parliamentary oversight and accountability for new facility construction and resource allocation;

I am concerned that these centres may use a high amount of power and water. I would like there be strong guidelines of how they are required to respond to water or power shortages. As it is such a significant user that does not provide community benefit there should be an expectation that their power and water usage be reduced prior to asking Tasmanian's to reduce water or power use.

4. Ensure transparent public disclosure of resource consumption;

It should be clear how much power is being used, how much they are contributing financially to our power system to support the higher need, and a clear responsibility to reduce and reuse water.

I have heard that some centres have back up diesel generators. Using these could impact our carbon footprint, fuel costs, air and sound pollution. There should be a requirement that diesel or petrol generators not be used.

If they are reliant on generators then it is not a sustainable development.

As mentioned previously, water and power use should be prioritised to other business, agriculture and person use before water restrictions are requested of the public. The information on this should continue to be available.

5. Provide the Tasmanian community with adequate opportunities for consultation;

Each development should have a local and statewide response. It is not reasonable to not allow local people to understand and contribute to the assessment of development.

6. Ensures the Tasmanian community receive tangible benefits from all AI and data facilities constructed in the state; and

Clear information should be provided to Tasmanians about what benefit, if any, these bring to the state. The focus should not be on the initial development and building but on the ongoing outcomes. How many jobs will it provide in comparison to its resource usage? How does Tasmania make a profit from this sort of business and is this significant in understanding their overall profits. If Tasmanian land, power and water is being used to make a profit then Tasmania must significantly benefit from this.

A rationale should be provided as to why these developments are being approved where as previous developments which likely supported a larger number of staff were declined.

Any political donations, arrangements or interests need to be clearly declared and addressed.

7. Any other matter incidental.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the majority of the page below the question. It is intended for the respondent to provide any other matter incidental to the inquiry.