

Minister for Housing and Planning
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government

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01 OCT 2026

Ms Craig Garland MP
Member for Braddon

c/o haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Garland

On 8 September 2026 you asked me the following constituent question in the House of Assembly:

My constituent James has raised concerns with me about the proposed 52 megawatt AI data centre at Wesley Vale and whether our existing planning framework is adequate to properly assess a development of this scale and complexity. Latrobe Council has now unanimously resolved to ask you to declare the proposal a major project. Given the potential impacts on energy, water, the environment and the surrounding community, will you agree to Latrobe Council's request and ensure this proposal receives the more comprehensive and independent assessment available through the major project process?

My view remains that Tasmania's planning system is capable of assessing applications for AI data centres and councils, in their role as planning authorities, should continue to undertake the function. Assessing complex and technically challenging development applications is a core part of their statutory responsibility.

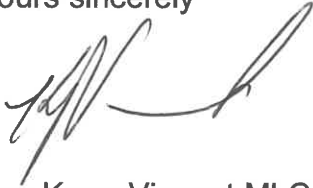
Planning authorities are entitled to refer proposals for consideration under the Major Projects legislation, and I have received a proposal from Latrobe Council in relation to the proposed development at Wesley Vale. However, it is important to note I cannot simply declare a project to be a Major Project on request.

Before a proposal can proceed, it must satisfy the eligibility criteria prescribed in the Act. The legislation is clear not every large, complex or controversial development will qualify for assessment through the Major Projects process. The proposal will therefore be considered against the statutory criteria, and any decision must be made in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

I acknowledge the significant community interest in the proposed AI data facility and the genuine concerns raised regarding matters such as energy demand, water use, noise, environmental impacts and emerging technologies. It is appropriate these issues are discussed publicly. However, several matters being debated, including broader concerns about artificial intelligence, energy policy and water allocation, are not matters ordinarily determined through the land use planning process.

The Parliamentary Inquiry into AI Data Centres in Tasmania, together with the Government's consultation on the draft Statement of Expectations for Data Centres and AI Infrastructure, provide additional opportunities for Tasmanians to have their views heard, and I encourage interested members of the community to participate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kerry Vincent', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Housing and Planning