



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: Hayley Perkins

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;

Public resources including land proposed for AI data centre construction should be thoroughly explored for any opportunities that would provide better outcomes for the immediate community before being leased or sold for the construction of a centre. If a site could be better utilised or have more significant benefits for the community including increased employment opportunities, better environmental outcomes or other future potential it should be thoroughly evaluated.

In addition, all environmental impacts and assessment reports should be required to be completed before a local government council is to receive a planning application. There should not be any 'in progress' or 'to be determined' elements of environmental impact assessments and reports.

Environmental impacts must include worst-case scenario modelling including severe weather events. We cannot pretend we are unlikely to have extreme wind and rainfall as we have had in the past 5 years or extreme heat events we are likely to see this summer. The construction, maintenance and impacts of the data centre structures must consider these events.

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;

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

There must be a consultation mechanism for local government and state government planning, assessment and approval of these structures. The responsibility for assessment and approval must not sit within any one tier of government. Situational analysis must be undertaken by the local government to inform the state government consideration and decision-making. Further to this, no one minister nor party should hold the power to assess and approve data centre construction in an LGA.

4. Ensure transparent public disclosure of resource consumption;

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

Tasmanians must be consulted during the period that an application for construction is being considered. Communities should have the right to provide contextual, local information to assist in thorough assessment processes, including environmental impact assessments.

The 14 day consideration time line for councils to consider an application in the current development application process must be extended to enable members of the community appropriate time to consider the documents within an application and the likely impacts to their community and take the right steps to feedback. In the Long Reach process there was only 14 days to read 360+ documents, make sense of the information and then understand the right feedback processes to engage with. 14 days is not reasonable when we consider the average literacy levels of Tasmanian adults, the lack of services within regional communities (including transport) and the barriers to understanding local government legislation.

Councils should be required to provide plain English guidance for their communities about processes such as council meeting procedures, asking questions, making submissions and how to make lawful petitions to council.

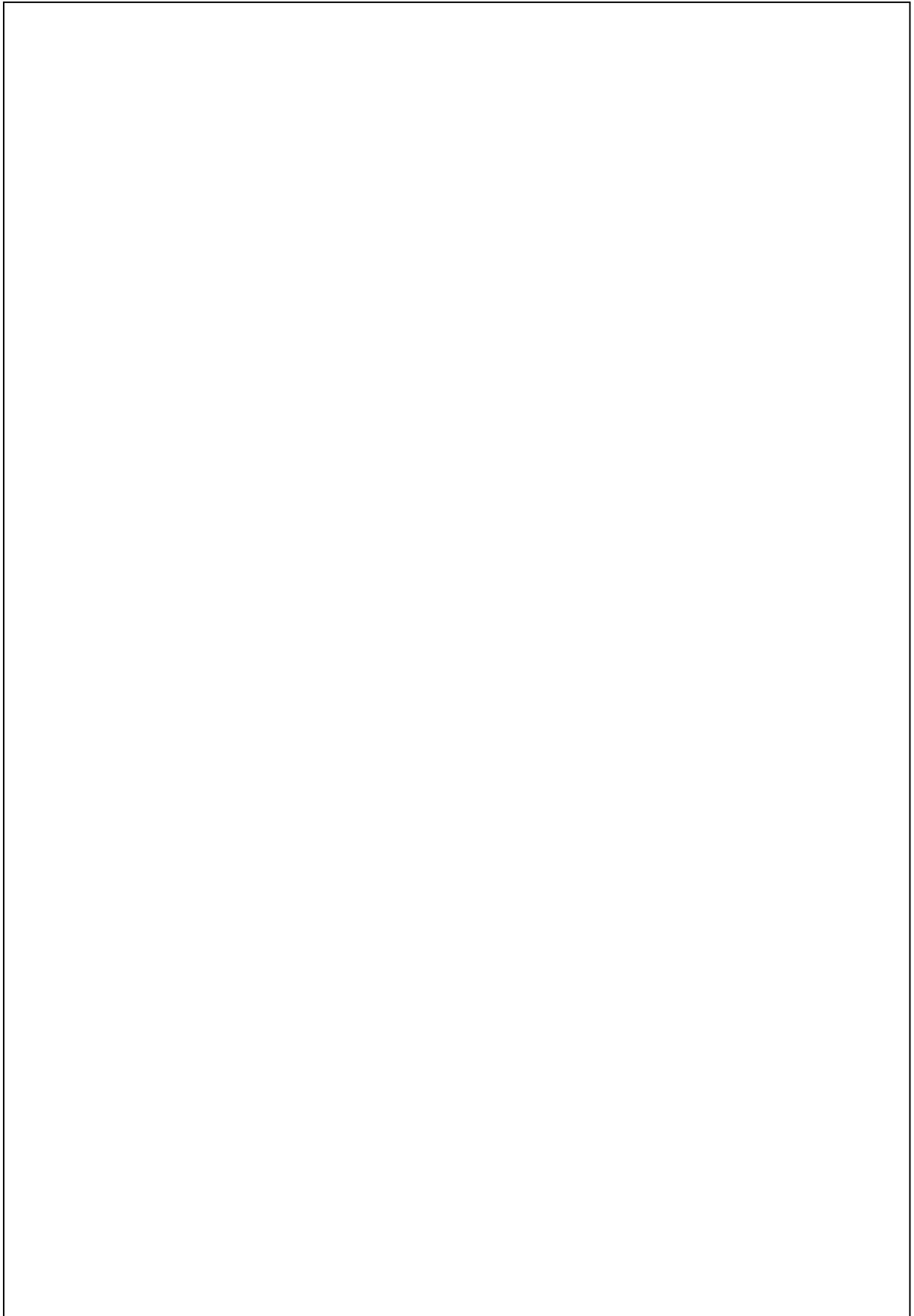
6. Ensures the Tasmanian community receive tangible benefits from all AI and data facilities constructed in the state; and

Tangible benefits should also include benefits to the regional communities in which the data centres are constructed.

Sponsorship of sports teams does not provide tangible benefit to all Tasmanians. Consideration should be given to appropriate definitions of tangible benefits and the communities that should be direct and indirect recipients of such benefits.

A brief example could be a requirement for a minimum number of Tasmanian employees at each centre with strict parameters around the definition of a Tasmanian - ie not someone who was attracted to the state for the purposes of employment with the organisation but an existing resident.

7. Any other matter incidental.

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