



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:

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(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;

Any potential AI data centre sites should be fully investigated with regard to interference with significant geographical, cultural and historic landmarks and assets, including land availability and proximities to living inhabitants and sacred places of respect for indigenous Australians, water sources, electricity supplies, as well as potential EMF and other frequency emissions from on site. All results of these investigations should be fully translucent and available for inspection and comment by Tasmanian citizens and ratepayers before any decisions regarding construction and future operations are handed down. Please remember, politicians and decision makers are public servants and are representative of and accountable to the people of the state.

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;

My comments are as stated in the question above, with all results being transparent and fully available to the Tasmanian public, and no hidden agendas or plans.

In fact, I would suggest a public referendum be undertaken before any works at all are commenced, to ascertain the appeal and use to the general public of such facilities.

If profits to government and corporations, and objectives of automation and surveillance are to be the primary considerations in the building of the proposed AI centres, I suggest the centres have no place in our Tasmanian communities, where currently people, animals, and the environments and natural resources they live in and with come first.

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

Any Parliamentary committee allegedly providing oversight and accountability for facility construction and resource allocation should be made up of and balanced by members of each political representative group in the state , with independent politicians and with representatives from the Tasmanian public, with no favour being shown to any party, group or individual in particular. All considerations should be absent of fiscal incentives to political, corporate or public representatives.

Oversight committee meeting minutes and outcomes should also be fully transparent and available to the Tasmanian public for consideration before each stage of progress, if any.

4. Ensure transparent public disclosure of resource consumption;

ALL available data published in media (including independent media sources), gazettes and online for general public consumption and comment, with adequate notice of and directions to the information, even for people (such as the elderly) who have little or no access to online information.

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

Open meetings without fear of reprisal or repercussions as a result of frank discussions. Minutes taken and distributed to all stakeholders after the consultations.

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

Tangible benefits to be fully discussed and disclosed before any plans are made or construction commenced.

7. Any other matter incidental.

Any AI data centre construction has very real concerns attached, one of which is the potential automation and takeover of human beings' place in the economy.

China has already constructed battalions of AI powered robots that are dextrous and capable of carrying out any task that can be performed by human beings, and many that can't easily be.

Our own shopping centres, supermarkets, in fact any commercial activity you can name, have already been swamped by AI-run programs, often to the exclusion and detriment of human operators, with super-surveillance and data capture being the main focus for some of them. This is not necessarily a good thing.

AI is not infallible. It has already been caught out many times in making mistakes, and recently a group of AI programs, when caught out lying, communicated with each other in an endeavour to come up with a false story about why they had lied.

As with any other computer program, AI is only as good as the information being provided to it by human beings. AI is not capable of independent thought. It is not a sentient being with the capability of making independent decisions, and will never "become smarter" as time progresses. Such thinking is naive and is biased towards opportunists and conglomerates that would make profits based on AI technology before considering the lives of and impacts on human beings.

AI has the potential to become an enslaving technology if not treated with kid gloves and a big dose of practicality early in the discussions. Let us not assume that all technology is beneficial to humankind, just because it's seemingly convenient. Convenience could turn us all into prisoners if we're not careful and thoughtful with the new technologies.