



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: Leigh Wasserfall

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;

Full transparency **before** planning process begins.
Developers must first have approval for volumes from Hydro Tasmania / TasWater and natural values from NRE/EPBC, no matter the Planning Zone or Code.
The application to Hydro Tasmania, Taswater and NRE/EPBC is to be open for public consultation.

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;

All AI data facilities automatically classified as Level 2 under EMPCA

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

Compare 1 and 2 above

4. Ensure transparent public disclosure of resource consumption;

Compare 1 above plus ongoing reporting of capacities of state energy and water levels.
Reporting against natural value parameters established initially.

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

Refer above.

This is paramount to avoid public backlash.

Also avoids having developers spend money on projects until they have initial approval.

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

Any development must pay a rate that represents the highest opportunity lost.

7. Any other matter incidental.

Acknowledgement is required that the Planning System **does** cater for AI data centres. Table 6.2 recognises them as **Business and Professional Services**.

They are **not utilities** as they do not provide an essential service to households or businesses in Tasmania.

Banning the usage by AI data companies of propaganda phrases like:

Data **factories** (they are not factories, this terminology has been embedded by the industry to justify them being classified as utilities in industrial areas.)

Banning the claims of employment numbers and so called benefits to Tasmania, when those purported benefits cannot be considered by Planning Authorities (Councils) who are restricted to factors in the LUPA and the TPS.