



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;

How much energy is a data centre going to use? From the DA for the Wesley Vale site, I've reviewed it wasn't disclosed how much energy was required to run the data centre, but considering they have 40 x backup diesel generators to supply energy to the data centre there's a substantial amount of energy required to run one data centre.

There's a substantial amount of diesel consumed to run and test 40 x backup diesel generators, that's a large amount of diesel resources and the current fuel supplies especially diesel is an issue.

Water is a valuable resource and the DA suggested that 448kL of rainwater a year would be required to cool the data centre, from the DA "Based on local weather modelling, water-assisted cooling is expected to be required for approximately 10 days each year." The DA stated their anticipated water usage once operational is expected to be approximately 1,000kL per year, after using the captured rainwater. It's a well known fact that water is a major resource that data centres use to cool the data centres. Who suffers the water shortage during droughts etc when these data centres require the water the most to cool the data centre, farmers or Tasmanian residents??

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;

It's been reported that there's plans in place for up to 10 data centres in Tasmania, from the DA for Wesley Vale it would suggest there's a lot of information not being provided like electricity required and water usage is deceptive. With the recent Hydro electricity fire it has resulted in loss of power to local residents. One data centre uses a massive amount of electricity to run 24/7 as supported by the requirement to have 40 x backup diesel generators to ensure electricity supply to one data centre, therefore if there are 10 data centres in Tasmania that's an amazing amount of energy required eg 400 x backup diesel generators.

Electricity, water and diesel are a valuable commodity and it would appear to me that the use of these valuable doesn't support the possible 20 jobs at each data centre.

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

The Wesley Vale data centre suggested it used a closed loop cooling system to cool the data centre, but if this was the case then they would be using Glycol mixed with water to cool the centre and this wouldn't have to be changed for approximately 10 years. The DA submitted was deceiving and the committee could review the closed loop cooling system that Meta uses to cool their data centres for further information on a true closed loop system.

These data centres are going to use an amazing amount of energy to run 24/7 and electricity supply is a major concern for one data centre let alone the 10 proposed data centres. What electricity resources is each data centre going to be responsible to provide to ensure the current power supplies aren't impacted, this would need to be done prior to any approval or part of the approval process.

4. Ensure transparent public disclosure of resource consumption;

The Wesley Vale DA didn't disclose the major component required to run a data centre that's electricity, you could assume it was a lot as it required 40 x backup diesel generators. The DA suggested that the noise was only 31dB being produced by the data centre when it's a fact that data centres generate a more continuous low frequency noise 24/7 at a level between 60-80dB. No information was provided in the DA in relation to how much noise was generated by each generated during testing and runup, or how much noise would be generated by the 40 diesel generators under full load when supplying energy to the data centre. No indication to the pollution level that 40 x diesel generators produce under full operation. No indication of how noise travels over distance especially water when it came to the Wesley Vale DA.

The information supplied on the Wesley Vale DA was conflicting when it talked about water consumption in bold print it had the 448kL of rainwater and further into the DA it talked about 1,000kL of water when it was operational. Why aren't they upfront with the total amount of water to run the data centre.

The evidence is out there relating to how much noise, water and electricity a data centre requires to operate 24/7. The information by the Firmus DA was not a true reflection of the amount of noise produced during normal operation, when testing generators, when 40 x diesel generators are operating under full load, stating it would be only 31dB is not a true reflection of the noise that would be produced under certain operations. The amount of water being consumed was not open and I'd suggest under stated. No details of the electricity required to run the data centre, be open about the amount of electricity the data centre is going to consume under normal operations.

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

I believe that Firmus brought the Wesley Vale and possibly the three sites they want to set up data centres at in 2019, but there has been NO consultation on the Wesley Vale site until the DA was released for consultation and submissions. Although the local community has held meetings I believe there has been no representatives from Council, Tasmanian Government or Firmus even though they were invited to attend meetings. My wife and I have submitted a submission to the Wesley Vale DA through Latrobe Council and we have received acknowledgement of our submission. We did attend the council meeting where the Latrobe Council decided unanimously to refer the DA back to the Tasmanian Government departments.

There should have been consultation going back to 2019 when Firmus was first purchasing the land to place a Data Centre on, their current DA only covers a small portion of the entire site they have purchased, I foresee in the future the entire site will become a major data centre and once the DA has been approved it will open the gate to Firmus to expand the data centre across the entire site.

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

I can't see any benefits of having Data Centres constructed in Tasmania, we need additional energy and water supplies to supply these data centres with the valuable resources they need to operate 24/7. We are fortunate to have pristine natural resources available to others to see and visit, minimal pollution and damaging low frequency continuous noise that is produced by these data centres.

The Blue Mountains of NSW like Tasmania is a natural wonder, the Blue Mountains Council recently had the courage to deny a DA for a data centre to be constructed in the Blue Mountains, and the Tasmanian Government should consider our natural resources like the Blue Mountains Council have done.

It appears that Firmus are trying to win the Tasmanian people over with the daily sporting sponsorship that seems to be announced each day.

QLD premier has offered data centres all the resources they need to operate in QLD.

We don't need data centres to be constructed in Tasmania, there's no benefit to Tasmanians, AI is available to Tasmanians now without having to build any data centres.

7. Any other matter incidental.

Noise mapping needs to be conducted to determine the impact on residents and any wildlife in the area. Noise mapping has to be done for any new airport facility with consultation available to all concerned before and during final planning, this needs to be done with data centres as this is a continual noise that's emitted 24/7 and only increases when backup generators are being tested and all are in full operation during backup electricity supply.

Pollution levels need to be determined and provided, no pollution levels have been provided when 40 x diesel generators are fully operational under load.