

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: Mark Middap

Email: [REDACTED]

Contact number: [REDACTED]

(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.)

1 Template form – Inquiry into AI Data Centres in Tasmania

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:

Protect public resources and the environment;

How are you going to protect our data? Our government often uses US corporation talking points:

One is sovereignty, the way I see it, the DCs are being built by Singapore based companies. The primary backers for say Firmus are Nvidia and Blackstone, lets face it, there would be no Firmus data centres without them. The hardware inside is owned by foreign corporations, the LLM software is owned by foreign corporations and the data, our data that is scraped for training LLMs is owned by foreign corporations. What sovereignty is there and what has the government put in place to protect Tasmanians?

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;

AI data centre builders always understate their water consumption, often using the talking points like "same as a restaurant" or "less than a golf course". Modern closed loop cooling systems only work well up until a certain ambient temperature, which could be 23DegC, then evaporative cooling is necessary to dissipate the massive heat load, which consumes lots of water. Exactly how much water will they consume above various ambient temperatures?

What is being done to mitigate the extra energy and water requirements as climate change accelerates?

If these become obsolete or Firmus folds, who pays for the remediation, the sites, the transmission lines, sub stations, pumping stations etc?

Infrasound. This is a serious hazard, particularly for wildlife, pets and humans. What studies have been conducted and when will they be released?

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

These projects will probably have the largest impact on Tasmanians in a very long time, everything should be disclosed and an investigation into possible corruption by government officials should be undertaken, as things don't look great at the moment.

Communities should have clear avenues for complaints and timely responses from both operators and regulators

Ensure transparent public disclosure of resource consumption;

Talks between our government and Firmus started years ago, yet there hasn't been adequate public disclosure. Firmus have made public statements about dealing with our government and infrastructure provider as far back as 2020 on discussions about Tasmania becoming "the Battery of the Nation". Was the rushed signing of Marinus Link to benefit Firmus?

AI data centre builders, US tech and US investment firms are obviously following a clever playbook. Lies and misinformation plays a big part.

Understating energy requirements, quite often they state a MW figure which during construction turns into a "stage 2" GW figure, what is in place to prevent this, as all AI hyperscale data centres are scalable?

As the energy consumption grows with new DC,s and expansions, wind farms and solar will not be viable alone due to the sheer scale, are there talks of damming more rivers? Are these data centres allowed to run on fossil fuels until renewables are in place like what happens elsewhere?

AI data centres require huge amounts of fossil fuel backup generation, these need to be regularly run. Tasmania advertises itself tourism as the clean air state, will that change?

Provide the Tasmanian community with adequate opportunities for consultation;

Early consultation, before any key decisions are made. Allow adequate time and provide real data, not big tech talking points.

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

Lets take Firmus for example. Singapore based, is this for tax purposes? US tech corporations are known to pay no, to very little tax and there are plenty of examples of this. How does this benefit Tasmania, Tasmanians and Australia as a whole? Firmus is registered in Australia for only what looks like things that benefit them, like land acquisitions, water licensing, grants etc, what government grants or taxpayer money or benefits has Firmus received? Tasmania has a right to know.

The Co CEO of Firmus is a convicted criminal with serious prison time, what due diligence did government officials take when undertaking secret deals and non-disclosures to the public? Where NDAs signed and why?

Exactly how many fulltime people will be employed post construction?

Exactly what tax are they paying?

What grants, tax concessions, subsidised infrastructure or land are they receiving?

Exactly what is being spent on local procurement? When they specify a certain \$ build cost, the largest part is Nvidia GPUs.