



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: Samuel Nelan

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;

We've seen from the US that AI Data centres have a massive pollutant effect on local water supplies. I would like to know how the government intends to stop similar water pollution here in Tasmania, if they intend to stop it at all.

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;

AI data centres also create a ton of passive noise in the areas they are constructed. I'd be curious to know if Premier Rockcliff would be happy to live right next to one. I.E the one he's rubber stamped for Launceston.

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

I find the lack of accountability for Firmus shocking. It is owned and ran, by a convicted fraudster with no background in data centres. If I had such a background I wouldn't be allowed to open a fish and chip shop with my own money let alone with public funds. How is the government going to ensure that Firmus doesn't fraud us like it's owner has done to others in the past?

4. Ensure transparent public disclosure of resource consumption;

No project using taxpayer funds and resources should ever be hidden behind confidentiality clauses and NDA's. It shouldn't be up to the greens and independent sources to figure out how much a development will cost us and how much it will consume. How are we supposed to be protected from fraud if we know nothing?

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

If the government is provided 10k signatures going over how people DON'T want data centres in tasmania, and are bluntly told 'nah we're doing it anyway' how are we supposed to have ANY input considering the construction of 6 more data centres have been discussed without any public word or input?

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

AI data centres are a short term boost to an area as they pull in builders the moment they are built though, they create barely more than 20 jobs by design. It seems from the current scheme, Firmus will get access to our water, our energy, our land, our money and will barely have to do a thing to get it. No screening, no estimates or feasibility studies. We have no clue in what way we'll benefit other than the vague 'tough choices' Premier Rockcliff describes. How do we know we'll be the ones to gain, and not just wealthy American tech moguls?

7. Any other matter incidental.

I find it frustrating and disheartening in equal measure how clear it is that this rapid push in data centre construction is an attempt to avoid the inevitable regulation of data centres, since upcoming legislation won't be in place until 2027 and will not be applied retroactively. It's in the benefit of Firmus and other AI companies to plunder Tasmania for all it's worth NOW while they can't be held accountable. I am very curious as to how Rockcliff can use 'tough decisions' as a justification for needing to be in government, but has given these data centre companies very little in the way of tough decisions. If anything, I'd like to know how are we NOT just handing Firmus and CO everything they've ever wanted on a gold lined, silver platter?

Why can we invest our power and water infrastructure to outside Corporations, but not our own local ones? Firmus is set to be the biggest power consumer in the entirety of Tasmania, using more power than every single household COMBINED. Why was Boyer told "No we don't have it in the grid" but Firmus is given the go-ahead with non-binding dot points?