



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: [Hayley Wilby](#)

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;

There is no legal guidelines for AI Data centres like Firmus, they do not have to meet EIP standard as there is no standard to meet. What we do know is that Firmus AI data centre will use huge amounts of our states resources to keep these centres running, not only will they use our Hydro {which lake Cethana is now being upgraded is this upgrade due to the high demand that AI Data centres will place on the grid?} Large windfarms will also be built to feed the energy guzzling centres and diesel generators which will cause harm to the surrounding environment and local communities. That is 3 energy resources this company will use to feed its hungry machines. AI data centres will put a strain on the Tasmanian community and its environment. Government departments are not able or willing to research the effects of AI DATA centres will have on its citizens..

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;

Firmus application for Wesley Vale has no EIP Environmental impact statement, there is no evidence to show it is safe for the local community. Firmus factory is within 1klm of the Andrews St Primary School which means the children will be subject to EMP frequency from 9am to 3pm 5 days a week, has Firmus showed evidence its factory will not harm children from St Andrews Primary school? Firmus has brought land before it even has approval this alone is a red flag that they know it will be approved. Firmus factory at Wesley Vale will also cause harm to the local Islander berry farm pickers who will also be at a distance of a few hundred metres from the factory and consent EMP frequency's and diesel fumes. The local farmers will live in fear of the harm done to their bee hives and cattle. The government is allowing full steam ahead without any clear knowledge of harm done to humans and the environment. Where is your evidence these are safe? where is the evidence of research on safety?

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

Does the Government departments actually know who the backbone drivers are of these AI Data Centres? Does the department know who the investors are and what risk falls on the government if the AI Data Centre bubble bursts? will the government be liable to Firmus investors? does the land brought by Firmus become the investors land to pay back the huge debt. So many unanswered questions. What is Firmus and the other companies decide they need more power need more water and threatens to pull out if the government does not come to the party, what happens then to the community? Firmus is already trying to change the rules on diesel generators and wanting to make the Georgetown council allow this to happen

4. Ensure transparent public disclosure of resource consumption;

There has not been clear on the amount of resources Firmus and other company's will use, Firmus itself keeps changing the goal posts from only needing generators for back up to now wanting more generators and wanting to use the more. They are also not a Green AI Data centre due to the fact they will be using diesel.

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

St Leonards Firmus AI data factory was kept so quiet that most of Launcestons residence did not even know about the application and approval, 14 days is not enough time to make your opposition in writing to councils. these company's know years ahead of the deals they will be making and the residences only get 14 days to oppose this is down right unfair.

This is a new era of industry which is unknown, there isn't enough research data written or even trialled, these new AI Data training centres are a new era there is not sufficient reliable technical information to be satisfied that all applicable planning scheme provisions and performance criteria can be met. In 10 or 20 years from now the effects of the toxic by-product will be know, the effects of the heat they generate to the outside environment will be known but by then it will be to late, the community needs to know now if they will not cause harm and we are not being told

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

There is no benefits to the local residences who will have to live near one of these factories, once construction jobs and it is built there is minimal jobs and these will not be for the people who will be harmed and affected by the noise, fumes, EMP, visual eyesore and the house property being devalued, no one will be able to sell their property cause who wants to live near a AI Data Centre. The cons outway the pros..

7. Any other matter incidental.

<https://ehsciences.org/data-center-emf-harmonic-exposure/>

<https://epbcpbpublicportal.environment.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/project-decision/?id=e80784ae-e0f0-f011-8407-7c1e528a001b>

https://theconversation.com/data-centres-in-australia-your-questions-answered-290841?fbclid=IwDGRzaAUZL6tjbGNrBRkvI3Bkb2YFZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQMMzUwNjg1NTMxNzI4AAEeJwKOMP34MfpIDTVDPVEEHnIm1uHXN3F2vsp_tSDNkdb8INmrGRv60kYl28E_aem_OFxFcHAoRCn7LWgr7N1iqg

<https://theconversation.com/unsustainable-or-manageable-we-dont-yet-know-how-data-centres-will-impact-australias-environment-290423>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-06-15/firmus-ai-company-tasmania-biggest-power-user-three-sites/106783142>

https://tasmaniantimes.com/2026/09/firmus-is-biggering-and-biggering-part-5/?fbclid=IwDGRzaAUUCGtjbGNrBRP_LHBkb2YFZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQMzUwNjg1NTMxNzI4AAEebTF7081QHbpRBGqQovZ2yEICRPGXML8T1RcGZPzI21Y0giUdOqZZrxzZOse_aem_m-buhFhhaKOvSp-xNIJ50w

https://ideas.repec.org/a/gam/jcltec/v8y2026i4p126-d2010147.html?fbclid=IwDGRzaAUcRLhjbGNrBRxEf3Bkb2YFZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQMMzUwNjg1NTMxNzI4AAEeNtd2AFGERUVAIFUb5Ht09ur6F_5hB9R4_S2UZ7J9wMYwVqwF1VaxNT6jHUw_aem_FrpQJf8IS2er-nZPZue7Ww

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-07-23/firmus-urged-to-be-good-corporate-citizen/106870000>

<https://asmedigitalcollection.asme.org/sustainablebuildings/article/7/2/024501/1233035/Data-Center-Waste-Heat-as-an-Emerging-Urban>

<https://environment.yale.edu/news/article/data-centers-urban-heat-and-ai-growth>

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2603.20897>

<https://www.ehn.org/ai-data-center-health-impacts>