

## Submission to the Inquiry on AI Data Centres in Tasmania

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1. Protect public resources and environment. It appears that data centres are extraordinarily energy hungry. They are being built by sophisticated well-resourced operators but the power they intend to use comes from the publicly owned Hydro Tasmania and there appears to be no apparent oversight or clarity on the number of data centres that will be built here. The three proposed for the north and northwest will consume the same amount of energy as all Tasmanian homes. How will the state government ensure that Tasmanians are not subjected to greatly increased power bills, black outs and industrial noise? It is vital that these companies are not enriched while Tasmanians are impoverished, their properties diminished in value, and their lives made miserable by industrial noise and unreliable power.
2. The Government must ensure that our admittedly rather weak Resource Management and Planning system addresses the impacts of AI and data facilities. These facilities are enormously noisy and run 24/7. They are not appropriate in urban areas.
3. The government must legislate to provide Parliamentary oversight and fair resource allocation. It is vital that legal parameters for the above are established before the industry becomes too big to rein in and the citizens of Tasmania suffer. Hydro resources are owned by the Tasmanian people and if wealthy AI companies backed largely by US companies want to use them then there should be a resource rental tax. The same goes for wind resources. This appears to be an industry that wishes to become established without much public oversight. It seems very unfair that Boyer cannot access extra electricity to modernize its plant although it is a major employer in the Derwent Valley. Established industries need to compete with Firmus for energy resources on a level playing field.
4. Following on from point 3, there must be transparent public disclosure of resource consumption, and this disclosure must take place regularly,

at a bare minimum on an annual basis. These disclosures should also be publicly accessible in real time.

5. Many communities in Tasmania, as stated above, may be negatively affected by this enormous new industry. It is vital that these communities are consulted and listened to and that their concerns are addressed by local politicians of all parties. Adequate opportunities must be provided by state and local government for their concerns to be recorded and addressed.
6. There need to be tangible benefits provided by AI companies such as Firmus to the local community. This involves properly siting Data Centres so that the noise levels and lighting do not destroy the amenity of the local environment. Decent opportunities for local employment must be provided and a resource rental tax be paid in the state for the use of publicly owned resources. We need a great deal more than simply sponsoring sports teams.
7. Finally, although the state's hydro generated power has hitherto been relatively cheap and abundant, with the increasing impact of global heating, it is unlikely to remain so. We need to be more honest about the effect of increasing drought and lessening rainfall on our energy supplies. Tasmanian taxpayers should not have to foot the bill for Firmus' use of energy when drought conditions strike, as they increasingly do, and the state must buy expensive energy from interstate.