

Name: Anthony Loberto

Email: [REDACTED]

Contact number: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Dear Secretary,

As a resident of Tasmania, I wish to make a submission to the House of Assembly Government Administration Committee A inquiry, titled *Inquiry into AI Data Centres in Tasmania*.

Preamble

Our access to economically viable energy, water and mineral resources is limited by geography. It is a physical fact that we have already commandeered the highest quality (most efficient) of these resources for our economic use. This is one of the most fundamental trends in technological progress. Therefore, large increases in the demand for such resources is highly likely to incur higher marginal cost to access lower quality and less efficient resources. In some cases the quantum required of such resources may not even be physically available at any cost (water for example). Such large increases in demand would also be likely to fuel price inflation.

In regards to your terms of reference, I make the following points for your consideration.

1. Protect public resources and the environment;

My concerns are:

- *Waste disposal of AI computer chips (they only last about 3-5 years due to thermal stress)*
- *Local exhaust gas, noise and light pollution*
 - *diesel emissions are highly toxic and noxious*
- *Carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions in relation to federal and state regulations and goals for reducing such emissions in the medium to long term to address global warming*
- *Energy demand - Firmus has requested 445 MW which is around 30% of state capacity*
 - *I am pleased to see Hydro Tasmania has taken this request soberly and is also providing a submission to this inquiry and will be addressing the following issues among others:*
 - *Is Firmus a financially stable company?*
 - *How much new renewable generation is needed to meet their needs and when could this be built?*
 - *Would an agreement deliver profits for us (and ultimately you)?*
 - *Would an agreement align with our responsibilities to Tasmanians — including to act commercially and manage our water storages responsibly*

- *It is of utmost importance that Hydro Tasmania be allowed to prepare this engineering and economic analysis without political interference.*

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;

I wish to express my concern that any proposal to allow construction and operation of AI data centres in Tasmania needs to weigh up the demands on our fixed resource base in relation to the resource needs of the community, government services (including power) and critical private industries, namely agriculture and tangible engineered products which are the real economy on which are physical survival actually depends.

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

No response

4. Ensure transparent public disclosure of resource consumption;

No response

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

No response

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

No response

7. Any other matter incidental.

No response

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