

Treasurer
Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal
Leader of the House

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Mr Rob Fairs MP
Chair
House of Assembly Estimates Committee B
By email: fiona.murphy@parliament.tas.gov.au

APPROPRIATION BILLS 2026-27

Dear Mr Fairs

Please find attached the following responses to questions raised in the examination of the Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy portfolio.

Question 1:

How many start-ups supported by the Government directly or through GBE sponsorship have gone on to secure private investment or generate substantial revenue within three years? Please detail. If the answer is none, will the Government and GBEs change their approach?

Answer:

It is important to note there is no dataset quantifying how many start-ups supported by Government or Government Business Enterprises go on to secure private investment or generate substantial revenue within three years. This reflects the fact that private businesses are not generally required to publicly disclose detailed financial outcomes, including revenue performance or capital raising activities.

As a result, it is not possible to provide a figure, and program impacts are typically assessed using a combination of qualitative insights and broader economic indicators rather than specific post-support financial outcomes.

The Government is continually seeking to improve the way it administers grants and engages with recipients, and will endeavour to adapt and evolve as programs and funding initiatives develop over time.

Question 2:

What confidence can the Tasmanian Government give Tasmanians that data factories and the associated subsea cable won't impact Tasmanian power supply or impact power prices?

Answer:

The Tasmanian Government recognises community interest in ensuring that emerging industries such as data centres and associated infrastructure, including subsea cables, do not adversely impact the State's power supply or place upward pressure on electricity prices.

Any such developments are subject to rigorous planning, regulatory and connection approval processes, including assessment by relevant energy market bodies and network operators to ensure system reliability and security are maintained.

The Government will continue to work closely with regulators, industry and infrastructure providers to ensure that new developments contribute to Tasmania's energy resilience and economic growth, while safeguarding affordability and reliability for Tasmanians.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Abetz', written in a cursive style.

Hon Eric Abetz MP
Treasurer