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Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs
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Ms Cecily Rosol MP
Greens Member for Bass
C/O: Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Rosol,

Thank you for your constituency question on 17 June 2026 regarding concerns about the growth of artificial intelligence (AI) and data facilities in Tasmania.

Tasmania provides an exceptionally strong proposition for data centres. Our island offers a stable and secure operating environment, with low risk of natural disasters and lower ambient temperatures than mainland Australia, which helps to reduce costs and energy requirements. In addition, with Tasmania having already achieved 100 per cent renewable energy we are well positioned to attract new investment based on our clean energy credentials.

Tasmania has a strong and well-established framework for managing new development, and this includes AI and data centre facilities. The use and development of AI and data centre facilities is regulated through Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which together provide a comprehensive and consistent approach to land-use decision-making across the State.

Any proposal for an AI or data centre facility must go through the same robust planning approvals process as any other development in terms of meeting requirements of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

The Government continues to work with AI proponents regarding the development of AI infrastructure in Tasmania and the opportunities that may be created for our State in this fast-growing field. At the same time, we are aware of community concerns regarding this technology and the need to ensure that Tasmanians benefit from the AI investment in our State.

It is expected that the development of AI and data centre infrastructure in Tasmania will create jobs and opportunity through both the construction and ongoing operation phases. In addition, these developments will help to support the rollout of more renewable energy on-island.

Our Government welcomes new development in our State. Increased industrial demand brings new jobs, delivers local economic value, and supports Tasmania's continued growth.

Aurora Energy has confirmed that recent and future agreements for data centres and AI infrastructure will not impact supply to other customers and are expected to deliver strong commercial outcomes for Tasmania. This is important, as commercial returns from Government businesses such as Aurora Energy and Hydro Tasmania help generate dividends to the State, which can be reinvested into essential services like schools, hospitals, and roads.

While significant new demand for electricity must be supported by additional generation capacity, such as wind and solar, these data centre and AI infrastructure developments play an important role in accelerating investment in renewable energy projects across Tasmania. This creates more new jobs and infrastructure, further strengthening Tasmania's clean energy advantage. Hydro Tasmania is also well placed to provide energy to support incremental increases in demand.

The Government appreciates the community interest in the development of AI infrastructure in Tasmania and the need to ensure that these infrastructure opportunities are of benefit to the State.

As part of the Government's 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, a draft Tasmanian Statement of Expectations for Data Centres and AI Infrastructure will be released for public consultation within the next 100 days. This will provide an opportunity for Tasmanians to have their say regarding the development of this infrastructure.

Yours faithfully,



Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy

31/7/2026