The Hon. Anthony Carbines MP

Minister for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy
Minister for Major Events
Minister for Medical Research
Minister for Racing
Minister for Economic Development
Leader of the House

GPO Box 4509
Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Australia

Our Ref: BMIN-2-26-53473

Mr Brian Mitchell MP
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

By email: assemblygaa@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Mitchell,

Thank you for your email inviting me to provide a submission to the Inquiry into AI Data Centres in Tasmania. Data centres are essential 21st-century infrastructure that act as the physical foundation for our digital economy and future prosperity.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring economic development is balanced with responsible environmental stewardship and careful planning. In September 2026, the Victorian Government released Victoria's Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan (the Plan). The Plan is a whole-of-government framework to better plan, coordinate and support data centre investment in Victoria. It will ensure water and energy impacts are responsibly managed, investor confidence is maintained, and communities share in the benefits of a digital economy. You can read more about the Plan here: The Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan.

The public release of the Plan followed the closing date for submissions to your Inquiry; and as such Victoria could not make a submission to your Inquiry. I hope the Plan is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Hon. Anthony Carbines MP
Minister for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy
30 / 10 / 26

VICTORIA State Government

The Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan

Providing certainty for business and community

VICTORIA
State Government

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, their ongoing connection to lands and waterways upon which we depend, and we pay respects to their culture and their Elders past, present, and future.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal self-determination is a human right enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and we are committed to working towards social, economic, and cultural equity for First Peoples living in Victoria.

We acknowledge the diversity of First Peoples, and we acknowledge all other First Peoples living in Victoria.

Authorised and published by the
Victorian Government,
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3000

Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
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Contents

A message from the Minister 2

1. Overview and Approach 3

2. Data Centre Investment, Operation and Resource Use in Victoria 4

3. Clear Requirements and Transparent Assistance 6

4. Enablers and Requirements 7

4.1. Land Use, Location and Local Impact 7

4.2. New Energy Supply and Grid Readiness 10

4.3. Protecting Drinking Water and Securing Supply 12

4.4. Victorian Jobs, Skills and Local Benefit 14

5. Future Actions and Next Steps 16

Appendix A – Glossary 17

A message from the Minister

Victoria Welcomes Responsible Data Centre Investment

Data centres are essential infrastructure for the global digital economy. They are the physical backbone behind the services Victorians rely on every day such as banking, healthcare, transport and emergency response. As technology advances at speed, they enable a thriving economy, supporting innovation and growing new jobs across industries including medical technology, advanced manufacturing, finance and research.

Victoria has been home to data centres for over a decade and now operates more than 50 facilities. Melbourne is now Australia's second-largest data centre market, last year alone, this sector delivered $5.8 billion in capital expenditure.

In August this year, National Cabinet agreed that large data centres require consistent, mandatory national standards covering energy, water and land-use impacts. Victoria supported this position and helped shape the national approach.

Communities want appropriate guardrails for this 21st century infrastructure, and investors require clarity and predictability. These guardrails include energy and water regulations, appropriate planning approaches, traffic management and ensuring that the communities where data centres are built share in the benefits.

Victoria has the skilled workforce, the renewable energy pipeline, the fibre and subsea cable connectivity, and the industrial land to be one of the best places in the Asia-Pacific to build and invest in.



The Hon. Anthony Carbines MP
Minister for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy
Minister for Economic Development

1. Overview and Approach

The Plan sets out what the Victorian Government expects of data centre development and how government will coordinate to support sustainable development. It builds on existing planning, environmental, water and energy frameworks rather than replacing them, and is enforced through a new data centre category within the planning process, together with new energy and water referral and notification controls.

The Plan is organised around four enablers, each setting out what Victoria expects of data centre development, what government will do, and the performance measures and referral settings that give effect to both:

- Land Use, Location and Local Impact
- New Energy Supply and Grid Readiness
- Protecting Drinking Water and Securing Supply
- Victorian Jobs, Skills and Local Benefit.

In August 2026, National Cabinet agreed that large data centres bring energy, water and land-use impacts that need to be managed, and that the Commonwealth will develop consistent mandatory standards with the states.[1]

Commonwealth legislation is intended for early 2027 and is designed to complement, rather than duplicate, state planning and approval processes. The Plan aligns with the Australian Government's five Expectations of Data Centres and AI Infrastructure Developers:[2]

- Prioritising Australia's national interest
- Supporting Australia's energy transition
- Sustainable and efficient water usage
- Investment in Australian skills and workforce
- Research, innovation and local capability.

Requirements set out in the Plan will be published and reviewed as conditions evolve, so that they keep pace with technology without shifting unpredictably under projects already underway.

1. National Cabinet, Meeting Communiqué, August 2026.
2. Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources, Expectations of Data Centres and AI Infrastructure Developers, March 2026.

2. Data Centre Investment, Operation and Resource Use in Victoria

Where Victoria's settings already differ

As international jurisdictions grapple with the unprecedented resource demands of artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure, Victoria is establishing a proactive regulatory environment that avoids the reactionary measures seen globally.

The measures outlined in this Action Plan build on Victoria's robust policy and regulatory settings:

- Acoustic and amenity limits: The Environment Protection Regulations 2021 already impose mandatory, statewide noise limits on commercial and industrial premises. Additionally, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) regulates back-up generators through its existing Development and Operating Licensing regime.
- Water infrastructure cost recovery: Under the New Customer Contributions Framework regulated by the Essential Services Commission, large new users are already required to fully fund their own project-related water infrastructure costs, protecting existing consumers.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage: The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* already binds every proponent, mandating that a Cultural Heritage Management Plan be prepared and approved by the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party prior to the commencement of any high-impact activity.
- Electricity connection costs: The National Electricity Rules already mandate causer-pays connection charging. This requires proponents to execute connection agreements and fund their own network augmentations, ensuring the existing customer base does not subsidise grid upgrades.
- Safety and fire regulation: Independent of the planning process, regulators such as Energy Safe Victoria, WorkSafe Victoria, and Fire Rescue Victoria already hold strong, enforceable statutory powers over workplace, fire, and electrical safety under their respective acts.
- Planning enforcement toolkit: Beyond just requiring a permit, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* provides a substantial existing compliance toolkit for any breach of permit conditions. This includes enforcement orders, civil and criminal penalties, and commercial benefit forfeit orders.

Area	Detail
Existing facilities	More than 50 data centres operating across Victoria as at mid-2026, concentrated in industrial clusters in Melbourne's west and north, with activity emerging in regional areas. The modern market dates from July 2012.
Energy demand – current and forecast	Nationally, data centres account for around 3% of National Electricity Market (NEM) grid-supplied electricity today, forecast to rise to around 6% by 2029–30 and 12–13% by 2035–36 under AEMO's central Step Change scenario[3],[4]. Victoria currently accounts for around 30% of national data centre electricity consumption, second to NSW at around 66%[5], and Victorian data centre demand reportedly nearly doubled over the twelve months to mid-2026[6].
Water demand – current	Data centres draw less than 1% of potable drinking water across the Melbourne and Geelong networks. In Greater Western Water's service area, 13 of 15 facilities used 33 megalitres combined over the past year.
Water demand – proposed pipeline	Greater Western Water is assessing 19 data centre applications seeking a combined 19,714 megalitres a year – roughly 4% of Melbourne's supply. Applications are not approvals, and not all proposed projects will proceed.
Connection pipeline	AEMO received more than 18 gigawatts of data centre connection enquiries in the 18 months to October 2025; around 2.2 gigawatts had reached the formal connection process by March 2026. Around 36% of the data centre projects on AEMO's books a year earlier have since been cancelled.
State renewable energy and storage targets	Legislated renewable energy targets of 65% by 2030 and 95% by 2035; storage targets of 2.6 gigawatts by 2030 and 6.3 gigawatts by 2035.

3. AEMO, 2026 Electricity Statement of Opportunities, August 2026.
4. AEMO, 'Digital demand surge: Preparing Australia's power systems for the rise of data centres', aemo.com.au, January 2026.
5. w.media, 'AEMO: Australia's data centres to use 34TWh by 2035-36', 2026 (NSW 66% and Victoria 30% of NEM data centre consumption).
6. Tech Insider, 'Australia's Data Centre Boom Risks a 26% Power Bill', 2026, citing Climate Council modelling (Victorian data centre electricity demand nearly doubled in the twelve months to mid-2026).

3. Clear Requirements and Transparent Assistance

Sustainable investment at scale requires absolute clarity for all stakeholders. Proponents must have distinct, upfront visibility of planning, infrastructure, and environmental requirements prior to capital commitment and site acquisition. Equally, host communities require transparent, enforceable standards regarding the operational and amenity impacts of facilities within their neighbourhoods. This Action Plan establishes a reciprocal framework, explicitly pairing government facilitation pathways with rigorous requirements to address community and resources impacts.

#	Commitment	Detail	Purpose
1	**Single point of contact**	The Investment Front Door is the single entry point to government for major data centre investments.	Proponents deal with one team rather than negotiating department by department.
2	**Information before a site is chosen**	Pre-application information covering site identification, site due diligence, infrastructure availability and applicable requirements.	Early feasibility assessment gives proponents greater certainty and reduces late-stage planning refusals.
3	**Coordinated regulator input**	VicGrid, the relevant water corporation, Energy Safe Victoria, WorkSafe Victoria, Fire Rescue Victoria, the Country Fire Authority and the EPA coordinate input on energy, water, electrical, workplace safety, dangerous goods, fire safety and environmental matters.	Consistent regulatory expectations across agencies, and a single escalation point when they conflict.
4	**Information about the network**	Government will map Victoria's energy, water and telecommunications capacity and relevant planning controls, publish timely information.	Identifies servicing constraints early and gives communities confidence that proposals put forward are viable.
5	**Escalation when things stall**	The Investment Coordinator-General is the escalation point for projects of state significance, resolving delays across agencies and regulators.	Provides a single point of accountability for cross-agency delay.
6	**Rules that hold still**	Requirements will be published and reviewed as conditions evolve.	Keeps pace with technology without shifting unpredictably under projects already underway.

4. Enablers and Requirements

4.1. Land Use, Location and Local Impact

Victoria's expectation is that data centres are built away from homes, schools and childcare centres. They should be built where there is robust access to power, water and telecommunications capacity.

Our *Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land Action Plan* 2024 has committed to prohibiting new data centres in Green Wedge Zone land.

Land use definition

Victorian planning schemes will include a land use definition for data centres:

> ***"Land used to collect, distribute, process, or store digital data. It does not include collecting, distributing, processing, or storing digital data if it is ancillary to another use of the land."***

Land developed with critical infrastructure such as hospitals or universities often require data centres next to them – we will work with industry in these circumstances.

Locational controls

Ref	Requirement	Detail	Purpose
L1	**Residential areas**	Data centres prohibited on residential zoned land and a 150m buffer between a residential building and a proposed data centre building will be introduced and enforced via the planning system.	Separates facilities from homes and sensitive uses.
L2	**Rural areas**	Prohibited in rural zones unless located near and able to be serviced by infrastructure critical to data centre operation – major transmission infrastructure, substations, renewable energy facilities, battery energy storage systems or recycled water infrastructure.	Directs investment to places where servicing infrastructure already exists and keeps it away from productive agricultural land.
L3	**Statewide planning policy**	A statewide planning policy will guide location, design, scale and infrastructure requirements. Detailed siting, design and built-form guidance to be developed with stakeholder input in 2027.	Gives applicants, communities and decision-makers greater certainty while encouraging efficient use of energy and water resources.

Traffic Controls

Before any construction work begins on public road verges, footpaths, or traffic lanes, developers must clear mandatory state safety gates:

- Planning Permit First – Development must first meet local planning approval requirements.
- Road Reserve Access Consent – Developers must obtain official consent to work within public road corridors (such as vehicle crossovers, utility trenching, or temporary site access points). Applications undergo a 20-day statutory assessment by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).
- Traffic Management Plan (Memorandum of Authorisation) – Following access consent, an accredited traffic management company must submit a site-specific traffic plan.
- Regulatory Sign-Off – DTP reviews and authorises traffic control devices (signs, signals, lane diversions) strictly against the national Australian Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (AGTTM) and Victorian Code of Practice.

Planning Assessment and Notification Framework

- Responsible Authority: The Minister for Planning serves as the responsible authority for data centre applications progressed through the Development Facilitation Program (DFP). All other applications remain under the jurisdiction of the relevant municipal council.
- Expanded Referrals: The Victoria Planning Provisions will be formally amended to extend referral status for WorkSafe Victoria, Fire Rescue Victoria, VicGrid and the relevant water corporation to all data centre applications, including those determined by local councils. The EPA already holds statutory referral status for these development types.
- Public Consultation and Visibility: Proponents must ensure comprehensive community notification. Immediate neighbours must be formally notified, detailed application documentation published online, and prominent signage displayed on the proposed site. Under these settings, the assessment of large data centres will involve two clear opportunities for public consultation, firstly through existing planning notice requirements and also through the EPA's Development Licence application process. These existing notice requirements apply regardless of whether an application is assessed through DFP or the municipal council.

Noise, back-up generation, fire/electrical safety and construction

Ref	Requirement	Detail	Purpose
L4	**Noise**	Statewide industrial/commercial noise limits apply; night-time limit of 55 dB(A) anywhere in Victoria; a penalty applies for tonal noise (the hum characteristic of cooling equipment); where several premises affect the same location they are assessed cumulatively; no equipment is exempt.	Protects amenity for nearby sensitive receivers, including where facilities cluster.
L5	**Air quality and Emissions**	Proponents must restrict backup diesel generation to emergencies and mandatory testing, deploy best-available technology (such as US EPA Tier 4 equivalent generators), continuously monitor and report runtime/emissions, and mitigate residual greenhouse gas/air-quality impacts through appropriate crediting or localised equivalent management.	To protect local air quality and public health around the site while accounting for greenhouse gas impacts.
L6	**Fire and electrical safety**	Energy Safe Victoria, WorkSafe Victoria, Fire Rescue Victoria and the CFA coordinate regulatory input on electrical, workplace, dangerous goods and fire safety, including advice during planning, joint site inspections, and FRV fire safety guidance.	Identifies and manages emerging risks as the sector grows.
L7	**Construction and local amenity**	Proponents are expected to engage early with VicRoads, telecommunications and fibre providers to coordinate traffic management and infrastructure requirements, including shared underground conduits where possible.	Avoids repeated excavation disrupting local streets.

Community, First Peoples and environment

- Proactive Engagement: In addition to standard statutory public consultation requirements, proponents of all data centre projects, including those accelerated through the Development Facilitation Program, must actively engage with local communities, First Peoples, and host municipal councils both prior to and throughout the approval process.
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage: Statutory cultural heritage protections apply to data centres exactly as they do to any other development. Where a proposal involves a high-impact activity within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan must be prepared and formally approved by the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party before any activity can commence.
- General Environmental Duty: The General Environmental Duty under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* binds every facility operator, with no minimum threshold. Proponents are expected to proactively identify and minimise adverse environmental impacts, including risks to native vegetation, waterways, and land, during the initial site selection phase, rather than attempting to mitigate poor locational choices during the formal assessment process.
- Environmental Sustainability and Landscaping: updates to the Victorian State Planning Policy framework will enable planning permit applications to be assessed against the environmental sustainability of a development application – including space provided for the planting of more trees, water sensitive urban design, landscaping and visual bulk.

Local investment guarantee

Victoria will work with the local government sector, industry and local communities to establish a Local Investment Guarantee as part of a Data Centre development.

This guarantee will go above and beyond the regulatory and compliance expectations established in the Action Plan and should deliver a proportionate, enduring and measurable local impact.

Investments that must be considered include local employment, skills development, training partnerships, engagement with First Nations communities, local procurement, and measures to improve local areas (trees, parks, community facilities).

4.2. New Energy Supply and Grid Readiness

Data centre electricity demand is expected to be met by new investment in renewable energy, without increasing electricity prices or reliability risks for other Victorian energy users.

Requirements

#	Requirement	Detail	Purpose
E1	**Bring your own supply**	Offset actual operational electricity use by investing in new renewable energy generation and storage. Detailed compliance, verification and firming requirements to be finalised in step with Commonwealth standards.	Matches new demand with new generation rather than drawing on existing supply.
E2	**Meet connection costs**	Cover all connection costs and network augmentations required as a direct result of new investment, including necessary upstream augmentations.	Ensures costs are not passed on through energy bills to other consumers or businesses.
E3	**Maintain system security**	Participate in demand flexibility services to the maximum extent commercially and technically possible.	Maintains electricity system stability as large new loads connect.
E4	**Deliver efficient performance**	Achieve high levels of power usage effectiveness (PUE), designed to industry best-practice targets and measured to recognised national standards.	Reduces total energy draw per unit of IT load.
E5	**Support the transition**	Meet these Requirements while contributing positively to Victoria's legislated emissions reduction and renewable energy targets.	Aligns sector growth with the state's decarbonisation trajectory.

Implementation actions

Action	Detail
Deliver the national settings	Through the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council, work with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions on policy settings requiring data centres to offset electricity demand through additional renewable generation.
Strengthen reporting	The Commonwealth will introduce legislation to strengthen reporting under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting scheme.
Develop Victorian settings and approvals	VicGrid will become a referral authority through the planning process, providing expert input to ensure data centres do not negatively affect the grid.
Renewable energy industrial precincts	Scope pathways for data centres to co-locate with complementary industries, sharing infrastructure, workforce and essential services.
Support green power procurement	Develop best-practice guidelines and identify opportunities for investors to pursue sustainable outcomes through green power procurement.
Promote infrastructure upgrades	Provide regular updates on the status of network infrastructure projects to operators and investors.

4.3. Protecting Drinking Water and Securing Supply

Large industrial facilities, including data centres, that need water for cooling should use recycled or non-drinking water, and where they cannot yet, should pay to replace what they use.

Requirements

#	Requirements	Detail	Purpose
W1	**Use recycled/ non-drinking water for cooling**	Facilities using water-intensive cooling (evaporative, adiabatic or other open-loop systems) are expected to meet cooling needs from recycled or other non-drinking sources or hold an agreement with their water corporation to transition when available.	Shifts demand away from drinking water supplies.
W2	**Replace what you use**	Where recycled or non-drinking water is not yet available, agree a plan with the water corporation to offset interim drinking water use – funding agreements or water efficiency programs.	Ensures interim potable use does not reduce overall system supply.
W3	**Design for drought**	Facilities relying on drinking water as an interim measure must be designed so water use can be reduced when restrictions are imposed.	Aligns data centre water use with obligations already placed on other water users during drought.
W4	**Be efficient, measure it, report it**	Design to dWUE ≤ 1.0 (potable) or ≤ 1.6 (non-potable), otherwise agreed with the water corporation. Measured in line with ISO/IEC 30134-9:2022. Standards reviewed and updated annually. Publicly report water use, aligned to national standards.	Demonstrates efficient resource use and supports transparent public reporting.
W5	**Pay for infrastructure**	Meet the full cost of water infrastructure required to service the connection; contribute where demand brings forward augmentation other customers would otherwise have funded later.	Protects the existing customer base from cross-subsidising new large users.
W6	**Support national standards**	Align with mandatory minimum water-use standards being developed by the Australian Government with states and territories, alongside applicable Victorian requirements.	Consistency with the national approach agreed by National Cabinet.

Existing protections

- Statutory Safeguards: Under the *Water Act 1989*, publicly owned water corporations hold the explicit authority to refuse a connection or apply strict conditions to protect the water supply of existing users.
- Infrastructure Cost Recovery: The New Customer Contributions Framework mandates that proponents fully fund any dedicated infrastructure upgrades required for large-scale water use, ensuring the existing customer base is entirely insulated from the financial impacts of data centre growth.
- Sustainable Cooling Alternatives: Where data centres rely on water for primary cooling, Victoria is exceptionally well positioned to mandate non-potable alternatives, with Melbourne Water currently producing the largest volume of Class A recycled water in Australia for complex industrial cooling.
- Proven Commercial Viability: This sustainable approach is actively demonstrated in Melbourne's west, where the Melton Recycled Water Plant supplies the Amazon Web Services data centre – marking the state's first direct recycled water connection of its kind.

Implementation actions

Action	Detail
Clearer guidance for industry	Published the Industry Water Connection Guide for large non-residential water users.
Clearer guidance for water corporations	Updated Urban Water Strategy Guidance directing water corporations to supply recycled water to new large industrial customers wherever feasible.
Standardised engagement tools	A data centre-specific template for water corporations to inform approval decisions, plan for growth and avoid delays.
Early facilitation and advice	Engage with major data centre investors early to identify optimal water-efficient design, including recycled water options.
Better leverage recycled water infrastructure	Identify areas of water and wastewater infrastructure constraint and opportunities to better use existing networks.
Collaborative water preservation	Work with water corporations and the sector to reduce drinking water consumption for new investment.
Transparent cost recovery	Clarify the user-pays principle for new water infrastructure, providing certainty for investors and protecting existing customers from cross-subsidisation.
Facility-level water reporting	Align Victoria's reporting with the national principle that operators meet efficiency standards and transparently report water use by location above a threshold.

4.4.Victorian Jobs, Skills and Local Benefit

Data centre investment creates significant opportunities across construction, highly skilled operational fields, and the industries that rely on digital infrastructure. Industry is already partnering with training providers to give workers the skills needed to benefit from this investment. Given the scale of investment, the sector should maximise opportunities to support Victorian jobs, skills and training.

Where the jobs are

- Construction Workforce: Construction represents the largest direct workforce, supporting hundreds of workers per facility across multi-year programs in electrical, plumbing, engineering, rigging, and concreting trades.
- Specialised Operational Roles: Ongoing facility operations require highly skilled technical teams – including facility engineers, critical environment technicians, network systems specialists, and security personnel – providing stable, long-term employment.
- Supply Chain and Service Procurement: Economic activity extends throughout Victorian supply chains, generating ongoing commercial opportunities in cabling, switchboards, construction materials, mechanical and electrical engineering, and long-term maintenance contracts.
- Broader Economic Enablement: Beyond direct site operations, high-capacity digital infrastructure underpins the wider Victorian economy, delivering the critical compute foundation needed to scale advanced manufacturing, health, financial services, and scientific research.

Requirements

#	Requirements	Detail	Purpose
J1	**Train Victorians**	Support training of construction and operational workers through apprenticeships and traineeships, TAFE and tertiary partnerships, or bursaries and scholarships connected to real employment.	Builds a skilled workforce pipeline tied to actual jobs.
J2	**Buy Victorian**	Prioritise Victorian content and local suppliers; engage with government on opportunities to support local supply chains.	Extends economic benefit beyond direct employment.
J3	**Work with the workforce**	Coordinate with industry, government and unions so skills development keeps pace with demand and benefits are shared across the economy.	Aligns training supply with sector demand.
J4	**Hire where you build**	Where a facility is in regional Victoria or a community with high unemployment, work with local training providers and employment services.	Directs employment benefit to the communities hosting facilities.

Skills base and existing programs

- Victoria produces more IT, engineering and technology graduates than any other Australian state.
- The Victorian Government's $8.1 million Digital Jobs AI Career Conversion program supports workers moving into AI and digital technology roles, delivered through government-industry training partnerships.

Implementation actions

Action	Detail
Targeted workforce strategy	Identify current and future skill demands and develop associated training pathways.
Industry-specific courses	Design and tailor pilot coursework with industry through the Skills Solutions Partnership.
Qualified workforce pipeline	Co-design and deliver programs with TAFE and Apprenticeships Victoria to firm up future supply of skilled workers.
Open the door to the next generation	Promote data centre careers, including trades and technician pathways, to young people and career changers.
Connect workers to employers	Facilitate connections between developers/operators, universities, vocational training centres, TAFE and Apprenticeships Victoria.
Prepare for national training conditions	Engage with the Commonwealth as it develops AI training conditions ahead of legislation in 2027.

5. Future Actions and Next Steps

- Detailed location, siting, design and built-form guidance to be developed with stakeholder input in 2027.
- Commonwealth legislation on data centre energy, water and land-use standards intended for early 2027, developed with states and territories following the August 2026 National Cabinet agreement.
- Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council to consider National Electricity Market rule changes recognising data centres as market participants able to demonstrate offsetting demand.
- Commonwealth to legislate AI training conditions in early 2027; Victoria's workforce approach anticipates those conditions.
- Local Investment Guarantee to be developed with local government sector and industry ahead of implementation.
- Water efficiency standards (dWUE) to be reviewed and updated annually.
- Government to publish sector-wide construction and ongoing employment figures.
- Planning scheme amendment to extend mandatory referral to Environment Protection Authority Victoria, WorkSafe Victoria, VicGrid, Fire Rescue Victoria and urban water corporations).

Appendix A – Glossary

Term	Definition
DFP	Development Facilitation Program – a state planning assessment pathway for which the Minister for Planning is the responsible authority.
PUE	Power Usage Effectiveness – ratio of total site energy use to the energy used by IT/data-processing hardware. Lower indicates better energy efficiency.
dPUE / dWUE	Design Power/Water Usage Effectiveness – target efficiency values used at the design stage, based on climate data for average annualised conditions and full IT load.
WUE	Water Usage Effectiveness – ratio of total water consumed to the energy consumed by IT equipment. Lower indicates better water efficiency.
General Environmental Duty	The overarching duty under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* requiring operators to minimise risks of harm to human health and the environment, applying without threshold.
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan – required for high-impact activity in an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, approved by the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) before work begins.
Investment Front Door	The single Victorian Government entry point for major data centre investment proposals.
Investment Coordinator-General	The escalation point for resolving cross-agency delays on projects of state significance.
VicGrid	Victorian body to become a statutory referral authority in the planning process for data centre applications, providing input on grid impact.
National Cabinet	Forum of the Prime Minister and state/territory leaders; agreed in August 2026 to develop consistent mandatory national standards for data centre energy, water and land use.
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement – long-term contract for renewable energy supply, used to support financing of new generation and storage.



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