HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
08 SEP 2026
TASMANIA

Response to Notice of Motion No. 146

Government entities including ReCFIT and OCG are available to provide an in-camera briefing to Members on matters pertaining to the response of this motion including the provision of additional confidential information and viewing of confidential documents.

1. Public Update on Firmus Energy Negotiations

The Tasmanian Government is aware that energy supply arrangements are being considered between Firmus, Hydro Tasmania, and other renewable energy proponents for the Bell Bay (Long Reach) and Wesley Vale sites, along with long-term arrangements for Firmus' St Leonards site. In total, this equates to an electricity demand of around 444 MW.

No subsidy or concession has been requested or offered from the State and the Tasmanian Government is not directly involved in these negotiations. An outcome from negotiations is expected by the end of 2026.

Firmus' energy requirements over the long term will be required to be met from new renewable generation projects, with firming from Hydro Tasmania. Supply to Firmus will not reduce availability of electricity supply to existing businesses, homes, and major industrials in Tasmania.

Firmus is engaging with TasNetworks on connection requirements. Firmus, as well as other data centre proponents, will pay for network connection costs and contribute its share to broader network charges. Additional load in the system has the potential to place downward pressure on network costs for existing customers, as system costs are spread over a broader base.

Building Tasmania works with the State's electricity businesses, renewables developers and industry to ensure matters influencing the broader energy supply and grid security arrangements are fully understood and suitable for the State.

The information above constitutes the Tasmanian Government's current public update on energy negotiations concerning Firmus. A substantial body of Firmus related correspondence, briefings and records has also previously been tabled in response to earlier orders of the House. Re-tabling those records would duplicate material already available to Members rather than provide a current public update.

2. Draft Statement of Expectations for Data Centres and AI Infrastructure

The Tasmanian Government released its draft *Statement of Expectations for Data Centres and AI Infrastructure* for public consultation on 7 September 2026. The substantive issues raised by Labor's amendment are already addressed in the draft.

It establishes that significant new loads are to be supported by new and additional renewable generation; proponents are expected to meet the costs associated with the load they create, including their share of transmission and distribution infrastructure; projects should not place upward pressure on standard consumer prices; and proponents are expected to work with energy suppliers and regulators on energy efficiency, demand flexibility, and contribution to grid security.

Several matters listed in the amendment, including the precise sequencing and mix of new generation, the quantity of new generation required, and the pricing and terms of any power purchase agreement, concern project specific technical and commercial arrangements.

The Government would be pleased to provide Members with a briefing on the draft Statement of Expectations. All Members are also encouraged to make a submission through the public consultation process so feedback can be considered alongside submissions from the community, industry and other stakeholders.

The draft has been released for consultation so it can be tested and refined before being finalised. The Government looks forward to considering submissions from the community, industry, local government, utilities and other stakeholders, and will use that feedback to settle a final Statement that is clear, practical and reflects Tasmania's circumstances.

3. Office of the Coordinator-General Engagement with Proponents

The Office of the Coordinator-General engagement with proponents often occurs at a very preliminary stage and may involve commercially sensitive information provided in confidence or subject to non-disclosure obligations. In some cases, enquiries are at such an early stage that details such as project location, estimated energy demand, water requirements, or project scope have not yet been settled or are not capable of reliable estimation. Furthermore, many of these proponents have not had any engagement with energy generators or TasNetworks to understand what is possible from an energy supply perspective.

Accordingly, the information provided below identifies the current status of enquiries and includes proponent names, locations and estimated energy and water requirements where that information is publicly available, has been confirmed, or can be disclosed without prejudicing commercial discussions or breaching confidentiality obligations.

Where information has not been included, this reflects that it is either not yet available, not sufficiently settled, not capable of reliable estimation, or has been provided to OCG in confidence. This is not intended to limit the Parliament's access to information, but to ensure the information provided is accurate, appropriately qualified and does not compromise current or prospective commercial processes.

OCG would be available to support a more detailed confidential briefing to an appropriate parliamentary committee on the types and status of enquiries being managed by the Office, noting that most enquires remain at a very early stage.

Publicly announced projects						
Project Name	**Proponent**	**Location**	**Stage**	**Energy requirements (MW)**	**Water requirements (annual)**	**Key OCG Activities**
Project Southgate - Stage 1	Firmus Technologies	Launceston	Construction	104	3389kL	• supported site identification activities and stakeholder engagement • facilitated introductions to energy retailers, wholesalers, existing generators and proponents of new generation projects
Project Southgate - Stage 2	Firmus Technologies	George Town	Pre-construction	288	8700kL	• supported site identification activities and stakeholder engagement • facilitated introductions to energy retailers, wholesalers, existing generators and proponents of new generation projects
Project Southgate - Stage 3	Firmus Technologies	Wesley Vale	Approvals	52	448kL	• supported site identification activities and stakeholder engagement • facilitated introductions to energy retailers, wholesalers, existing generators and proponents of new generation projects
Viridis Green Data Centre	VIRIDIS	Burnie	Pre-construction	<1	Not defined	• limited engagement with initial briefings • proponents undertaking stakeholder engagement

Confidential projects						
Project Name	**Proponent**	**Location**	**Stage**	**Energy requirements (MW)**	**Water requirements (annual)**	**Key OCG Activities**
Project A	Proponent 3	Not defined	Feasibility (on hold)	<1	Not defined	• supported site identification activities
Project B	Proponent 4	North West	Feasibility	200-300	Not defined	• Limited engagement • Provided information around planning pathways and facilitated introductions to planning authority. • Facilitated introductions to potential energy suppliers including proponents of new generation projects, and utility providers.
Project C	Proponent 5	Not defined	Concept	200-300	Not defined	• Supported with general information • Supporting site identification activities
Project D	Proponent 6	Not defined	Concept	50	Not defined	• Predominant OCG engagement relates to non-data center activities. • Supported with general information including potential site identification information.
Project E	Proponent 7	Not defined	Concept	5	Not defined	• Supported with general information including potential site identification information. • Identification of potential Tasmanian partners and facilitated introductions to utility providers.
Project F	Proponent 8	Not defined	Concept	50	Not defined	• Limited OCG Engagement • Expressed interest in Liberty Bell Bay

Project Stage	Description
Concept	The project is in its early stages of definition, with key elements—such as site selection, scope, and delivery requirements—still requiring extensive further development
Feasibility	The project has a preferred site selected, and is undergoing detailed technical, planning, environmental, regulatory, and financial assessments to determine its overall feasibility.
Approvals	The project has commenced the required planning, environmental and regulatory approvals processes.
Pre-Construction	The project has completed planning, environmental and regulatory approvals but has not yet commenced construction or physical development.
Construction	The project has secured all required approvals, reached Final Investment Decision (FID), and has commenced construction or associated development activities