

6 October 2026

Mr Brian Mitchell
Chair
Government Administration Committee A
Parliament House
Hobart Tasmania 7000

Dear Mr Mitchell and committee members,

ATSE submission to the Inquiry into AI Data Centres in Tasmania

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) is a Learned Academy of independent, non-political experts helping Australians understand and use technology to solve complex problems. ATSE brings together over 950 of Australia's leading thinkers in applied science, technology and engineering – including approximately 20 Fellows in Tasmania. Through these Fellows, ATSE provides impartial, practical and evidence-based advice on how to achieve sustainable solutions and advance prosperity.

ATSE thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry. Tasmania's cool climate and abundant renewable energy make the state an attractive choice for certain AI and data centre projects. However, these benefits will only be realised if the sector maintains community support. This means the sector must be a net positive to the communities in which it is based, and the state as a whole. Utility use standards and safety regulations will be essential to ensuring the required positive community sentiment.

ATSE recently [responded to](#) the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications' inquiry into artificial intelligence and data centres supporting a responsible AI and data centre sector. Many recommendations in the federal submission align strongly with the Terms of Reference for this inquiry, particularly protecting public resources and the environment, ensuring transparent public disclosure of resource consumption, and ensuring the community receives tangible benefits from all AI and data facilities constructed in the state. Recommendations relevant to the inquiry into AI Data Centres in Tasmania include:

- Require new data centres to underwrite additional renewable electricity generation and storage capacity, to support increased electricity demand and accelerate the deployment of renewable energy.
- Extend energy performance reporting requirements beyond government data centres by mandating the public disclosure of key metrics, including Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE), for large data centres across Australia.
- Develop a national water reporting framework for data centres that requires consistent disclosure of both direct water consumption and indirect water use associated with electricity generation.
- Incorporate data centre workforce needs into national skills and infrastructure workforce planning.
- Incorporate new low-energy digital technologies where possible.

We note that many of these recommendations are reflected in the draft Expectations for Data Centres and AI Infrastructure, recently released by the Australian Government.

A copy of the full submission and recommendations is attached.

Additionally, ATSE recently released our *[Made in Australia: Our AI opportunity](#)* report, which demonstrates that without investment in sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI) capability, Australia runs the risk of becoming dependent of foreign AI providers. At the same time, Australia has the ingredients to become an AI powerhouse, a stable regulatory environment, access to growing renewable energy resources, and an enviable location at the gateway to the Asia Pacific. Seizing this opportunity will strengthen the Australian economy and our nation's sovereign capability. Building local capacity will enable Tasmanians to benefit from AI and data centres in the state.

To support efforts to seize this opportunity, ATSE's *[Unleashing growth: Australia's AI investment blueprint](#)* outlines six priority enablers for an Australian AI industry that will produce the greatest economic impact:

- AI standards and regulations
- National AI talent pipeline
- Population-scale AI training
- Purpose-built AI compute facilities
- Specialised AI models and national datasets
- Regional AI factories

These initiatives could help AI boost the economy by 6% to 8% over the next decade, adding between AU\$160 billion to AU\$235 billion to national GDP in 2034, with potential innovations in areas such as healthcare, biotechnology, or robotics. A copy of ATSE's AI investment report is also attached for the committee's consideration.

ATSE would appreciate the opportunity to appear before the committee to discuss our recent AI reports or other work in the sector. Additionally, we would welcome the opportunity to connect you with our network of over 950 engineering, technology and applied science experts. If you would like further information or to be connected to our experts, please do not hesitate to contact academypolicyteam@atse.org.au.

Yours sincerely

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