

14 September 2026

Ms Jo Briskey MP
Chair
Joint Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Briskey, Members and Senators,

ATSE submission to the Joint Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence

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. Bringing together over 950 of Australia's leading thinkers in applied science, technology and engineering, 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. ATSE recently put in a [submission](#) to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications' inquiry into artificial intelligence and data centres. Given the significant overlap between the Senate inquiry and the present inquiry, a copy of this submission is attached to this letter for your consideration. In this submission ATSE made six recommendations:

1. Invest in sovereign AI capability, including Australian-owned and managed AI infrastructure, models and datasets.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Support industry-research partnerships to accelerate the development and deployment of next-generation energy-efficient computing technologies such as quantum computing.
6. Incorporate data centre workforce needs into national skills and infrastructure workforce planning.

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 we need 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.

To support Australia's 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:

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

These initiatives could help AI lift Australia's GDP by 6% to 8% over the next decade, adding up to AU\$160 billion to AU\$235 billion to the economy in 2034, with potential of additional benefits if AI unlocks breakthrough innovations in areas such as healthcare, biotechnology, or robotics. A copy of ATSE's AI investment report is attached to this letter 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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