Tasmania should not rush to establish large-scale AI data centres without first providing the Tasmanian public with clear, independent and comprehensive information about their environmental consequences.

The problem is not simply that data centres use electricity. AI infrastructure operates at an enormous scale and requires substantial electricity, water, land and supporting infrastructure. Before Tasmania commits to this industry, the public deserves to know exactly what these developments will consume, where those resources will come from, what environmental damage may occur and who will ultimately bear the cost. At present, these impacts have not been made sufficiently clear to Tasmanians.

Electricity is particularly important. Tasmania has built much of its identity around renewable energy, but renewable does not mean unlimited. If large technology corporations are given access to enormous quantities of electricity, Tasmania must ask whether that electricity could instead support Tasmanian households, existing industries and genuinely local economic development. Any company operating here should be required to demonstrate that it is bringing additional capacity rather than placing greater pressure on an existing system.

Water presents another serious concern. Tasmania's water is a public resource, not an unlimited industrial commodity. If these facilities require significant quantities of water for cooling, Tasmanians need transparent information about exactly how much they will consume and what impact that consumption could have on communities, agriculture, rivers and ecosystems.

There is also a fundamental contradiction in Tasmania's economic identity.

Tasmania is promoted internationally as a destination for nature, wilderness and clean environments. Tourism campaigns have used the phrase "Come down for air", deliberately selling Tasmania as a place where people can escape pollution and experience some of the cleanest air in the world. Our natural environment is not merely scenery. It is one of Tasmania's greatest economic and cultural assets.

Large-scale AI infrastructure represents almost the opposite image. Massive industrial facilities operated for multinational technology companies do not naturally align with the clean, quiet and environmentally distinctive Tasmania that the state promotes to visitors.

This risks creating a divide in Tasmania's identity. On one hand, we are telling the world to come here for nature, clean air and wilderness. On the other, we are encouraging an energy-intensive technology industry whose environmental footprint has not been adequately explained to the people who actually live here.

Tasmania therefore needs to ask a simple question: what are we sacrificing, and is the return worth it?

Investment and employment are not automatically sufficient answers. The Government should be able to demonstrate clear, long-term benefits to Tasmanians, while also

demonstrating that electricity, water, land, infrastructure and environmental impacts will not be unfairly imposed upon the public.

Tasmania should not allow its greatest strengths to become the very resources that attract corporations seeking somewhere to operate cheaply and sustainably.

If these developments are genuinely in Tasmania's interest, the evidence should be clear. Until Tasmanians have been given transparent information about their full ecological, economic and infrastructure impacts, approving large-scale AI data centres would be premature.

Tasmania should not have to choose between technological investment and the environmental identity that makes this state valuable in the first place. We should demand development that strengthens Tasmania, not development that fundamentally changes what Tasmania is being sold to the world as.

I am writing to you as a born and bred Tasmanian. For 19 years I have called Tasmania my home, and as a part of one of the youngest generations in Tasmania I plead that you listen to our concerns. Young people are the ones who will be contributing to the future of Tasmania. We have grown up amongst the rise of technology and Artificial Intelligence and in an ever evolving social landscape, environmental consciousness is as important as it has ever been. Tasmania has thrived for hundreds of years with no need for AI data centres and we have no need for them now, or ever.