

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET · SOVEREIGN AI

Sovereign AI, explained

Why we wrote this series and how to use it

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"Sovereign AI" has moved from conference stages into planning documents, procurement and political speech, usually without definition. Communities are being asked to host facilities justified in its name and citizens are being asked to trust services described by it. This series unbundles the term so sovereignty claims can be tested rather than taken on faith.

What these sheets are and aren't

Seven pages: the four layers a sovereignty claim can mean (data, compute, model, operational control); where data actually lives and whose laws reach it; why nations want their own AI compute; who regulates AI in Australia; the critical-infrastructure security regime; the open-versus-closed model debate; and the compiled questions. AI policy moves quickly, so time-sensitive sheets carry a "last checked" date.

How to use them

- Heard a facility justified as "sovereign"? Sheet 01 gives the test: which layer, for whose benefit, guaranteed how?
- Worried about your data in the cloud? Sheet 02 corrects both complacency and panic.
- On a council or panel? Sheets 03 and 05 cover what national significance does and doesn't change locally.
- Sheet 07 compiles every question in one page.

The series at a glance

01 What sovereign AI means · 02 Where your data lives · 03 AI compute · 04 Who regulates AI in Australia · 05 Critical infrastructure and security · 06 Open and closed models · 07 Questions to ask

**Where data lives**

jurisdiction and the cloud

**Compute capability**

the machines that make AI

**Rules and regulators**

the laws that already apply

**Control and security**

who can reach what

Want to know more? Every sheet ends with the authorities who own the answers and the questions worth asking. DII takes no position on individual projects; our job is helping you ask the right questions of them. These sheets are general information, not legal or planning advice; a specific proposal is confirmed by qualified assessment.