



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET

## Energy & your power bill

*Will a data centre raise prices or strain the grid? — a plain-English guide*

### What's the concern?

Data centres use a lot of electricity — a large facility can draw as much power as a small town, around the clock. People reasonably ask whether that will push up their power bills or strain the grid.

### The facts

The key protection is that new demand should be matched by new, additional clean generation, and that the facility should pay its fair share of network costs rather than passing them to households. Efficiency is measured by PUE (lower is better) and rated by NABERS stars; Tasmania's cool climate keeps efficiency high. Facilities can also help the grid by being flexible — easing demand at peak times.

### What good practice looks like

- New, additional renewable energy secured (e.g. a genuine power purchase agreement) to cover demand.
- The facility covering its fair share of transmission and connection costs.
- High efficiency — a low PUE and a strong NABERS rating.
- Demand flexibility and peak-load management to support the grid.
- Transparent reporting of energy use and efficiency.

### Questions you can ask

- Where will the power come from — new renewables or the existing grid?
- Who pays for the network upgrades?
- What is the target PUE and NABERS rating?

**Want to know more?** AEMO, the EPA Tasmania and your local council publish further information on energy and the grid. This sheet is general information, not medical, legal or planning advice; figures are indicative and a specific proposal is confirmed by qualified assessment.