



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET

Questions to ask about a data centre

A checklist to help you engage with a proponent or council

If a data centre is proposed near you, these questions can help you understand the proposal and hold it to good practice. You can put them to the proponent at information sessions, or to your council during a public notification period. They are grouped by topic; the detailed sheets explain the background to each.

Process & your say

- What approvals does the proposal need, and is it open to public comment?
- What is the size of the facility (in megawatts), now and at full build-out?
- What conditions is the council proposing, and how will they be enforced?
- How is the community being engaged — and how will concerns be addressed?

Energy & your power bill

- Where will the power come from — new renewable generation, or the existing grid?
- Who pays for the network upgrades the facility needs?
- What are the efficiency targets (PUE and NABERS)?

Water

- How much water will it use each year, and is it drinking water or recycled?
- Where does the cooling waste water go, and what controls apply?
- How will it cope in a drought?

Noise, heat & EMF

- What are the predicted night-time noise levels, including low-frequency noise?
- How much heat is rejected, and is any reused?
- Will EMF at the nearest homes be kept to background, with before-and-after measurement?

Traffic, hazards & amenity

- How long is construction, and what are the hours and truck routes?
- What natural hazards affect the site, and how does the design respond?
- How will the building be screened, landscaped and lit?

Jobs, benefit & end of life

- How many ongoing local jobs, and what local-hire and apprenticeship commitments?
- What lasting community benefit is secured — and is it binding and independently governed?
- Is there a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan for end of life?

Transparency & enforcement

- What will be monitored and reported publicly, and how often?
- What are the consequences if commitments or limits are not met?
- Who is accountable for ongoing compliance?

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