RTI 25-26-98 - the following has been released in relation to a request for information relating to Firmus

Tasmanian Government

DEPARTMENT OF STATE GROWTH

Dept. Ref MR26/1300
Critical Date 8 May 2026

MEETING BRIEF NOTE FOR MINISTER ENERGY AND RENEWABLES

SUBJECT: FIRMUS TECHNOLOGIES SITE VISIT – MAY 2026

Minister's notation:

Meeting Date: **2.00pm, Monday 11 May 2026**

Attendees: **Hon Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables**
Andrew Wallace, Senior Energy Advisor
Cameron Hanson, CEO, Firmus Technologies

Venue: **Firmus Technologies Project Site**

Address: **23 Killfaddy Road, Launceston**

Key messages

- Firmus Technologies (Firmus) is developing Project Southgate – a multi-stage project to develop AI Facto y infrastructure across Australia.
- Firmus has commenced the construction of Stage 1 of Project Southgate at St Leonards. The AI fa tory is due to be completed in late 2026.
- s27 [redacted]
- Further sites for the expansion of Project Southgate in Tasmania are under feasibil ty with announcements around these expected in coming months.

Background

- Firmus first established operations in St Leonards in 2019. Its original site was developed as an up-to 20-megawatt data centre and cryptocurrency mining facility and was the first location where Firmus deployed its immersion cooling technology.
- The company is now advancing Project Southgate on an adjacent site. This is a multi-stage AI infrastructure program designed to develop purpose-built AI facilities across Australia.
- Stages 1A and 1B are planned for St Leonards. Stage 1A is intended to deliver approximately 44 megawatts (MW) of capacity. Stage 1B would expand this to around 104 megawatts.

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- A development application for Stage 1 was approved by Launceston City Council in September 2025, with construction commencing soon after.
- Firmus recently encountered a construction delay with the discovery of aboriginal relics on site. They sought approval to relocate these to an alternative location, via the Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT), and the Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG) understands this approval has recently been granted. This has resulted in some delays to the construction timeframe, and it is now expected Stage 1 will be operational in Q4 2026.

Capital Expenditures and Economic Benefits

- Project Southgate is purported to deliver multi-faceted economic benefits for the state. These include direct jobs from the AI factory, construction pha e benefi s, benefits for the supply chain and having suppliers establish or expand heir operations in the state, and the potential benefit of supporting renewable generation projects being brought on by the additional energy requirements.
- Upon completion, Stage 1 is expected to create approximate y 40-50 FTE direct ongoing jobs.
- s27 [redacted]

Power

- Firmus recently announced that it had entered into a new three-year Retail Service Agreement (RSA) with Aurora Energy. According to Aurora, under the agreement, Firmus will progressively ramp up its Tasmanian operations from August 2026, increasing to a maximum of 104MW from November 2026.
- It was reported in media on 02 April 2026 that Hydro Tasmania stated that the Tasmanian energy grid has scope to support multiple new AI factories and that Hydro Tasmania has provided Aurora with a load-following contract at market price to support its con ract with Firmus.

Further Stages of Project Southgate in Tasmania

- Firmus have been investigating options to develop further AI factories in the north of the state, and the OCG understand the company has secured a site at Bell Bay where it intends to develop two 144MW AI clusters, and a site at Wesley Vale where it will look to develop a further 144MW of AI infrastructure.
- Firmus has been engaging directly with TasNetworks and energy providers (including Hydro Tasmania) regarding grid capacity and connection.
- Announcements regarding these sites are expected to be made, whilst development applications are progressed in the next few months.
- Firmus is also expected to make announcements regarding customers for its Tasmanian sites over the coming months.

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