Open Letter: Impacted communities call for data centre moratorium

30 June 2026

We are calling for a moratorium on AI data centre construction in Australia until safeguards for people, communities, cultural heritage and the environment are legislated.

Big Tech corporations are forcing huge data centres onto local communities across Australia (and the rest of the world), with virtually no democratic engagement with local communities, especially First Nations communities.

Australia's largest proposed data centre in western Sydney will produce annual emissions the equivalent of 560,000 petrol cars. Without drastic intervention from state and federal governments, Australia's climate targets are at risk of being derailed by Big Tech and their data centres.

The impacts of data centres are so alarming that governments around the world are halting their construction, with 70 local or state governments in the US issuing moratoria* on data centre development.

Australia urgently needs a moratorium on new data centre construction until safeguards for people, communities, cultural heritage, and the environment are legislated.

We're calling for:

- All state and territory governments to urgently implement a moratorium on AI data centre construction until safeguards for people, communities, cultural heritage and the environment are legislated.
- Local communities, especially First Nations communities, to be given democratic input into the location and design of data centres in their neighbourhoods, including the right to say 'no'.

* A moratorium is a temporary, official pause or suspension. It provides a grace period to fully think through impacts, risks and opportunities and allow for meaningful consultation.

Signatories

	Organisation	Location	State
	Trillion Trees	Perth	WA
	Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association	Perth	WA
	Citizens of Tottenham/West Footscray	West Footscray and Tottenham, Melbourne	VIC
	Lane Cove Responsible Planning	Sydney	NSW
	Stop the Gas Plant	Southern Highlands	NSW
	350 Australia	National	National
	Parents for Climate	National	National