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AIIA calls for national coordination to support AI infrastructure growth

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) has called on the Federal Government to seize the economic opportunity presented by artificial intelligence infrastructure, warning that fragmented regulation, infrastructure bottlenecks and limited access to computing capacity risk leaving Australia behind.

In its submission to the Government's *Getting it right: Building AI infrastructure that works for Australia* consultation, the AIIA has outlined 11 recommendations aimed at attracting investment, protecting consumers and ensuring the benefits of Australia's growing AI infrastructure sector flow through to Australian businesses, researchers and communities.

AIIA CEO Elizabeth Whitelock said Australia faces a critical decision about its place in the global AI economy.

"Australia has an enormous opportunity to become a serious player in the global AI economy, but that opportunity will not wait for us to get our policy settings right.

"We need to move beyond simply attracting data centre investment. The real test is whether that investment translates into Australian innovation, stronger businesses, skilled jobs and long-term economic growth.

"Building the infrastructure is only half the equation. If Australian businesses and researchers cannot access the computing power being developed here, we risk hosting the AI revolution rather than participating in it."

A central recommendation is the establishment of a National Innovation Compute Reserve, which would secure access to AI computing capacity for Australian start-ups, SMEs, researchers and public agencies through competitive arrangements involving multiple providers.

The submission also calls for a nationally coordinated regulatory framework that replaces unnecessary duplication with clear, consistent and proportionate requirements across Commonwealth, state and territory jurisdictions.

"Investors need certainty, communities need confidence, and consumers need protection. None of those objectives is served by overlapping regulation or inconsistent requirements across jurisdictions," Ms Whitelock said.

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"Government must strike the right balance between encouraging investment and ensuring infrastructure development does not impose unreasonable costs on households, businesses or local communities."

The AIIA has also highlighted the growing pressure on Australia's electricity infrastructure, calling for coordinated energy and infrastructure planning, commercially workable renewable energy arrangements and transparent allocation of costs to ensure the expansion of AI infrastructure does not unfairly burden existing electricity and water users.

"Australia should be ambitious about attracting AI investment, but we must be equally ambitious about what we get in return," Ms Whitelock said.

"This is about more than data centres. It is about building the foundations of Australia's future economy and ensuring Australian businesses, workers and innovators are not left watching from the sidelines.

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About the AIIA

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is the nation's peak body for those in the digital ecosystem, leading strategic policy and advocacy to shape a thriving digital sector. Through strong engagement with government, industry, and the broader community, the AIIA ensures the voice of its members informs decision-making on technology, innovation, and digital capability.

Membership provides direct access to influential networks, premium events, and opportunities to collaborate on initiatives with the sector's best and brightest to drive industry growth, improve productivity, and secure Australia's place as a global technology leader. AIIA members access real collaboration, real connections, and real outcomes.