AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS VIC

21 November 2026

Mr. Max Dicks
Independent Candidate
Prahran - Victorian State Election

Dear Max,

Re: Australian Democrats Victorian Branch position

In response to your question: ***"Will you publicly commit to push for a parliamentary inquiry into the impact of AI on Victorian jobs and on the state's tax base, including payroll tax, within the first year of the new parliament?"***

The Australian Democrats Victoria will support a parliamentary inquiry in the first year of the new Parliament. This inquiry will look at how artificial intelligence and automation affect Victorian jobs, workforce changes, productivity, and the State's revenue, including payroll tax.

This commitment adds to our current **Data Centres – Building Victoria's Digital Future policy** and our *upcoming* **Artificial Intelligence policy**. Our data centres policy sees data centres as key infrastructure for AI and Victoria's digital economy. It aims to balance technology and economic growth with social responsibility, environmental care, skilled jobs, regional growth, and community benefit.

Our upcoming AI policy will look at the broader opportunities, risks, and responsibilities that come with using AI in Victoria and Australia. The planned parliamentary inquiry will provide important evidence to help shape public policy and help Victoria get ready for technological change.

As part of our commitment to evidence-based policy, the inquiry should look at both the opportunities and risks of AI, including:

- jobs created, displaced or transformed;
- industries, occupations and regions most likely to be affected;
- skills development, retraining and partnerships with TAFEs and universities;
- wages, workplace rights and economic participation;
- productivity gains and how their benefits are distributed;
- opportunities for innovation, regional development and skilled employment; and
- the sustainability of payroll tax and Victoria's broader revenue base.

The inquiry should be guided by evidence, not assumptions. Victoria should prepare early for technological change, support people during the transition, and ensure the benefits of AI are shared fairly.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Parris
Victorian State President

On behalf of the Victorian Branch Executive
Australian Democrats