



TASICT

# Federal Election Priorities 2025

EMPOWERING TASMANIA THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

---

**CONTACT:**

**RUSSELL KELLY | GENERAL MANAGER | TASICT**

[ceo@tasict.com.au](mailto:ceo@tasict.com.au) | 0437 100 276 | [tasict.com.au](http://tasict.com.au)

# Federal Election – Priorities 2025

## Industry Development

### Create

#### 1. Better Island Connectivity

Create a communications infrastructure funding program available only for smaller Australian states to enable a 'level playing field' for investment

### Fund

#### 2. Investment in sub-sea data cables

Fund a detailed study on the economic and social benefits of data connectivity investment with mainland Australia including plans for future development. Green light for a sustainable Marinus Link.

### Build

#### 3. Capacity and Capability in Defence

Build programs that supply tangible training, guidance and support for building capability and capacity in the Tasmanian technology industry to successfully pursue opportunities under AUKUS Pillar 2 and other Australian Government programs

## Workforce Development

### Provide

#### 4. Collaboration at UTAS STEM Campus

Provide industry funding to strengthen capacity and capability building in the technology sector in Tasmania to ensure industry can support the development of the STEM campus at the University of Tasmania in Southern Tasmania. Green light for STEM Campus.

### Encourage

#### 5. Employ ICT skilled migrants

Encourage greater regional migration of ICT professionals and ensure businesses are incentivised through support programs to offer paid placements for skilled migrants

TasICT is Tasmania's peak body for the ICT sector, representing over 12,000 tech workers across all sectors. Our membership includes businesses from various sectors using technology, providers, manufacturers, developers, vendors, suppliers, and individuals in tech roles. TasICT plays a key role in advocacy and policy development, helping governments understand tech issues. TasICT's priorities are to grow the tech sector's value in Tasmania and promote ICT careers.



## Better Island Connectivity

Communications infrastructure, including broadband fibre, mobile phone coverage, and other forms of connectivity, is crucial for Tasmania's prosperity. Reliable, high-speed internet access enables businesses to operate efficiently, supports remote work, and facilitates access to global markets. It also enhances the quality of life for residents by providing access to online education, healthcare, and other essential services. Federal Government programs such as the Mobile Blackspots Program, the Regional Connectivity Fund, and various disaster resilience funds are key sources of funding – however smaller states like Tasmania typically do not have the financial capacity to invest in communications infrastructure and often lose out to larger States. A fair percentage of Federal Infrastructure funding should be preserved for co-investment with smaller States like Tasmania.

## Investment in sub-sea cables

Tasmania is reliant on sub-sea data cables to connect with the mainland and the world. The National Broadband Network does not provide subsea cables connecting Tasmania to the mainland. TasICT suggests that provision should be made to contribute to the costs of a future fibre optic cable paths to protect Tasmanians from service outages and ensure data capacity to the island is planned and increased to match the island's future needs. If this is not done, Tasmania will increasingly miss out on investment opportunities as companies that require fast data connections and large capacity choose other geographical locations. TasICT supports the go-ahead for both cables of Marinus Link provided it is economically and environmentally sustainable.

## Build Capacity and Capability in Defence

The trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America (AUKUS) presents numerous opportunities for the Tasmanian technology sector. The Tasmanian ICT industry stands ready to contribute and requests the next Federal Government to create programs that supply tangible training, guidance and support for building capability and capacity in the Tasmanian industry. This involves creating grant programs to allow Tasmanian companies to increase knowledge and ability to deliver advanced hardware and software solutions, cyber security and agile development of componentry.

## Collaboration at UTAS STEM Campus

Tasmania needs STEM skills within the workforce and confidence with innovation to help tackle global and local problems. Yet the number of Tasmanians studying STEM is low and declining. The technology sector in Tasmania supports the development of the proposed STEM campus at the University of Tasmania at Sandy Bay and urges the Federal Government to create specific programs to encourage co-location and collaboration, with a focus on providing career pathways and hands-on experience for students and graduates. TasICT urges Federal Government funding support for the proposed STEM Campus.

## Employ ICT Skilled Migrants

Skilled ICT migrants are vital for Tasmania's technology ecosystem and it is of paramount importance that migrants find a streamlined path to working in Tasmania and are encouraged to stay. Migrants typically face complex migration processes, potential workplace discrimination, and a lack of support in regional areas. Assistance to bridge the gap in the crucial employment months would assist in increasing the employment of ICT migrants and in turn grow the ICT industry in Tasmania. Migrants who wish to re-train to ICT roles should be allowed to switch degrees with the new ICT degree counting towards applications for Permanent Residency. This will assist with filling the existing skills shortage in ICT.