

COUNTING ON DATA CENTRES: THE BIG BOOM BY NUMBERS

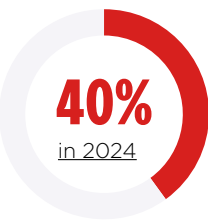
Demand for data centres as critical infrastructure will rise exponentially as uptake of AI continues – and Australia is in the global spotlight as a potential regional hub. How big will the market grow? And what will it take to sustainably meet the huge 24/7 power demands of the future industry?

This Westpac IQ infographic considers the big numbers as well as Australia’s advantages and challenges in the data centre boom.

AUSTRALIA’S POSITION IN THE GLOBAL MARKET



North America **leads** the way with a market share of close to:



Estimated growth of the **global data centre market size:**

USD 270 BILLION
in 2025 to
USD 585 BILLION
by 2032

Data centre deployable capacity in Australia is predicted to **more than double** from:

1,350 MW
in 2024 to
3,100 MW
by 2030



Additional investment is forecast to top AUD

26 BILLION
in this timeframe.



DRIVERS OF DEMAND

Widespread adoption of cloud computing and an upswing in AI are driving data centre growth.

Data consumption is also booming – in 2010–2020 the **average Australian had 2 devices connected** to the internet. Today, there’s an average of **4.5 connected devices per person**.



The global AI market is **projected to grow** from:

USD 214 BILLION
in 2024 to
USD 1,339 BILLION
by 2030

Co-location and hyperscale data centres have **significantly reduced power consumption** by centralising computing, storage and cooling systems, compared to dispersed, on-premise servers, **eliminating the need for duplicate systems** across multiple smaller facilities and resulting in **substantial power savings**. As server rooms are usually retrofitted to existing buildings, they are not built with the high specifications of a data centre hall optimised for energy efficiency.

LOCAL POTENTIAL

Australia is **second to the US** as a top data centre investment location. Among recent developments:

Blackstone’s

AUD 24 BILLION

acquisition of Sydney-based data centre provider AirTrunk in 2024.

Amazon plans to invest

AUD 20 BILLION

to expand its Australian data centre infrastructure by 2029.

Microsoft intends **to invest**

AUD 5 BILLION

to expand its data centre portfolio in the country.

Australia’s potential as a regional data centre hub is underpinned by:



Proximity to Asia-Pacific markets



Transparent regulatory environment and geopolitical stability



Alignment with global governance standards



Abundance of land for renewables development



Some of the best renewable energy resources in the world



80%

OF AUSTRALIA’S DATA CENTRES ARE LOCATED IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE CBDS AND METROPOLITAN AREAS.

Local players include:

AirTrunk secured a AUD 16 billion debt deal in August 2025, tied to its water and energy usage. Westpac was among **60 global banks** to participate in the transaction, which involved a mix of sustainability-linked loans and green loans.

Macquarie Data Centres recently began construction on its **AUD 350 million** IC3 Super West data centre in Sydney’s Macquarie Park.

NEXTDC operates 17 data centres in Australia, New Zealand and Asia, and recently announced a **AUD 2 billion commitment** to develop its M4 data centre in Melbourne.

CDC Data Centres **sold a minority stake** to Australia’s sovereign wealth fund and New Zealand investment firm Infratil in February this year, in a transaction that values the data centres group at **USD 17 billion**.

APPETITE FOR ENERGY

For hyperscalers, data centres are sprawling facilities. Amazon’s latest data centre mega campus will span **1,200 acres** (4,856,227sqm) in Indiana, while Equinix’s largest Australian facility, SY1 in Sydney’s Mascot, **covers 3,088sqm**.

The 24/7 power demands are massive. Training large AI models like GPT-4 can **consume over 1.7 million kilowatt-hours of electricity**.

Huge volumes of water for cooling are also needed. Currently, **~ 3.5 billion litres** of Sydney’s drinking water supply annually is keeping centres cool.



NEED FOR RENEWABLES



8%

of electricity on the grid will be used by data centres by 2030.



Data centres are also expected to place significant **demands on metals supply chains**. For example, the **International Copper Association** predicts large and hyperscale data centres are projected to account for 67% of copper demand in the building contained sector by 2030, up from 37% in 2018.



Modernisation of transmission and distribution networks is vital to future growth. Australia needs an **estimated 10,000km** of new transmission lines by 2050 to achieve its renewable energy ambitions.



Major data centre operators **have committed** to powering their facilities with 100% renewable energy by 2030, largely through power purchase agreements. Almost half of global PPAs in 2022 were signed by data centre operators.



Further government and industry **investment is required** to accelerate the construction of renewable energy projects, energy storage projects and transmission infrastructure to support digital infrastructure demand and transition to net zero.

STRATEGIC LOCATIONS



Co-location of data centres and renewable energy facilities is taking pressure off the grid and boosting access to

CHEAPER, CLEANER ENERGY.



Data centre growth in Australia could be constrained without more renewables to power them. Westpac is the largest lender to renewables in Australia for the 12-months to September 2025*, and a large lender to data centres, and we’re keen to continue this support.



DAVID SCRIVENER
Managing Director, Head of Energy,
Infrastructure and Resources
Westpac Institutional Bank

©Westpac Institutional Bank – A division of Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 AFSL and Australian credit licence 233714 (“Westpac”). The information provided is factual only and does not constitute financial product advice. Before acting on it, you should seek independent financial and tax advice about its appropriateness to your objectives, financial situation and needs. Information is current as at November 2025*.

These products and services are available only to wholesale clients within the meaning of s761G of the Corporations Act 2001. You should consider whether or not these products are appropriate for you. Terms and conditions apply.

Westpac Institutional Bank’s financing exposures are not limited to green, social or sustainable financing. For more details of Westpac Institutional Bank’s financing exposures please see [latest presentation and results \(PDF 2MB\)](#).

*For the 12-month period to 30 September 2025, Westpac was the number one financier to the Australian renewable sector completing 22 transactions, which represents a market share of 14.8%, see www.ijglobal.com/league-tables.

IT TAKES A LITTLE

