



# Mines, AI and data centres: Premier spruiks three new economic policies

By Kieran Rooney, 27 November 2025

Critical minerals will be unlocked, data centres encouraged and workers trained to handle the transition to artificial intelligence under a range of new economic policies unveiled by Premier Jacinta Allan.

During her State of the State address at the Committee for Economic Development of Australia on Thursday, Allan spruiked three new policy commitments she said would build on Victoria's economic strengths and capitalise on emerging trends.

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Jacinta Allan says her government will encourage data centres while protecting workers affected by artificial intelligence. *Credit: Louis Trerise*



Allan said the state government had just formally approved a new antimony exploration tunnel at Sunday Creek, 24 kilometres north of Wallan in central Victoria.

She said the approval would allow Southern Cross Gold to drill underground and test the feasibility of mining gold and antimony.

Antimony is used to harden lead in storage batteries and in the semiconductor industry – key technologies for the renewable energy transition and AI.

It is one of the critical minerals that could be mined and exported more frequently under a new deal [between Australia and the United States](#). Victoria is home to reserves of materials such as titanium, zirconium and rare-earth elements.

The premier said the local critical minerals industry could support more than 7000 jobs and deliver \$1 billion in royalties.

“We have Australia’s largest antimony deposits and its only operating antimony mine. And we know what to do with them,” she said.

Allan also said Victoria could lead the way on AI development. She said advancements in the field was estimated to add \$30 billion to state product over the next decade.

But she acknowledged a delicate balancing act to protect the people whose jobs were affected or even replaced by the emerging technology, arguing AI could create more jobs than it took away if handled correctly.

“I’m the daughter of a man who worked with his hands. I watched him made redundant with the stroke of a pen,” Allan said.

“I don’t want a future where a politician – 40 years from now – has to say, ‘I’m the daughter of a man who used to work with a screen’.

“We can maximise the benefits – while protecting our people – so workers are better off from the change, not left behind in its wake.”

To achieve this, Allan said the government would introduce two new AI-focused policies.

She pledged to make Victoria the country’s hub for data centres – large facilities that house the servers and storage needed to enable AI – but raised concerns about the energy and water they would require.



The Stargate AI data centre in Texas is one of several projects being built in the United States. *Credit: Bloomberg*

The state government will spend \$5.5 million on a sustainable data centre action plan to help determine where the centres should be located so they are close to power, water and transport without straining Victoria's existing resources.

This plan will also work with the TAFE sector to develop workers who can help deliver this pipeline of centres, which the state estimates could be worth up to \$25 billion in capital expenditure.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data released on Thursday showed a massive rise in spending on media and telecommunications buildings and equipment in 2025, partly driven by the rush across the world to build more data centres.

Allan also pledged \$8.1 million for "AI career conversion" to help workers, whose jobs are affected by the technology, to become AI specialists.

"We'll target the sectors where we can make the biggest difference, fast," she said. "And we'll offer it to



more than 1300 workers who are most at risk.”

Allan’s comments come almost a year after she unveiled her Economic Growth Statement, a range of policies aimed at encouraging private sector investment and reassuring business on Labor’s economic credentials.

State Opposition Leader Jess Wilson has sought to make the economy front and centre of her pitch to voters, setting the stage for a 2026 election campaign that will focus more heavily on jobs after a year in which crime has dominated both sides of politics.

Allan told the Committee for Economic Development of Australia lunch that some businesses disagreed with her commitment to legislate the right to work from home, but she would push on with the policy anyway.

“I’ve listened to their views. I respect them. I haven’t changed my mind,” she said. “And in the years to come, I think those businesses will change theirs.”

Opposition resources spokesman David Davis said the opposition supported the development of Sunday Creek.

“The state’s dire financial position means that sensible projects that stack up environmentally must be supported,” he said.

This article first appeared at <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/victoria/mines-ai-and-data-centres-premier-spruiks-three-new-economic-policies-20251127-p5nixa.html> and was published on 27 November 2005.

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We explore for gold and antimony in the Victorian Goldfields. Our 100% owned flagship project at Sunday Creek is the best new grassroots discovery in Australia with a globally leading high-grade hit rate for this stage of the project’s development.

Our results demonstrate high-grades and wide zones of gold and antimony over an 11km mineralised trend. As at February 28, 2025, we have delivered 60 individual intersections exceeding 50 AuEq g/t x m (“AuEq g/t x width in m”) and 56 individual intersections exceeding



100 AuEq g/t x m from 75,013 m at Sunday Creek including results such as 1.0 m @ 2,318 g/t Au drilled within 455.3 m @ 7.2 g/t Au and 13.1 m @ 91.7 g/t Au within 331.5 m @ 6.8 g/t Au.

Our corporate objectives are to discover and develop large, long-life, sustainable assets which create value for shareholders and all stakeholders in the community.

The team has made numerous discoveries and has demonstrated success in advancing these towards mining.

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