**DE ANGELIS //**

MEDIA RELEASE | 10 NOVEMBER 2026

# DE ANGELIS LODGES IBAC REQUEST OVER PLUMPTON PROJECTS

**"It's their money and their backyard. Residents shouldn't have to conduct their own investigation to get the facts or fight to be included in decisions that affect their lives."**

Matthew Luke De Angelis has lodged a request with Victoria's Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission to assess public investment decisions concerning the Melbourne Renewable Energy Hub and any material connection with Syncline Energy's proposed Victorian AI Hub at Plumpton.

The submission examines the chronology surrounding the SEC's $245 million battery investment, announced in November 2023, and the subsequent public emergence of the data centre proposal.

It asks whether records establish when the data centre concept first arose, what public decision-makers knew, and whether any connection affected investment selection, valuation, contractual terms or later planning decisions.

"The public record establishes the investment. It does not answer every question about the decisions behind it," De Angelis said.

"I have asked IBAC to assess whether further inquiries are warranted. I have not presented unanswered questions as proof of corruption."

The submission identifies records that could establish:

- Who first approached whom about SEC participation in the battery.
- Whether a data centre was contemplated before the investment, and whether any relevant information was disclosed.
- Who controls the land, connection infrastructure and any continuing commercial rights.
- How conflicts were managed across the state's investment, planning and industry-promotion roles.

It acknowledges the battery's independent role in the electricity grid and the SEC's public investment selection process.

De Angelis said the broader issue was the imbalance between information available to government and developers and what residents can reasonably establish.

"People are being asked to piece together company structures, financial reports, planning documents and changing project descriptions just to understand what is proposed."

"Who benefits? Who pays for the roads and network upgrades? What are the expected effects on water, noise and nearby households? Which jobs are temporary, and which will remain?"

"Those questions deserve a clear, accessible public account. Residents should not have to become unpaid investigators to obtain it."

The submission distinguishes potential integrity concerns from planning and environmental questions that belong with other authorities. It also discloses De Angelis's involvement in campaigning as an independent for Sydenham.

"An independent assessment should be capable of resolving concerns where the records show decisions were properly made. That is part of accountability too."

**ENDS**

**Media enquiries:** Matthew Luke De Angelis
**Email:** media@deangelis.com.au | **Website:** deangelis.com.au