



Meeting Brief

MB26-000244

FOR INFORMATION – Meeting with AirTrunk (Robin Khuda) ^{s 22}
[25/03/2026]

TO: Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy

PURPOSE OF MEETING

- You will be meeting with Robin Khuda, Founder and CEO of AirTrunk, Elizabeth Cox, Vice President Corporate Affairs of AirTrunk, ^{s 22} to discuss data centres. Biographies can be found at Attachment A.
- It is likely the attendees will want to discuss the recently announced expectations of data centres and AI infrastructure developers (the expectations) and its implications. ^{s 47C}

KEY MESSAGES

Expectations of data centres and AI infrastructure developers

- The expectations ^{s 22} were released on 23 March 2026 in a joint statement by the Minister for Industry and Innovation, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, and yourself.
- The expectations provide clear guidance to ensure that Australian jobs, prosperity and energy security are at the heart of any major new or expanded data centre infrastructure projects.
- They make clear that data centre developments must put the needs of the Australian people first, ensuring our communities benefit directly, while strongly supporting Australia's clean energy transition and safeguarding our long-term water security.
- ^{s 22}

^{s 47C}

BACKGROUND

Airtrunk

- AirTrunk is an Australian hyperscale data centre specialist, founded in 2015, that builds and operates a platform serving cloud, content and large enterprise customers across the Asia Pacific and the Middle East.
- Airtrunk opened Australia's first hyperscale data centres in 2017 before expanding to other regions.
- AirTrunk currently has 3 campuses operating in Australia, in Western Sydney, Northern Sydney and Melbourne. A third Sydney campus is under construction.
- In December 2025 Airtrunk announced a second Melbourne campus of over 354 MW, taking AirTrunk's Australian footprint to over 1.2GW across 5 campuses.
- In August 2025, AirTrunk secured a \$16 billion in sustainability linked financing for assets across the Asia Pacific and Japan region, bringing its total financing platform to over \$18 billion. The refinancing includes KPIs covering water efficiency and renewable energy adoption.
- AirTrunk publicly targets 100 per cent renewable energy matching by 2030 and Net Zero Scope 1 & 2 by 2030, and highlights water resilience as a core operating focus.
- The department met with AirTrunk on 12 January 2026 to discuss data centre approval processes. The department previously met with AirTrunk to discuss the draft expectations and gather feedback on how they apply across different types of data centre operations.
- You met with Robin Khuda in the week of 8 December 2025 to discuss Australia's data centre environment. [s 47C](#)

[s 22](#)

- s 22

SENSITIVITIES

- In November 2025, an article in the Australian Financial Review reported Robin's comments that Australia's complex regulatory settings add about 16 - 18 months to data centre approvals compared with other markets in Asia. The article also notes slow utility decision-making on proposed water-recycling investment and that transmission and storage constraints, rather than generation, are a binding constraint for timely delivery.

DATA REFERENCED

- Nil

CONSULTATION

- Nil

Clearance Officer
Michele Graham
General Manager
AI Policy Branch / Technology and Digital Policy Division
Mob: s 22
Clearance Date: 23 March 2026

Contact Officer
s 22
Manager – Sustainable AI Infrastructure
Ph: s 22 Mob: s 22

ATTACHMENTS

A: Biographies
B: s 22
C: s 22

ATTACHMENT A

BIOGRAPHIES



Mr Robin Khuda

Founder and CEO - Airtrunk

Robin Khuda is the Founder and CEO for Airtrunk. Mr Kuda sets the strategic direction for AirTrunk as it continues its rapid expansion across Asia-Pacific & Middle East.

Robin was a founding member of NEXTDC and has held leadership roles in various multinational technology companies in the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2025, Robin was appointed as a Director on the Board of The Business Council of Australia (BCA).



Ms Elizabeth Cox

Vice President Corporate Affairs - Airtrunk

Elizabeth Cox is the Vice President Corporate Affairs at AirTrunk, with a remit spanning government relations, sustainability, social impact, corporate communications, and marketing.

Elizabeth joined Airtrunk from the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, where she was General Manager, North East Asia. Prior to that, she spent more than 13 years in a range of communication roles at Macquarie Group, working across its offices in Japan, the UK, Hong Kong, and Australia.

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Australian Government
**Department of Industry,
Science and Resources**

Attachment B

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Australian Government
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Attachment C

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