

# Federal Election 2025 – Candidate Highlights

## Industry Development

### Create

#### 1. Better Island Connectivity

**Andrew Wilkie (IND, Clark)** supports TasICT's proposal for specific funding for Tasmania and advocates for significant investments in telecommunications infrastructure. The **Liberals** have proposed a \$20 billion Regional Future Fund including allocations for improving telecommunications infrastructure, while the **Greens** plan to re-establish a \$3 billion Communications Fund to support regional, rural, and remote areas.

### Fund

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

TasICT has received positive support for the Marinus Link project, including investment in its data cables, from **Labor** and **Liberal**. **Andrew Wilkie (IND, Clark)** supports Marinus Link, provided it does not increase Tasmanians' power bills or adversely impact the environment.

### Build

#### 3. Tech Capacity and Capability in Defence

No party has a specific plan to distribute itemised Federal ICT defence spending to Tasmania. The **Liberals** plan to increase defence spending to 3% of GDP within the next decade. This includes a boost of \$21 billion to strengthen defence capabilities. **Andrew Wilkie (IND, Clark)** supports TasICT's priority position of more defence spending on IT in Tasmania.

## Workforce Development

### Provide

#### 4. Collaboration at UTAS STEM Campus

Parties have remained guarded about support for the proposed \$500m. STEM campus at the University of Tasmania in Sandy Bay. **Andrew Wilkie (IND, Clark)** supports a \$50m investment into stage 1 of the project and supports the development of the STEM campus at UTAS, provided community concerns are addressed.

### Encourage

#### 5. Employ ICT skilled migrants

TasICT has been pleased with the generally positive support for skilled migrants in Tasmania's digital economy with **Labor**, **Greens**, **Andrew Wilkie (IND, Clark)** and **Senator Jacquie Lambie** all advocating positive policies on increasing opportunities for skilled migrants to more easily move to Tasmania and take up skilled tech jobs.

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