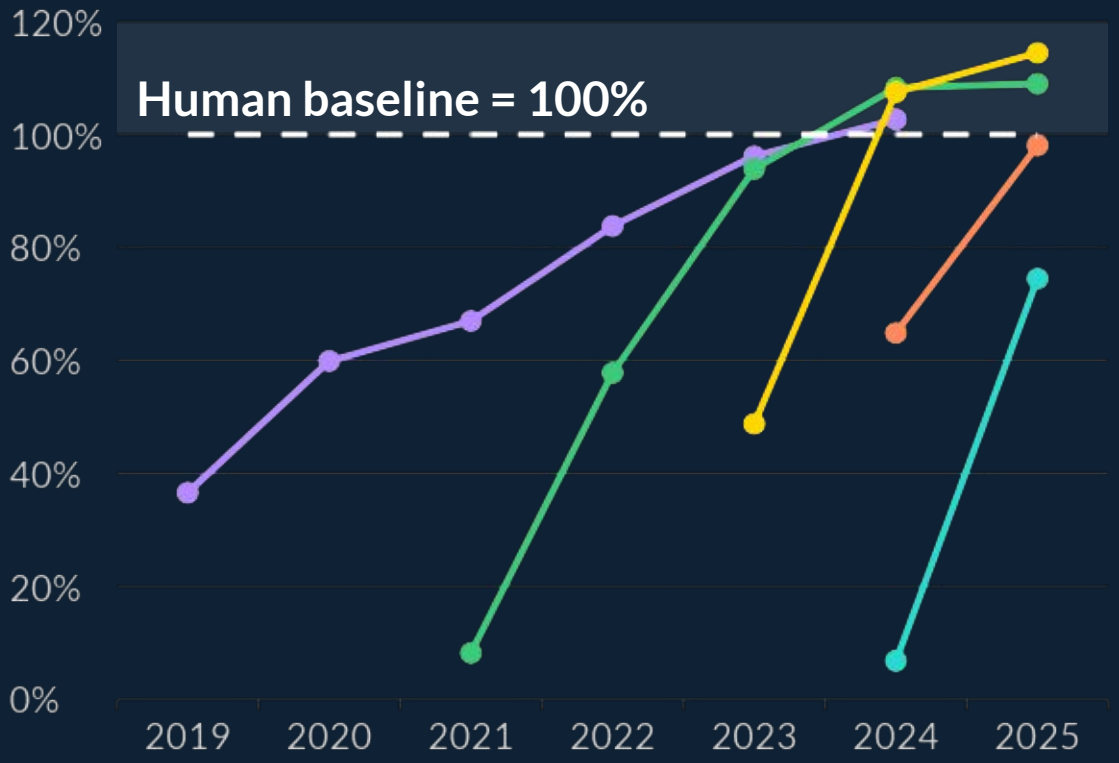
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Artificial Intelligence Capabilities, Threats, and the Policy Response

Devon Whittle
Australia Director, Global Shield Australia

EECON2026 EESA Electric Energy Society of Australia

AI performance vs. human performance

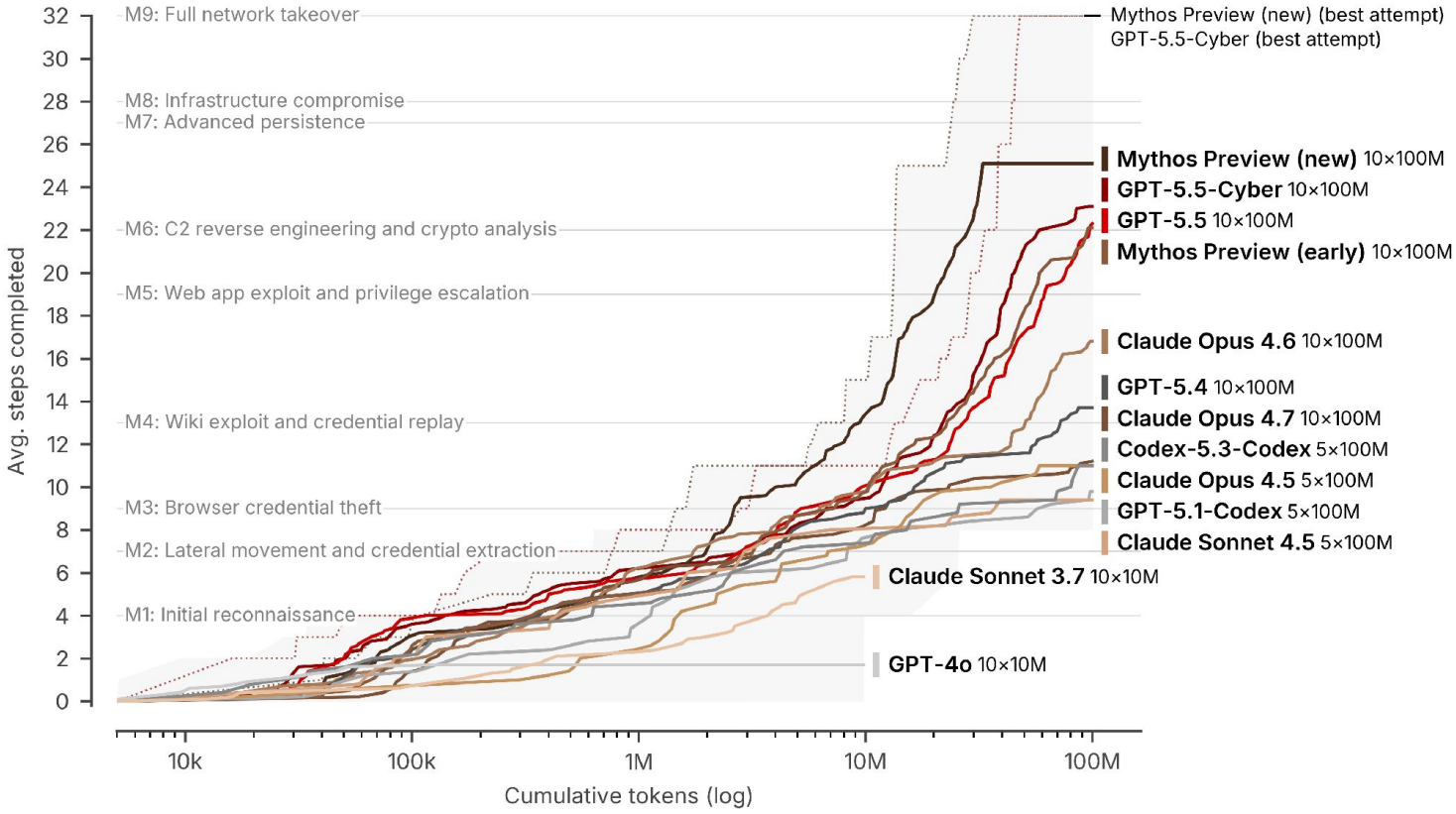


- Multitask language understanding
- Competition-level mathematics
- PhD-level science questions
- Agent multimodal computer use
- Autonomous software engineering

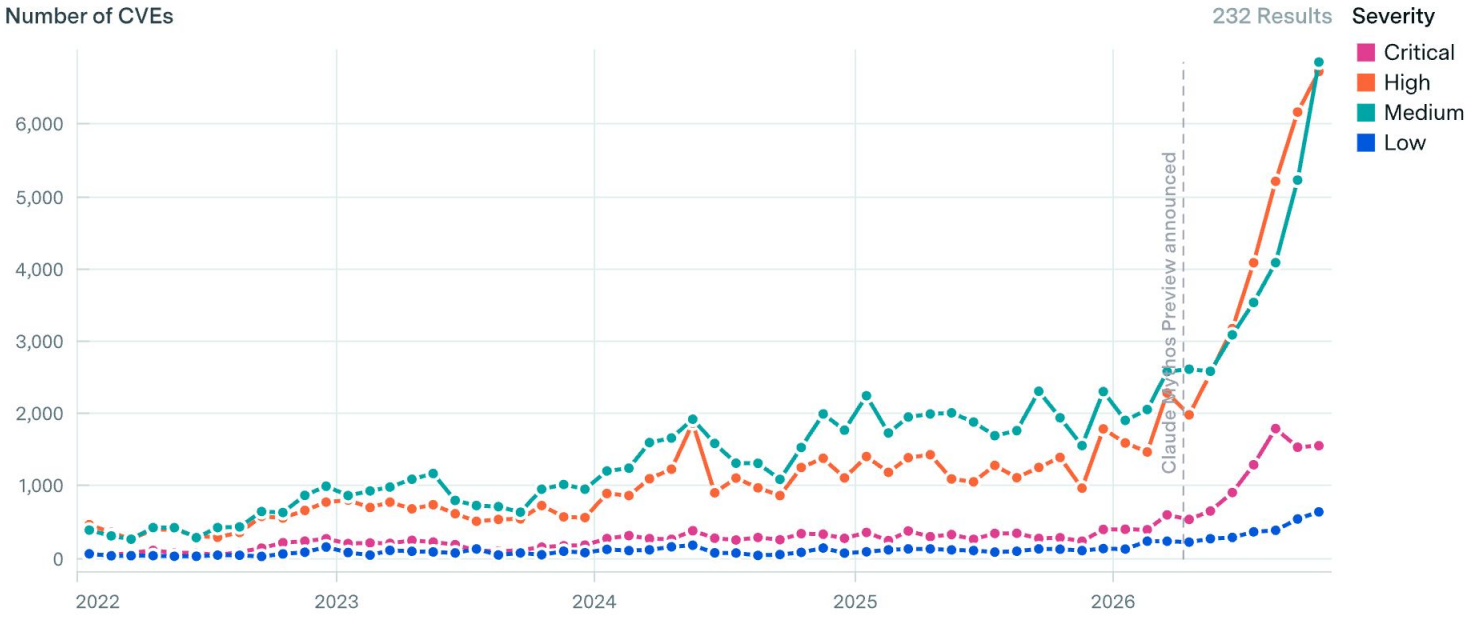
Source: AI Index, 2026

Completed steps on "The Last Ones" per spent tokens

AISI | AI SECURITY INSTITUTE



Security vulnerabilities from any organization

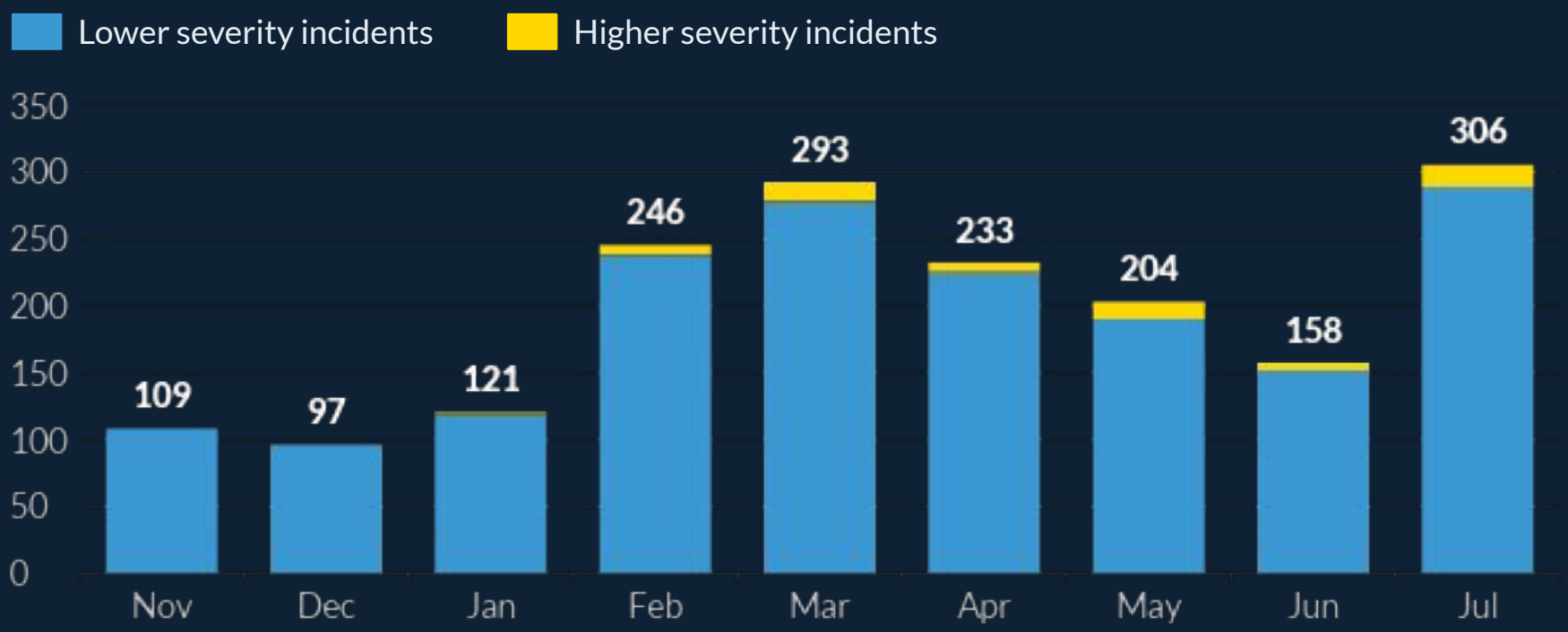


Reporting procedures, labeling, and cadence vary substantially between organizations.

EPOCH AI | CC-BY

epoch.ai

Loss of control incidents



Source: Centre for Long-Term Resilience, 2026

Australia’s policy responses



Joint Select Committee on AI



Australian Standards for AI



SOCI Act reforms

The future

The Guardian

AI-powered malware 'highly likely' to be used to hack UK infrastructure by 2028

National Cyber Security Centre expects attacks on critical facilities such as power stations, airports and hospitals

ABC NEWS

In an unstable world super-charged by AI, hacking is the new war front

[redacted]

Japan declares cyber space emergency as attacks soar

FIVE EYES

"Five Eyes leaders assess AI is rapidly transforming the cyber landscape, and we must act swiftly to remain secure. Frontier AI models are exceeding expectations, fundamentally transforming both offensive and defensive cyber capabilities. **The timeline is not years, it is months.**"

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