

Our ref: OUT26/3665

Patrick Copas
Planning Group
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Email: patrick.copas@dpie.nsw.gov.au

22 April 2026

Subject: Project Mars Data Centre Campus (SSD-82052708) – Environmental Impact Statement

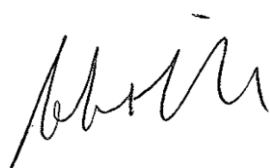
Dear Patrick Copas,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 26 March 2026 to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter.

The NSW DCCEEW Water Group has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement and is satisfied with the information provided. A post approval recommendation is made in regard to water licensing. Please see Attachment A for further detail.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact the DCCEEW Water Assessments team at water.assessments@dcceew.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Brownbill".

Rob Brownbill,
Manager, Water Assessments, Planning & Knowledge Division
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPHI Planning & Assessment regarding the Project Mars Data Centre (SSD-82052708) – EIS

1.0 Water take and licensing

2.1 Recommendation – post-approval

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure requests the proponent to obtain a water access licence (WAL) to account for the maximum predicted water take for construction and operation activities unless an exemption applies under the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2025* (WM Reg).

Explanation

The Ground and Water Conditions Assessment (Appendix V) has estimated maximum water take from aquifer interference activities of 2.5 ML/yr during both the construction and operation phase of the development. Under the *Water Management Act 2000*, if groundwater is intercepted a WAL must be obtained prior to any water take occurring unless an exemption under the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2025* applies. An exemption may be available for water take during construction activities in coastal water sources under Clause 6 of Schedule 4 of the WM Reg, or where the groundwater take during construction or operation is less than or equal to 3ML per water year (cl 19, sch 4 of WM Reg). To claim either of these exemptions certain requirements must be met, such as

- the person claiming the exemption keeps a record of the water taken under the exemption and provides this to the Minister within 28 days of the end of the water year; and
- the records are kept for 5 years.

Further information on these requirements and other information on licensing and approvals and exemptions, including a form to report and record water taken can be found at:

[Licensing and approvals | Water](#) and [Dewatering exemptions | Water](#)

End Attachment A
