

Our ref: HMS ID 14181

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Letter uploaded to the Major Projects Planning Portal

Advice on Environmental Impact Statement – State Significant Development

Proposal: Project Mars Data Centre

Major Project reference: SSD-82052708

Received: 26 March 2026

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for your referral seeking advice on the above State Significant Development proposal.

In preparing this advice Heritage NSW has reviewed the following documents:

- Relevant sections of the Environmental Impact Statement: Project Mars Data Centre – 12 Mars Road, Lane Cove West – prepared by Urbis Ltd, dated March 2026
- Appendix HH: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report – Project Mars Data Centre – 12 Mars Road, Lane Cove West – prepared by Artefact Heritage and Environment, dated 5 December 2025

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been prepared with reference to the relevant guidelines, consistent with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The assessment argues that the majority of the assessment area (Survey Unit 1) is heavily disturbed, with extensive concrete paving, warehousing infrastructure, and significant modification of the underlying sandstone bedrock, including cut-and-fill along both the western and eastern boundaries. Although not accessible during the survey, the southern portion of the assessment area (Survey Unit 2) is considered to retain some archaeological potential. This conclusion is based on the relatively lower level of disturbance in this area, informed by the broader archaeological context and the predictive model.

Given its minimal disturbance, location on a landform conducive to the presence of Aboriginal objects, and proximity to other Aboriginal sites within similar landforms to the south, the ACHAR concludes

that Survey Unit 2 should be identified as a potential archaeological deposit (PAD), referred to as *Mars Rd PAD 1*.

The ACHAR states that all areas proposed to be impacted by the development are within disturbed terrain (Survey Unit 1) and that no works are proposed within the identified PAD. On this basis, the ACHAR concludes that the proposal will not result in impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Heritage NSW agrees with the management measures and recommendations outlined in Section 8 and Section 9 of the ACHAR. However, Heritage NSW recommends that the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) require the applicant to address the following:

1. While *Mars Rd PAD 1* is not proposed to be impacted by the current works, the PAD should be registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) to ensure appropriate future consideration and management should works be proposed within or adjacent to the PAD.

Subject to the above recommendation being addressed, Heritage NSW has provided recommendations in relation to the draft Conditions of Consent, as set out in **Attachment A**.

Please note that the comments provided relate only to Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation matters. If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Marika Low, Senior Assessments Officer at Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8500 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Alison Lamond

Alison Lamond
A/Strategic Manager – Major Projects
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
As Delegate under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
29 April 2026

Attachment A – Recommended draft conditions for Aboriginal cultural heritage

Below are our recommended draft conditions for the protection of Aboriginal heritage.

Aboriginal Heritage

1. All reasonable steps must be taken to avoid harm, modification, or other impact to Aboriginal objects except as authorised by this approval.
2. The Registered Aboriginal Parties must be kept informed about the SSD. The Registered Aboriginal Parties must continue to be provided with the opportunity to be consulted about the Aboriginal cultural heritage management requirements of the SSD.
3. Prior to carrying out any development, the Applicant must ensure Aboriginal heritage management procedures are prepared for the development and included in the Project's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The Aboriginal heritage management procedures must:
 - a. be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons;
 - b. be prepared in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties and be reviewed by Heritage NSW;
 - c. include a description of the measures that would be implemented for:
 - i. ongoing consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties, including consultation regarding changes to the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
 - ii. a contingency plan and reporting procedure for the management of Unexpected Heritage Finds and Human Remains that is prepared by suitably qualified and experienced heritage specialist in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage, in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties and in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (2010). The Unexpected Heritage Finds and Human Remains Procedure, as submitted to the Planning Secretary, must be implemented for the duration of construction.
 - iii. ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site, and that records are kept of these inductions.