

I am writing to formally object to the proposed *Project Mars Data Centre* on Mars Road, Lane Cove West.

My objection is based on the project's impacts on residential liveability, environmental sustainability, and infrastructure capacity, and concerns that these impacts are not adequately justified when assessed against the surrounding public interest.

## **1. Incompatibility with Surrounding Land Uses**

The proposed data centre represents an intensive, 24/7 industrial-scale operation located in close proximity to residential areas.

Key concerns include:

- Continuous operation with no respite periods
- Industrial character inconsistent with nearby residential and mixed-use zones
- Visual bulk and built form impacts

This raises concerns about whether the proposal aligns with the intended character and planning objectives of the area.

## **2. Noise Impacts (Operational and Emergency)**

Data centres generate constant mechanical noise from cooling systems, as well as intermittent high-noise events from backup generators.

Concerns include:

- Continuous low-frequency background noise from cooling infrastructure
- Sleep disturbance due to tonal and intermittent noise
- Testing and use of diesel generators, particularly outside standard hours

Noise modelling must be independently verified and should consider cumulative impacts with existing and approved developments.

## **3. Air Quality and Public Health**

The use of diesel backup generators presents risks to local air quality.

Issues include:

- Emissions of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides
- Frequency and duration of generator testing
- Potential cumulative impacts with other nearby data centres

Given the proximity to residential populations, a precautionary approach is warranted.

#### **4. Energy Consumption and Climate Impact**

Data centres are highly energy-intensive developments.

Concerns include:

- Significant electricity demand placing pressure on the local grid
- Lack of clear commitment to 100% renewable energy supply
- Indirect contribution to greenhouse gas emissions

The proposal should demonstrate alignment with NSW and national emissions reduction targets.

#### **5. Water Usage and Heat Impacts**

Cooling systems can require substantial water use and contribute to localised heat impacts.

Concerns include:

- Water consumption during drought conditions
- Urban heat island effects
- Lack of detail on sustainable cooling technologies

#### **6. Traffic and Construction Impacts**

Construction and operation will generate additional traffic in an already constrained area.

Concerns include:

- Heavy vehicle movements during construction
- Impacts on local roads and intersections
- Pedestrian and cyclist safety

A detailed traffic impact assessment should be provided and independently reviewed.

## **7. Cumulative Impacts**

There is increasing clustering of data centres in this region.

The EIS must properly assess:

- Combined noise, traffic, and energy impacts
- Broader strategic planning implications of this clustering

Failure to assess cumulative impacts would significantly undermine the validity of the proposal.

## **8. Insufficient Justification in the Public Interest**

While data centres provide economic benefits, these must be balanced against local impacts.

This proposal:

- Concentrates impacts on a specific community
- Provides limited direct local employment
- Risks long-term environmental and amenity costs
- Impacts local wildlife
- Disruption of the liveability of the area with regards to large construction within the area, proximity to residential homes, bushland and native wildlife.

## **Conclusion**

For the reasons outlined above, I object to the Project Mars Data Centre entirely.

I request that the consenting authority give full consideration to these concerns and refuse the application entirely.

Sincerely,

Justin