

## **Project Mars Data Centre proposal – 12 Mars Road Lane Cove West.**

I, Susan Morrison, **object** to the Project Mars Data Centre.

I hold many concerns about this proposal particularly (and for the as yet unseen proposals for at least three more data centres that are in the pipeline for the area that will be considered under the State Significant Development planning process).

My main concerns are not limited to, but include:

1. The requirement for large quantities of potable/clean water.
2. The location of sensitive/critical data in a cluster directly under a regularly used flight path.
3. The location of the development/s adjoining a well-used recreational park and playing fields with sports and community groups meeting regularly along with close proximity to a primary school and residential premises.
4. The emerging impacts on human and animal health from data centres, particularly clusters.
5. The negative impact to a thriving industrial area that provides employment, industry and contributes to our community's wellbeing and diversity
6. No respite from industrial noise with 24/7 low level noise.
7. No defined method for holding the developer accountable if the development is approved, to ensure compliance with requirements and continuing business/quality and environmental controls.

Data centres require water. Clean, potable water. In the last few years there have been many data centres already built in the Sydney Basin, drawing on this most precious resource. It is around ten years since Sydney's last drought where Warragamba Dam was at critically low levels. Since then, we've had a period of plenty of rain. However, our weather is cyclic, and we will no doubt about find ourselves in drought conditions in the (potentially) very near future. From an infrastructure/water security point of view, the last ten years has seen no uplift in water security for the Sydney basin - there have been no new dams/desalination plants built. It is not in the interests of the population of Sydney, and indeed our local area, to allow our valuable potable water supply to continue to be drawn on for new data centre builds. I understand that already our water regulators have been redirecting works prioritising these major data centre projects over residential projects. **With a dire need for housing for humans, why is data housing being prioritised?**

I question the wisdom of allowing a second data centre (and potentially many more) in close proximity to each other directly under a main flightpath into our international airport. Data centres by their very nature will house confidential, crucial and possibly critical data, that could possibly be at risk if targeted. Without being alarmist, I do believe it would be good practice to ensure data centres and facilities that protect our local/state/national security be built in areas apart from one another to mitigate the chance of catastrophic damage in the case of acts of war/terror or from those with disruptive intentions. Anything under a regular flight route should be very carefully considered. **What measures are being taken to ensure the security of the data, not to mention the safety of personnel, local businesses and residents in the vicinity?**

Lane Cove West does a lot of heavy lifting in contributing to a diverse Lane Cove. Our little ward carries public housing, small shopping precincts, a large industrial area, very well patronized playing fields and recreational areas, a range of low medium and high density residential buildings, women's refuge, churches, nursing homes, a school and kindergartens. Some of the ward skirts the Lane Cove River and we have some beautiful bush walks. We already have a data centre in Apollo place which has impacted considerably with ears of disruptions as the critical infrastructure was upgraded and run to service it, the noise particularly to the north, the sedimentary runoff which (along with an older asbestos issue from previous developments and demolitions) has seen our river bushwalk at Ventemans reach now closed - seemingly permanently. The adverse impact that developments have had to our amenity in an area (that will become more and more important for humans to "break out" to given the number of units built and planned for the area) is startling. The proposal for Mars Road sits at a high point, with the potential for sedimentary runoff/dust during a long construction period, and continuing noise and other emissions exposures impacting the recreational bowl that sits directly below it, the adjoining bushland, and community nursery. **How will the impacts of the build and operation be monitored, minimised, controlled and compliance adhered to by both the developer and by the approving authority?**

To ensure uninterrupted operation of the centre, generators will be installed. These will require regular testing which will contribute a higher than regular decibel noise at times. These tests, or indeed when the generators kick in during power outages, be they at 3am in the morning or whenever, will be sudden, disturbing and unsettling. I acknowledge that Lane Cove West currently experiences noises of these levels due to the aircraft flying overhead (along with industrial and playing field noises). However, we bought into that and live with it daily. Now and again, we do enjoy some peace when the planes land from a different direction, and between the hours of 11pm and 6 am each night. I would like to think that these opportunities for peace and quiet won't be taken away from us and replaced with high decibel generator noise from these facilities

Also concerning is the acoustic frequency disruption from the processors and fans which will be a continuous hum, and "infrasound" - underlying hums which are not discernible to ear but disrupt sensibilities of humans causing balance issues, insomnia etc. The long-term effects of constant noise from things like wind farms and indeed, from more established data centre areas, are documented. For the residential and school community surrounding the proposed site, this could be a contributor to mental health and other long term chronic health issues.

I grew up in an area surrounded by three of the old television towers. There has been speculation over the years that cancer clusters in humans may be caused by living in proximity to infrastructure that emits radio waves and disturbs the natural order of frequencies. I am concerned a cluster of these data centres (including the ones in nearby areas – Artarmon/North Ryde -) is as yet untested on long term human (and flora and fauna) health. They are drawing large amounts of electricity, emitting low level noises and disrupting frequencies, possibly even interfering with each others frequencies and capabilities.

Worryingly, these can potentially include:

Interference with electrical appliances in the surrounding areas, (with household reliance on electricity for cars/air conditioning etc on the rise)

Business operations and administration in surrounding,

Teaching devices (smart boards etc) and

Health aids that people now rely on.

There is also evidence that the data centre could contribute to grid instability directly impacting locals and businesses on the grid. Bad harmonics or fluctuating electrical disruptions have been known to cause damage to electrical equipment in homes/businesses.

And further, due to the reliance on electricity to power the centre, there is the potential for electromagnetic interference. Low frequency electro and magnetic fields will emit from high voltage power lines and transformers which interfere with sensitive electronics. This is concerning for devices we all use, along with more specialised devices used for health or being used in local specialized businesses.

**How will the developer and the approving authority ensure that the additional data centre, in close proximity to an existing data centre and located near other existing data centres in the Lower North Shore area, will not negatively impact the health of to the community, students, residents, other business owners and employees, by adding to the impacts we will already be experiencing from low level constant acoustic interruption, high decibel interruptions, and electrical and electromagnetic interferences?**

The current Industrial Park is an important part of the Lane Cove area. Aside from the retail precinct it is the main location for a huge range of small and medium size businesses. These encourage innovation, purpose, research and employment, drawing from Sydney including many locals, and the hundreds of contractors that service these industries. The Lane Cove West Industrial Park should be about that – ie. giving humans a place to carry out their industry. Whilst I have no issue with one data centre being included in the mix of the area, another taking over such a large area, and the potential for the other two or three that are in the planning stages, will have a huge impact in lowering diversity, employment opportunities, and places for people to be able to work nearby their home. Yes, I acknowledge that there will be employment in the construction and infrastructure fields whilst these are being built however, once completed, the industrial area will be a ghost town. As an aside to this, our society is currently very concerned about job losses with the emergence of AI, which of course have a huge reliance on data centres. The current data suggests that it is tradesmen (small business/hands on) and entrepreneurs who will thrive as we settle into the new structures and pursuits. We need spaces for these small businesses. An industrial area filled with Data Centres is detrimental to the overall amenity and opportunities for our community to live and work in nearby areas.

**Can the SSD authority confirm that from a planning perspective a further data centre (and a potential data centre cluster) will have a long term, positive employment opportunity impact?**

Data centres are being approved under the State Significant Development process and, indeed, these are state and nationally significant developments that benefit internet, AI and online use by the whole of the community, the state and the Australian population. As such our national, state and local communities must have a say in how this new industry should develop in a way that doesn't heavily or unjustly impact any one area. As data centres are the new necessary infrastructure, the load should be shared (in the same way electricity substations were shared), placing the data centres at appropriate distances from one another, so as not to heavily impact the health and amenity of any one community adversely. The potential for detrimental health

outcomes particularly from clusters is not insignificant. While it in its infancy of testing, there is already data to indicate that human and wildlife health is affected when located near to a data centre. I fear that a cluster of data centres will amplify the health implications. In light of the data that is already out, the SSD assessments should consider the possibility of potential lawsuits in the future from people that may be subject to life-threatening diseases, born out of areas of high intensity, noise and electro magneticity. It's a little like the cigarette industry trying to bury early indications that their products were dangerous. **I feel strongly that a halt needs to be put on any more data centres located in cluster areas that border onto existing, very well used recreational areas, schools, and living amenities, until the impacts on the environment and humanity can be properly researched and confirmed.**

That said, if there is no accountability once SSD approvals have been given, then **what is the recourse for the general public where targets are not met, where there isn't compliance to regulations and lives and businesses are impacted? Who is held accountable for the approvals?** Already we have many examples of developers SSD approved developments not competing the requirements and compliance following approval, the existing Lane Cove West data centre a glaring example. Not to mention certain boarding house approvals...that now operate as regular leased properties. With no SSD follow up and no clear path for regulatory authority, it becomes a very grey area for any recourse from people affected by the noncompliance. **If there are negative outcomes for affected individuals or entities, how are these to be dealt with? What is the process?**

I truly believe, that the developers of this and future Data Centres should be held responsible for sustainable and renewable practices, held to the highest standards to deliver centres that are not detrimental to the health, wellbeing and amenity of any community, and that they should be shared around the country, (obviously bearing in mind water accessibility and proximity to submarine cabling data highways. This Project Mars Data Centre and any further data centres in Lane Cove West will have an extremely negative impact on anyone living in, working in, or regularly visiting the area.

I trust you will consider my submission. Whilst I am sure it is not as technical as some of the others you will receive, I have spent many hours considering and researching the issue, and it comes from a place of wanting fairness, transparency, accountability, and to do the best by our community.

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