

5 May 2026

Subject: Submission for Project Mars Data Centre (SSD-82052708) (in Lane Cove)

Attention: Patrick Copas, Contact Planner
Department of Planning and Environment.

Dr Mr. Copas,

I am a resident of Lane Cove. I have lived in Lane Cove for the past 34 years. Please accept my submission on the proposal for a 24-hour operational Data Centre at 12 Mars Road, Lane Cove West, NSW.

I see many issues with this **Mars Data Centre (SSD-82052708)** project, as stated below.

Community consultation

I understand that data centres are seen as a need for Australia. They are major structures. I see their construction and presence having many impacts on the community, with irreversible consequences.

Consultation with the community should have occurred, but it has not. And I could not see any plan for future consultation to happen. The window of opportunity to make a submission closes May 5, without the community having been informed properly about the project and having had opportunities for discussions / questions.

Location

It is located near houses (50 metres or less) and school (about 160 meters). The impacts on the health of the people, due to 24/7 constant noise, have not been considered.

It is right on the border with Bushland. It will provide additional shading and will most likely impact the future of the flora and the fauna, with potential changes due to the loss of light and sun.

It is right on the border with the nursery which propagates local flora for the area (for the bushland, parks, streets, backyard habitat, etc.). The additional shading will have a negative impact on the type of trees, bush and plants that will survive in the new environment. The nursery is staffed by their employees and many more volunteers. The noise, vibration and dust during the three (3) years required for the construction of the data centre will impact them; many volunteers might decide to not volunteer there anymore due to noise, dust, etc. This will limit the services of the nursery.

Why build a Data Centre near houses, near bushland, near a vibrant recreational park (Blackman Park)? A park that residents from Lane Cove and surrounding municipalities use on a daily / weekly basis (sporting fields, tennis courts, kids' playground, etc.). It feels so wrong.

No data centres should be built in our precious environment.

Environmental Impacts

- Impacts on bushland (flora and fauna) – shading and noise. Loss of trees, change of types of trees and bush due to a more shaded environment. Loss of wildlife due to noise, vibration, dust, air pollution.
- Air pollution (diesel generators – noise and fume). I assume the generators will operate during electricity blackouts; but will most likely operate also during testing/checking that their operational status is 100%.
- Located adjacent to Riparian Land.
- Impacts on surface water resource (quality and quantity), impacts on dependent ecosystems, drainage lines, downstream assets and watercourses are not addressed.

Infrastructure upgrade (water and electricity)

- Data Centres place a significant strain on local utilities and impact the availability of electricity and water (our drinking water).
- Drought (we have experienced severe droughts in Lane Cove, accompanied by high water restriction level, with a need to limit our water consumption). Data centres need a lot of water. What will happen then? This is not addressed in the project report.

Cumulative impacts of all existing/proposed Data Centres within the Lane Cove industrial area

There are four data centres (proposed and built) for the Business Industrial area of Lane Cove West. Project Mars Data Centre (SSD-82052708) cannot be looked at in isolation.

Impacts during the construction phase of the data centre - three (3) years.

Ongoing dust and noise from extensive demolition and excavation – Monday to Saturday, and increased traffic and parking issues in the residential streets nearby.

Conclusion

I strongly oppose this data centre project at this location. No data centres should be built in this precious environment without proper assessment on its impacts on the environment and on the health of the population. The cumulative impacts of the four (4) data centres must also be considered.

Regards,

Linda Falardeau
8 River Road West, Longueville, NSW 2066
M: 0409 996 444