

Submission — Objection to Project Mars Data Centre, SSD-82052708

Project: Project Mars Data Centre, 12 Mars Road, Lane Cove West

Application: SSD-82052708

I object to the proposed data centre at 12 Mars Road, Lane Cove West.

I am a long-term local resident and have lived in this area for many years. I know this neighbourhood well. It is not just an industrial area on a planning map. It is a place where people live, walk, exercise, take children to sport, volunteer, use Blackman Park, visit the community nursery and enjoy the bushland and river corridor.

I am concerned that this proposal is too large, too intensive and too close to sensitive community spaces.

The area around the site includes homes, Blackman Park, the Lane Cove Community Nursery, local bushland and Lane Cove West Public School. These are not minor considerations. They are part of the everyday life of this community. A 24-hour data centre with large buildings, rooftop plant, diesel generators, batteries, fuel storage and major construction works would change the character of this area in a very significant way.

My main concern is that the environmental and community impacts have been understated. The reports seem to treat many impacts as manageable or negligible, but that does not reflect how people actually experience their local environment. Constant mechanical noise, generator testing, diesel fumes, loss of trees, construction dust, increased heat and the visual bulk of a large industrial building all affect people's sense of place and wellbeing.

I am particularly worried about Blackman Park. It is used by many different people — sporting clubs, school groups, children, families, walkers, dog owners, older residents and people simply looking for open space. It should not be assessed as though it is just a sports field that can absorb industrial impacts. It is a major community asset.

I am also concerned about the removal of mature trees and the impact on local wildlife.

Replacement planting cannot immediately replace established canopy, habitat, shade, screening and cooling. Mature trees take years to replace, and their loss will be felt by both people and wildlife.

The proposal also raises broader questions about sustainability. Data centres use very large amounts of power and can place pressure on local infrastructure. This proposal appears to rely heavily on diesel backup generation. In an area already seeing more data centre activity, the cumulative impact should be carefully assessed before any further approval is granted.

I ask the Department to refuse this application in its current form. At minimum, the applicant should be required to provide a corrected and updated assessment that properly addresses the local environmental, community and cumulative impacts before any decision is made.

Questions the applicant should be required to answer

1. **Environmental impact:** How will the applicant demonstrate that the loss of mature trees, habitat, shade, cooling and wildlife movement can genuinely be replaced, and over what timeframe?

2. **Community impact:** How can the applicant justify describing impacts on Blackman Park, the community nursery, local residents and school/community users as minor or negligible when these places are central to everyday life in Lane Cove West?
3. **Cumulative impact:** How has the applicant assessed the combined impact of this proposal together with existing and proposed data centres in the area, including power demand, water use, diesel emissions, noise, urban heat, construction disruption and pressure on local infrastructure?