

I have lived in Lane Cove West my whole life. I have always loved the environment; the parks, the trees, the fresh air. It's just so peaceful

During the day you hear the sounds of the birds chirping, the wind blowing, the kids playing, the music coming from neighbors playing musical instruments, the dogs barking, the cars driving past and the occasional lawn mower.

At night it is pure peace and quiet. It's so silent you can hear the frog croaking, the crickets chirping, the cicadas clicking and the possums growling.

And it's beautiful.

But all that is about to change. During the day, instead of hearing 1 lawn mower for 20 minutes I will be hearing the data center, with the equivalent decibels going off 24/7. And during the night, instead of hearing the frogs croaking I will hear the constant hum of the data center, drowning out the noise of all of our beautiful wildlife.

As a young resident of lane cove west I am concerned about many different aspects of the data center.

It is too close to residential areas, the park and the school. People actually live here. People work here, people play sports here and kids play and go to school here. This is no place for a fully industrialised data hub. This is a residential area and it has been this way for decades. People enjoy coming here because it is a lovely, peaceful area with beautiful parks and amenities. Those who live here love living here because of the beautiful environment and the tranquility you will find by just walking down the street on a warm spring day. The warmth and the smells of the flowers and nature is honestly unmatched, you should try it one day.

However, I don't believe it will be the same if the data center opens.

Blackman park has a large number of weekly visitors. People playing sports, riding bikes, running on the oval, walking their dogs, going on walks and run. I believe that with the constant noise of the data center these numbers will significantly decrease and that will be so unfortunate because we have such a beautiful community of people and it will be so sad to lose that.

Blackman park and surrounding areas are also home to many different species of wildlife, which all play a very important role within the ecosystem. With a massive data center right next to their home, making constant, loud noise and emitting heat and an

unknown level of EMF's, who knows how this will affect them. Animals get very stressed out due to noise. Maybe their homes will be destroyed when they cut down the over 90 trees to build the data center, maybe their food sources will be polluted or maybe they will no longer wish to live here due to the noise and heat and they will leave. And what will Lane Cove West even be without its wildlife. Playing in the park during the day or walking down the peaceful streets at night will not be the same without hearing the chirps and squeaks of our beautiful native wildlife. And I would hate to see that happen. The park is not only a beautiful place for us humans to thrive in, but it is also the home to around 200 native species of wildlife. And you guys want to come here and not only destroy our beautiful parks and amenities but also destroy their homes. It is their home and you can't just expect them to pack their bags and leave. These species and their ancestors have lived there long before any humans came and I hope that they live there long after us humans leave. You have no right to take that away from them. You can take away our peace and tranquility, you can take away our kids' peace and tranquility but you have no right to take away those animals' homes. You have no right to destroy where they have been living for thousands, if not millions of years, just for the sake of the "modern world" and "industrialisation".

Lane Cove West Public School is a quaint little school with almost 500 students. I went there myself and it was lovely. However with the introduction of the data center, who knows how the constant noise, heat emissions and unspecified EMF levels will affect the kids. Maybe it will distract them so they can no longer get their work done, the whole point of a school is for kids to learn and if they are too distracted by the constant noise then what is even the point of them going to school. Maybe the EMF levels will negatively affect their health over the years. Young children spending 7 years, 8 hours a day, 5 days a week so close to huge buildings emitting unspecified levels of EMF, who knows what that will do to these kids. Parents might even pull their kids out of the school to save them from the trouble. And how will that affect the school? That school has been open since 1951 and it would be such a shame to see it shut down, to see kids' education being disrupted, all in the name of "innovation". Children are the future and they should always be put first. Before whatever big companies wanna decide to do and before innovation.

The closest residential building is 50 meters away from the data center. They say that there is a "buffer zone" between the data center and residential buildings but that "buffer zone" is actually the community nursery. The community has produced over 250,000 seedlings during its 20 years of operation, providing plants for schools, homes, public spaces, official ceremonies, local reserves and bush regeneration and that is so amazing. But how will this continue when it is literally right next to the data center. How will the heat, noise and EMF affect these plants? Decibels over 70 often stress out

plants and affect their growth and there's not even a buffer zone because apparently the community nursery is the buffer zone. The volunteers who work there will no longer be able to work in peace because they will be right next to the very loud data center. From 50 meters away it might be bad enough but directly next to it?? No one will want to work there anymore. Those people are volunteers, they are not paid. So why would they want to volunteer in a loud and potentially stressful environment. They will want to go somewhere else and after 20+ years the community nursery may unfortunately have to shut down and there will be no more plants. Thousands of plants, producing thousands of liters of oxygen a day, all gone for the sake of "modernisation". We don't want that to happen.

People have lived in Lane Cove since the late 1940s. This has been the home to generations of people. Some come and go and some live here their whole lives. There are currently 3,146 people living in Lane Cove West. People love this area because it is a community centered, family oriented area. The whole of Lane Cove was even voted the most livable suburb in Australia in 2025. And now you seek to take that away. How can we be the most livable suburb when we have a huge data center hub that will potentially have 5 data centers all polluting the environment and emitting noise, heat and an unspecified level of EMF. It's just way too close to our houses. 50 meters is too close. The noise, heat and EMF's travel and there will be numerous short and long term effects. The short term effects being the fact that people won't be able to sleep or concentrate due to the constant noise and the long term effects being the negative effects that the EMF's and heat levels will have on our health, our kids health and our pets health. People bought in this area to have a safe place for their kids to grow up in and this data center will make the area no longer safe. People will move away, the price of our houses will decrease. If you really wanna turn this whole area into an industrialised area then buy us all out. Pay us the current amount that our houses are worth and then be done with it. But don't force us to live in an uncomfortable place and definitely don't force kids to grow up in an unhealthy environment. We will be spending our entire lives next to a building emitting high levels of EMF, heat and noise and that can cause:

1. Fossil fuel power plants and diesel backup generators release fine particles and nitrogen oxides into the air, which can increase the risk of asthma, long-term respiratory illnesses, and heart disease.
2. Diesel exhaust from these generators, especially when they are regularly tested or used during outages, contains more than 40 substances known to cause cancer, raising serious health concerns for nearby communities.
3. The constant noise produced by cooling systems and generators can exceed 90 decibels. Long-term exposure to this level of noise is associated with hearing damage, high blood pressure, stress, and disrupted sleep.

4. Data centres also consume large amounts of clean water for cooling. In areas already facing water shortages, this can reduce available supply, forcing communities to rely on poorer-quality water and increasing the risk of water-related illnesses.
5. Living near this type of industrial infrastructure can negatively affect mental health. Ongoing noise, bright lighting, and environmental stress can contribute to anxiety, sleep problems, and a lower overall quality of life.
6. Additionally, some data centres use fire suppression systems that contain PFAS, often called “forever chemicals.” These substances can pollute soil, air, and water, and are linked to long-term health problems such as organ damage and weakened immune systems.
7. Noise and air pollution from data centres can be especially harmful to children, as exposure has been linked to cognitive impairment, behavioural issues, and negative effects on overall development.

The risks are not limited to nearby residents. Workers within these facilities are also affected. Prolonged work in server rooms, including repetitive tasks and heavy lifting, can lead to musculoskeletal strain. In addition, high noise levels and fluctuating temperatures may further impact employees' health and wellbeing.

Thousands of people's health being compromised just for the sake of economic and industrial growth. This raises serious ethical concerns and it is just so wrong.

Data centers also cause a significant drain on important resources.

Data centers use a very large amount of water. Water should be a sacred resource. It shouldn't be wasted so casually. Yet one data center uses 25.5 million liters annually and a large data hub (like what the industrial park will be when you have built all 5 data centers) can use 11 to 19 million liters daily which is the equivalent to a town of 30,000–50,000 people. How can you be wasting water so carelessly when there are people in other countries who don't even have enough water to drink, who are literally dying from dehydration. It's honestly offensive to them and you know that capitalism has gone too far when you have a building using the equivalent water of an entire town, just to cool it down, and then on the other side of the world you have people drinking dirty water and dying of dehydration.

We have had constant work on our water pipes over the last 2 years, disrupting those driving down the street and those living nearby and that was only to sustain the current data center. Now you want to build another one which will potentially need even more work on the water pipes, meaning even more disruption. The industrial park clearly can't

sustain the large amounts of water the data center needs and the data center is clearly using much too much water if it needs more than what the current population of Lane Cove West needs. It's just wrong to put people through that again just because you wish to keep up with "global innovations".

Data centers also use a very large amount of energy.

Lane Cove West gets a moderate to high amount of power outages compared to other suburbs in NSW and now you want to put an huge energy guzzling machine that will use up extremely large amounts of energy, causing even more power outages. You are prioritizing data centers and innovation over the residents who already live here and it's wrong. It's the 21st century, we need electricity to do basically everything and it is a huge inconvenience when we have power outages. People can't work from home, do their school work, heat or cool their houses, relax and watch netflix or even cook their own food and keep their food cold. And now you want to make the issue even worse by putting a data center right next to us that will use up all of the energy that we require to live. One data center can consume as much electricity as roughly 15,000 to 50,000 homes. It's just wrong to prioritise it over us, residents who have lived here in peace for decades and I think deep down you know that. That's why you're putting the data center here and not near your house. Because no one wants to live next to a data center so you might as well put it somewhere else. Out of sight out of mind.

Not only that but energy is a very important resource and it's just wrong to use up so much of it for such a superficial reason. Yes, AI is important for humanity's growth and the community understands that. It can be used for healthcare and medicine, scientific research, education and even agriculture sustainability. But a lot of AI is also used for trivial things such as for talking to AI chatbots, making silly videos and pictures, generating memes and AI generated music.

And if you wanna go deeper then that is also used for darker things such as deep fakes and non-consensual content, online harassment and abuse, manipulation and misinformation, sexualised chatbots and objectification, surveillance and control and bias and discrimination. People even use AI as their psychologist which can cause a whole heap of other ethical concerns.

Obviously it's up to the individual on how they use AI and yes, AI is important but it needs to be regulated, only used for important things and definitely not used for harmful or unethical things. I couldn't bear to live next to a machine that's negatively affecting me and my neighbors whilst also simultaneously producing deep fakes and perpetuating misogynistic ideals.

Some AI systems have even been shown to reflect or amplify gender and racial biases. Because there are so many racist and sexist things on the internet, the AI uses that to gather its own information and sometimes that can end up leading to unfair outcomes. For example certain AI systems in America have been used in the criminal justice system and they have been found to reinforce existing biases and inequalities. Recidivism tools such as COMPAS have been found to wrongly label Black defendants as high-risk at significantly higher rates than white defendants. Similarly, facial recognition technology used by law enforcement is often less accurate for people with darker skin tones, increasing the risk of misidentification and wrongful arrests. Predictive policing systems can also perpetuate bias by relying on historically skewed crime data, leading to over-policing in minority communities. These issues are further compounded by biased training data, the use of proxy variables such as location or income, and a lack of transparency in how these systems operate, making it difficult to challenge or understand their decisions. I don't want to be living right next door to a massive machine that could potentially be producing biased ideals and contributing to even more hatred in the world than we already have.

That brings me to my next point which is about environmental injustice. Data centres are frequently located in low-income areas or communities of colour that already experience high levels of industrial pollution. As a result, these communities face an added environmental burden, which can worsen existing health inequalities. Whilst Lane Cove West is not one of these areas, I have noticed that there is a large amount of data centers out in western Sydney and in lower socioeconomic areas, meanwhile there is literally none in the northern beaches and eastern suburbs. These lower socioeconomic areas are areas where people don't have the time or education to fight back against big data center companies like we do and it's just unfair. You have already put your data centers in lane cove west and the surrounding suburbs (Macquarie Park, North Ryde, Artarmon, St Leonards, etc) and you have put your data centers out west (Eastern Creek, Marsden Park, Erskine Park, etc). It's time to give other suburbs their turn at having these data centers. And you can say that you can't because they don't have industrial parks like we do but that's another issue in itself. Why don't they have industrial parks like we do? If you really want to deal with economic disparity then you should focus on being fair to every suburb and not giving some suburbs special treatment just because they are rich and they have the money to lobby against you. We might not have that level of money but we are still educated and we have a voice and we will use it when we see unfairness. And I just feel so bad for those who don't have the time, money or education to fight back at all because they just have to sit there and endure whatever the big companies and government want to throw at them and get very negatively affected in the process. But maybe if they can see us speaking up then that will give them the strength to speak up too and that would be wonderful. If us doing this helps another lower socioeconomic suburb also fight back then it will be worth it

because everyone deserves to be treated equally and it's not fair to just step all over them just because you know that they don't have the means to fight back. But we do. And I hope this is a message to you to not think that you can put whatever you want wherever and damage the people already living there in the process just for the sake of "industrialisation" and "growth".

The proposed building of 33m is approximately 8-9 stories and 22,000 m² which is inappropriate for this area. Buildings in the Lane Cove West Industrial Park/Business Park generally have a maximum height limit of 18 metres, as per the Lane Cove Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009. Why is this building able to be so much bigger just because you guys want to accelerate growth? Citizens must follow every rule to the letter but the government will change the laws for big companies, meanwhile negatively affecting the residents, just because the big companies have the money. It's not fair. Instead of looking up and seeing the sky, we will look up and see a massive building looming over us. It will be like we are living in a concrete jungle and it will ruin the beauty of the suburb. They are not only moving the goalposts to break the rules but they are also compromising on the residents' interests, health and safety just for the sake of "innovation" and "economic growth". It's wrong and I think you know it.

Finally, data centers must follow a set of expectations and they all must be demonstrated before the product is approved. These include:

1. Prioritise Australia's National Interest: Data centers are expected to secure onshore data, contributing to national security and data sovereignty
2. Support Energy Transition: Operators should invest in new, additional renewable energy projects to power their facilities, rather than relying solely on the existing grid, to avoid driving up costs for consumers.
3. Sustainable Water Use: Data centers must employ efficient cooling technologies, use non-potable water where possible, and report water usage transparently.
4. Invest in Skills and Jobs: Operators should support local Australian skills and training.
5. Strengthen Innovation: Companies are expected to make computing capacity available to Australian startups and researchers.

Is the data center actually going to use renewable energy or will it use all of our energy resulting in more blackouts? Will the data center take away people's current jobs that are already in the industrial park or will it add more? The industrial park currently hosts over 550 jobs and I would hate to see any of those jobs disappear. Especially considering how the current economy is going and how important people's jobs are for them and their families livelihood and wellbeing.

I am concerned about whether this data center is following these expectations, and if not, what accountability measures are in place to ensure it does not compromise environmental sustainability, community wellbeing, or Australia's broader national interests.

In conclusion, while technological progress and innovation are important, they should never come at the expense of people's health, community wellbeing, and the natural environment. The proposed data centre threatens to disrupt the peace, safety, and character of Lane Cove West, a place that has been home to generations and is valued for its tranquillity, biodiversity, and strong sense of community. From the impacts of noise, pollution, and resource consumption, to the risks posed to local wildlife, school children, and residents, there are simply too many unanswered questions and potential consequences to ignore.

This development is too large, too close to homes, and too incompatible with the surrounding environment. It prioritises industrial growth over the needs of the people who already live here, and risks setting a precedent that community voices can be overlooked in favour of corporate interests.

I urge decision-makers to carefully reconsider this proposal, to genuinely listen to the concerns of residents, and to ensure that any future developments are appropriate in scale, sustainable in practice, and respectful of the communities they impact. Lane Cove West is not just a convenient location for infrastructure, it is a home, and it deserves to be protected.