## This is my submission regarding the DiGi Data Centre Expansion May 2025.

lan Kingsford-Smith 22 Ada Place, Ultimo.

### Residential credibility

I have been a resident of Ada Place for the last twenty years. I enjoy living in the Ultimo Heritage Conservation Zone as it maintains and retains the character of early Sydney settlement history and its links to the then shipping port of Darling Harbour.

### My opinion

I **oppose** the Digi Data Centre Expansion on three key issues; neighbourhood overshadowing and the loss of views; no inclusion of power supply via solar panels and batteries and the company's responsibility to the community that it resides in.

### 1. Overshadowing and loss of views

Currently the Data Centre building size and bulk dominates the views and overshadows the complete area of the Ultimo Heritage Conservation Zone. On the shortest day of the year, it is around 10.30am before the lower story of our row of terraces in Ada Place receives sunlight.

In the report **Landscape and Visual Impact Amenity Analysis** document, you do not illustrate or comment on a **Viewpoint** from Ada Place and the dominant nature of the Digi Co Data Centre.

In this document there is no evaluation of the visual impact from Ada Place in the Ultimo Heritage Conservation Zone. You do show other visual impacts which favour your client's application for this expansion, Bulwara Road, Fig Street Park, etc. The current **Visual Impact** photos in the document are shot to include numerous green trees and space thereby showing the expansion in a 'favoured' light.

The **Viewpoint** from Ada Place would show that it is physically overshadowed by the large imposing bulk of the Digi Co Data Centre building on Harris Street that dominates the resident's skyline 24/7.

# • <u>I would insist that this *Viewpoint* be included in the document and into the overall evaluation of the project expansion.</u>

In the report Environmental Impact Statement document, you state:

<u>Building height and overshadowing</u>: The Proposal is required to comply with the Solar Access Plane and ensure minimal solar impact to residential development located to the south of the site, and no additional overshadowing of the Ultimo HCA. The Proposal provides a modulated roof design which reduces visual bulk and scale whilst providing a unified roof form which integrates with the architectural design of the existing SYD1 East and West buildings

See the following are *shadow diagrams* from the **Environmental Impact Statement** document.



Figure 34: Solar Access Diagram at 9am on the 21 June *Source: DEM* 



Figure 35: Solar Access Diagram at 12pm on the 21 June *Source: DEM* 

The above shadow diagrams don't fully explain the overshadowing of Ada Place and the Digi Co Data Centre increased height addition. These diagrams only show two timeframes of Solar Access during the shortest day of the year so glosses over the real impact on Ada Place residents.

• <u>Please provide an animated version of the shadow diagram and how it</u> <u>will affect Ada Place from sunrise to noon on the shortest day.</u>

### 2. Solar Panels and Batteries.

In reading the numerous reports that support this expansion of the Digi Co Data Centre in Harris Street I see no reference that the total roof area will be covered in solar panels and supported by batteries. **This should be <u>mandatory</u> in a world that is in a climate crisis** particularly considering the power needs of the proposed expansion.

### A lead should be taken from:

*Melbourne's* Digital infrastructure company Equinix's which has launched a 1 megawatt (*MW*) solar rooftop power plant at its **Data Centre** in the industrial Fisherman's Bend suburb in Melbourne, with an expected payback period of 6.6 years.

The short payback period for the huge solar photovoltaic (PV) installation is reduced from 8.7 years thanks to funding from selling Victorian energy efficiency certificates (VEECs). The kind and cost of electricity is forefront in the company's energy strategy, as Equinix seeks to defray some of the enormous energy consumption involved with running data centres and meet a renewable energy target. The 1MW Fisherman's Bend solar array is designed for a capacity of 16MW across two buildings. All of the power from the new solar system, which was finished late last year, will feed the smaller building which is designed at a capacity of 6MW. The company, which has 260 data centres around the world, has another 0.8MW of solar arrays at data centres in Canberra, Brisbane and Sydney. (Press Release February 26 2024)



Equinix Australia managing director Guy Danskine, Victorian energy minister Lily D'Ambrosio, and Nina Taylor MP, Labor Member for Albert Park. Image supplied

In your report titled **Utility Services Report** it states that electrical demand of the proposed facility has been estimated at 120 MVA or 2100A at 33kV. Solar panels and batteries would assist in providing some part of these electrical needs.



As I understand it the batteries linked into your power system would ease the transition from mains power to generators when there is a loss of power in the network.

- Can you please provide a plan and supporting technical considerations to support solar panels across all the roof area and supporting battery network for this expansion.
- 3. Community Contribution

The Digi Co Data Centre physically and mentally dominates our neighbourhood and its residents. There is no other single building in our neighbourhood that has this effect.

Residents believe that there needs to be a trade-off for the extensive interior and exterior improvements, renovations and disruptions proposed by the Digi Co Data Centre project. We believe that the company needs to contribute to the community that it lives in.

We believe that one option would be extending the viaduct pedestrian walkway to the CBD. Currently the walkway ends at the lift to Darling Harbour. Before the recent Darling Harbour renovations, the walkway extended to the CBD which allowed residents and neighbours easy walking access to the City.

• Can you assess this as a suitable Community Contribution to its residents and your neighbourhood.