

DATA CENTRES IN CASEY COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES



Frequently Asked Questions

About the consultation

1. What is a data centre?

A data centre is a specialised facility that houses computer servers and other digital equipment used to store, process and manage large amounts of data.

Data centres support many of the digital services people and businesses use every day, including cloud computing, websites, banking and other online services. The Victorian Government describes data centres as infrastructure supporting services including banking, healthcare, transport and emergency response.

2. Why is Council undertaking this consultation?

Council wants to better understand community views, concerns and expectations about potential future data centre development in Casey.

Data centres are a growing form of development, and there is significant community interest in how future proposals are planned and assessed. This consultation will help Council understand what matters most to the Casey community and inform our advocacy to the Victorian Government for improvements to the planning framework.

3. Why is Council consulting now?

At its September 2026 Council Meeting, Council resolved to consult with the community about data centre development in Casey and use the findings to support broader advocacy to the Victorian Government. You can view the minutes from that meeting on [Council's website](#).

Since Council's resolution, the Victorian Government has released its [Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan](#), setting out its future direction for data centre development across planning, water, environment and energy.

The Victorian Government has advised that implementation will occur over a number of years, including development of statewide planning policy in consultation with stakeholders during 2027.

4. What is the purpose of this consultation?

We want to understand the opportunities, impacts and issues the community considers important when thinking about future data centre development in Casey.

Your feedback will help identify community priorities and concerns and inform Council's future advocacy and discussions with the Victorian Government and other relevant stakeholders.

5. Is this consultation about the proposed data centre at Clyde North?

No. This consultation is about potential future data centre development across Casey more broadly. It is not consultation on the current planning permit application at 585 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Clyde North, and it will not determine the outcome of that application.

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The Clyde North application is going through a separate statutory planning process. Council has not made a decision on the application, and it will be considered by Councillors at a future public Council meeting.

6. Where can I find information about the proposed Clyde North data centre?

Information and updates about the planning permit application for the proposed data centre at 585 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Clyde North are available on [Council's website](#).

The application remains under assessment and Council has not made a decision. Councillors have called in the application, meaning the decision will be made by Councillors at a future public Council meeting rather than under officer delegation.

Planning and future data centre proposals

7. Has Council made any decisions about future data centre development in Casey?

No. This consultation is not seeking to determine whether data centres should or should not be developed in Casey, and Council has not made a decision about any future proposal through this engagement.

The purpose is to understand community views and priorities so these can inform Council's advocacy about how future data centre proposals should be planned, assessed and subject to community consultation.

8. Who decides whether a data centre can be built?

This depends on the location of the proposed data centre, the planning controls applying to the land and the relevant approval pathway.

Like other land uses and developments, a data centre proposal must be considered against the planning requirements that apply at the time. Depending on the relevant planning pathway, a planning application may be determined by Council or the State Government.

9. What role does Council have in data centre development?

Where Council is the responsible authority for a planning permit application, Council must assess the proposal in accordance with the Victorian planning framework and the planning controls that apply to the land.

Through this consultation, Council is seeking community feedback to inform its advocacy to the Victorian Government about the planning framework for future data centre development.

10. Will the community be able to provide feedback on future data centre planning applications?

It will depend on the planning controls and public notice requirements applying to each application at the time.

One of the changes Council is advocating for is mandatory public notice and community consultation for all data centre planning permit applications in the State planning rules.

Council's advocacy

11. What advocacy is Council doing relating to data centres?

Council is advocating to the Victorian Government for improvements to the planning framework for data centres, including:

- stronger and clearer State planning policies for data centres
- greater guidance for councils assessing data centre proposals
- mandatory public notice and community consultation for data centre planning permit applications
- consideration of the outcomes of this Casey community consultation.

This advocacy is focused on the broader planning framework for data centres, rather than the outcome of any individual planning permit application.

12. What is the Victorian Government doing about data centres?

The Victorian Government has released the [Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan](#), which sets out expectations for data centre development across planning, water, environment and energy, as well as how government will coordinate its approach.

The Victorian Government has advised that implementation will take place over a number of years and will include development of statewide planning policy during 2027.

The new policy does not currently form part of the Victorian Planning Provisions or the Casey Planning Scheme. [Read the Victorian Government's Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan](#) or their [Media Release](#) for more information.

Your feedback

13. How will my feedback be used?

Feedback will help Council understand the community's priorities, concerns and expectations about potential future data centre development in Casey.

The findings will inform Council's advocacy to the Victorian Government, including its calls for improvements to planning policy, guidance for councils and community consultation requirements.

Feedback from this engagement will not be used to determine the outcome of the current Clyde North planning permit application, which is subject to a separate statutory planning process.

14. Will the consultation findings be made public?

Yes. Following the consultation, Council will prepare and publish an engagement summary report outlining what we heard from the community.

The findings will also inform Council's ongoing advocacy and discussions about future data centre development and the planning framework.

15. Will the findings be shared with the Victorian Government?

Yes. Council resolved to provide the outcomes of the community consultation to relevant Victorian Government Ministers as part of its advocacy on data centre planning.

16. Where can I find out more about data centres?

For further information about data centres and the broader policy environment, you can visit:

- The Victorian Government's [Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan](#), which sets out the Victorian Government's approach across planning, water, environment and energy.
- The Australian Parliament's [Artificial intelligence and data centres Senate inquiry](#), which is examining matters including Australia's regulatory frameworks and potential impacts on communities, industries, the environment, water and energy.

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