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Star Weekly Brimbank North West

Brimbank airs data centre concerns - Next DC Data Centre in Tullamarine

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Brimbank council has voiced concerns about how and where data centres are established, warning councils are being brought into the process too late – or not at all.

An officer's report to the 16th June council meeting revealed council had begun advocating to the state government to provide a stronger role for councils in the delivery of data centres as well as implementing clearer planning controls and mandatory standards that address setbacks, noise and storage limits, water efficiency, design, landscaping, and heat mitigation measures.

“In Melbourne's west, we are seeing the cumulative impacts of rapid data centre expansion, creating pressure on electricity and water networks, growing amenity impacts where sites are close to residential areas, and increasing exposure to heat and climate risk, all in a community that is already vulnerable,” the report stated.

“Councils are often brought into the process too late, or not at all, despite being best placed to understand local conditions, infrastructure constraints, and community expectations.”

The report stated that mayor Virginia Tachos had raised the issue with Economic, Jobs and Growth Minister Steve Dimopoulos during a local government roundtable in April.

Cr Tachos followed this up with a formal letter to Mr Dimopoulos on 18 May to reiterate Brimbank's position on data centres and to seek a meeting to discuss the matter in further detail.

“Council will continue to express our concerns with data centres and will advocate on our community's behalf to ensure that appropriate guardrails are put in place,” the report stated.