



ACT Heritage Council

HERITAGE ADVICE

Environmental Significance Opinion

TPA Reference: ESO202600027
Heritage Reference: Hume-S23-B28
Contact Officer: DB
Received by Council: 10 July 2026
Due date: 20 August 2026

TO: Territory Planning Authority
City and Environment Directorate
EPDImpact@act.gov.au

Block:	Section:	Division / District:	Heritage Places:
28	23	Hume	HA12, HAC2, HID1391 and HID1395

Status of Place: Recorded Aboriginal Places and Potential Archaeological Deposits

Description of Works: Construction of Data Centres

Report Details: “*Cultural Heritage Assessment - Hume Campus 3 Development Hume, ACT*” (Navin Officer Heritage Consultants, June 2026)

Council Advice provided by: **Director (Approvals and Advice)**

Pursuant to Section 140 of the *Planning Act 2023*, the ACT Heritage Council advises that:

☒ The proposal is **unlikely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, subject to conditions** described below.

Background:

On 10 July 2026, the Territory Planning Authority referred an application for an Environmental Significance Opinion (ESO) to the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) for entity advice (ESO202600027).

The ESO concerns the proposed construction of four (4) data centre facilities with 24 data halls, including emergency on-site energy generators and associated vehicle access, new driveways, car parking and site landscaping. Earthworks and site servicing are also required to facilitate the proposed development.

The ESO application was supported by the report titled “*Cultural Heritage Assessment - Hume Campus 3 Development Hume, ACT*” (NOHC June 2026) (the CHA) which was prepared in consultation with Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs).

The main findings of the CHA set out that there are two Aboriginal places, HID1395 and HID1391, within the project study area, and also areas of identified sensitivity. An extensive program of archaeological test excavation and salvage has already been completed across the project area, leaving only one area remaining that has not been subject to salvage (HID1391 salvage area). Two other Aboriginal places, HAC2 and HA12, have been preserved into the

Dog Trap Creek corridor by the amendment of the block boundary and should not be impacted by the proposed works, subject to the installation of a fenceline for the amended block.

A site visit to the proposed development area on 12th March 2026 by NOHC and the RAOs located no new Aboriginal places or areas of archaeological potential.

To inform this advice, the application has been reviewed against all relevant *Heritage Act 2004* requirements, Council policy and Council records; as discussed in Attachment A.

Decision and Conditions:

Following review, the Council advises that while the proposal will likely have heritage impacts, these will not be significant or adverse impacts, subject to compliance with the following conditions:

1. A Statement of Heritage Effects (SHE) application must be submitted, prior to the proposed excavation of the remaining section of Aboriginal place HID1391 that has not been subject to salvage. The SHE should include a methodology (RD&M) for the conduct of salvage excavations within HID1391.
2. Further consultation must be undertaken with the RAOs, prior to the proposed salvage excavations. All four RAOs must be invited to attend the excavations and to partake in discussions regarding the proposed heritage impacts, cultural significance and heritage management actions.
3. The block fenceline should be installed to follow the amended block boundary, which will result in the protection of sites HA12 and HAC2 outside of the project area.
4. Efforts should be made to reuse the fallen limb from the tree identified by RAO Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation as having potential cultural significance, within green space and/or garden design within the project area, if possible. Also, attempts should be made to retain any trees that are to be felled by the project, within the project area as part of any landscape design.
5. The unanticipated discovery protocols in Appendix 1 of the CHA should be implemented for this project.



Karen Taylor
Director (Approvals and Advice) (as delegate for),
ACT Heritage Council

19 August 2026



ACT Heritage Council

Attachment A

Canberra Data Centres (CDC) are preparing a development proposal for a new datacentre campus at Block 28 Section 23 Hume. The site is currently an undeveloped greenfield site of approximately 12 hectares, located to the east end of the John Cory Road cul-de-sac, and north of the Monaro Highway. This proposed development has been the subject of discussion for many years, and various previous Cultural Heritage Assessments have been conducted of the proposed project area and surrounding blocks.

The ESO concerns the proposed construction of four (4) data centre facilities with 24 data halls, including emergency on-site energy generators and associated vehicle access, new driveways, car parking and site landscaping. Associated earthworks and site servicing are also required to facilitate the proposed development.

The most recent Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) was conducted of the site on 12 March 2026 by Navin Officer Heritage Consultants (NOHC), and one of the Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs), Wally Bell from Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation (Buru Ngunawal). This involved a walkover of the area proposed to be impacted by the Hume Campus 3 project and was aimed at assessing the previously recorded sites in the study area and to determine whether any other historical or Aboriginal sites were evident in the area. No new Aboriginal places or areas of archaeological potential were located.

There are two previously recorded Aboriginal places, HID1395 and HID1391 within the project study area. Site HID 1395 has been subject to test excavation and salvage and holds no additional cultural heritage significance. Site HID1391 has been partially salvaged but there remains a small area identified as requiring further salvage. This site has been assessed to be of cultural significance due to the artefacts located during previous test excavations and grader scrapes.

As the proposed development site has undergone previous, extensive cultural heritage assessment, and the proposed salvage excavations are only to be conducted of a remaining, small section, the Council delegate is satisfied there are no other reasonably practicable alternative ways to carry out the proposed works, and is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the proposed development within Block 28 Section 23 Hume is justifiable. As the proposed works are likely to impact this remaining area of Site HID 1391, a Statement of Heritage Effect application will be required prior to the commencement of the salvage excavations.

The CHA report recommends the implementation of a detailed UDP, to address any unexpected heritage finds throughout the duration of the wider proposed development works. While some consultation with the RAOs has been undertaken, the Council delegate advises that further consultation is required, particularly as it relates to the proposed heritage impacts and mitigation measures. All RAOs should be extended the opportunity to attend the archaeological salvage excavations within the remaining section of HID 1391, and be provided with a copy of the draft SHE report for review, with a sufficient period to review.