### Getting started with SPEAR A2A Development and Testing

**Introduction to SPEAR**

Surveying and Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals (SPEAR) system is and maintained by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

SPEAR is a system that manages the planning and subdivision application and referral process. SPEAR automates the application/planning permit process so that applicants can electronically lodge their applications and information with the councils and councils can electronically refer the applications to referral authorities. There are four key actors in SPEAR - Applicant Contact (surveyor), Responsible Authority (council), Referral Authority and Lodging Party. Additional SPEAR actors are VCAT, Land Use Victoria, public objectors, and administrators.

SPEAR allows subdivision/consolidation applications to be lodged, managed, referred, and tracked online from the initial planning stage, to certification of a plan, through to the creation of new land titles.

### SPEAR A2A

SPEAR enables users to interact with the system in two ways:

1. Users who interact with SPEAR through an Internet browser - Application to Person (A2P)

2. Users who interact with SPEAR through their existing core systems - Application to Application (A2A)

A2A is a SPEAR-defined set of web services that may be used by another organisation’s core system to interact with SPEAR. It is intended that interfacing to SPEAR via A2A is a straightforward enhancement to the existing core systems.

The use of SPEAR A2A aims to deliver the following benefits to an organisation:

* Enables users to interact with SPEAR through their familiar core system.
* Reduces duplication and improves efficiency.
* Provides a mechanism to synchronise information between a core system and SPEAR.
* Provides functional extensions to vendor products.
* Promotes core system control.

The web services provided are SPEAR-specific. Where a web service exists, it will relate to an equivalent A2P business process, form, or interface. These web services can then be used by the user’s core system application to perform the equivalent A2P functionality.

A web service’s message has a definition that ensures that it is correctly understood by each core system. These are defined in Web Service Definition Language (WSDL) files, which will be delivered upon execution of an A2A Developer Deed.

**Signing up**

All A2A developers are required to sign the A2A Developer Deed prior to obtaining the A2A Interface Manual and associated WSDL. The A2A Developer Deed sets out the respective responsibilities of DELWP and the developers when making use of SPEAR web services. Prior to accessing SPEAR, all stakeholder organisations are also required to sign a User Agreement.

**Testing**

A test environment will be provided by DELWP, offering full A2P and A2A functionality. This facility will allow a core system to verify that it can interface with SPEAR.

It is expected that A2A Developers will plan, design & construct their own interface using the A2A web service. The A2A Developers are then required to perform thorough Unit and System Testing within their own environments, and then perform Integration Testing within the A2A test environment. Test data can be organised with the SPEAR Service Desk.

To organise a testing schedule, A2A Developers should contact the SPEAR Team to ensure that the appropriate environment and resources are made available at the required time. The A2A Developer Deed sets out the responsibilities and obligations relating to testing and the provision of a test environment.

**Certificates required**

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**Support**

During the development of the SPEAR A2A interface, the SPEAR Team can provide high level support and guidance.

Pre-implementation support can be arranged in the beginning and the developer will be allocated a SPEAR representative for the point of contact.

Post-implementation support is available, during business hours, by mailing the SPEAR Service Desk spear.info@delwp.vic.gov.au