

SPEAR News - Surveying and Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals
Image of a woman in an office space

December 2022

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| Welcome to the December issue of the SPEAR newsletter. This newsletter provides a recap on the LUV Digital Transformation meeting and updates on the 10-year strategy for advancing Victoria’s cadastral system, ePlan Pilot, SPEAR Release 5.6 and Digital Cadastre Modernisation as well as handy hints. |

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| **The SPEAR team wishes all its stakeholders a peaceful and happy festive season with family and friends. We hope 2023 is healthy and prosperous for all. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the new year.** |

# LUV Digital Transformation meeting

Land Use Victoria (LUV) held a significant industry engagement event with its key SPEAR user stakeholders on 5 October. Rebranded from the usual SPEAR User Group meeting, the LUV Digital Transformation meeting was a hybrid event focused on current and future cadastral initiatives and LUV flagship projects. Around 70 attended in person at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, and another 250 participated online.

Melissa Harris, Chief Executive of LUV, welcomed participants and set the scene for the event, followed by presentations from Allison Kealy: ‘Spotlight on digital transformation at LUV’, Craig Sandy: ‘Key message from the Surveyor-General, Susheila Vijendran: ‘Registry Operations’ and Roger Fraser: ‘A 10-year strategy for advancing Victoria’s cadastral system’.

There was a systems update from Louis Lazzaro, with a focus on SPEAR; an ePlan update from Susannah Maley and Hamed Olfat; and an update on the SPEAR Service Desk by Vernon Prasad.

There was great interest from attendees during the presentations and in the networking breaks, with thoughtful questions, comments and feedback on our continued digital cadastral journey.

# 10-year strategy for advancing Victoria’s cadastral system

LUV has developed with many of its valued stakeholders a 10-year strategy to advance Victoria's cadastral system.  The strategy outlines a coordinated approach to transitioning to full digital lodgment and registration of cadastral information over the first two horizons.  Its implementation will involve continued engagement with key stakeholders, including capturing and addressing feedback from the ePlan pilot. The strategy will be published in early 2023 on [land.vic.au](https://www.land.vic.gov.au/maps-and-spatial/maps-and-spatial-news/developing-a-10-year-strategy-for-victorias-cadastral-system).

ePlan Pilot update  
The ePlan Portal celebrated its one-year anniversary in October. Embedded in SPEAR and currently in pilot, surveying firms have been creating ePlans for 2D subdivisions, ranging from 2 lots to large scale and complex plans.

Following major ePlan releases addressing pilot feedback, and through engagement at surveying conferences and meetings with interested firms, adoption of ePlan by participating surveying firms has continued to increase. Some 32 surveying firms are now creating ePlan, with 19 new firms joining since the pilot began.

## ePlan Pilot Progress (October 2021 – November 2022)

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| **In Draft​** | **Fitted to a SPEAR Application ​** | **Total number of ePlans​** | **Participating Surveying Firms​** |
| **137​** | **121​** | **258​** | **32​** |

At the LUV Digital Transformation meeting, feedback was received from two of the pilot participants, which is shared below.

## Marcello De Rango – VERIS

# *“A big thank you to the ePlan Support Desk who have never failed to respond and assist with our queries within a 24-hour Business Day! Whilst creating ePlan requires a different approach compared to traditional plan preparation, the new system is very intuitive and we have found that with each ePlan created, we are picking up something new, which makes it easier to complete the next one. Especially with the assistance of the ultra-responsive Support Desk, we were able to complete a 94 lot ePlan of Subdivision well before time and within budget.*

# *One of the only workflows that has been impacted in our existing system is our in-house Plan Quality Assurance, which has almost become redundant. The online validations of the Single CAD Format File (SCFF) and each aspect of the ePlan production process have almost removed the need for in-house Plan Quality Assurance.*

# *Another bonus is that SCFFs and ePlans are held online and can be downloaded from the ePlan Dashboard at any time which makes it a great office backup system. Each separate SCFF version is also stored online (not just the latest). The ePlan Dashboard search functionality makes it easy to find and manage plans awaiting or already submitted to Council via SPEAR.*

# *In summary, we strongly endorse the new ePlan system and look forward to our industry embracing it (as it did SPEAR) so we can capitalise on its potential as a mainstream rather than emerging technology.”*

## Mahinda Vithanage – CAF Consulting

# *“The Helpdesk have been very helpful. The new ePlan system is very user friendly. I have learnt it and have directed my survey technician, PTA student and another drafting person to learn it too. It saves a lot of drafting time, minimises technical errors and my ePlans have been registered by LUV within very short timeframes. I have produced ePlan for a 28 and 49 lot subdivision, a boundary plan, section 35 acquisition plans and plans of consolidation.”*

ePlan training & support

As the ePlan pilot comes to its conclusion, planning is underway to roll out ePlan in 2023 to the broader surveying group in SPEAR. Scheduled information and training sessions will be announced in the new year.

For existing ePlan participants and those wishing to start their ePlan journey, SPEAR provides training and ongoing support. Surveying firms interested in ePlan can contact the team via email – [spear.info@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:spear.info@delwp.vic.gov.au)

# SPEAR update

## SPEAR Release 5.6

SPEAR Release 5.6 went live on 21 November 2022. The changes implemented in the release include:

Application List improvements

1. ‘Saved Searches’ functionality, which allows users to save commonly used search criteria that can be recalled for future use. Each saved search will have a unique name assigned to make it easy to identify and recall.
2. New columns added:

* Permit Expiry Date
* Date of survey
* Outstanding Referrals – Permit
* Outstanding Referrals – Certification
* Outstanding Referrals – SOC

Useability enhancements

1. Planning Permit and Amended Planning Permit decisions that have been superseded now show as previous versions of the current Permit document, rather than separate entries in the Details screen.
2. The most common road types – Street, Road, Avenue, Drive and Court appear at the top of the ‘Road Type’ drop down list.
3. Email notifications now include only the primary property address.

For a complete list of enhancements, refer to the [SPEAR Release notes](https://www.spear.land.vic.gov.au/spear/pages/about/about-the-application/release-notes.shtml).

# Digital Cadastre Modernisation update

Some readers will have noticed that one of the key deliverables of the Digital Cadastre Modernisation (DCM) project has started.

The spatial upgrade to Vicmap commenced in October. LUV will continue delivering upgraded local government areas weekly through to December 2023. The spatial uplift of Vicmap will provide an enhanced and more accurate digital representation of the cadastre. You can read about the benefits of the upgrade [here](https://www.land.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/604935/Factsheet-a-more-spatially-accurate-Vicmap.pdf).

If you are a consumer of Vicmap data, you will start to notice some changes as the upgrade is delivered area by area. These changes were explained in the recent [Vicmap Change Management Notice #288 (PDF, 616.8 KB)](https://www.land.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/594045/Change-advisory-notice-288-Spatial-Upgrade-of-Multiple-Vicmap-Products.pdf) and also appear on the Digital Cadastre Modernisation [FAQ page](https://www.land.vic.gov.au/maps-and-spatial/projects-and-programs/digital-cadastre-modernisation/frequently-asked-questions).

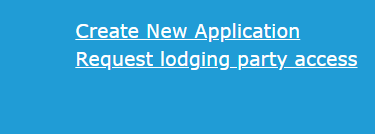
The upgrade to Vicmap products is not the only deliverable of the DCM work. As we deliver the upgrade to the digital representation of the cadastre we are working in parallel on systems and processes that will enable the automation of land administration processes for the benefit of industry, government across all levels and ultimately all Victorians.

Early in 2023 the Surveyor-General Victoria team will be actively seeking input from members of the surveying industry to inform the next stage of this work. We will be arranging 1 to 1 engagement with all Licensed Surveyor organisations operating in Victoria, to understand your needs in relation to the digital lodgement of survey data.

# Handy hints

## Lodging Party action to request lodging party ELN access

If you receive notification of a SPEAR application and are unable to access the application, the Applicant Contact may have invited you into SPEAR as a Guest, rather than nominated your organisation as the electronic lodging party.

To gain complete access to the SPEAR application, for lodgement at Land Use Victoria, use the ‘Request lodging party access’ functionality, located in the top right-hand corner of the blue SPEAR banner from the SPEAR Application List.

This action can be performed at any time once the application is lodged with the Responsible Authority. Access to the application will only be granted after the Applicant Contact has approved the request.

## Personalise/Configure Application List

Users can customise the Application List to suit their needs by:

* Changing the order of the columns by clicking and dragging a column heading to the desired location
* Changing the width of the columns by clicking and dragging the column borders in and out
* Adding or removing columns to the list by using the settings icon to configure the columns.

Remember to save changes using the ‘save’ icon in the top right corner of the Application List. If you wish to restore to the default view relevant to your organisation type, then click on the ‘trash can’ icon.

# Support

The SPEAR team seeks to ensure your questions and issues are resolved quickly.

Contact the SPEAR Service Desk on (03) 9194 0612:

* Press 1 for SPEAR assistance
* Press 2 for ePlan enquiries
* Press 3 for Plan Branch enquires

Alternatively, you can send your enquiry by email to [spear.info@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:spear.info@delwp.vic.gov.au)

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| Contact SPEAR  **T:** (03) 9194 0612  **E:** [spear.info@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:spear.info@delwp.vic.gov.au)  **W:** www.spear.land.vic.gov.au |

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| **Reminder**  The SPEAR Service Desk is not responsible for the examination and registration of plans, and as such does not provide plan status updates or information regarding lodged applications.  If you would like to be notified when a plan is picked up for examination, you can subscribe to a Property Transaction Alert using LANDATA®. For more information, see [current registration processing times on the SPEAR website.](https://www.spear.land.vic.gov.au/spear/pages/about/contact-us/land-victoria.shtml) |

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