



# SPEAR News

Surveying and Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals  
December 2017



## Festive wishes

The SPEAR team wishes all stakeholders a safe, happy and healthy festive season with family and friends. We look forward to continuing our partnership in 2018!

## ePlan

Land Use Victoria (LUV) and the University of Melbourne have entered into a five-year partnership to support the ePlan project's ongoing research and development. Through this partnership, the current ePlan services – including the Validation and Visualisation Enhancement Tool (VET) – will be improved to support all cadastral plans and surveys, and a new application tool will be developed to allow surveyors to download digital data and check their survey work. Research into managing land ownership in 3D will also be undertaken by the university during this partnership.

The University of Melbourne held an ePlan Partnership Launch on 11 December. Key stakeholders attended from LUV and the University of Melbourne.



## Milestone – 100th ePlan

There were celebrations in the ePlan team on 6 October 2017 when the 100th ePlan was submitted in SPEAR by Michael Toll (licensed surveyor) from Land Management Surveys (Shepparton) Pty Ltd.

To mark this milestone, Ron Whitford, Senior Surveyor at Land Management Surveys was interviewed about his thoughts on ePlan.

### Q: Why did you decide to use ePlan?

A: It is a new program. I find it a challenge to learn new ways of performing old tasks. I'm always looking to do this – if you don't move with the times you will be left behind.

**Q: How have you found your involvement?**

A: Again, a challenge. Some things work, some don't. It's a matter of consulting the guys at ePlan to suggest the changes you would like to see. Sometimes my suggestions are used, sometimes not.

**Q: What are the benefits you have seen using ePlan?**

A: For smaller subdivisions, it's much quicker to start the task of drawing the subdivision to creating an application on SPEAR. As the XML is read into SPEAR, the application is automated making the process faster. I have managed to draw four lot subdivisions, created the application and enhanced the diagram in SPEAR within 30 minutes. (Note: you must have all the information you need on your desk or in front of you before you even think of using ePlan).

**Q: How have you found the recently released ePlan Visualisation Enhancement Tool?**

A: It is performing at an acceptable level now. It's still early days with this tool, so there is still some room for improvement. Surveyors need to use this tool so they can make suggestions to improve it. The largest number of lots on a plan I have done is a 23 lot, rural living, staged subdivision. When it was first visualised, it was around 23 pages. By using the enhancement tool, I managed to lower that to just four pages.

**Q: Have you had adequate support?**

A: Most certainly. The guys at ePlan (Electronic Subdivisions Unit) get back to me within a couple of hours of my contact, with a suggestion to fix my problem or an email letting me know there is an issue and they will attempt to fix it and get back to me.

**Q: What other future benefits do you see?**

A: I can see a benefit down the track – the ability to download all the survey information you need for the subdivision you're working on in an XML format, which will allow you to upload straight to a Total Station or GPS unit, saving time by not having to manually create upload files etc. in the office.

Currently the checking process is much faster because ePlan performs numerous checks on the data you submit before you upload the LandXML. Also, the application process in SPEAR is much faster because the data is read from the uploaded XML.

**Q: Would you recommend other surveyors use ePlan?**

A: I would suggest all surveyors get on board with ePlan. The more surveyors using ePlan the more glitches and bugs we will find to fix, which will only improve the system. Also, as I stated before, if you don't move with the times you will be left behind...as people know, technology moves very fast these days.



Michael Toll and Ron Whitford

## Christmas and new year closure

The SPEAR office will close to customers from close of business Friday 22 December and will reopen on Tuesday 2 January.

## National ePlan Working Group

National ePlan Working Group members from Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland, Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and New Zealand met in Perth on 11–12 October for the second face-to-face meeting of 2017. This was an opportunity to review the progress of the ePlan Visualisation Enhancement Tool in Victoria, strata plans in NSW ePlan, storage of registered ePlans in an Oracle Database in Victoria, WA Landgate systems and services, and 3D digital cadastre investigations in the various jurisdictions. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2018, in conjunction with the Locate18 conference in Adelaide.

## ePlan Engagement program update

In October, the ePlan team completed the second round of the ePlan Engagement program, holding workshops with 15 surveying firms. The firms included Cardno, KLM Spatial, Thomas & George, Joseph Land Surveying, B R Smith Surveyors, Alexander Symonds Surveying Consultants, Digital Land Surveys, Adrian Cummins & Associates, Tomkinson Group, Meridian Land Surveyors, EDM Group, Calibre Consulting, Smith Land Surveyors, Hellier McFarland and JH Surveying.

An expression of interest will be open in the first quarter of 2018 to participate in the next round of ePlan workshops.

## ePlan Visualisation Enhancement Tool improvements

The Beta version of the Visualisation Enhancement Tool (VET) was available in June in SPEAR release

4.5. Because of feedback from surveyors using VET and to better facilitate their processes, functionality improvements are being made to VET version 1.0 (available first quarter 2018), which will include enhancements made by the surveyor when:

- an updated version of the ePlan LandXML file adopting the same datum is uploaded to SPEAR
- an updated version of the ePlan LandXML files adopting a different datum is uploaded to SPEAR (datum change from Local to MGA).

### 3D GeolInfo Conference

On 26–27 October Dr Davood Shojaei, Senior ePlan Project Officer, presented at the 3D GeolInfo Conference about the progress of the Victorian 3D digital cadastre investigation. Davood discussed the necessity of replacing the current PDF-based 3D cadastre with a digital platform; and, reviewed the progress of 3D data modelling, visualisation and validation investigations at Land Use Victoria. He concluded his presentation with an overview of future directions of this research.

## SPEAR Electronic Lodgment Network pilot

The SPEAR Electronic Lodgment Network pilot program commenced in May 2017, following determination of Version 1 of the *SPEAR Electronic Lodgment Network (ELN) Participation Rules* by the Registrar of Titles in April.

Eight organisations – including solicitors, conveyancers and government bodies – registered for the pilot and have begun processing applications in SPEAR for plans under the *Subdivision Act 1988*; 34 have already been lodged.

System enhancements are planned in response to feedback from pilot participants. Land Use Victoria (LUV) plans to expand the SPEAR ELN by the end of 2018 to cater for electronic lodgment of survey-based applications under the *Transfer of Land Act 1958*.

The benefits to lodging parties using the SPEAR ELN include:

- the ability to electronically complete, validate and lodge application forms
- no need to attend LUV in person to lodge applications

- improved access to application documents and details of Land Use Victoria requisitions
- instant notification of new title allocations upon registration.

The pilot period will end on 31 December 2017. LUV will accept applications from all lodging parties to become a SPEAR ELN Subscriber from 2 January 2018.

Information about registering will be published on the SPEAR website ([www.spear.land.vic.gov.au](http://www.spear.land.vic.gov.au)) at that time.

## Transitioning to 100% digital lodgement

In line with the Victorian Government's digital strategy, the Registrar of Titles is proposing to transition to 100% digital lodgement by 1 August 2019.

To support 100% digital lodgement by this date, SPEAR intends to incorporate additional dealing types where the surveyor is required to supply survey and/or plan information as a component of the lodgement.

Land Use Victoria will consult the surveying industry over the next 12 months with the intention of updating the Registrar's Requirements to require all applications currently able to be prepared in SPEAR, to be exclusively handled in SPEAR. This includes:

- application types under the *Subdivision Act 1988*
- application types under the *Transfer of Land Act 1958*
- plan OP applications
- notice of re-establishment
- any new applications introduced in SPEAR.

It is expected that lodging party functionality for existing survey based applications will be in SPEAR Release 4.8 (October 2018).

### Contact SPEAR

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