



SPEAR News

Surveying and Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals

June 2019

Digital Cadastre Modernisation project

The Victorian Government is investing \$45 million to upgrade the digital cadastre, ensuring that one of the state's most important datasets is accurate, useful and easy to maintain.

The Digital Cadastre Modernisation Project is being delivered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) through Land Use Victoria (LUV). It involves improving the spatial accuracy of the digital representation of the cadastre. Survey information from thousands of existing subdivisions and survey plans will be incorporated to build one accurate, reliable digital dataset for use by property owners, developers, councils, utilities, emergency services and other users of spatial data.

Upgrading and updating the digital representation of the cadastre

Since early 2019, approximately 70,000 parcels have been back captured with another 3.3 million parcels to be back captured over the life of the project, expected to be four years.

Following back capture of information from the plans, the digital representation of the parcel boundaries will be adjusted mathematically. This updated or improved data will eventually be uploaded into Vicmap, which will fundamentally change the accuracy and display of the state's cadastre and flow on to other significant Vicmap products.

Integrating with existing spatial datasets

Ultimately, the aim of this work is to transform the cadastre to a fully digital, spatially accurate, representation of property boundaries in Victoria.

Get involved

LUV wants your insights to understand how this significant reform impacts surveyors and local government and will be seeking feedback throughout all project stages.

To find out more visit the Digital Cadastre Modernisation Project [web page](#) and submit your email address to receive project updates.

SPEAR User Group meetings

User group meetings were held during May 2019 in Melbourne, Bendigo, Colac, Wangaratta and Warragul.

Topics discussed included the Digital Cadastre Modernisation program, 100% Electronic Lodgment, SPEAR Electronic Lodgment Network, Co-design of standard CAD file and updates from the Plan Branches and Geographic Names Victoria.

Visit the SPEAR website to view meetings' presentations at www.spear.land.vic.gov.au
>About>News and events>User Group Meetings

SPEAR ELN update

Ninety four lodging parties have now registered as SPEAR Electronic Lodgment Network (ELN) subscribers, with a further 130 applications in progress. The list of subscribers is available on the SPEAR website.

<http://www.spear.land.vic.gov.au/spear> > About > Who is using SPEAR? > [Listing of Registered Users](#)

In addition to the 447 subdivision applications already lodged electronically in 2019, a further 321 have been allocated for electronic lodgment in the coming weeks.

Period	Subdivision Act Lodged at LUV	Boundary Plans Lodged at LUV
Pilot	35	132
2018	454	142
Jan 2019	66	10
Feb 2019	81	10
Mar 2019	88	5
Apr 2019	79	7
May 2019	133	12
Total	936	318

In line with Land Use Victoria's 100% electronic lodgment strategy, the SPEAR ELN will be extended in August 2019 to support electronic lodgment of the following dealing types.

Transfer of Land Act 1958

- Section 15 Application to bring land under the operation of the *Transfer of Land Act 1958*
- Section 26P(1) Application for deletion of warning relating to title dimensions
- Section 28 Register a Crown grant
- Section 28 Register a Crown lease
- Section 45 Creation of easement
- Section 60(1) Application for a vesting order based on title by possession
- Section 72 Recording of easement
- Section 88(2) Acquisition of easement or right
- Section 98CA Conversion of building subdivision

- Section 99(1) Application for amendment to boundaries, area or position
- Section 103(2) Application to correct land description in the Register to accord with plan
- Request to waive survey for an adverse possession application

Local Government Act 1989

- Section 207D Transfer of closed road
- Section 207E Transfer of road exchange

Subdivision Act 1988

- Section 33(1) Alteration of lot entitlement and liability
- Section 38 Amendment to accessory lot
- Section 38A Removal of restricted lot status
- Section 38B Amend scheme of development – Owners corporation
- Section 38C Amend scheme of development – Lot owner

Other Acts

- *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009*

Electronic lodgment of these dealings (and existing *Subdivision Act 1988* dealings currently supported by SPEAR) will be available exclusively in the SPEAR ELN.

Land Use Victoria will soon begin contacting lodging parties that lodge a significant number of applications to assist them to become a SPEAR ELN subscriber.

Alternatively, lodging parties can commence the registration process on the SPEAR website at any time.

<http://www.spear.land.vic.gov.au/spear> > Lodging Parties > [How do I get started?](#)

David Monahan retires

David Monahan has been a licensed surveyor in Victoria since 1974. To mark his retirement, we asked David to reflect on his journey in the surveying industry.



I retired on 31 May 2019 after 38 years as a sole practitioner in my business which traded as Barker Monahan Pty Ltd.

Prior to this, I worked for Ron Barker for seven years and got to know what a capable, ethical surveyor he was. I have tried to model my work on Ron but have not been able to reach the heights that he did!

Before I joined Ron, I worked at Little & Brosnan for three years where I gained my licence to practise as a cadastral surveyor.

My involvement with SPEAR started with the pilot program based on email application, referral and issue of permit with formal certification still on paper. I participated in the pilot with Renee Kueffer who was the Subdivision Officer at City of Banyule. Peter Soding, Director of City Development, was keen to support the pilot as he wanted his department to be at the cutting edge of all advances in the subdivision process. The pilot was a success and the SPEAR system was further developed and implemented.

I was lucky at the time of its introduction as we were acting for a client for a 600-lot subdivision in Banyule, not something which had been seen there for a long time!

The ease in processing permit and certification applications in SPEAR was obvious compared to preparing hard copy plans and submitting 15 hard copies to council. It also removed the need to provide a film plan of the subdivisions.

I am proud of the fact that our small practice established a name for being local government consultants over 38 years. A major part of that work was what some might consider simple i.e. Road Discontinuance, Reserve Vesting and subdivisions.

A significant amount of our acquired knowledge was gained by the preparedness of Land Use Victoria (LUV) staff to pass on tips, especially for interpreting very old titles. I owe a debt to those who were in the local government section as they were always ready to help me get onto the right path.

I would also like to pass on publicly that my experience with LUV staff showed they are well managed, well trained and always prepared to give advice in a very cooperative and friendly manner.

I am not certain whether it was because of our rapport with LUV staff, but in 2013 I received an award from the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute for Excellence in Cadastral Surveying. I told our staff of the award and pointed out that it was very much their good work which made me look good. This award was one of the highlights of my career.

Even though we have been using SPEAR for some 14 years, I still find, because of my lack of mental capacity or because we seem to process applications which are different from the norm, that I need the helpful backup of LUV staff. I believe that because of my regular phone calls, the staff at the Help Desk recognise my voice before I say who I am and despite that have always shown extraordinary preparedness to help. I believed

SPEAR worked so well and became part of the subdivision process because of the following advantages:

- Immediate lodging of applications, no waiting for the mail
- No paper or film transparencies required
- Transparency – all actions by councils and referral authorities were there immediately it was loaded into SPEAR
- All round more efficient and economical.
- The fact that our clients can, if they wish, become guests to our application enabled them to have a handle on the progress of the application if they wanted it.

I have sold my practice to Terrain Consulting Group Pty Ltd and I know I will miss the contacts I have daily with clients, service authorities and LUV; it is that contact with LUV and SPEAR staff I will miss the most.

[The SPEAR team congratulates David on his 45 years in the industry and wishes him an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement!](#)

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names



Rafe Benli, Project Manager Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) represented Victoria as part of the Australian delegation at the biennial United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEGN) held in New York.

Delegates from more than 100 nations attended. Discussion focused on many areas including standardisation of geographic names, the importance of geographic names and connection with cultural history and management of place gazetteers.

GNV presented three papers at the conference highlighting the Victorian Naming rules for places in

Victoria, the Register of Geographic Names and the work promoting Aboriginal languages across Victoria.

All discussions at the United Nations are recorded and one of Rafe's presentations is provided below (starts 2h 14min and ends 2 h 31 mins with questions from Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Sweden):

[VICNAMES – the Register of Geographic Names – Our Victorian repository for place names and cultural history – speech from Pacific South West Division](#)

Victoria is well placed in the world with the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*, comprehensive Naming rules for places in Victoria and continued engagement with Victorian Traditional Owners.

For further information contact Rafe on (03) 9194 0281 or email rafe.benli@delwp.vic.gov.au



SPEAR staff changes

In May 2019 the SPEAR Service Desk team welcomed new members Milton Fuentes and Brandon Keeble.

Milton has worked with land information systems for the past eight years including Electronic Conveyancing (EC) and Landata in Land Use Victoria, Victorian Land Registry Services (VLRS) and Property Exchange Australia (PEXA). Milton has extensive experience in customer service and has worked closely with lodging parties in his previous roles in EC and PEXA.

Brandon has worked with Land Use Victoria since 2016. He began in the Data Quality Audit team before moving to the Application and Survey Branch as a Crown Land Project Officer. He has experience in training and liaising with stakeholders and looks forward to meeting and assisting our SPEAR users.

If you need any assistance Brandon (below left) and Milton (below right) can be contacted on the SPEAR Service Desk (03) 9194 0612.

Contact SPEAR

T: 03 9194 0612

E: spear.info@delwp.vic.gov.au

W: www.spear.land.vic.gov.au

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2019



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136186, email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au, or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.spear.land.vic.gov.au.