



SPEAR News

Surveying and Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals

June 2016

Lodging parties – eLodgement

The next release of SPEAR is scheduled for October 2016 and will introduce the ability for lodging parties to submit subdivision applications electronically.

The pilot group of lodging parties will be given an overview of the lodging party functionality in SPEAR and the process to sign up as a SPEAR user prior to the rollout in October. Once signed, lodging parties will be provided with training and ongoing support by the SPEAR Service Desk team. We intend to run the pilot for six months.

Land Victoria recently responded to feedback provided by key stakeholders in relation to the SPEAR Electronic Lodgment Network (ELN) Participation Rules, which will enable lodging parties to sign up and register as SPEAR users. We anticipate these rules will be finalised following further consultation with key stakeholders.

Stakeholder engagement

SPEAR User Group meetings

User Group meetings were held in March 2016 in Melbourne, Benalla, Traralgon and Swan Hill.

Topics discussed included the SPEAR user survey, the SPEAR Enhancement Program, Lodging Parties, an ePlan update, email notifications, surveyors' reports in SPEAR, owners corporation schedules, advertising outside SPEAR and the review of *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010*.

Visit the SPEAR website to view the [meetings' presentations and feedback notes](#) at www.spear.land.vic.gov.au>About>News and events>User Group Meetings.

SPEAR release 4.4

The next release is scheduled for October 2016. As this release mainly focuses on Lodging Parties, there will be no User Group meetings for applicants, councils or referral authorities.

ePlan progress

ePlan Rollout

Land Victoria is pleased to announce a milestone – the 50th ePlan was submitted to SPEAR on 15 March 2016 by Kieron Vaivars from CAF Consulting.

Kieron enjoyed the challenge of producing ePlans and indicated the ePlan team handled any queries promptly. He also highlighted one ePlan benefit – the automated checks that reduce errors, particularly in regard to dimensions, because they are generated from the data rather than adding them to plans. Kieron produces his ePlan differently from other surveyors – he produces the ePlan from raw data, not by using a drawing package. He uses CAD to produce a CSV file of parcel corners and traverse points, which are then run through an excel macro to produce the LandXML file, after which the ePlan can be generated and then checked. Kieron is looking forward to the introduction of field records in ePlan as he believes the removal of drafting field records will be a saving to surveyors.

The ePlan team has continued to meet with surveyors this year as part of the ePlan Engagement Program and has held workshops with SMC Land Surveyors and Spiire. Nine surveying firms have now undertaken a workshop since the program began in 2015.

National ePlan Working Group meeting in Melbourne

The National ePlan Working Group (eWG) members from VIC, NSW, QLD, TAS and WA met in Melbourne on 12 and 13 April for the first face-to-face meeting of 2016. This was an opportunity to review the progress of the visualisation service in Victoria, discuss jurisdictional implementation issues, review the requirements for developing a new tool to enhance the quality of visualised PDFs and review different jurisdictions' progress in supporting 3D building subdivisions in ePlan. The next meeting is scheduled for October or November 2016.

The eWG members also met with a delegation from Tajikistan and presented the ePlan project's national overview.

ePlan at the ACSV Seminar

The ePlan team delivered a joint presentation with Brendan Munari, SMEC Melbourne Survey Manager, at the ACSV Seminar on 18 March at Caulfield Racecourse.

Brendan presented an overview of SMEC's ePlan experience to date and any issues they encountered. He also discussed the recent collaboration with Land Victoria to investigate private practice processes involved in more complex ePlan scenarios, which in turn aims to align software development and visualisation enhancements.

Dr Hamed Olfat, ePlan Coordinator, discussed the results of a recent case study undertaken with SMEC's data and explored the ePlan approach to multi-lot estate subdivisions. He also presented a new concept – the ePlan Visualisation Enhancement Tool, which will enable surveyors to improve the quality of their visualised ePlans in SPEAR.

Brendan concluded the presentation with a summary of his findings, highlighting potential ePlan benefits for SMEC.

ePlan at Locate16

The Land Victoria ePlan team published and presented an article on 'The Victorian Digital Cadastre: Challenges and Investigations' at the Locate16 Conference, which was held in Melbourne on 12–14 April 2016.

This paper explores the current status of digital cadastre (known as the ePlan project) in Victoria. It also outlines the main challenges that have impacted the uptake of ePlan in this jurisdiction.

Critical challenges include surveyors adopting a new method for producing plans, quality of the visualisation service that converts the ePlan LandXML file into a PDF to use as the legal title diagram and support for 3D building subdivision plans.

The paper also introduced the research programs defined by Land Victoria to address the ePlan challenges and encourage prompt uptake in the surveying industry. The research programs include:

- the ePlan Engagement Program, which aims to gain a greater understanding of surveying firms' subdivision processes and how ePlan can fit into them
- a new tool for surveyors to improve the quality of the visualised PDF
- investigating the technical aspect of a 3D digital cadastre for Victoria, comprising 3D data modelling, validation and visualisation components.

You can see the [article](#) in the Research@Locate16 , Session 2, Prosper – The Victorian Digital Cadastre: Challenges and Investigations at <http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-1570/paper05.pdf>.

Partnership with the University of Melbourne

Land Victoria is pleased to announce a partnership agreement for enhancing ePlan Services has been signed with the Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration at the University of Melbourne. University of Melbourne staff will assist in developing the ePlan Visualisation Enhancement Tool. This tool will be used by ePlan-enabled surveyors to improve the quality of their visualised ePlans through defining sheets, exaggerations, enlargement diagrams and by adjusting labels and arrows. The ePlan team will consult the surveying industry to develop more functions for the tool.

SPEAR statistics – May milestone

All 79 councils are signed up to SPEAR, and 190 surveying firms (352 licensed surveyors) and 53 referral authorities are also using SPEAR. There are currently more than 3,600 registered users of the system.

As of 31 May there were 17,711 current applications and 577 draft applications in the system. There were 1,248 applications submitted to councils during May 2016, which is the highest number submitted since SPEAR's inception.

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