Frequently Asked Questions

General

1. **What is an ePlan and what are the benefits of ePlan?**
   An ePlan is a digital file of surveying and administrative information related to a subdivision survey. ePlan reduces the current reliance on hardcopy or PDF plans to save time and resources through waiving the need for generating PDF plans and improves the quality of plan data and associated documents.

   For more information please refer to the [ePlan Information Sheet](#) from the SPEAR Website.

2. **Is ePlan mandatory?**
   ePlan is <u>NOT</u> mandatory for surveying firms.

3. **How much will it cost?**
   There are no plans to charge for the lodgment of ePlan applications in SPEAR. However, ePlan compliant surveying software is required to produce ePlans. The cost will vary depending on the vendor.

4. **Is ePlan available now?**
   Yes, surveyors can upload ePlan as the plan of subdivision in SPEAR and validate it. The surveyors can visualise the ePlan as a PDF which can be used for the council certification and registration process. Surveyors can also improve the quality of the visualised PDF through an online tool available in SPEAR, the ePlan Visualisation Enhancement Tool.

5. **What is the ePlan Pilot?**
   The ePlan Pilot commenced on 1 March 2018 and will conclude 30 June 2019. The purpose of the pilot is for participants to develop new skills and knowledge in producing ePlans and to also fully test the functionality of the ePlan services with the CAD software that supports ePlan creation. During the pilot participants are expected to create 10 2D ePlans no greater than 10 lots. There are 22 surveying firms participating in the pilot.

6. **What are the ePlan software applications?**
   Several software applications are used to produce, process and use ePlan files. Below is a list of the applications currently completed or in development:

   - Surveying package (eg: LISCAD, GeoCivil/ePSALON, AutoCAD, AutoCAD Civil 3D, Map 3D, BricsCAD and LISTECH Neo) with ePlan export feature – Used by surveyors to produce ePlan files

   - ePlan enabled SPEAR – ePlan enabled surveyors can upload ePlans in SPEAR applications

   - ePlan Validation Service – Available through SPEAR. Used to validate ePlan files prior to lodgement. Checks for completeness and correctness to the ePlan Protocol and plan examination rules

   - ePlan Visualiser – Produces a visual representation of the ePlan in a PDF file for use by councils, clients and other stakeholders

   - ePlan Visualisation Enhancement Tool – Enables surveyors to improve the presentation of the visualised PDF through functions such as editing labels and arrows, defining sheets, creating enlargements and exaggerating features

   - ePlan Data Viewer – Creates a tabular view of both graphical and textual data that can be used to review the content of ePlan

- LASSI - SPEAR – A web mapping application used by surveyors to search and download survey information including Abstract of Field Records PDFs and digital spatial data for import into ePlan. Data sources include Vicmap and SMES

- Update system – Computer systems that automatically update existing databases eg: Vicmap, SMES and VOTS.

7. Where can I find some ePlan samples?

Click here to access some ePlan samples available on the SPEAR Website.

8. Where can I find some sample PDF plans generated from ePlan by SPEAR?

Click here to access some sample PDF plans available on the SPEAR Website.

9. Can I try out the ePlan Services within SPEAR?

Yes, first you need to download one or more ePlan sample(s) from here. Then, you can upload the ePlan file onto the ePlan Services public page available on the SPEAR Website.

For more information about using the ePlan Services, please refer to SPEAR User Guide 52 – Creating ePlan Applications.

10. How can I get help for my first ePlan application?

ePlan is currently being rolled out to SPEAR surveying firms progressively on a voluntary basis. Training sessions are provided either onsite or at Land Use Victoria – 2 Lonsdale Street Melbourne. To register your interest, please contact the SPEAR Service Desk on (03) 9194 0612.