

e-Planning Roadmap Update

What is the e-Planning Roadmap?

The e-Planning Roadmap is a five-year strategy to implement a more efficient planning process for Victorians through effective, integrated, electronic planning systems and services. The Roadmap provides a framework by which planning stakeholders can collaborate towards this aim.

The e-Planning Roadmap was launched in June 2007 as a joint initiative between the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) and the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).

The e-Planning Roadmap will deliver:

- ✓ online planning applications integrated with council systems
- ✓ online planning scheme amendment processing
- ✓ online address and map based services
- ✓ planning permit activity reporting to support monitoring and continuous improvement
- ✓ improved online planning information and resources.

Significant progress has been made over the past 18 months, thanks to the efforts of councils, vendors and other agencies.

An industry-wide strategic plan to:

- guide future system development
- facilitate standards
- avoid duplication of effort
- minimise costs
- prioritise effort and resources.

e-Planning Council

The e-Planning Council was established in October 2007 to monitor, guide and provide strategic direction to the implementation of the e-Planning Roadmap.

The Council includes representatives from key stakeholder groups whose role is to nurture the Roadmap, to contribute to the effectiveness of the strategy, and advise on appropriate methods of communication, consultation and engagement.

Fiona Delahunt, formerly Chief Information Officer at DSE, has recently been appointed Director e-Planning within DPCD.

The e-Planning Council meets every two months and current representatives are:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| MAV | Paula Giles (Chair) | Liz Johnstone | |
| DPCD | Fiona Delahunt | Heather Cook | Chris Newman |
| DSE | Chris McRae | Bruce Thompson | |
| Business Victoria | Dominic Feik | | |
| City of Whittlesea | Neill Hocking (Chair of Local Government ICT Committee) | | |
| City of Yarra | Niloja Saranathan | | |
| City of Banyule | Scott Walker | | |

Projects and initiatives

The Roadmap encompasses information systems that support planning in Victoria.

Current projects and initiatives

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ✓ Planning Permit Activity Reporting | launched May 2007, most councils now submitting regular electronic returns |
| ✓ Planning Application Form | launched July 2007 |
| ✓ Planning Applications Online Pilot | launched August 2008 |
| ✓ Planning Maps Online | launched July 2007 |
| ✓ Planning Property Report | launched July 2007 |

The next two years

| | |
|--|---|
| • Planning Applications Online | pilot review and rollout |
| • HAF-eDA | funding to enable some councils to integrate with SPEAR |
| • Planning Portal | updated planning web site |
| • Electronic Planning Provision System | planning scheme and amendments system |
| • Enhancements to existing services | mapping services; Planning Permit Activity Reporting |

Initiatives on-track

Over the past 18 months a number of e-Planning initiatives have been implemented or are underway.

Planning Permit Activity Reporting

The Planning Permit Activity Reporting System (PPARS) went live in May 2007 and from 1 July of that year councils have been submitting permit activity electronic returns to the system. The new format reporting delivers standardised monthly reports on all councils across the state.

Regular reporting on planning permit activity is now fully implemented in most councils and for those planning areas where the Minister for Planning is responsible.

The 2007-08 Planning Permit Activity Report will be available in early 2009 and will be the first annual report to be compiled entirely from electronic activity returns.

The integration of council systems with PPARS has resulted in regular electronic reporting on a wide range of planning information not previously available in Victoria. We can now track trends in planning permit numbers, what they are for, how long they take, how many are advertised, objections received, referrals, or decisions under delegation.

During 2009 the PPAR team will be visiting councils to assist them in gaining the full benefit of the reporting and analysis capabilities of the system.

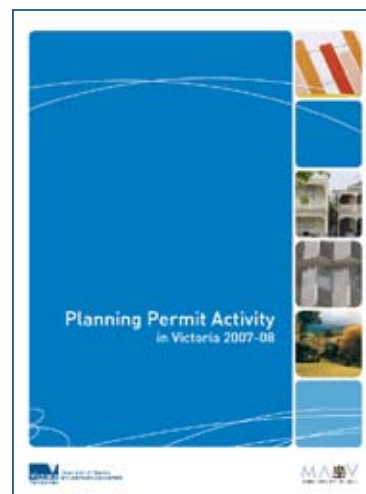
Go to: www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/ppar

Planning Permit Application Form

Launched in July 2007, the Planning Permit Application Form is hosted by Business Victoria as part of their World Class Service program. It features individual council branding and contact details on each form and allows an applicant to save a form for submission to council. The form can also be quickly and easily updated for distribution to all councils. The form provides a single form for use by applicants and councils for manual lodgement of permit applications.

The service is being expanded in 2009 with new forms for "Amending a Planning Permit" and "Amending a Planning Application".

Go to: www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning/applicationforms





Planning Applications Online

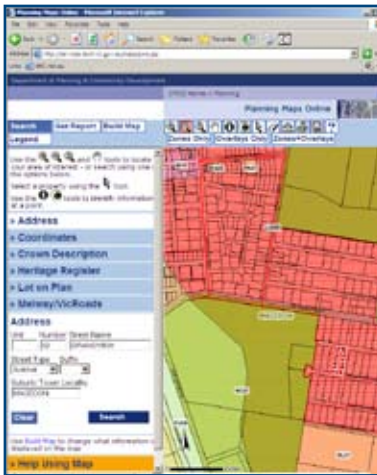
Each year, over 50,000 planning permit applications are lodged across Victoria. Lodging these applications using traditional methods is a labour intensive undertaking, requiring extensive amounts of paper work, manual and repetitive handling and distribution of documents and the manual creation of work flow and audit trails.

Planning Applications Online (PAO) aims to streamline this process, thereby improving efficiency for applicants, council officers and for the community who want to know what applications are being made, what they are about and their current status.

PAO extends the SPEAR online subdivision system to support the processing of planning permit applications. PAO manages applications from beginning to end, including lodgement, request for further information, referral, advertising, making a decision and VCAT appeals.

The PAO Pilot commenced on 18 August 2008 and will continue to early 2009. Six councils are participating in the pilot - Banyule, Greater Dandenong, Hepburn, Hobsons Bay, Melbourne and Moreland. In addition, 12 applicants, more than 30 referral authorities, and VCAT are also involved. The first online permit application was lodged at Hobsons Bay on 27 August 2008. So far about 25 real applications have been lodged as part of the pilot.

Go to: www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planningapplicationsonline



Planning Maps Online and the Planning Property Report

The Planning Maps Online and Planning Property Report services were launched in July 2007 and provide online access to planning maps and associated information for all 28 million properties in Victoria free of charge. They have proved popular resources with over 22,000 reports and 230,000 maps being viewed every month from more than 20,000 users.

Planning Maps Online was updated in October 2008 to include aerial imagery and historical planning scheme maps for metropolitan Melbourne, as well as information on places listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The Planning Property Report was also updated to include Victorian Heritage Register listings and an improved layout that provides separate maps for planning scheme overlays.

Both services also now provide information about areas and properties affected by the Melbourne @ 5 million investigation areas.

Go to: www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planningmapsonline
www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planningpropertyreport



What's coming up?

Planning Portal

A new 'planning portal' will be established to provide a consolidated online presence for planning and land information in Victoria. This project will leverage Government investment in a new web content management system and provide the opportunity to establish new and improved features and services.

The 'portal' will update the existing DPCD planning web site and development is expected to commence in 2009.

Electronic Planning Provision System

All planning schemes are now held in electronic format. The pilot ZAPP system was developed to support the process of planning scheme amendments and the management of planning schemes in Victoria.

The pilot system enables electronic processing of amendments from creation through to consolidation into planning schemes as amendments are gazetted. It includes templates for supporting documentation, version management, document sharing and transmission.

An evaluation of the capability of the pilot system to provide the basis for a production service is being undertaken during 2008-09. It will include recommendations for delivery of a suitable production service for an electronic Planning Provision System (ePPS) into the foreseeable future.



SPEAR Update

SPEAR enables subdivision approvals to be compiled, lodged, managed and tracked online. Since 2008 there has been a significant increase in applicants, councils and referral authorities using SPEAR to manage subdivision applications. Did you know:

- 27 councils are now using SPEAR. The latest councils include Greater Geelong, Cardinia, Brimbank, Warrnambool, Gannawarra, Moyne and Wellington.
- Another 9 councils have signed SPEAR agreements, and a further 8 propose to join in 2009.
- Over 120 licensed surveyors are registered with SPEAR.
- SPEAR is currently averaging 190 applications per month.
- There are 1500 current applications in SPEAR compared to 880 in April 2008.
- Overall, SPEAR is now processing 20% of the total number of subdivisions lodged in Victoria per annum.

Housing Affordability Fund – Electronic Development Assessment (HAF – EDA)

DPCD is currently finalising arrangements with the Federal Government for funding through the Housing Affordability Fund (HAF) which will enable integration of council systems with SPEAR.

This will automate the exchange of planning permit information and provide significant efficiencies for councils and referral authorities by removing the requirement for entering information into (or retrieving information from) SPEAR.

The program will implement the national eDA standard as the means for improving and enabling interoperability between council systems and SPEAR.

Enhancements to existing services

The services already implemented will continue to be improved with new capabilities and features being offered. These include:

Mapping Services

- Additional data sets added to assist interpretation and use of planning information
- Updated and improved online interface
- Expansion of coverage of existing data sets such as aerial imagery
- Additional information provided in Planning Property Reports
- New online help support and training through the PLANET program

Planning Permit Activity Reporting

- Completion of state-wide monthly reporting
- Expanded analysis of PPAR data to inform strategy and policy initiatives
- Improved reporting for councils and State Government

Further information

Further information is available from:

- Melissa Harris, Manager e-Planning Services, DPCD, phone 9637 9490, email: melissa.harris@dpcd.vic.gov.au
- Liz Johnstone, Senior Planning Policy Advisor, MAV, phone 9667 5585, email: ljohnstone@mav.asn.au

Online Resources

- DPCD Planning web site: www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning
- e-Planning information: www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/eplanning

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