

RULES & POLICY

By simplifying and restructuring planning rules and policy we will reduce the complexity of planning regulation. This will help users understand the planning system, as well as improve the effectiveness and efficiency of decision making.

What we're doing

- Expanding the VicSmart planning assessment process to include additional permit categories. VicSmart is designed to allow straightforward, low-impact permit applications to be assessed in 10 days.
- Investigating a framework for new assessment pathways, and increasing use of streamlined assessment pathways for lower risk applications.
- Reviewing and restructuring the State Planning Policy Framework to identify and remove repetition, inconsistencies and redundancies, and to better align state and local policy.
- Clarifying common points of contention or confusion in the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP).

Why we're doing it

- Increased uncertainty and confusion regarding planning permit application processes has reduced public confidence in the planning system and led to more disputes.
- Technology has changed significantly since the VPP was introduced in the 1990s. The planning system should position itself to take advantage of these advances.
- A lack of alignment between state and local policy creates confusion and reduces the overall effectiveness of planning policy.

- The potential impacts of certain proposals vary depending on the type and scale of application, yet most applications remain subject to the same assessment processes, slowing processing times.
- To reduce duplication and permit triggers, more effectively implement policy and increase clarity and certainty for users of the planning system.

Timeline

Completed: Plan Melbourne 2017, the State Government's metropolitan planning strategy to guide Melbourne's development to 2050, incorporated into the State Planning Policy Framework.

Completed: Introduced first stage of additional VicSmart categories.

July 2017: Second stage of additional categories to be introduced to VicSmart focusing on residential zones.

Late 2017: First package of reforms to the VPP implemented.

Late 2017: Consultation on draft reformed VPP framework.

Mid 2018: Implementation of second package of reforms to create a restructured and streamlined VPP framework.