About the Smart Planning program
The Smart Planning program will make Victoria’s planning system the most efficient and responsive in Australia, driving investment. The Victorian Government launched Smart Planning in July 2016. The first funded review and reform of Victoria’s planning system in more than 20 years, the Smart Planning program will make planning in Victoria more efficient, effective, accessible and collaborative. Smart Planning is a two-year program, with an additional stage – known as ‘Transform’ – subject to funding. Transform would focus on long-term solutions to meet the challenges of the next 30 years.

Outcomes of Smart Planning reform
Rules and policy reform, and the development of new digital systems, are improving planning in Victoria.

• Planning regulation and information will be easier to access, understand and interpret.
• Tasks will be simpler and faster to complete.
• Simpler rules, more accessible information and online processes will remove barriers to public participation, and reduce processing and application costs.
• Greater participation will lead to improved outcomes that better meet the needs of Victorians.
• The planning system will be able to more quickly and effectively respond to evolving needs in land use and development.
• Planning policy across the state will be more consistent. Planners, applicants and the wider community will enjoy greater certainty and transparency in planning outcomes.

OBJECTIVES

• **Simplify planning regulation** – to make it easier to understand, and improve the quality of planning outcomes.
• **Develop digital tools that make it easier to access information and complete tasks** – to boost activity, participation and efficiency in the planning system.

To subscribe to our newsletter please email smart.planning@delwp.vic.gov.au
**Digital systems**

**PSIMS**
The planning scheme information management system (PSIMS), will house all of the state’s planning schemes online, via the planning portal.
*When:* Available from 2018.

**Permits Online**
Establishing an online system for processing state planning permit applications will make the process quicker and easier for applicants. The ability to track applications will provide greater transparency.
*When:* Reforms delivered from early-to-mid 2018.

**Victorian Planning Portal**
A single point of entry to all Victorian planning information and services. New digital tools will make it quicker and easier to find the information you need and do what you need to do.
*When:* Live now with further enhancements in 2018.

**VicPlan – Zones & Overlays**
A state-wide map viewer that provides quick and easy access to zone and overlay information for any property in Victoria. Get links to planning scheme information and generate an interactive planning property report.

**Online amendments**
An online process for planning scheme amendments, utilising templates, will be quicker, easier and ensure greater consistency across the state. Proposed amendments will be available for viewing and comment online.
*When:* Available from 2018.

**Property Dashboard**
The Property Dashboard will offer a basic search tool to quickly obtain data, as well as zones and overlays for a single property in an easy-to-use format.
*When:* Early 2018.

**VicSmart**
Expanding VicSmart will allow more straightforward, low-impact applications to be assessed in 10 days, and reduce overall processing times for planning permit applications.

**Holistic approach**
Smart Planning takes a systematic and integrated approach to planning reform. This will help achieve our goals and build a foundation for more effective reform in the future.

**Rules and policy**

**SPPF**
Improvements to the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) will allow local and state policy to be used together more easily, and provide greater certainty for all users of the system.
*When:* Early 2018.

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**Smart Planning**
This includes investigating a framework for new assessment pathways and greater use of streamlined assessment pathways for lower-risk applications.
*When:* Reforms delivered from early-to-mid 2018.
Residents and business owners

- Expansions to VicSmart mean fast approval for planning permit applications that meet pre-set criteria without putting things on hold.
- With all planning information and services available through the Victorian Planning Portal, it will be easier than ever to prepare applications.
- You will be able to electronically view and comment on any proposed changes to the local planning scheme that affects you, and your community.
- Permits Online will allow you to electronically lodge and track applications for heritage permits.

Home buyers

- Using VicPlan, easily find out what planning rules apply to specific properties or parcels anywhere in Victoria, and compare land in different municipalities without changing maps.

Council officers

- Planning scheme management, particularly amendments, will be much simpler with PSIMS.
- Local planning schemes will be more responsive to the dynamic nature of land use and development.
- Improved public access to planning information and digital systems that allow more tasks to be undertaken online, will lead to quicker and simpler planning permit application processes.

State planners

- Planning regulation will be more consistent across the state with the introduction of PSIMS and reforms to the VPP.
- More predictable and consistent planning decisions will mean greater transparency.
- Better access to information and digital engagement tools will boost public participation and allow the planning system to be more responsive to community needs.

Developers

- Enjoy greater certainty when preparing projects, thanks to easier to interpret planning rules that are more consistent across the state.
- Efficiency gains and cost savings created by Smart Planning will make Victoria even more attractive for investment in big projects.
- Applications for ministerial permits will be able to be lodged and tracked online.