

Can you believe it? We're almost half way through the year!

The team at Smart Planning have had a big year so far – with plenty more to come as Stage 3 kicks off in July.

As always, one of our key drivers is to give planners more time to do what they do best - plan. By providing a suite of digital tools, and reforming our rules, we're delivering a simpler, more contemporary planning system.

Delivered so far...

VicPlan

Enhancements to the mapping tool went live in May, making it more dynamic than ever. It's now easier for planning authorities, developers and homebuyers to find overlay and zoning information relating to *any* site in Victoria. We've introduced independent layer control which allows you to select the zone or overlay relevant to a property and provides distinction between different layers. Using mark up and measure tools you can now draw on the map, as well as find dimension and area information.

Watch our [short video](#) to see VicPlan's new features and [try using it](#) for yourself.

What's new...

Keeping on track with the Amendment Tracking System (ATS)

We recently welcomed the next digital tool in the suite of Smart Planning initiatives - the [Amendment Tracking System](#) (ATS) - now live for DELWP and planning authorities.

ATS allows planning authorities to lodge, pay for and track planning scheme amendments online and for DELWP to manage amendments through a workflow system by consolidating and tracking amendment processes and improving reporting and auditing capability.

Reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) - an update on VC148

VC148 Amendment was approved by the Minister in June. With gazettal due in late July, this will have an immediate and lasting impact on the VPP and planning schemes across the state. It will:

- introduce a new integrated Planning Policy Framework (PPF) and enable the future introduction of a Municipal Planning Strategy for each planning scheme
- restructure the VPP into a more accessible format and integrate VicSmart. It is the biggest change to the VPP since its creation in 1990
- improve the structure and operation of specific zones, overlays and particular provisions (e.g. Heritage Overlay and new Specific Controls Overlay)
- Reduce red tape for business through removing outdated provisions and reducing permit requirements.

We'll keep you updated on future changes.

Planning Portal – new resource library

The new [resource library](#) has gone live!

It provides a new search tool for current and archived planning documents. It currently holds the 150 most popular planning documents – current and archived - and by the end of 2018 will include all documents incorporated in Victoria planning schemes.

Coming soon...

Ministerial Permits Online

In August, we'll be implementing an online, state permit system for lodgement, management and end-to-end tracking of ministerial permit applications. We'll see faster assessment and decision making, and shorter processing time. The rollout will provide transparency across the status of an application or permit for external users and provide transparency to applicants on the application process through automated status updates.

ATS Authoring

ATS Authoring is a digital tool which will allow planning authorities to draft planning scheme amendments online. The release is scheduled for delivery in September as the Victoria Planning Provisions are migrated into the digital tool. October will see the start of the phased roll out of the ATS Authoring system to all councils, and the migration of local planning schemes into the digital database.

Stage 3 – Continuing our reform and digital transformation agenda

With funding confirmed for Smart Planning Stage 3, we'll be working with local government to fully implement the reforms delivered to date, progress the delivery of our suite of digital tools and continue with our planning reform agenda. This will include a new Planning Dashboard to monitor the performance of the planning system and working with planning authorities on the translation of local planning schemes to the new integrated Planning Policy Framework.

Throughout August and September - we're on the road ...

Through August and September, we're 'hitting the road' with the DELWP Smart Planning Roadshow.

The Roadshow will cover all metropolitan and regional areas providing local councils with more information on what Smart Planning has delivered to date and what Stage 3 will look like. Details will follow once we have confirmed dates and locations.

Need further information or have questions?

Drop us a line via the [Smart Planning mailbox](#).