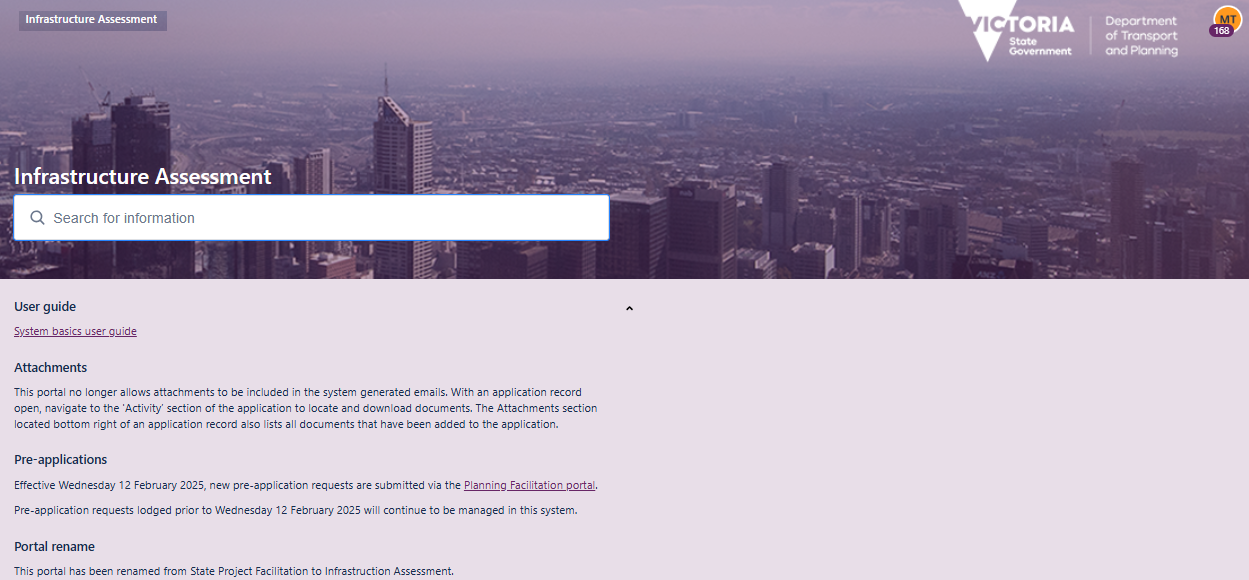


IA portal user guide for Proponents and Alliances



The following guide is for users of the Infrastructure Assessment (IA) portal, previously known as the SPF portal.

**Planning approval applications** for the development of state projects, should be lodged via the [**Infrastructure Assessment (IA) portal**](https://stateprojectfacilitation.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portals)**.** Request access to this portal by emailing [infrastructure.assessment@transport.vic.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure.assessment@transport.vic.gov.au).

For **general enquiries** and **pre-application meeting requests** to seek guidance on progressing a state project through the planning system, use the [**Planning Facilitation portal**](https://application-hub.app.planning.vic.gov.au/ppa/). Sign up to get access to this portal.

Each of these portals provide a simple pathway for submitting requests and gives proponents real time updates on the progress of applications.

The following planning approval applications can be lodged via the [IA portal](https://stateprojectfacilitation.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portals):

* Project area designation declarations made under the Major Transport Project Facilitation Act 2009;
* State Project decisions and other relevant planning approvals for Civil and Infrastructure projects made under Clause 52.30 of the Planning & Environment Act (P&E Act) 1987; and
* Various planning approvals made under the P&E Act 1987
  + Clause 52.03 (Level Crossing Removal Projects)
  + Clause 52.35 (Major Road Projects)
  + Clause 52.30 (State Project Decision)
* Applications for consent under an incorporated document

The IA portal does not support the lodgement of Planning Scheme Amendments. To request a planning scheme amendment, authorised users will need to use the [Amendment Tracking System.](https://application-hub.app.planning.vic.gov.au/ats/dashboard)

**Important things to note**

When using the IA portal, there MUST be an associated project already created in the system.

A project will include the following details:

* Link to an organisation (if required)​
* Project type, delivery method and other development information
* Related planning scheme amendment
* Native Vegetation and Heritage
* CEO/Program Manager

A project must have at least one site defined, such as the land being affected by the project or can have multiple project sites. Other things to note when using the IA portal:

* Each application will be linked to a project and applications can be created from the project screen
* Applications can be created and updated at any time up until they are submitted to the department for assessment, at which time they will be locked.

**Table of Contents**

Glossary of terms 3

Reset your password 4

Update profile settings 7

Navigating the system to access drafted requests and track the status of submitted requests 8

Create a project 9

Create and lodge an application 12

Create an application from a project 12

Create and lodge an application from the home screen 13

Amend a previously approved application 18

Upload files after application has been saved 22

Share projects or applications with other registered users 23

Respond to a request for further information 24

Withdraw an application 26

Place application on hold / Request to take off hold 27

Update the reporter/contact on an application 29

Generate a report using Advance Requests report 30

Which Planner is assigned to my application? 31

Understanding the status of an application 31

Need further help or have feedback? 32

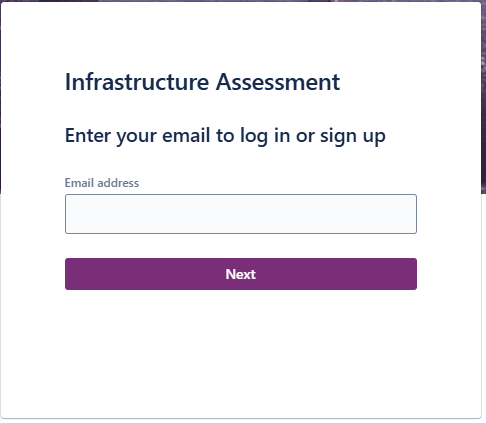
## Glossary of terms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Term | Definition |
| Closed requests | Includes any requests that have the status of complete. |
| DTP | Department of Transport and Planning |
| IA | Infrastructure Assessment – the team that assesses planning applications for transport and state infrastructure. The team was formerly known as State Project Facilitation (SPF). |
| Issue links | Refers to other requests that are linked to a specific request. For example, a project will have links to applications, pre-application meeting requests or an application schedule. |
| Open requests | All active requests raised in the portal that have not been submitted or that are actively being assessed by the department. |
| Participant | A user/managers group *(managers of a proponent)* of the system that has had a request *(e.g. application/project)* shared with them. |
| Portal | Refers to the system that is used to lodge applications to the Infrastructure Assessment team. |
| Project | The initiative driving the delivery of set outcomes and can cover one or more sites. Each project will include contact details, details of delivery method, construction dates, environment effects statement, details of vegetation removal, etc. |
| Project site | Also known as site, this is land that is affected by the project and can be represented as a site name suburb, or precinct relevant to the project. |
| Request | Can also be referred to as an issue and can be a project, application or amendment to a previously approved application. Each request type has a unique icon and will have separate associated form(s) with it. |
| Requestor/Reporter | Will be either the user of the portal who created the request or the main contact for an application. |

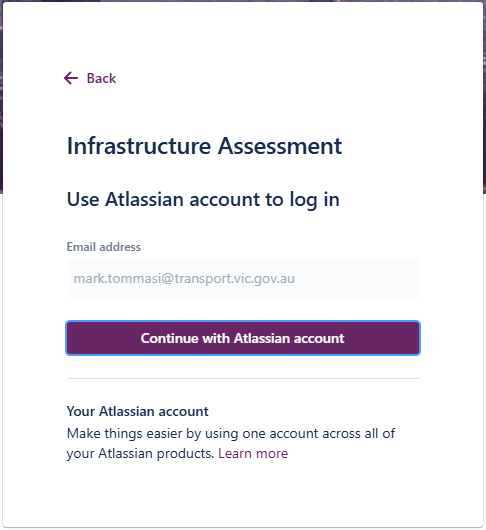
## Reset your password

If you have been provided access to the portal but unable to recall the password you used, you can reset it.  
An email to reset the password will be sent to the email address entered, if it is registered in the system. Read the steps here to learn how to generate a link to reset the password.

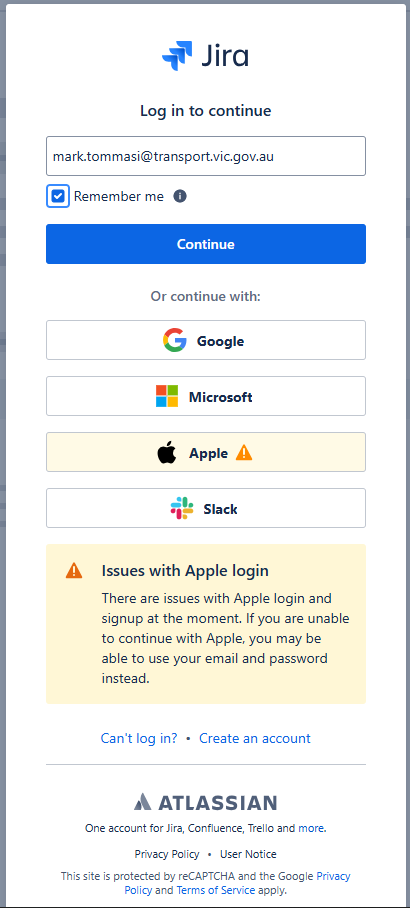
1. At the login screen, enter your email address and select Next.



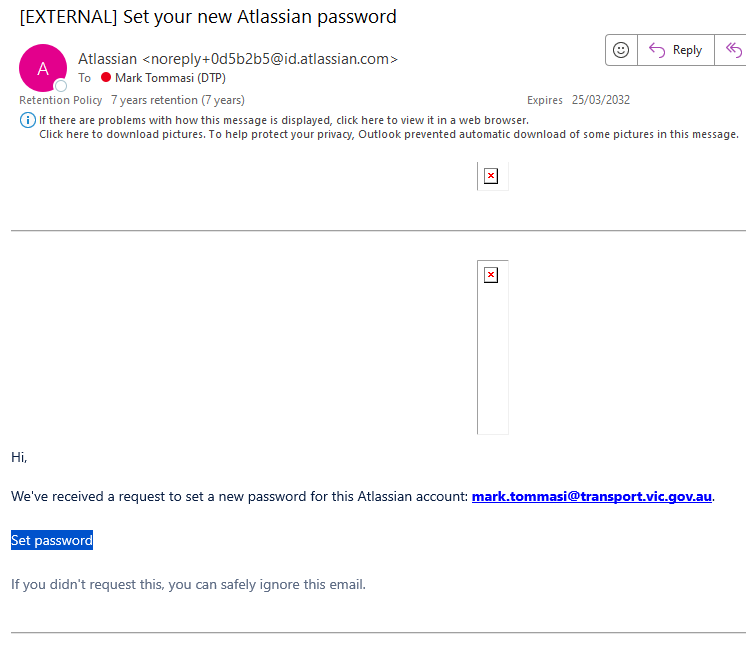
1. Select Continue with Atlassian account.



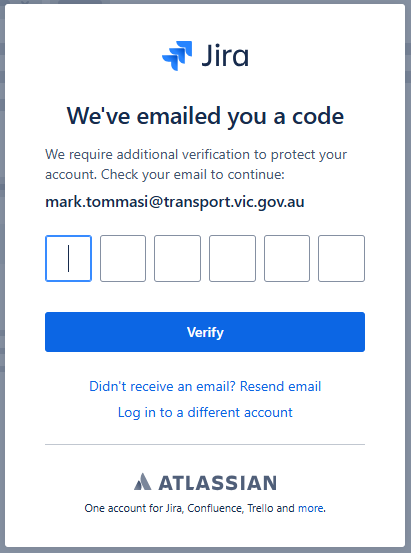
1. Select the Can’t login link, located at the end of the login page.



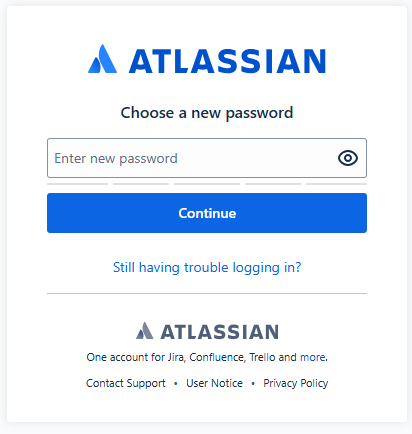
1. An email is sent to you with a link to set the password.



1. Use the code sent to your email address to verify the password change.



1. Enter a new password.



1. After resetting the password, return to the login page and log into the system.

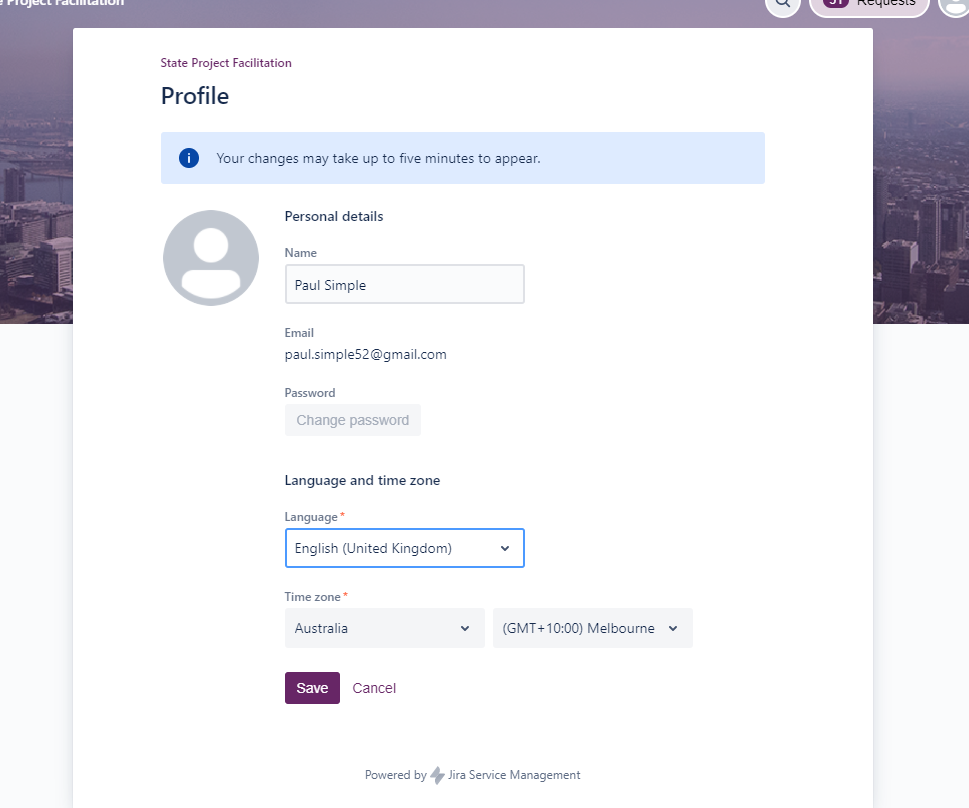
## Update profile settings

Once access has been granted to the system, it is important that you update your profile settings.

1. From the home screen, select the profile icon and select Profile.



1. **Update the Name field** with your first name and last name.
2. **Update the Language** to be English (United Kingdom) and **ensure that the time zone is Australia**, (GMT+10:00) Melbourne.
3. **Select Save**.



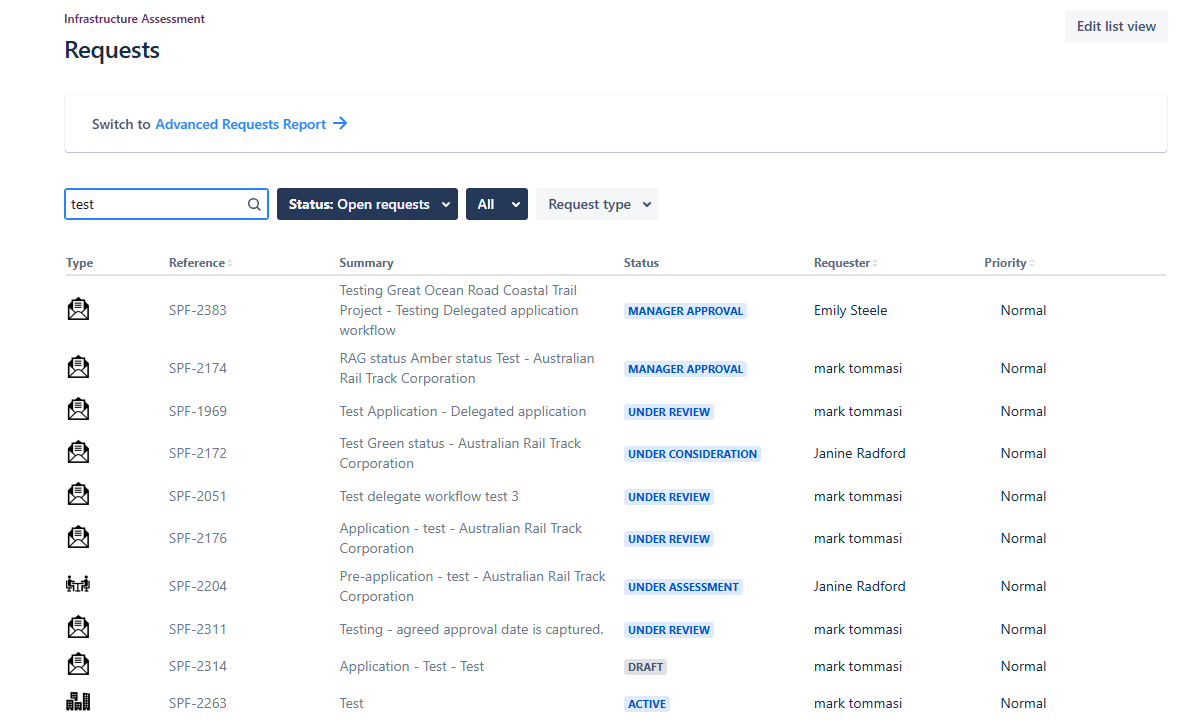
## Navigating the system to access drafted requests and track the status of submitted requests

After a project has been created and any subsequent applications or pre-application requests are created and/or submitted, they will be made available via the ‘Requests’ area of the portal. The ‘Requests’ section will show the current status for applications or other request types.

1. To access the requests that you have drafted, lodged or that have been shared with you, select the Requests button located at the top right of screen. *TIP: If accessing the Request listing whilst completing an application form, select Requests and right-click ‘All’ to open link in new tab so that the application form remains open in the existing tab*.



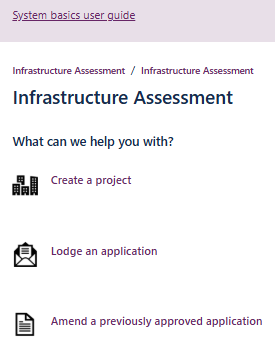
1. At the Requests listing screen, **select any of the reference numbers** to navigate to the selected request.
2. **Filters** located at the top of the listing can be used to enter a whole word which should search the key, summary and comments fields of requests in the listing.
3. **Hovering over the icons** will advise the type of request.
4. **Selecting Edit list view** will allow you to customise the listing.
5. **Select Infrastructure Assessment** to return to the main page.



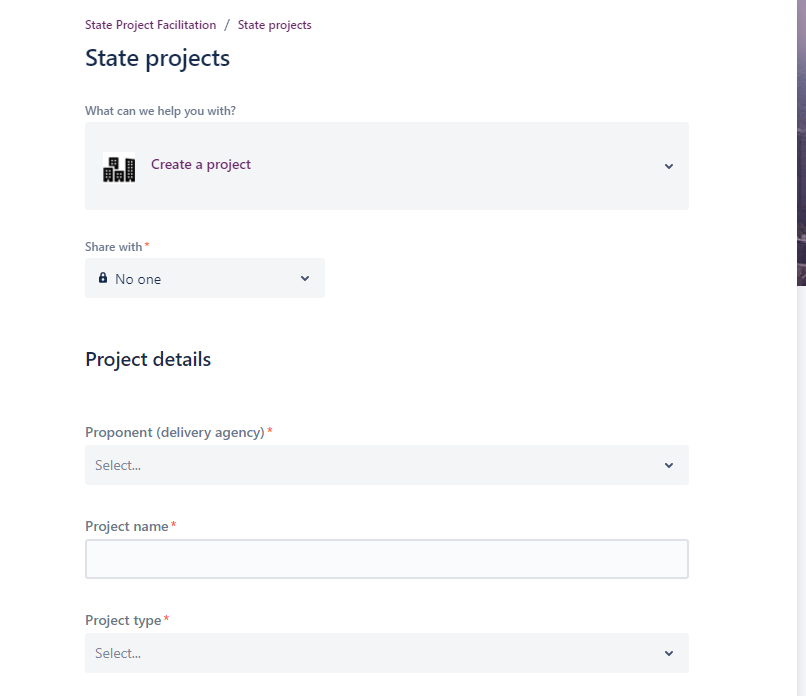
## Create a project

To create and lodge an application or request for a pre-application meeting, there must first be a project created in the system. Project details such as site(s) and relevant planning scheme(s) will auto populate into applications raised from the project screen. These details can be edited as required during the application drafting process.

1. From the home screen, **select Create a project**.



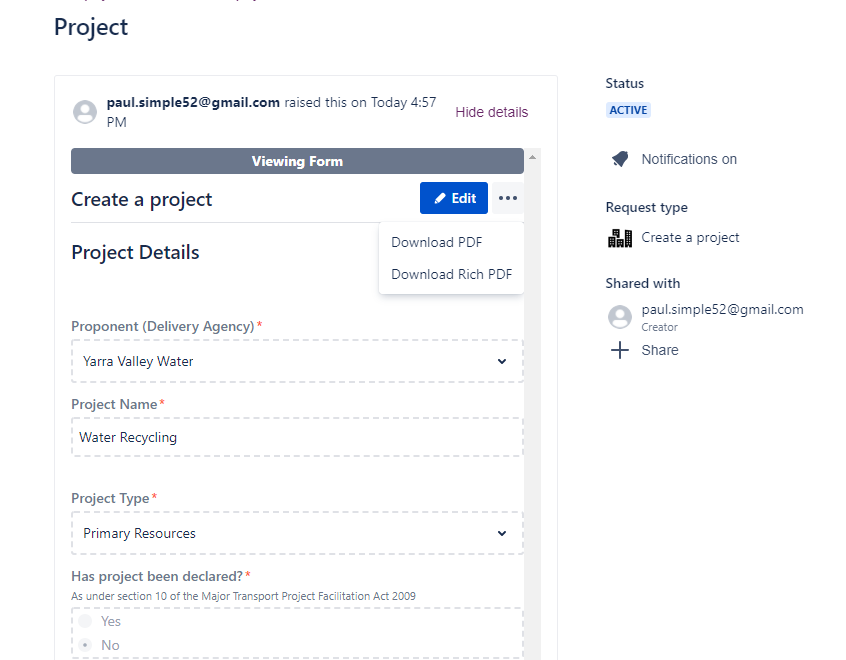
1. If your user access is configured to view all requests under a managers group, you will see the **‘Share with field’.** If you do not see this field, you will need to share the project with the managers group after it is created. *(See step 8 of this section)*



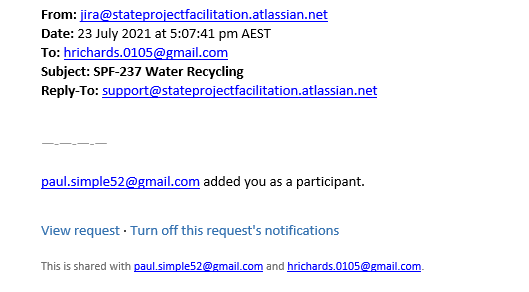
1. **Complete the form with the details of the project**, ensuring all mandatory fields are completed. Additional details can be added to the project at a later stage or when more details become available.Some items to note:
   1. Site names can be entered in the project form as well as any planning schemes covering the project land. These details will auto populate in any application that is generated from the project screen. For applications that are not created from the project, you will have an option to copy these details into the new application form.
   2. The Applicant details should reference the individual that all formal communication such as approval letters will be addressed to e.g. CEO or Program Manager
2. Review the privacy statement and when ready, **select Send to save the form**.



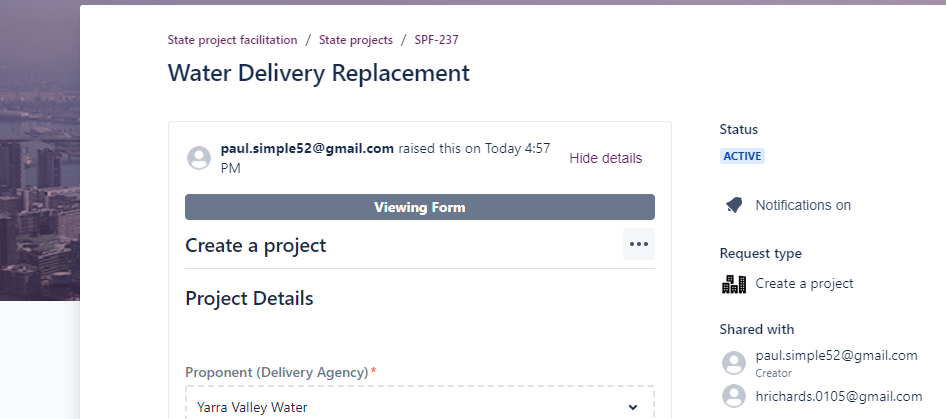
1. After the form has been saved, refresh the web page (F5). The **status should update to ACTIVE**.
2. **Selecting Edit will open the form** and allow you to make changes to any of the fields. Ensure that any changes are saved by **selecting the Save button**. **Do not select Save and Submit**.
3. **Select the elipses (…)** to download a copy of the form if needed.
4. If you would like to share the project with another registered user or to a managers group, **Select + Share**. Any users that you add to the form will be listed under the ‘Shared with’ section. The project can also be shared at a later time if needed.



1. When sharing the project, the user who you are sharing it with will receive an email to let them know that the project is shared with them.



1. You should note down the unique identifier which starts with SPF-XXX. This number will be required if creating an application, requesting a pre-application meeting or application schedule from the home screen.



## Create and lodge an application

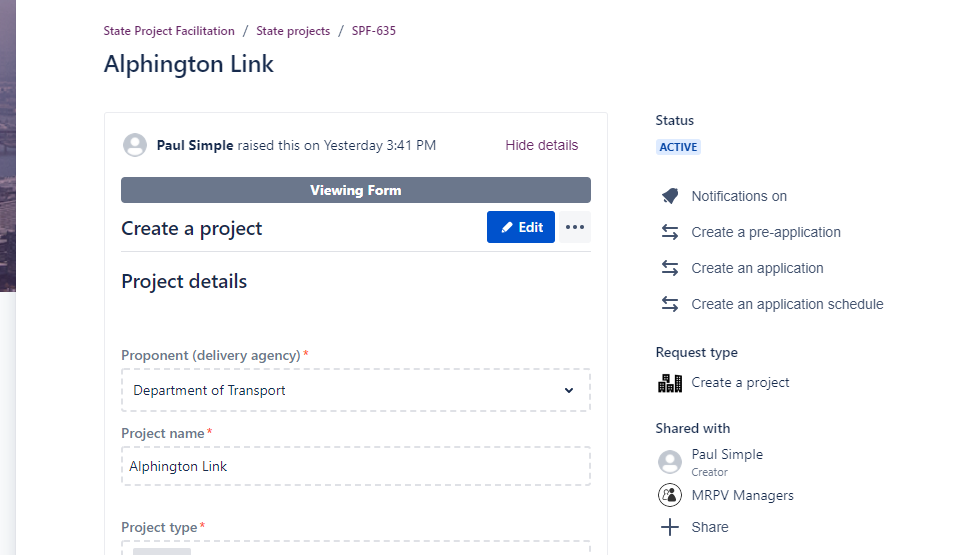
An application can be created and lodged using the portal from either the project screen or via the home screen.

Every application must be linked to a defined project and as with any request, it is important that as much information is included and attached to the request. The first stage of this process is to create the request which will be saved so that it can be reviewed prior to submission to the Infrastructure Assessment team. Documents supporting the request can be uploaded at the time the request is created or can be uploaded in the comments section of the request.

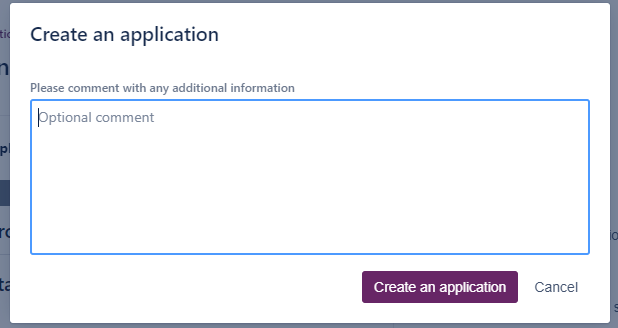
#### Create an application from a project

An application can be created from the project screen which will result in the details of the project being pre-populated in the application. Details such as site information and Planning Schemes can be edited as required.

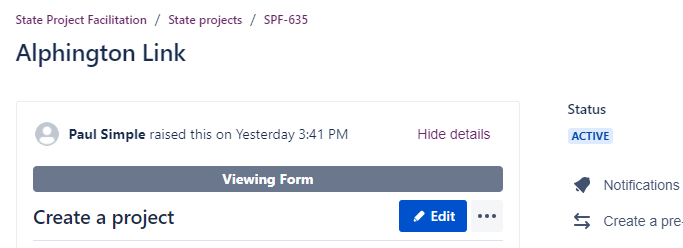
1. From the project screen, **select Create an application**.



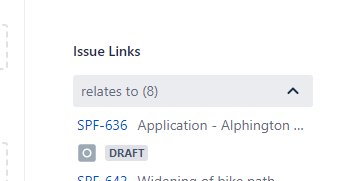
1. You can choose to add a comment or just **select ‘Create an application’**.



1. The system will generate the application form, pre-populating it with project information. During this time, the status of the project will appear as *‘CREATING AN APPLICATION’*.
2. After 10 to 20 seconds**, refresh (F5) the browser tab** to see that the status has updated to *Active*.



1. **Scroll to and expand the Issue Links listing** and **select the SPF number for the application** that has been created. This will open the application in a new screen.

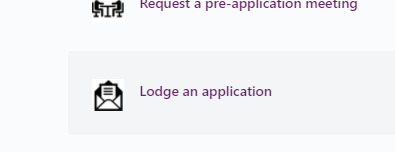


1. **Follow steps 19 to 28 of t**he next **section to edit the details** in the form and to submit to the Infrastructure Assessment team when complete.

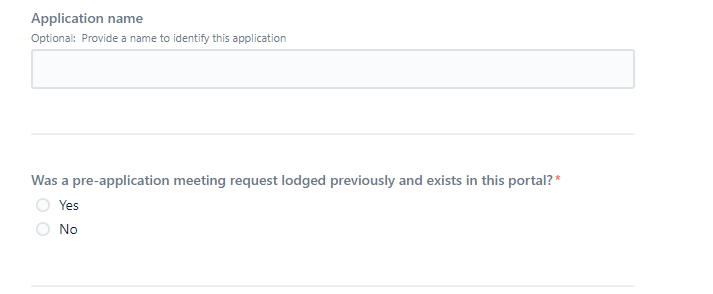
#### Create and lodge an application from the home screen

An application can be created from the IA portal’s home screen. The user will need to know the SPF project number to include it in the application form. *Hint: Navigate to the requests menu to identify projects shared with you by selecting ‘All requests’.*

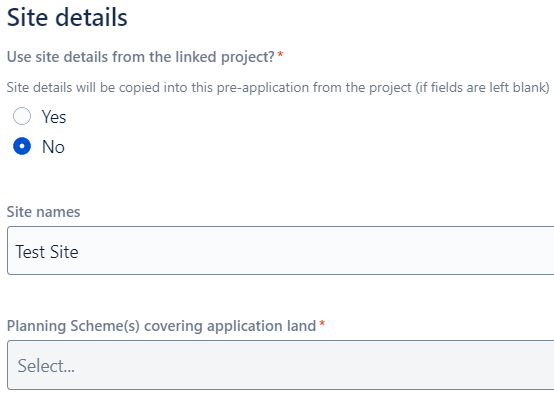
1. From the home screen, select Lodge an application.



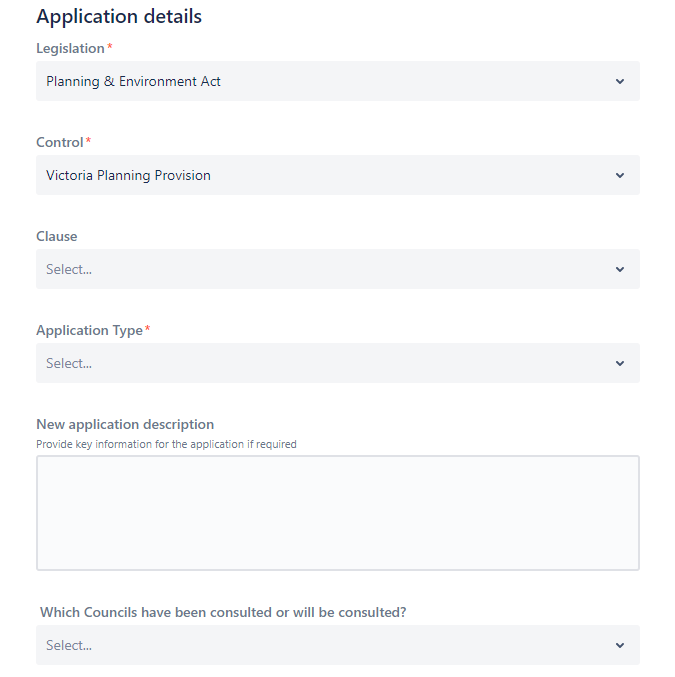
1. An application name can be entered to identify the application. If no name is entered, on initial save, the application name will default as a combination of the application type, project name and proponent.
2. If a pre-application meeting request was lodged via the portal, **select ‘Yes’ and enter the relevant SPF number of the pre-application meeting request**.
   1. Where ‘No’ is selected, you will need to **enter the project’s SPF number instead**.
   2. Entering the SPF number with either of these options will create a link to the pre-application meeting request and/or project, therefore not requiring the completion of project details again.



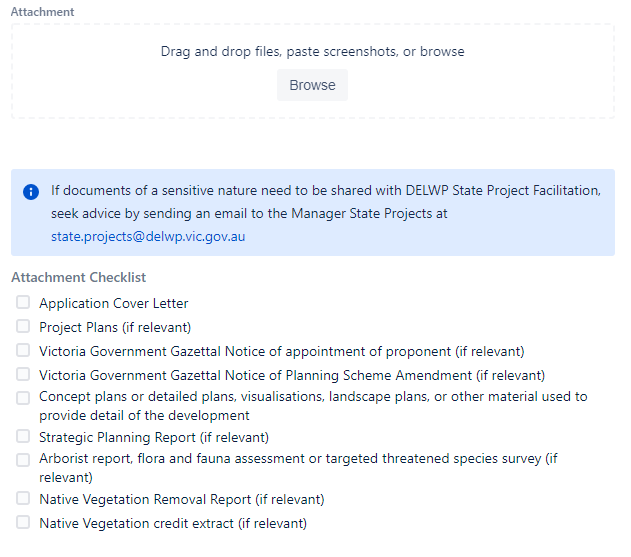
1. You can choose to use the site details from the linked pre-application or project by selecting ‘Yes’, otherwise 'No’ can be selected and the site names that are relevant to the application can be entered. Where ‘Yes’ is selected, the site names and planning scheme details from the project or pre-application record will be pulled through to their respective fields once it has been saved.



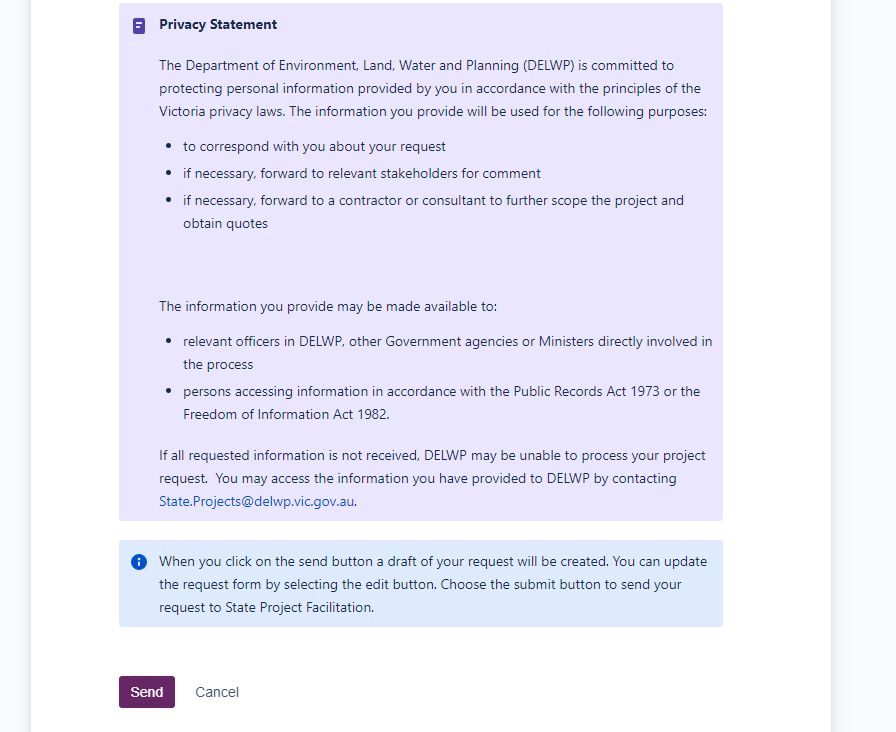
1. At the Application details section, **select the relevant legislation**. If, Planning & Environment Act is selected, the relevant control will also need to be selected. Fields in the form will vary depending on the selection made throughout the form. Where a control is entered as VPP, then clause should be selected as well.
2. **Continue completing the form** ensuring that all mandatory fields that are marked with a red asterix are completed.



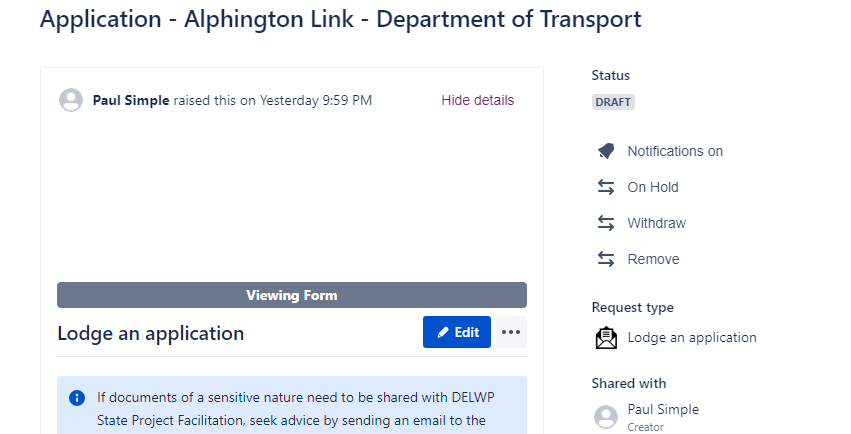
1. You can choose to quickly upload attachments by scrolling to the top of the form and using the ‘Drop and Drag’ functionality to upload attachments to the form. Files can also be uploaded at a later stage.
2. Use the attachment checklist *(located at the top of the form)* as a guide to ensure all required documentation is provided to the department at the time of lodgement. This will reduce delays during the assessment process and the likelihood of the application being returned to you for additional information.



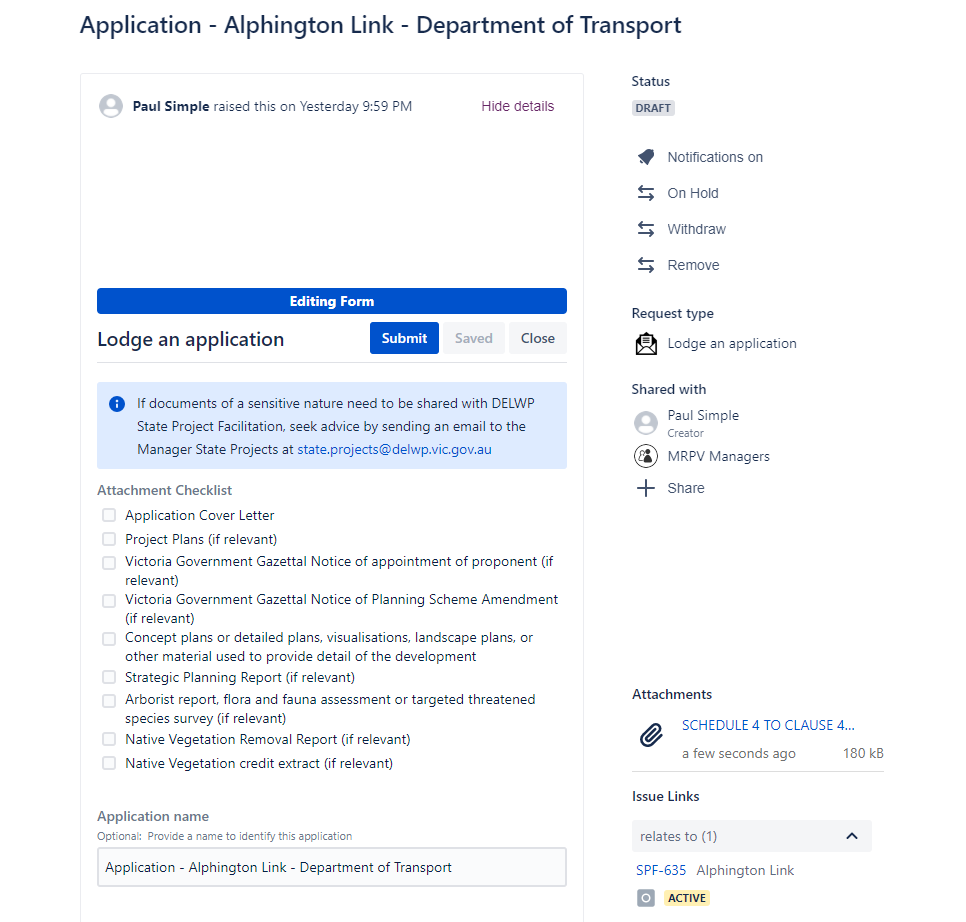
1. Once all mandatory fields have been completed, the form can be saved and returned to at a later stage to edit as required prior to submitting to the department. To save, **scroll to the end of the form and select SEND**. **Note the Send function only saves the request and it still yet to be submitted to the department.**



1. Once saved, the application request form will show on screen with the status of *DRAFT*. The application is not yet lodged with the department.
2. Attachments that had been uploaded at the time the application was created will appear to the right under ‘Attachments’.
3. **Selecting the ellipses** will show further functionality to generate a PDF of the application.
4. **Selecting Edit will open the request form** to enable update to fields.



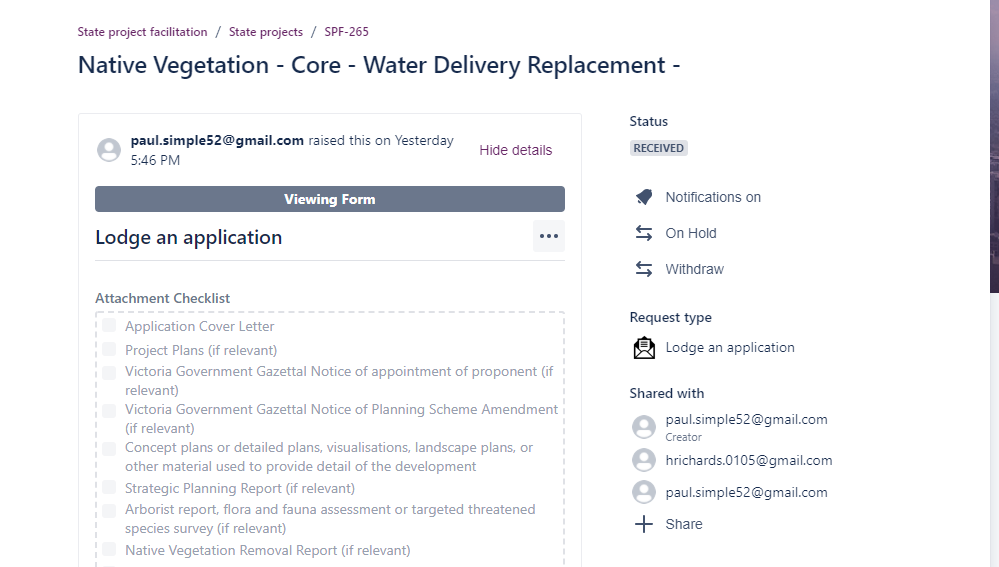
1. The linked project and pre-application meeting request will appear in the Issue Links listing.
2. If the application is no longer needed or was done in error and is not being submitted, it can be removed by **selecting Remove**.
3. If editing the application request, make any changes as needed and **when complete and if ready to submit, select Save and submit** (or Submit if no changes made).



1. **Select Submit to confirm** that the application request is complete and ready to submit to the department.   
   Note that no further changes can be made to the application request, unless it is unlocked by an authorised department user. Comments and files however can be uploaded if needed.



1. Once submitted to the department, **the status will update to *RECEIVED*** *(you may need to refresh (F5) the browser)*.
2. It is also at this stage where the application can be placed **On Hold** or **Withdrawn**.
3. The application request will also show the managers group that it has been shared with. It can be shared with additional registered users by **selecting + Share**. **Important: Share with your managers group in order for Managers to see it in their request listing.**



1. Even after the form is submitted to the department, you can add comments if needed by scrolling to the Activity section of the form and selecting ‘Add a comment’.



1. Once submitted, the creator of the form will receive an automated email confirming receipt.

## Amend a previously approved application

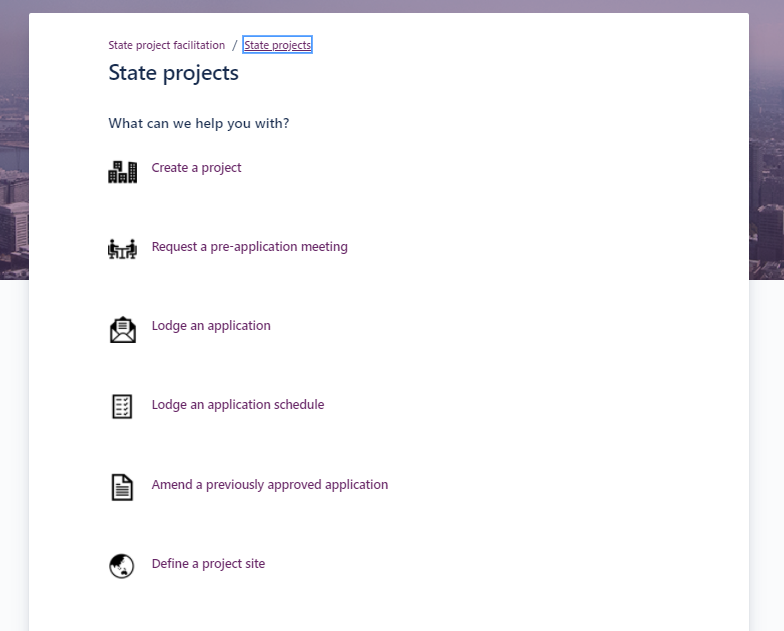
Where an application has already been approved and a change to the application is required, there is a requirement to create and submit a request to **amend the approved application** via the IA Portal.

If the approved application was lodged and managed via the IA portal, the user will need to know the specific request number (i.e. SPF-###) that the approved application was lodged under.

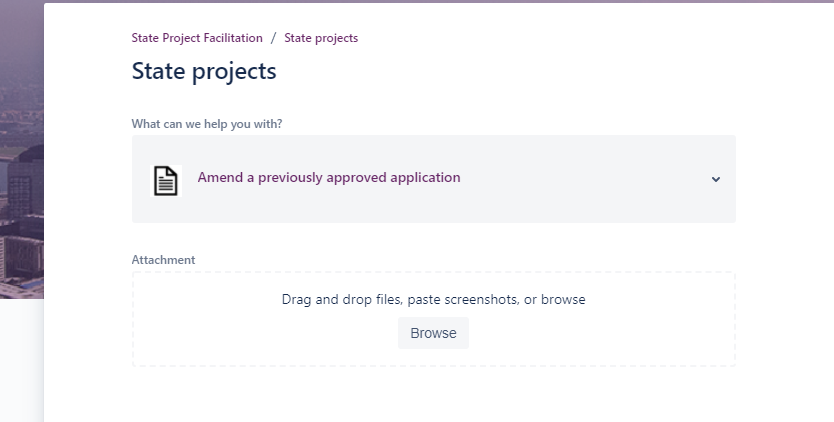
By entering the SPF number of the approved application, the details of the project and approved application will automatically be linked to the amend approved application request.

If the approved application was lodged pre portal, there is an option to reference the previous application however a project will still need to exist in the portal in order to generate the request to amend the previously approved application.

1. From the home screen of the IA portal, select Amend a previously approved application.

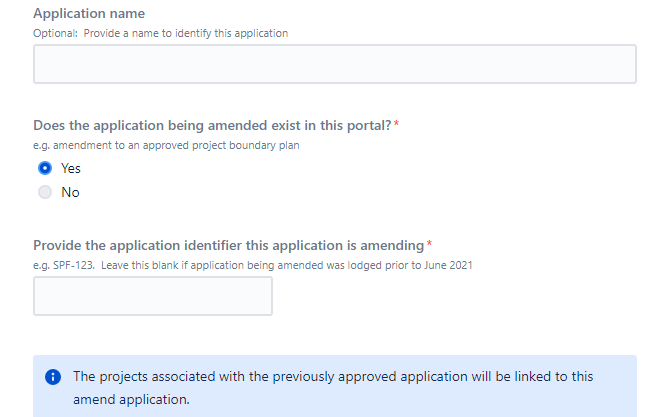


1. Files supporting the request can be uploaded by **dragging and dropping the files in the Attachment section** (or browse your device). Note once the form is saved, files can only be uploaded via the comments section of the form as well.

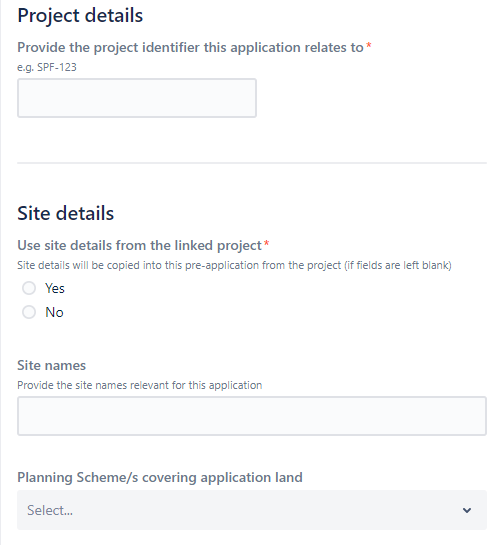


1. Optionally, you can add in a name into the application. If left blank, the field will auto populate with ‘Application’ if linked to an existing application or will default to “app type” + “project name” + “proponent” if not linked to an application in the portal. The application name can also be edited at a later time before submitting the form to the department.
2. If the application that is being amended was lodged and managed via the IA portal, **select Yes** and enter the **relevant SPF request number**. Once saved, the linked application that is being amended will appear under the Issue Links section of the form.

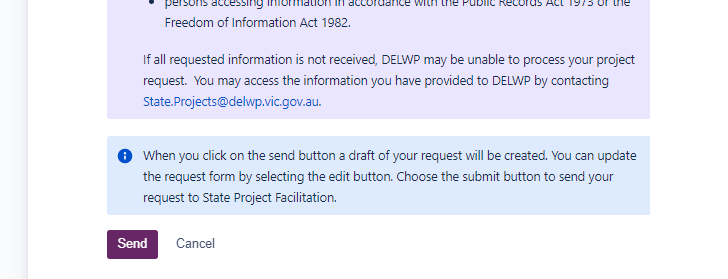
The SPF number for the approved application can be found via the Requests listing and changing the filter to show ‘Closed’ requests. *(*[*see section of this guide ‘Navigating the system…’ - step 6)*](#_Navigating_the_system)



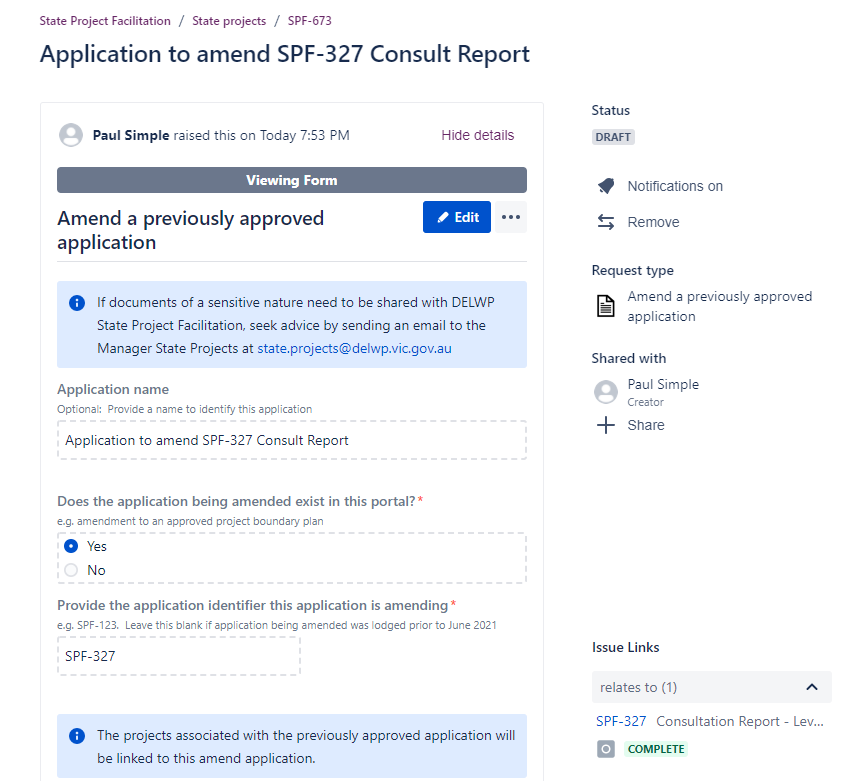
1. Where the approved application was not lodged via the portal, a project will need to be created in the system and the SPF number from the project entered into the ‘*Project details’* field. *[(see the ‘Create a project’ section if needed)](#_Create_a_project)*
2. Site names and planning scheme details can be added when they are not being copied from then the project. If they are being copied from the project, these details can be edited prior to submitting the form to the department.



1. **Complete the application details** section ensuring all required fields marked with a red asterix (\*) are completed.
2. **Navigate to the end of the form**, read through the privacy statement and **select Send** to save a draft.   
   **Note: This will not submit the request to the department.**



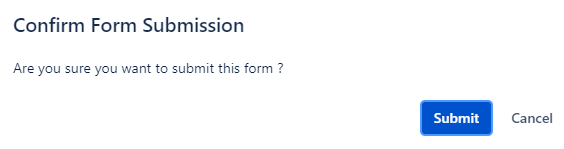
1. After 10 to 15 seconds, **refresh the web page (F5).**
2. The **status** of the application will be **DRAFT**.
3. The **request can be removed** if no longer required. This will update the status to CLOSED.
4. **The request can be shared** with other registered users of the IA portal. **It is important to share with the managers group at this stage if not already shared.**
5. **Select the ellipses (‘…’)** to download a PDF copy of the request.
6. The linked previously approved application will be listed under Issue Links.
7. **Select Edit** to open the form and to update fields.



1. **Update form details** as needed and when complete, **select Save & Submit** *(or Save if not ready to submit, or Submit if no changes made)*. **Note that no further change can be done to the form once submitted to the department.**



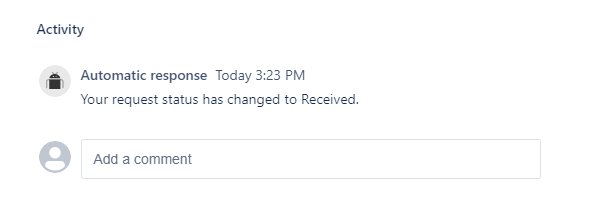
1. **Select Submit to confirm** that the form is to be lodged with the department.



1. **Refresh the web page (F5)**.
2. The request to amend an approved application will be submitted to the department, will be locked and the status will update to ‘**RECEIVED**’. The creator of the form should receive an email to confirm.
3. From this point in time, you can choose to place the application to amend On Hold or Withdraw it.
4. Selecting Update application will allow you to change the application name, reporter, RAG status, RAG comment, forecast date of approval, legislation and application type fields.



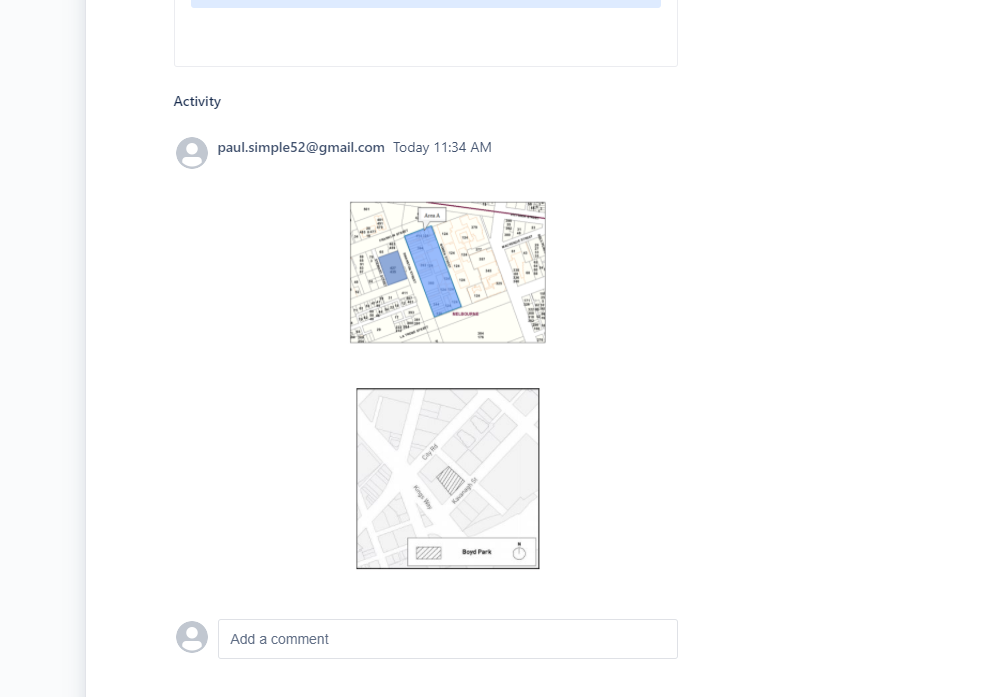
1. Additional documents or comments can be uploaded in the Activity section of the form where selecting Add a comment will provide additional functionality to add comments and attachments. [*See the section ‘Upload files after application has been saved’*](#_Upload_files_after) if needed.



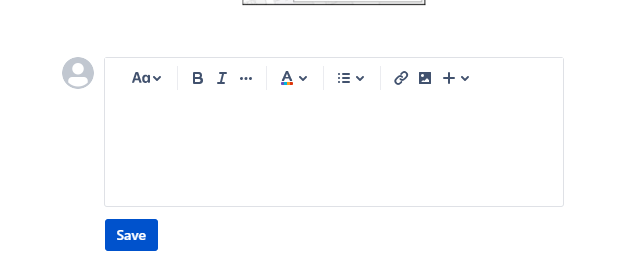
## Upload files after application has been saved

When first creating an application from the home screen, any files can be simply added to the request via ‘drag and drop’ functionality. However, once the request has been saved, the only way to upload additional documents is via the ***Activity>Comments*** section when in an application request. The following guides the user on how to upload files after the request has been saved.

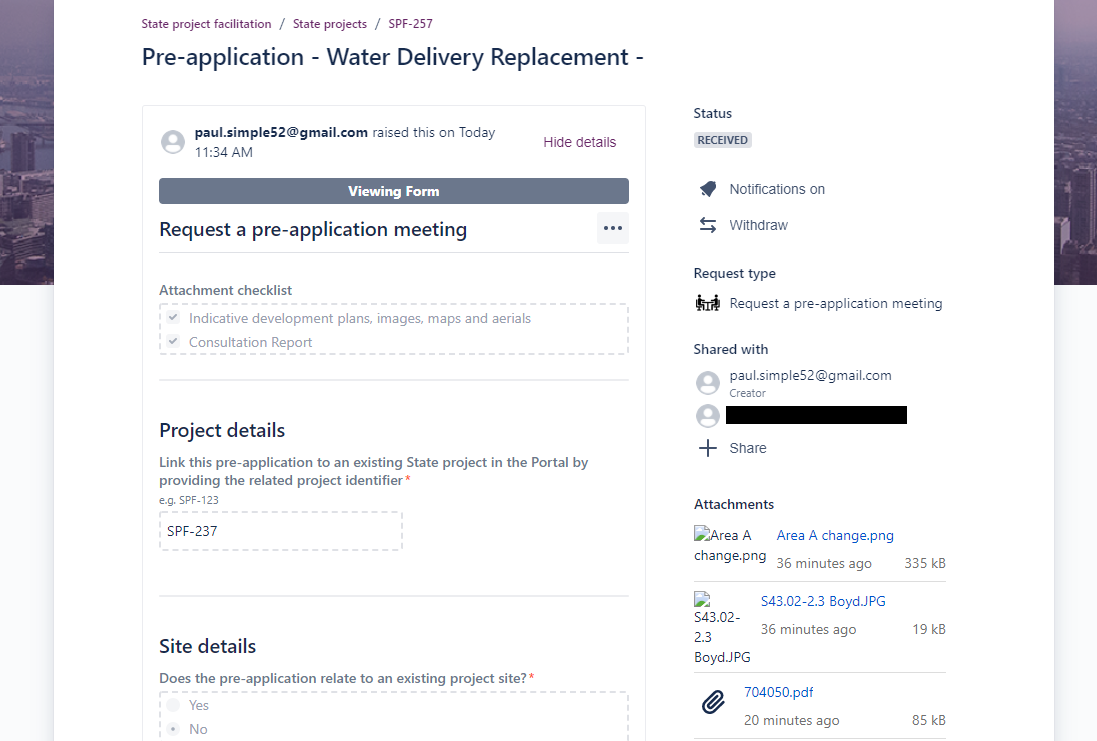
1. Whilst in an application or other request type, navigate to the end of the request and in the Activity section **click in the field to ‘Add a comment’**.



1. Once the field is selected, additional functions will be visible. **Select the image icon *(Files & Images)***.
2. **Navigate to the location of the files** and **upload as needed**. Multiple files can be uploaded at the same time.
3. **Select Save** to close the comments field where the uploaded file(s) should now be seen.



1. **Refresh (F5) the web page** to see that the uploaded files are listed under the Attachments section located at the right of the form.



## Share projects or applications with other registered users

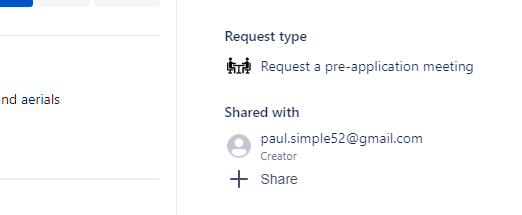
When requests such as a project or application are shared with another registered user of the portal, they will be able to easily access the applications (or projects) from their ‘Requests’ dashboard. Sharing applications or other records from the portal is an efficient way to enable collaboration on the requests prior to them being lodged to the department. Sharing can occur at any stage/status.

**Things to note:**

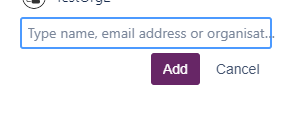
* **Can only share with registered users of the system**
* **Requests including project records and applications may need to be shared with a managers group in order for the management group of the proponent to see them in their requests listing.**

**It’s important to note that if a project has already been shared with a managers group, by default, any linked application will be shared with the group.**

1. With any request type open, **select +Share**



1. **Enter the email address or managers group** and **select Add**.

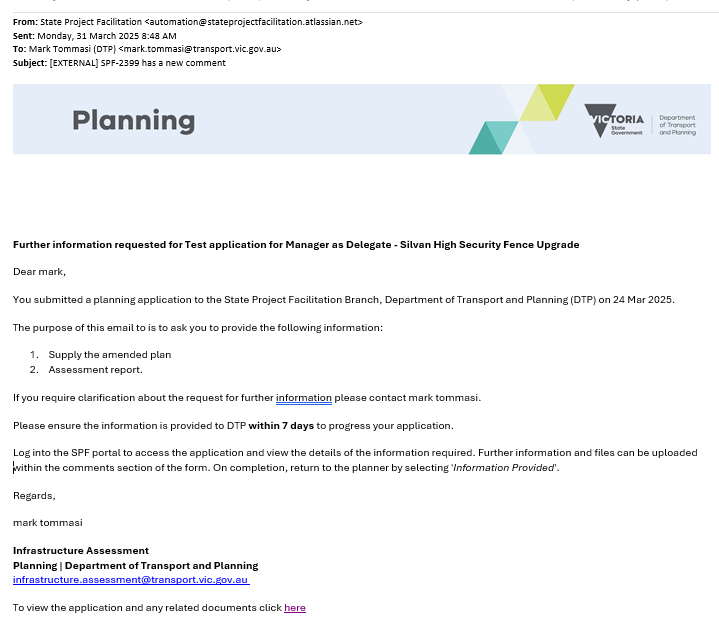
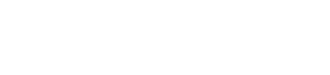


1. The system will send an email to the recipient advising that the application has been shared with them.

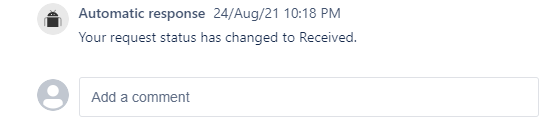
## Respond to a request for further information

When the assigned planner from the Infrastructure Assessment team requires additional information for an application, they will use the system to request the required information by adding a comment to the requestwhich will in turn send an email to the contact *(Creator)*. The comments in the application will also show the request for further information that is being made and will include a due date that a response is required, if you do not want to impact approval timeframes. The status of the application will be changed to ‘Request for Further Information’. Responding to a request for further information must completed via the portal.

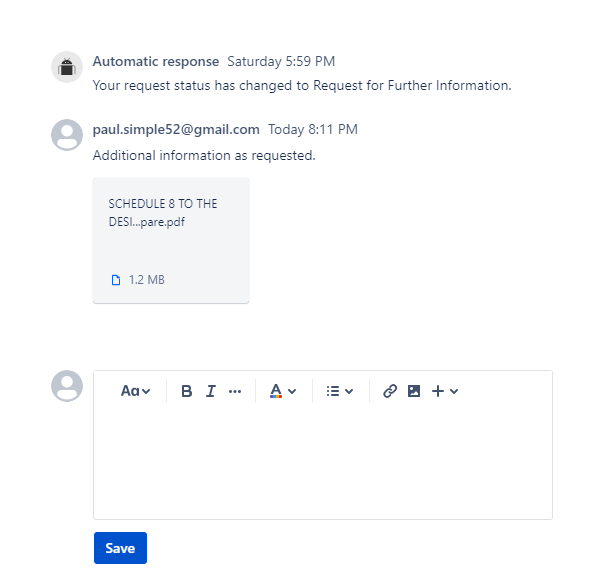
Sample of email received from Infrastructure Assessment with reference to the SPF application number:



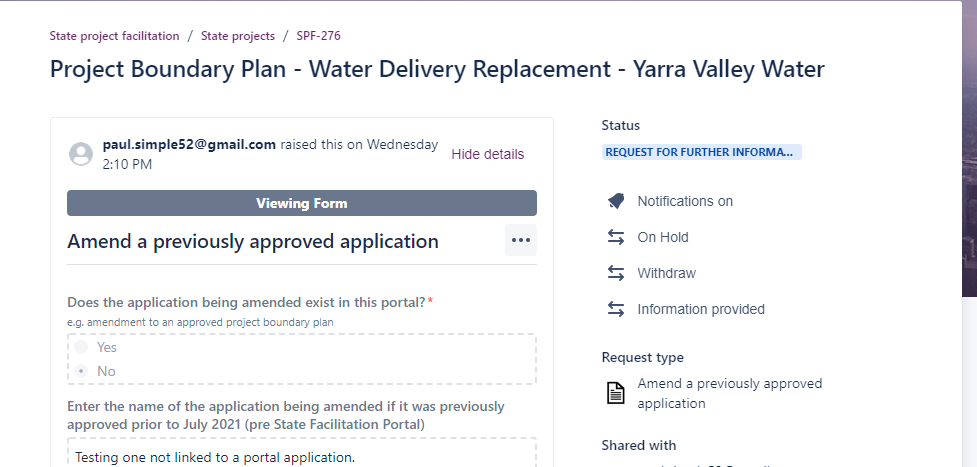
1. With the application open, scroll to the end of the form where ‘Add a comment’ is located.
2. **Click in the ‘Add a comment’ field** and **enter the relevant information**.



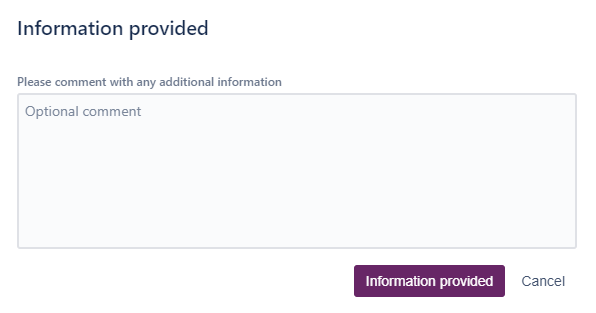
1. **Select the Files & images icon to upload supporting files**. Multiple files can be uploaded.
2. **Select Save** when complete.



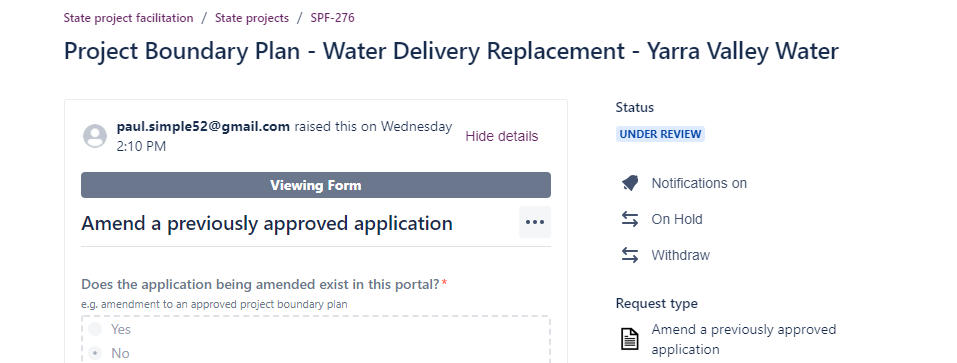
1. **Scroll to the top of the application** and **select Information provided**.   
   **Important:** It is important that ***‘Information provided’*** is selected after the comments section has been saved. This step will ensure the planner is aware the RFI has been supplied back to the department. The status of the application will automatically update to Under Review.



1. **Add any additional comments if needed** (optional) and **select Information provided**.



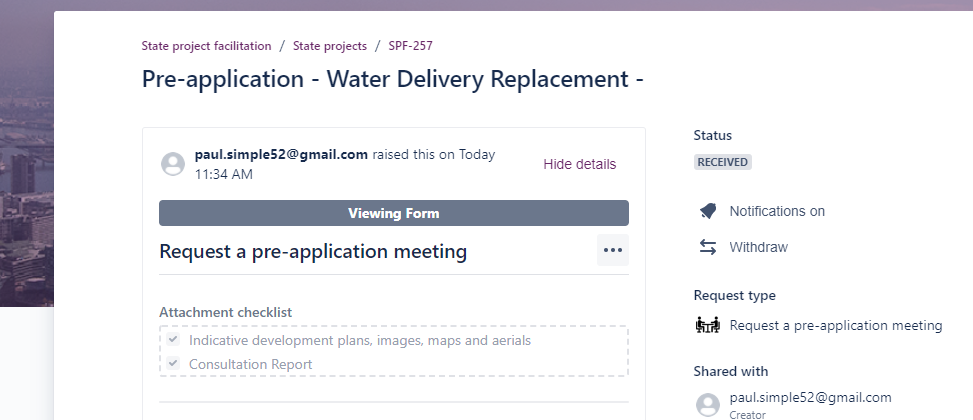
1. The assigned department planner will receive an email notifying them of the response and the **status will automatically update to UNDER REVIEW**.



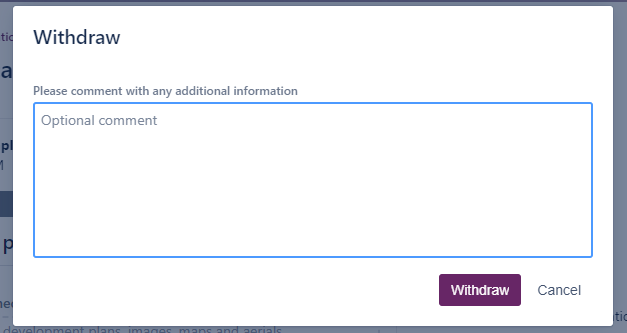
## Withdraw an application

An application with a status of RECEIVED can be withdrawn where the request is no longer required. Once withdrawn, the application will be closed.

1. From the application record screen, **select Withdraw**.



1. **Enter comments** and **select Withdraw**.



1. The application status will be **updated to COMPLETE** and the form will not be able to be edited but can still be downloaded if needed.

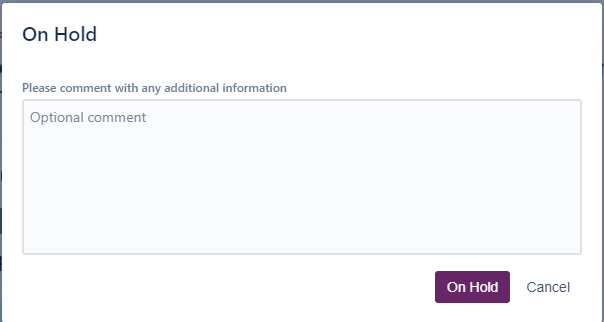
## Place application on hold / Request to take off hold

Applications that have been submitted to the department can be placed on hold. A comment must include the date the application is to be placed on hold until and the reason for request.

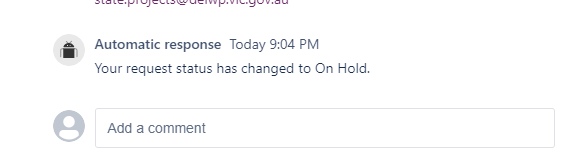
1. With an application open, **select On Hold**.



1. Enter details regarding the on hold request and **select On Hold**. This will email the planner of the request, add the comment in the Activity section of the form and also place the application on hold.



1. **Scroll to the Activity section** of the form where you will see the date the application was requested to be placed on hold.
2. Any further comments can be added if needed**.**



1. You will need to contact the assigned planner to take the application off hold. The comments section of the form may be used for such a request.

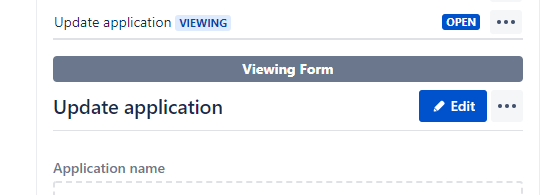
## Update the reporter/contact on an application

The reporter (contact) of an application will receive emails throughout the various stages of the application assessment process such as when an application is first assigned to a planner in the department, when there is a request for further information and where an application has been determined. There may be a need to have the reporter updated to be another registered user of the system. For example when a staff member leaves the organisation.

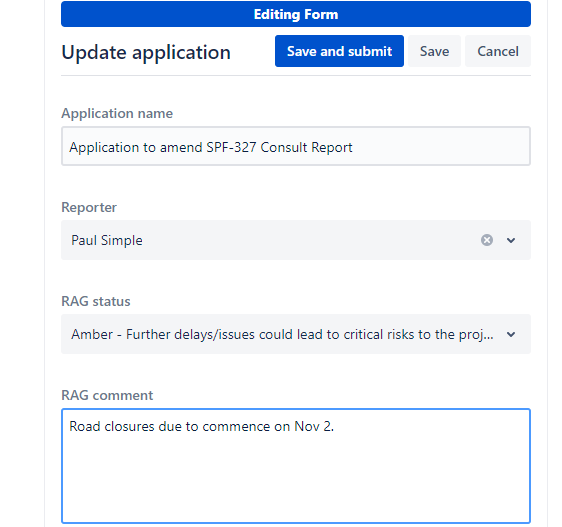
1. With the selected application open, **select the Update application form** *(location in Form Name section).*



1. With the Update application form in view, **select Edit**.



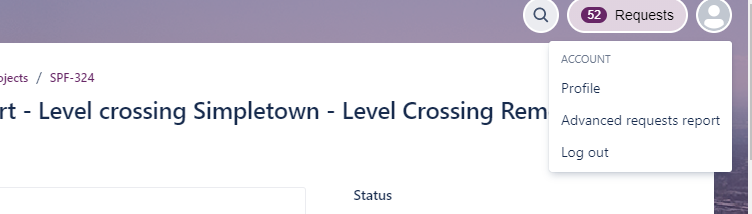
1. **Select the Reporter field** and **enter the email address** for the new contact.
2. **Select Save** to save the changes.



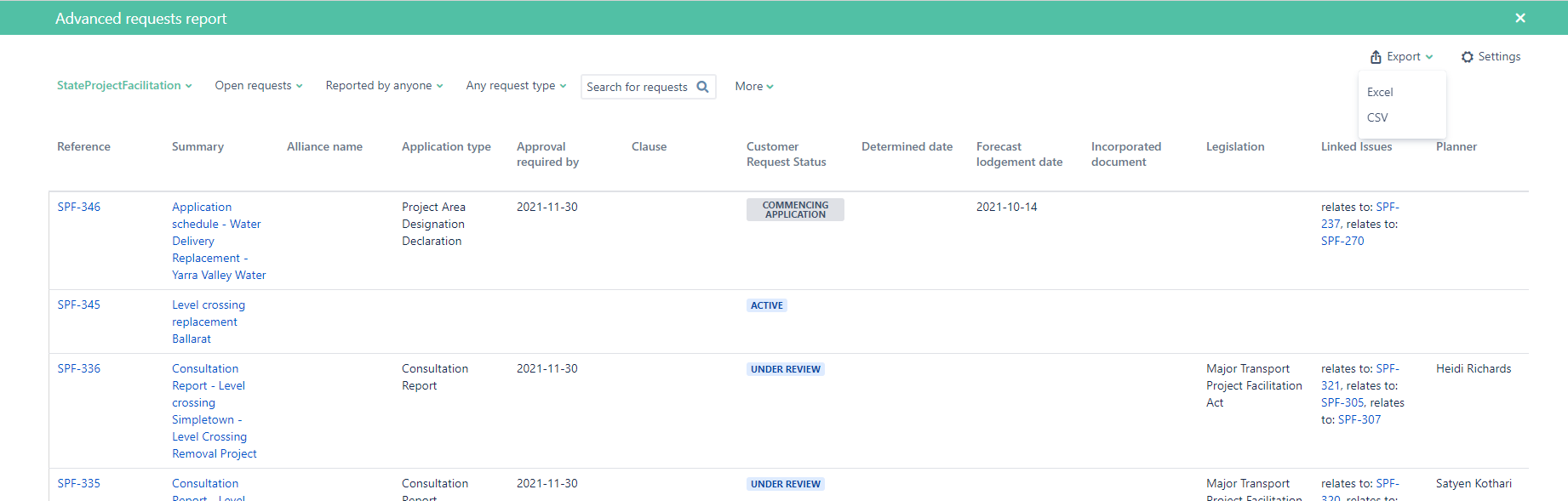
## Generate a report using Advance Requests report

A listing of requests in progress can be obtained from the IA Portal via the Advance requests report tool. A report can be downloaded as an Excel or CSV file.

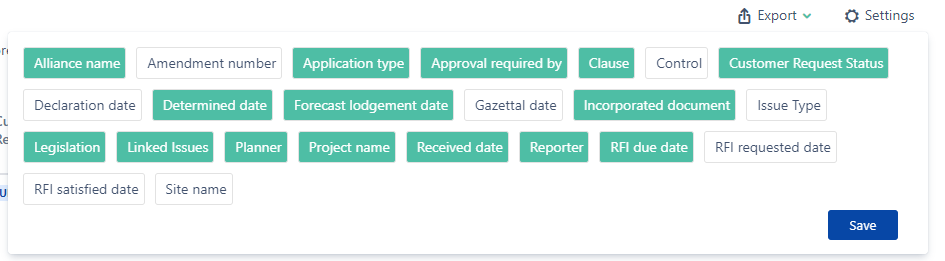
1. Select the profile icon and Advance requests report.



1. Once the reporting tool has loaded, **you can choose to filter the report** to see particular **request** **types or search for any request**.
2. The report can also be downloaded as an Excel or CSV file.
3. **To close the reporting tool**, **select the X** located top right of screen.



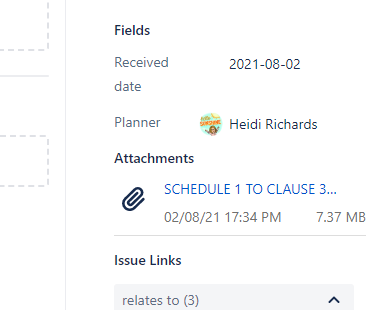
1. Additional columns seen in the report can be managed by **selecting Settings** then **click on any of the columns** to switch on/off and **selecting Save**. The selection made will remain for when the reporting tool is accessed.



## Which Planner is assigned to my application?

Users of the system can open up any application and see which Planner from the department is currently assigned to manage the application. An application that has been assigned will have a status of *Under Review, Under Consideration* or *Determined* for applications or *Under Assessment* if its related to a pre-application request. Also when an application is first assigned, the creator/contact for the application will be notified by email. Applications with a status of RECEIVED have not as yet been allocated to a planner.

1. With an application open, scroll to the ***‘Fields’*** section, just above Attachments and Issue Links and it is here where you will find which Planner has been allocated the application.



## Understanding the status of an application

As an application moves through the various stages of the drafting, assessment and approval process, the status of the application will be updated. The table below may be helpful in understanding where an application is at through the assessment and approval stage.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Status | Meaning |
| Draft | The application has been created but is not yet submitted with the department for assessment and approval. |
| Received | The application has been submitted but not as yet assigned to a planner for assessment. |
| Under Review | The application has been assigned and is being assessed. |
| Under Consideration | The application is at the approval stage. |
| Complete | The application has been determined or withdrawn. |
| Request for Further Information | The assigned planner requires additional information in order to assess the application. [See Respond to a request for further information](#_Respond_to_a) for further details. |
| On Hold | A request to place the application on hold has been made. |

## Need further help or have feedback?

If you require further assistance with your request, contact the Infrastructure Assessment team via email at [infrastructure.assessment@transport.vic.gv.au](mailto:infrastructure.assessment@transport.vic.gv.au).

If you have feedback on the system, visit the [SPF Viva Engage community](https://www.yammer.com/delwpplanning-councilengagement/#/threads/inGroup?type=in_group&feedId=79659827200&view=all) where you can also stay up to date with the conversation whilst sharing feedback.