

VPP REFORM

Smart Planning is undertaking rules and policy reform, to be implemented by mid-2018. A major part of this is updating the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) to increase their effectiveness and efficiency.

Why reform is needed

The planning system is a key tool of government policy. However, it has become increasingly complex, inaccessible and inefficient.

It has become difficult to use and understand, and less effective at creating a more sustainable, productive and liveable Victoria.

What it is not

- Complex, transformative changes
- New or revised legislation
- Fundamental changes to the VPP model
- Substantial changes to current and recent VC amendments or clauses currently under review
- Substantial notice and review modifications
- Substantial shifts to planning policy
- Redrafting of local content and schedules.

WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES?

- ↗ Review and rationalise planning permit triggers
- ↗ Review and increase permit exemptions
- ↗ Improve the clarity and usability of the VPP
- ↗ Restructure the VPP and redraft provisions to reflect the principles of a modern planning scheme
- ↗ Rationalise State Planning Policy Framework, Local Planning Policy Framework, zones, overlays, particular provisions and general provisions
- ↗ Remove superfluous provisions including duplicated and outdated clauses
- ↗ Investigate a framework for new assessment pathways and increase use of streamlined assessment pathways for lower risk applications
- ↗ Update document titles, agency and Ministerial references
- ↗ Update and modernise the VPP having regard to previous advisory committee reviews and state government policy
- ↗ Clarify common points of contention or confusion.

PRINCIPLES OF A MODERN PLANNING SCHEME

The following principles are intended to guide decisions relating to the structure and drafting of both the planning scheme as a whole and individual elements.



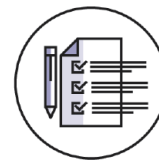
Digital first

The provisions should be optimised for more efficient access and processing of planning information, including through better digital interfaces – e.g. utilising technology and the desired user experience to reverse engineer the way planning provisions are written and applied – moving from ‘document’ to ‘database’ driven planning schemes.



User focused

The provisions should be end user focused and provide accessible, transparent and understandable pathways to navigate the approval process – restructuring planning schemes so users can freely, instantly and intuitively access relevant information, using spatial means wherever possible.



Consistent

The architecture of the provisions and how they are applied should be simple and consistent regardless of the content, so that it is clearly understood and applied by planning authorities and proponents – e.g., use technology and drafting rules to ensure that new provisions are created and planning schemes amended in a way that both maintains the integrity of the system and delivers the desired policy outcomes.



Proportional

The provisions should impose a level of regulatory burden that is proportionate to the planning and environmental risks – e.g. implementing an assessment stream approach, including code assessment, where low risk or simple applications can be assessed against objective criteria through faster processes.



Land use focused

The provisions should avoid conflict and overlap with other interlocking regulatory regimes – e.g. building, environmental & earth resources legislation, in particular where better technical expertise and resources reside elsewhere.



Policy and outcome focused

The provisions should ensure that controls have a clear policy basis and are planning outcomes driven – e.g. utilise technology and information databases to achieve strategic clarity and precision in the way controls are created and implemented.