

Intent:

To provide an overview of the Land Use Victoria's 100% digital lodgement project and its impact on Councils, with the express intent of providing justification for sending correspondence to Land Use Victoria requesting assurance that upon privatisation of the Land registry, Council's will continue to access designated services for free.

Project Overview:

Land Use Victoria is working on the timeline for transition to 100% digital lodgement by August 2019. In readiness for 100% digital lodgement, Land Use Victoria has been working with various Local, State and Federal Government agencies on a title reconciliation project to ensure all landholdings of each Government agency are in the current entity name and conversion to electronic titles.

Land Use Victoria would like Councils to assist Land Use Victoria to get rid of General Law. General Law Deed was superseded by Torrens Title in 1862. General Law Register was closed in 1998. Land Use Victoria records are outdated because they have received no updates since 1998. In the LLAB 2017 *(Toula, Please flesh out this abbreviation – we don't know what it is)*, new sections 26X *(TOULA, please add as footnote)* and 26Y *(TOULA, please add as footnote)* are inserted to TLA. *(Toula, Please flesh out this abbreviation)* The Registrar may request personal information from municipal councils and statutory authorities for the purpose of bringing the land under the Act. *(Toula, Not sure how this relates to this project. Please explain)*

Lastly, there will be a change to the process in issuing titles for road or reserve out of new subdivisions. If Council is the vesting authority, the titles will be issued electronically instead of being issued in paper.

The services received now by Councils participating in the 100% digital lodgement project to date are:

- All titles are brought to the current name and address for service of notices, so all notices get to the right place.
- When/if Council sell they do not need to prove successor-at-law at that time.
- Road and reserve titles in new subdivisions go 'direct' to council electronically rather than Council staff needing to chase lodging parties.
- Lost titles are replaced at no cost (mostly road and reserve titles).
- Secure storage, audit and administration of paper titles is no longer required.

To date 55 councils have elected to fully participate, 2 have begun the planning and 22 have elected to not do so. See Appendix 1 for list of non-participating councils.

This is a project for Councils with negligible costs (only lodgement fee for section 59A - \$189.10 in the 2017/18 financial year).

For those Councils that have completed the conversion project, they can access these titles electronically via the **View My eTitles** account. Fees still apply to access titles that are not Council owned.

For the Councils that are yet to participate in the conversion project, they will need to contact Land Use Victoria after the plan of subdivision is registered if a paper title needs to be issued for road or reserve.

For Action: To date Land Use Victoria has provided no assurance that upon privatisation of the Land Registry, Councils will continue to access these services **at no cost**.

Consequently, it is a recommendation of the Information Governance Committee that a letter be sent to Land Use Victoria requesting assurance that councils continue to receive access services at no cost and that this is formalised through a memorandum of understanding.

Appendix 1:

Below is the list of 24 Councils that have not commenced the project. Both Melton and Moira have already been preparing their physical titles for delivery.

Melton
Cardinia
Greater Bendigo
Knox
Boroondara
Latrobe
Monash
Whitehorse
Kingston
Ballarat
Bayside
Stonnington
Colac-Otway
Maribyrnong
Moira
Glenelg
Warrnambool
Loddon
Towong
Yarra
Benalla
Hindmarsh
Hepburn
Yarriambiack