

NEW FORMS FOR GOVERNMENT LAND ADMINISTRATION – LAND VICTORIA, A CASE STUDY OF THE TREND TOWARDS COMBINING LAND ADMINISTRATION FUNCTIONS AND THE RESULTING BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

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ABSTRACT

In layperson terms, the key questions about land with which communities are concerned include: Where is it? What are its boundaries? What is on it? What can be done with it? Who owns it? Who can use it? How can it be improved? What is it worth? Government land administration functions provide answers to many of these questions in a rational and useful way. Land administration systems and procedures also provide a firm basis on which governments and individuals can undertake sound and sustainable land management.

This paper explores how land administration service delivery in Victorian government has responded to the demands of the modern world, associated with increased global competitiveness, rapid advances in telecommunications, transportation and information processing. The key role these land administration institutions and associated professions had historically played in the development of Victoria meant that they saw themselves as 'keepers of the faith' and they guarded what they saw as the integrity of their operations with vigour. This meant the creation of a number of purpose-built infrastructures resulting in isolated business 'silos' where information and knowledge was jealously guarded, not easily integrated or combined, and not readily shared.

Land Victoria was formed when a number of separate government entities were merged with a view to creating a coordinated land administration system and to deliver wide ranging business efficiencies and improvements to customer service. Using network theory, Land Victoria's creation can be seen to be brought about by 'the growing recognition at all levels of government that land administration and more specifically appropriate spatial business systems and associated spatial data infrastructures are essential components of any modern economy.' This paper reviews how Land Victoria as a division in a state government department was created and developed the concept of an integrated government land administration system over the last five years.

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