Applicant's Guide to Lodging a VicSmart Application

March 2017

Introduction

VicSmart is a simple and fast planning permit process for straightforward applications.

This guide will help you make a VicSmart planning permit application. It includes advice on:

- whether your application qualifies for a VicSmart assessment
- how to prepare and lodge a VicSmart application
- information you must submit with your application.

How does VicSmart work?

The VicSmart process involves four simple steps:

Step 1: PREPARE	Step 2: SUBMIT	Step 3: ASSESS	Step 4: DECIDE
Check the planning scheme, discuss your proposal with council, pick up checklists and any other information.	Submit the application to the council with all the required information.	A council officer assesses the application against pre-set criteria.	A council officer approves or refuses the application within 10 business days.

What qualifies for the VicSmart permit process?

You can use VicSmart to apply for:

- minor subdivision
- · minor buildings and works
- tree removal and lopping
- small advertising signs
- car parking and loading bay waivers.

You can include one or more proposals in an application.

See if your application is eligible for VicSmart and is listed as a State VicSmart application on pages 5 to 12.

Prepare

1. Discuss your proposal with the council

Before preparing and lodging an application, discuss your proposal with a council planning officer.

A planning officer can advise on:

- · whether you need a planning permit and why
- whether you can apply under VicSmart
- the nature and amount of supporting information you need to submit with your application



- the relevant planning controls
- whether the consent of a referral authority will be required.

Your council may have other information and checklists that will help you prepare the application.

A discussion will help you to include all the right information with your application.

2. Include the right information

To enable a council officer to decide an application in 10 business days you must submit all required information when lodging the application.

The information to be submitted with a VicSmart application is listed in the planning scheme. A council officer may waive or reduce the required information if they can assess the application without the information.

The council officer cannot ask for more information than the planning scheme requires.

There are 14 checklists summarising the different information requirements for each type of State VicSmart application. The checklists are available from your council or the VicSmart website: www.planning.vic.gov.au/vicsmart.

Complete the relevant checklist to ensure you submit all the required information.

If your proposal falls into more than one VicSmart class of application you will need to complete all the relevant checklists.

If your council has listed additional local classes of VicSmart application in their planning scheme, corresponding checklists may be available for these.

If your application requires referral authority approval, you must obtain the written consent of the referral authority before lodging the application.

- Checklist 1: Realign a boundary between two lots
- Checklist 2: Subdivide land into lots each containing an existing building or car parking space
- Checklist 3: Subdivide land with an approved development into two lots
- Checklist 4: Construct a front fence in a residential zone
- Checklist 5: Construct a building or works except in a rural zone
- Checklist 6: Construct a building or works in an overlay
- Checklist 7: Remove, destroy or lop one tree
- Checklist 8: Minor subdivision, minor buildings and works, painting or tree lopping in a Heritage Overlay
- Checklist 9: Minor subdivision or buildings and works in a Special Building Overlay
- Checklist 10: Display a sign in a commercial, industrial or special purpose zone
- Checklist 11: Reduce a car parking requirement
- Checklist 12: Reduce or waive the loading and unloading requirements
- Checklist 13: Tow lot subdivision in a rural zone
- Checklist 14: Construct a building or works in a rural zone.

These checklists are available from your council or the VicSmart website: www.planning.vic.gov.au/vicsmart.

There are three prerequisites for an application to be eligible as a VicSmart application.



Submit

3. Submit your application and fee

Your application should include:

- · A completed application form.
- Application fee. Most applications require a fee. Contact council for the appropriate fee.
- Copy of the property title. The title includes: the covering 'register search statement', the title diagram and
 the associated title documents known as 'instruments', for example, restrictive covenants. Some councils
 require that title information is no older than a specified time frame. Contact your council for advice on
 their requirements.
- The required information for the class of VicSmart application. The information requirements are set out in the planning scheme and summarised in the VicSmart checklists.
- Completed checklist(s).
- Signed declaration on the application form.

Check with your council on how to lodge your application and pay the fee.

4. Amending a VicSmart application

A VicSmart application can be amended after lodgement.

The day council receives the request for the amendment becomes the lodgement date of the application.

Assess

5. Checking submitted information

A council officer will check the submitted information against the requirements listed in the planning scheme.

Request for further information

If the information submitted with the application is inadequate or if some of the required information is missing, council can ask you to provide further information.

The request for further information must be in writing setting out the information to be provided.

If the request for further information is made within five business days of receiving the application, the council will have a further 10 days to decide the application from when a satisfactory response to the request for further information is received.

It is recommended that you provide all the necessary information with your application. If insufficient information is provided with your application, a decision will be delayed until all the information is provided.

Failing to respond to a request for further information by the due date can lead to an application lapsing

If the request for further information is made within five business days of receiving the application, the request must also specify a date by which the information must be received.

If the requested information is not provided by that date, the application lapses.

An application that has lapsed cannot be recommenced and a new application must be lodged.

You can apply to extend the date to provide information provided the request to extend the date is made before the lapse date.



Failing to obtain referral authority approval

If your application requires referral authority approval, failure to obtain this consent and provide it with your application means the application is not a VicSmart application and must be processed through the regular permit process.

6. Assessing VicSmart application

A VicSmart application is assessed against pre-set decision guidelines that are set out in the VicSmart planning provisions for that class of application. Council officers will judge the merits of the application based on the pre-set decision guidelines.

7. Can a VicSmart application be assessed under the regular permit process?

If a proposal meets the criteria for a VicSmart application, council must assess the application within 10 days using the VicSmart process. A council cannot choose to assess the proposal using the regular permit process.

8. Can a local planning policy be considered?

A council can only consider a local planning policy where it is included in the decision guidelines for a VicSmart class of application and included in the planning scheme.

For example, the decision guidelines for VicSmart heritage and advertising applications enable council officers to refer to the relevant local planning policy as part of its assessment of the proposal.

Decide

9. Who decides a VicSmart application?

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the municipal council is responsible for deciding a VicSmart application.

Under section 188 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the CEO may delegate the responsibility to decide a VicSmart planning application to other officers of the council.

10. When should a VicSmart application be decided?

A decision should be made within 10 business days. After 10 business days, you will have a right of review by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for failure to decide.

11. How is the 10 business days calculated?

The receipt of a completed application form by council is the trigger for calculating the elapsed days.

In calculating the elapsed days:

- the day of receipt is not included in calculating the period
- only business days are included and Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays (including half days) are excluded
- · the end day is included in the period.

12. The 10th business day does not trigger automatic refusal or review to VCAT

An application is not automatically decided after 10 business days.

If a council officer cannot decide an application because of missing information, inadequate fee, design negotiations or other outstanding matter, you will be informed.

Similarly where a decision can be made but has been inadvertently delayed, a council officer will most likely inform you and will make a decision as soon as practicable.



Under VicSmart you have the right to a review by VCAT after 10 business days but you are not compelled to do so. Before applying to VCAT, please check with your council as to when a decision will be made. In most cases a decision will be made within a reasonable timeframe.

13. Review rights

Under VicSmart you will be able to apply for a review for:

- failure to grant a permit within the prescribed time 10 business days
- refusal to grant a permit
- conditions in a permit
- refusal to extend the time to commence or complete a development or use.

In addition, VicSmart applicants can seek declarations from VCAT regarding the interpretation of the planning scheme and anything done by a responsible authority under the Act.

The VicSmart process does not provide third parties with review rights.

The VCAT process and forms are detailed in VCAT Review Process for VicSmart.

Is your application eligible for VicSmart?

Requirement: All the requirements for a permit must be listed as a VicSmart application

Note: To be classed as a VicSmart application the proposal must be listed in the table overleaf, meet all the criteria and be located in the specified zone, overlay or particular provision.

A proposal could have more than one requirement for a permit and therefore may fall into more than one class of VicSmart application. The permit requirements should be identified and then be checked against the classes of application overleaf.

All the requirements for a permit must be listed as a VicSmart application. If the application requires a permit under a provision of the planning scheme that is not listed as a VicSmart application, it is not a VicSmart application.

A council planning officer can advise you what permit requirements apply to your proposal, and whether they are all classed as VicSmart.

Requirement: A permit issued must not breach a registered restrictive covenant

Note: An application where a permit would breach a registered restrictive covenant is excluded from being a VicSmart application.

Requirement: Referral authority approval must be obtained before lodging the application

Note: If a referral is required under Clause 66 of the planning scheme, the written consent of the referral authority must be lodged with the application.

The written consent must not be older than three months.

If you do not obtain this consent or the referral authority objects, the application cannot be a VicSmart application and you must apply through the regular permit application process.

Is your proposal classed as a VicSmart application?

To qualify for the VicSmart permit process your proposal must be listed as a type of application, meet the criteria and be located in the zone or overlay detailed in the table below.

A proposal may fall into more than one class of VicSmart application.

Your council may have also introduced local VicSmart classes of application that are not listed below. Check with your local council for any additional local VicSmart classes.



Subdivision	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
1	Subdivide land to realign the common boundary between two lots	• The area of either lot is reduced	All residential zones
		by less than 15 per cent,	All industrial zones
		The general direction of the common boundary does not	All commercial zones
		change ,and	All rural zones
		 If the land is in a rural zone, each new lot is at least the area specified for the land in the zone or the schedule to the 	Special Use Zone
			Comprehensive Development Zone
		zone.	Capital City Zone
			Docklands Zone
			Priority Development Zone
			Activity Centre Zone
			Environmental Significance Overlay
			Special Building Overlay
			Heritage Overlay
			Design and Developmer Overlay
Subdivision	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
• Subdivide each co	Subdivide land into lots each containing an existing building or car	spaces have been constructed in accordance with the provisions of the planning	All residential zones (except the Low Density Residential Zone)
	parking space		 All industrial zones
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and	 All industrial zones All commercial zones
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and • An occupancy permit or a	
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and • An occupancy permit or a certificate of final inspection has been issued under the Building Regulations in relation	All commercial zones
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and • An occupancy permit or a certificate of final inspection has been issued under the Building Regulations in relation to the buildings within five years	 All commercial zones Special Use Zone Comprehensive
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and • An occupancy permit or a certificate of final inspection has been issued under the Building Regulations in relation	All commercial zonesSpecial Use ZoneComprehensive Development Zone
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and • An occupancy permit or a certificate of final inspection has been issued under the Building Regulations in relation to the buildings within five years prior to the application for a	 All commercial zones Special Use Zone Comprehensive Development Zone Capital City Zone
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and • An occupancy permit or a certificate of final inspection has been issued under the Building Regulations in relation to the buildings within five years prior to the application for a	 All commercial zones Special Use Zone Comprehensive Development Zone Capital City Zone Docklands Zone Priority Development
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and • An occupancy permit or a certificate of final inspection has been issued under the Building Regulations in relation to the buildings within five years prior to the application for a	 All commercial zones Special Use Zone Comprehensive Development Zone Capital City Zone Docklands Zone Priority Development Zone
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and • An occupancy permit or a certificate of final inspection has been issued under the Building Regulations in relation to the buildings within five years prior to the application for a	 All commercial zones Special Use Zone Comprehensive Development Zone Capital City Zone Docklands Zone Priority Development Zone Activity Centre Zone Environmental
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and • An occupancy permit or a certificate of final inspection has been issued under the Building Regulations in relation to the buildings within five years prior to the application for a	 All commercial zones Special Use Zone Comprehensive Development Zone Capital City Zone Docklands Zone Priority Development Zone Activity Centre Zone Environmental Significance Overlay
	parking space	scheme or a permit issued under the scheme, and • An occupancy permit or a certificate of final inspection has been issued under the Building Regulations in relation to the buildings within five years prior to the application for a	 All commercial zones Special Use Zone Comprehensive Development Zone Capital City Zone Docklands Zone Priority Development Zone Activity Centre Zone Environmental Significance Overlay Special Building Overlay



Subdivision	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
3	 Subdivide land with an approved development into two lots The construction of a building or the construction or carrying out of works on the land has been approved under the 	All residential zones (except the Low Density Residential Zone)	
		planning scheme or by a permit	All industrial zones
		issued under the scheme and the permit has not expired; and	All commercial zones
		The construction or carrying out	Special Use Zone
		of the approved building or works on the land has lawfully	Comprehensive Development Zone
		started; and	Capital City Zone
		The subdivision does not create a vacant lot.	Docklands Zone
		a rasan is	Priority Development Zone
			Activity Centre Zone
			Environmental Significance Overlay
			Special Building Overlay
			Heritage Overlay
			Design and Development Overlay
Subdivision	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
4	Subdivide land into two lots in a rural zone	Each new lot is at least the area specified for the land in the zone or the schedule to the zone.	All rural zones
Buildings	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
and works in zones	 Construct or extend a front fence within 3 metres of a street 	• None	All residential zones (except the Low Density Residential Zone)



Buildings	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
and works in		The estimated cost does not	Where this applies • Mixed Use Zone
zones	 Construct a building or construct or carry out 	exceed:	
6	works in some non- rural zones	o \$50,000 in a Mixed Use	All industrial zones
	Turai Zories	Zone	All commercial zones
		\$1,000,000 in an industrial zone\$500,000 in other applicable zones	Special Use Zone
			 Comprehensive Development Zone
			Capital City Zone
		• The land is not within 30 metres	Docklands Zone
		of land (not a road) which is in a residential zone. (This does	Priority Development
		not apply in a Capital City Zone	Zone
		or Docklands Zone.)	Activity Centre Zone
		 Is not for a purpose listed in the table to Clause 52.10 in the planning scheme. 	
		 Is not associated with a dwelling in a Mixed Use Zone. 	
		 Is not for a Brothel or Adult sex bookshop. (This does not apply in a special purpose zone.) 	
Buildings	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
and works in zones	Construct a building or construct or carry out works up to \$250,000 in	 The land is not within 30 metres of land (not a road) which is in a residential zone. The land is not used for Animal keeping, Intensive animal husbandry or Rural industry. 	Rural Living Zone
7			Green Wedge Zone
	some rural zones		Green Wedge A Zone
			Rural Conservation Zone
		 The works are not earthworks specified in the schedule to the zone. 	
Buildings	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
and works in zones	Construct a building or	• If the land is used for a Section 2 use in the Table of uses of the zone, the land must not be within 30 metres of land (not a road) which is in a residential zone.	Farming Zone
8	construct or carry out works up to \$500,000 under some rural zones		Rural Activity Zone
		 If the land is used for a Section 2 uses in the Table of uses of the zone, the land must not be used for Animal keeping, Intensive animal husbandry or Rural industry. 	
		 The works are not earthworks specified in the schedule to the zone. 	



Buildings	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
and works in overlays 9	 Construct a building or construct or carry out works for a carport, garage, pergola, verandah, deck, shed or similar structure. Construct a building or 	The buildings and works must be associated with a dwelling.	Environmental Significance Overlay
		For applications under the Salinity Management Overlay, the consent of the referral authority.	Significant Landscape Overlay
			Erosion Management Overlay
	construct or carry out works for a rainwater tank.		Salinity Management Overlay
Buildings	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
and works in overlays	Construct a fence in an overlay	• None	Environmental Significance Overlay
10			Significant Landscape Overlay
			Design and Development Overlay
			Erosion Management Overlay
Buildings	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
and works in overlays 11 • Remove, one tree	Remove, destroy or lop one tree	• None	Environmental Significance Overlay
			Vegetation Protection Overlay
			Significant Landscape Overlay
			Neighbourhood Character Overlay
Buildings	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
and works in a Heritage Overlay 12	Demolish or remove an outbuilding (including a carport, garage, pergola, verandah, deck, shed or similar structure)	The outbuilding to be demolished or removed is not identified in the schedule to the overlay	Heritage Overlay
Buildings	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
and works in a Heritage Overlay 12	Demolish or remove a fence	The fence to be demolished or removed is not identified in the schedule to the overlay	Heritage Overlay
Buildings	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
and works in a Heritage Overlay	Externally alter a non- contributory building	The building is a non- contributory building	Heritage Overlay
12			



Buildings and	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
works in a Heritage Overlay	External painting	• None	Heritage Overlay
12	Construct a fence		
	Construct a carport, garage, pergola, verandah, deck, shed or similar structure		
	Construct and install domestic services normal to a dwelling		
	Construct and install a non-domestic disabled access ramp		
	Construct a vehicle cross-over		
	Construct a domestic swimming pool or spa and associated mechanical equipment and safety fencing		
	Construct a rainwater tank		
	Construct or display a sign		
	Lop a tree		
	Construct or install a solar energy facility attached to a dwelling		
Buildings and	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
works in a Design and Development Overlay 13	Construct a building or construct or carry out works for a carport, garage, pergola, verandah, deck, shed or similar structure.	The buildings and works must be associated with a dwelling.	Design and Development Overlay
	Construct a building or construct or carry out works for an outdoor swimming pool.		
Buildings and	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
works in a Design and Development Overlay	Construct a building or construct or carry out works up to \$500,000.	Must be in an commercial zone or a Special Use, Comprehensive Development, Capital City, Docklands, Priority Development or Activity Centre Zone.	Design and Development Overlay



Buildings and works in a Design and Development Overlay	Type of application Construct a building or construct or carry out works up to \$1,000,000.	Criteria (all must be met) • Must be in an industrial zone.	Where this appliesDesign and Development Overlay
Buildings and works in a Neighbourhood Character Overlay 14	Type of application Construct a building or construct or carry out works for: a carport, garage, pergola, verandah, deck, shed or similar structure. an outdoor domestic swimming pool or spa and associated mechanical equipment and safety fencing. a rainwater tank.	Criteria (all must be met) The buildings and works must be associated with a dwelling.	Where this applies Neighbourhood Character Overlay
Buildings and works in a Neighbourhood Character Overlay	Type of application Construct, demolish or remove a fence.	Criteria (all must be met) None	Where this appliesNeighbourhood Character Overlay
Buildings and works in a Neighbourhood Character Overlay	Type of application • Demolish or remove an outbuilding (including a carport, garage, pergola, verandah, deck, shed or similar structure).	Criteria (all must be met) • None	Where this applies • Neighbourhood Character Overlay
Buildings and works in a Special Building Overlay	Type of application Construct a building or construct or carry out works	Criteria (all must be met) • Consent of referral authority	Where this applies • Special Building Overlay



Advertising	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
signs	Display a sign	• The sign is not within 30 metres	 All industrial zones
16		of land (not a road) which is in a residential zone	All commercial zones
		The sign is not a pole sign, sky sign, reflective sign, internally illuminated, floodlit, electronic or animated, and	Special Use Zone
			Comprehensive Development Zone
		The total display size of the sign does not exceed 10.	Capital City Zone
		sign does not exceed 10 square metres.	Docklands Zone
			Priority Development Zone
			Activity Centre Zone
Car parking	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
reduction	Reduce the required	By no more than 10 car spaces	All zones
17	number of car parking spaces		Parking Overlay
Loading and	Type of application	Criteria (all must be met)	Where this applies
unloading of vehicles 18	Reduce or waive the loading and unloading requirements	• None	• All zones

More information

- How to Apply for a VicSmart Planning Permit under the Special Building Overlay (information sheet)
- VicSmart checklists
- VicSmart application forms
- VCAT Review Process for VicSmart (guide)
- VCAT website
- VicSmart website
- VCAT website.
- Contact your local council planning office or visit the VicSmart website <u>www.planning.vic.gov.au/vicsmart</u>) for more information.

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