



## BUSINESS AREA: SPATIAL SERVICES

# Case Study Victoria Uearthed

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) commissioned Spatial Vision to implement a web-mapping tool which provides information about potential land and groundwater contamination and historical business listings.

Using DELWP's MapShare infrastructure, the web-mapping site was designed to display historical land uses and assist with the identification of potentially contaminated sites. The development included refining the map layers, configuring Geocortex tools and developing an ongoing system administration document.

Victoria Uearthed links to other relevant government data sources, and is open to the public to search an address or area and find out more about its contamination history and state. Access the tool here: [www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/victoria-uneearthed](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/victoria-uneearthed)

**“Spatial Vision know how to work well with government and have a great understanding of our stakeholder needs. They delivered a high quality product within tight time lines and were a real pleasure to work with.”**

**Jeremy Aarons**  
Project Manager  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

## Customer Profile

[www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

## Company

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

## Location

Victoria

## Industry

State Government

## Products

Victoria Uearthed

## Solution

A public web-mapping tool that brings together current information about land and groundwater contamination, contamination management and clean-up activities, and historical business listings. It allows users to search an address or area and find out more about its history and any potential contamination records.

## Benefits

- Inform the community of potential contamination risks
- Support informed decision making by individuals, government, and councils, including better targeted application of the Environmental Audit Overlay



## The Issue

In May 2015, the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water announced an independent Inquiry that resulted in number of recommendations, including developing a comprehensive statewide database of sites that pose a high risk to the community because of their past use. The database should link to other relevant government data sources, such as the Environmental Audit overlays, Victorian Groundwater Quality Restricted Use Zones, and the Victorian Landfill Register.

DELWP required developing a web-mapping tool to display this database, previously known as the Historical Land Use Database, using DELWP infrastructure and its MapShare web-mapping platform. It was required to provide consistent and easily accessible state-wide history information on past uses of potentially contaminated sites, whether a statutory environmental audit has occurred for a site and whether any actions have been taken following that audit.

## The Solution

DELWP supported the State Library Victoria in scanning their collection of historic Sands & McDougall business directories that cover Melbourne and suburbs from 1860 and country Victoria from 1902. The precursor to today's telephone directories, the Sands and McDougall directories provide listings of people, businesses and organisations by street. The Victoria Unearthed site makes this unique historical information available in the context of today's geography and a range of government spatial data, including up-to-date spatial data from Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA).

The web-mapping tool was developed using Geocortex in two main phases.

Firstly, a demonstration site was developed using the DELWP's MapShare Esri-based infrastructure. The demonstration site allowed the project team to test the display of various datasets and user interaction with the system. This implementation enabled reviewing of business datasets, configuring the required functionalities and reporting templates.

The second phase progressed the demonstration site for Victoria Unearthed to production. The process included publishing the datasets in ArcGIS server, creating map services and consuming it in the Geocortex site, refining the data display in the viewer to show transparent overlays of key spatial data, classifying the historical business listing into 3 periods for easier map display. In addition, developing:

- specific functions to toggle the key layers, in addition to configuring tools "out of the box"
- spatial buffering and reporting functionalities linked to a search tool
- a tool to capture feedback from users on the correctness of the data and useability of the site

- additional datasets including EPA priority and licenced sites, and Sands & McDougall directory business listings
- layer catalogue adding VicMap and other data layers
- map screenshot capabilities when sending feedback form

Spatial Vision developed an ongoing system administration document, and worked closely with DELWP to ensure that Victoria Unearthed meet the business and community needs.

## The Benefits

- ✓ Raise community awareness on environmental concerns
- ✓ Display a comprehensive historical information on contamination and from a wide range of governmental sources
- ✓ Provide the community with the capability of finding out information on historical business listings and potential contamination.
- ✓ Support government transparency by sharing public data
- ✓ Bring together a comprehensive spatial data overlays together including up-to-date data from Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) on potential land and groundwater contamination, and planning Scheme Overlays and Zones
- ✓ Assist with the identification of potentially contaminated sites

**Our web mapping tool provides transparency and enables crucial information to be easily accessed.**

If you'd like to know more, [please get in touch.](#)

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